



Illinois New Teacher Collaborative November 2009 Newsletter

From Chris Roegge, INTC Director

I was fortunate to be able to attend the INTC Regional Professional Development Workshop at Kaskaskia College on October 8. What a pleasure it was to witness the energy and dedication of the participants and presenters. I was so impressed with the group of new teachers present. To witness their idealism, tempered with a firm grasp on reality, their intelligence, and their obvious preparation was to be reassured about the present and future of the profession. The interplay between presenters and audience was pointed and straightforward; no issues were avoided or glossed over on the topics of "working with administrators" and "working with parents." Kudos go out to all the planners and participants for carrying off this important event, which was one in the series of INTC fall workshops held at other Illinois sites. (To read more about the workshops, see the next section of this newsletter.)

Seeing new teachers interact, commiserate, vent, and support one another brings home the benefit - and rarity - of these opportunities. Therefore, the INTC Central staff has conceived and is beginning to plan a brand new statewide networking opportunity just for beginning teachers. We envision a single-day summer conference incorporating varying degrees of structure, but focused on the specific interests and needs of teachers who have finished their initial year on the job. Stay tuned for more information.

2009-2010 Regional Professional Development Workshops

INTC offered three professional development workshops focused on strategies to help new teachers when working with parents and administrators. The content was similar at each workshop although presenters varied. The targeted attendees were new teachers although mentors, induction program coordinators, or others who work with new teachers were also welcome. The workshops were well attended and held as follows:

September 29, 2009, at National-Louis University, Lisle, IL

October 6, 2009, at the Two Rivers Professional Development Center, Edwards, IL
(Peoria area)

October 8, 2009, at Kaskaskia Community College, Centralia, IL

INTC Regional Professional Development and Networking Workshops are free to ALL Illinois schools. Please bookmark and look for future professional development opportunities on the INTC website at <http://intc.education.illinois.edu/page/events>.

Fifth Annual Winter Conference, February 23-24, 2010, Hilton Springfield

This year's conference, entitled Digging Deeper: Using the Induction and Mentoring Continuum for Program Advancement, will give participants tools to assess program progress and to identify crucial areas of effective programs. The continuum document is based on the nine Illinois Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Beginning Teacher Induction Programs and contains specific, progressive descriptions for exemplary programs. Conference participants will gain skill in using assessment tools and creating action plans for continual improvement.

The conference is open to anyone interested in induction and mentoring. We encourage administrators, mentors, program coordinators, and new teachers to attend as a team. Teams will have work and planning time scheduled during the conference.

Conference registration is now available at <http://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference>.

The early bird registration \$175 fee is through January 15, 2010. Afterward the fee is \$200.

Those interested in making conference presentations may submit proposals at <http://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference>. Conference proposals will be linked to the Illinois Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Beginning Teacher Induction Programs. Presenters wishing to involve technology will have online rooms available. Submissions are due by November 15.

If you have questions about any aspect of the conference, please contact Nancy Johnson [nljohnsn@illinois.edu](mailto:njohnsn@illinois.edu).

Pre-Conference Session

A pre-conference session for ISBE funded programs only will be held Monday afternoon and evening, February 22, 2010. Funded programs will have opportunities to network and share program progress as they learn about the formation and use of the new continuum document related to the Illinois Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Beginning Teacher Induction Programs. This will be a practical, working session to assist funded programs with self-assessment and further program development.

Marketing Plan Competition for High School Students to Incorporate Service Learning

INTC continues work on organizing a high school students' marketing competition geared towards service learning. In the coming weeks, INTC will host focus groups with area teachers and students to fine-tune the competition's goals. If you are interested in participating in these focus groups or helping to plan this competition, contact Jeff Kohmstedt (jkohm@illinois.edu or 217-244-7389).

Illinois State Board of Education Funded Beginning Teacher Induction Programs

Six Professional Learning and Networking sessions occurred during the months of September and October to provide program leaders with an opportunity to share ideas and innovations regarding the use of various technology and internet-based tools within their induction and mentoring programs. Some exciting uses of technology included resource rich websites specifically designed for induction program participants, survey tools and online databases for collecting program-related data, online discussions and blogs, and the creation of videos to improve communication about the induction program as well as to provide increased access to professional development content. Related sessions may be a part of the INTC Winter Conference.

Active Discussions on the INTC Website

Have you visited INTC Online's "Discussions of Practice" lately (<http://intc.education.illinois.edu/forums/discussions-practice>)? Active conversations are occurring around the topics of building relationships with students, organizing a classroom, isolation experienced by teachers in special content areas, and more. Anyone can read the discussions, but in order to participate or to start a new discussion, you'll need to create an account and login. For information about how to create an INTC Online account, go to <http://intc.education.illinois.edu/content/join-intc>.