Building Capacity for Instructional Improvement:

Cultivating Cultures of Continuous Professional Growth for Improving the Quality of Teaching and Learning

Frequently Asked Questions:

What/Who is REEd?

- Resourcing Excellence in Education (REEd) is a university based intermediary located at the University of California, Davis School of Education. The mission of REEd is to resource excellence in K-16 education systems to meet the needs of California youth. In order to realize the REEd mission, we are committed to building the capacity of educators and educational systems to improve teaching and learning in multiple learning environments.

Why was argumentation chosen as the focus of this year’s Institute?

- Argumentation has been identified as a high-leverage strategy that bridges English Language Arts and Math Common Core Standards, as well as the Next Generation Science Standards (Cheuk, 2012). It is considered a necessary skill for career and college readiness and consequently spans all grade levels, teaching contexts, and student populations.
- Early reports from the Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) study indicate that measures of instructional practice are better predictors of student achievement than years of teaching experience or attainment of a master’s degree (Kane & Staiger, 2012). Other research suggests that when compared to interventions focused on context, goal setting, or evaluation, improvements to instructional practice have a larger impact on student learning (Rockoff, 2004; Seidel & Shavelson, 2007).

What is a Networked Improvement Community?

- A Networked Improvement Community (NIC) is a group of learning communities focused on solving high-leverage problems through:
  - Defining common goals and theories of action
  - Engaging in cycles of inquiry
  - Moving research into practice
  - Identifying, using, and generating resources
- NICs are purposefully linked in distinctive ways, address a common problem of practice, engage in cycles of inquiry, and share findings. There is a synergy in NICs that is absent from other learning communities. Additionally, NICs are focused on resources and capacity building as well as solving the challenge at hand.

**What is a cycle of inquiry?**
- A cycle of inquiry is a “basic method of inquiry that guides learning through systematic experimentation (Bryke, 2014, pp. 151).” Each cycle of inquiry builds upon the last taking what was learned and applying it to successive cycles.
- Teams are guided in the process of conducting cycles of inquiry to test if changes they are making are resulting in improvements. These cycles of inquiry are evaluated and re-evaluated through a lens of continuous improvement to result in lasting change.

**Who should attend?**
- Site-based teams of 3-6 members that include an administrator, teachers, and other educators.

**What is our total commitment?**
- Participate in a 4-day Institute on June 29 – July 2 in Napa, California (all team members must participate).
- Engage in cycles of inquiry at your site.
- Participate in at least 3 on-site coaching support sessions during the 2015-16 school year
- Collaborate in 3 whole-group sessions during the 2015-16 school year to exchange resources (Release days sub costs and mileage are covered, administrator’s designee may participate in place of the administrator on whole-group follow up days, location TBD).
- Use the REEd website and webinars as resources.

*Note: All team members must participate in every session.*

**What is the Design Based Quality Improvement process?**
- The Design Based Quality Improvement process draws from work in the fields of improvement science, design thinking, and capacity building to develop an integrated process to support teachers, schools, districts, and other educators to implement change that will foster professional growth and result in improved student outcomes.

**What are the benefits of participation?**
- Teams will learn how to identify and use local resources in new ways, generate additional resources, and collaborate with others in strengthening professional growth.
- Teams will walk away with the knowledge, skills, and habits needed to identify and work to improve a high leverage instructional practice.
- Teams will also receive ongoing support from REEd throughout the coming school year.

**What is covered in the registration fee?**
- Institute participation, processes, tools and materials
- Three nights lodging (Springhill Suites, Napa)
- 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner (2 dinners on your own)
- Sub costs and mileage for 3 whole-group meetings during 2015-16
- 3 coaching/support visits during 2015-16
- Access to website tools and webinars

**What if I live locally, do I need to stay at the hotel? Does that affect registration fee?**
- If you live locally, you may choose to not stay at the hotel, however registration fees still apply.

**References:**


