

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY INSTITUTE February 2014

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What are Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), and how do they help us achieve instructional and other educational goals in our schools and districts?
2. What do we need to know and be able to do to create, and sustain effective Professional Learning Communities in our schools and districts?
3. How do we move from small inconsistent pockets of implementation to school-wide implementations of PLCs in our schools and districts?
4. How can we leverage our work in PLCs to truly impact change in instruction and assessment and ultimately student achievement?

INSTITUTE GOALS:

1. To help schools consider how the power of PLCs can create a culture of equity that supports equitable teaching and learning
2. To continue to develop the knowledge and skills needed to create and sustain effective school and district-wide PLCs
3. To share best practices of evolving PLCs
4. To model and teach a process for creating structures and norms for successful peer observations

HOW WE WORK TOGETHER:

- We use **norms** to create safe spaces for working together, and hold each other accountable to our norms.
- We make use of **protocols** to structure discussions and keep the focus on student and teacher work as a means to improving teaching and learning
- We **model** tools and practices for PLC implementation, group activities to promote learning from each other, gradual release of responsibility as we go through the work, and sharing of our learning through presentations and peer critique
- We use the **website**: <http://plcexpansionproject.weebly.com/> to share our work, and resource tools to facilitate PLC work.

INSTITUTE NORMS:

- Listen Actively
- Recognize that everyone is a learner
- Check your assumptions
- Trust the process
- Respect all voices
- Start and end on time



PLC Institute Participants Agenda February 2014

- 8:00 Registration, Gathering
- 8:30 Welcome & Framing
- 8:40 Connections – Masai Greeting
- 8:50 Equity Cards
- 9:10 Making Meaning Protocol
- 10:10 Break**
- 10:20 Debrief Equity Protocols
- 10:30 Peer Observation Protocols
- 11:35 Debrief and Morning Reflections, Norms Process Check
- 11:45 Lunch (45 mins)**
- 12:30 Microlab Protocol
- 1:00 Team Planning Time & Gallery Walk
- 2:10 Break**
- 2:20 Team Reports - What are our next steps?
- 2:50 Reflections, Debrief, Norms Process Check, and Institute Evaluation
- 3:00 Closure**

**Please remember to either bring your own lunch or plan to purchase lunch*