



UNIVERSITY OF ST. FRANCIS
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Joliet, IL

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Alice Cahill
Janet Lueck
Steve Midlock
Madonna Murphy
Cathy Nelson
Sharon Wysoglad

Our mission is to develop and nurture professional growth opportunities among full-time faculty, adjunct faculty, supervisors, and administrators; thereby, promoting a "genuine community of learners" in the College of Education.

Spring 2007, vol. #5

Peer Coaching

Peer coaching first became popular in the 1980s as an alternative form of professional development, or "teacher training" (Showers & Joyce, 1996). Peer coaching is "a confidential process through which two or more professional colleagues work together to reflect on current practices; expand, refine, and build new skills; share ideas; teach one another; conduct classroom research; or solve problems in the workplace" (Slater & Simmons, 2001, p. 67). There are several variations on the term "peer coaching" such as: technical coaching, collegial coaching, and cognitive coaching, made famous by Costa and Garmston (2002).

Peer coaching is also:

- Confidential
- Non-evaluative
- Flexible
- Based on trust

Peer coaching can occur between teachers at any grade levels, from Kindergarten through higher education. Peer coaches visit each other's classrooms and conduct observations, then later meet to discuss and provide feedback on the experience. Peer coaching provides a forum in which teachers can experiment with and discuss teaching with an interested partner (Meyer & Gray, 1996). Peer coaching can be utilized for determining and providing support for a specific area of improvement or looking at a teacher's general approach (Meyer & Gray, 1996). For further reading on peer coaching, check out the following references:

Costa, A. & Garmston R. (2002). *Cognitive coaching: A foundation for renaissance schools (2nd ed.)*. Norwood, MA: Christopher-Gordon Publishers, Inc.

Meyer, J. & Gray, T. (1996). Peer coaching: An innovation in teaching. *Teaching in the Community Colleges (Electronic) Journal*, 1(3), 1-12.

Showers, B. & Joyce, B. (1996). The evolution of peer coaching. *Educational Leadership*, 53 (6), 12 – 16.

Slater, C. & Simmons, D. (2001). The design and implementation of a peer-coaching program. *American Secondary Education*, 29 (3), 67 – 76.

Sharing Professional Growth Opportunities

Upcoming Workshops:

- **Illinois Reading Council State Conference, March 16, 17 and 18- Springfield Illinois-Check the website for more information. www.dayofreading.org**
- **Illinois Geographic Alliance, March 21, 2007, USF Auditorium. Two presenters from the Illinois Geographic Alliance will be presenting resources for teaching geographic principles in the**

Professional Growth Themes for 2006- 2007

Communication and Collaboration - Scholarship of Teaching & Action Research – Dissemination of Materials & Resources – NCATE Standard 5: Faculty Qualifications, Performance, and Development

elementary grades. Always a good time! Contact Cathy Nelson, cnelson@stfrancis.edu, for details.

- **Pyramid of Interventions: How do we Respond When Children Don't Learn-** *Solution Tree's two day workshop for teams, March 20 and 21, Marriott's Lincolnshire Resort, Lincolnshire, IL Contact Solution Tree at 800-733-6786 for more details*
- **Mid-America Conference,** *June 25-29, 2007, USF Motherhouse. Check the website for more information. www.advantagediscipline.com*
- **Professional Learning Communities Institute-** *Solution Tree's three day workshop, August 6, 7, and 8, Adlai Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, IL Contact Solution Tree at 800-733-6786 for more details*

New Member of the COE – Twin Oaks Campus Family

Welcome to Ann Bell, our newest member of the College of Education, Twin Oaks Campus. Ann replaced Maggie Barrows, who now is working in the Admissions Office. Ann comes to us from District 202 where she was an administrative assistant in the central office. She lives in Plainfield with her husband, Tim, and daughter, Angela. She's an avid golfer, and loves to read.

College of Education Professional Growth Library

Be sure to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by our library! Check out is very simple – peruse the list, pick out the resources you'd like to borrow, and e-mail Ann Bell (abell@stfrancis.edu) with your request and where you'd like the resources sent. She will mail them to you. It's just that easy!

See the new library list, attached to your e-mail.

Suggestions

This newsletter summarizes the activities and plans of the COE Professional Growth Committee. We want to assist the COE's journey as a community of learners. Please feel free to offer suggestions to any of the committee members. **Thanks!**

Professional Growth Themes for 2006- 2007

Communication and Collaboration - Scholarship of Teaching & Action Research – Dissemination of Materials & Resources – NCATE Standard 5: Faculty Qualifications, Performance, and Development

Professional Growth Themes for 2006- 2007

Communication and Collaboration - Scholarship of Teaching & Action Research – Dissemination of Materials & Resources – NCATE Standard 5: Faculty Qualifications, Performance, and Development