

Critical Issues: Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Session One: 2:30-3:20

Capital/Illinois: *The Role of Data in Induction Decision-Making*, (Category 4: Program assessment and research), Lisa Vahey, Director, Chicago New Teacher Center.

Abstract: Participants will have the chance to use program standards to reflect on their program's data collection and use in this interactive workshop. Participants will unpack two standards, share measures of successes, dig in to some metrics that are easily collected, and wrap-up by writing an action plan around our next steps.

Embassy: *Engaging Administrators in Mentoring and Induction*, (Category 3: Collaborative leadership and mentoring), Johnnie Turner, Senior Planner, Chicago Public Schools and Valerie Davis, Principal, Chicago Public Schools

Abstract: As instructional leaders, principals must demonstrate an awareness of beginning teacher needs and find creative solutions to address the varying needs. This session will include an overview of research around stakeholder collaboration and activities that engage administrators in strategies that can be implemented, including the use of the Illinois Administrator Academy courses within various statewide contexts.

Ambassador: *Quincy Public Schools Mentor Project: Mentors Matter*, (Category 1: Mentor recruitment), Marilyn Smith, Mentor Teacher Leader, with Trish Viniard, Assistant Superintendent and Michelle Eberlin, President, Quincy Federation of Teachers, Quincy Public Schools

Abstract: This session will guide participants in developing a selection and recruitment process for mentor selection and provide a system for evaluating the mentor components of their program.

Vista 1: *Mentor Recruitment, A Collaborative Approach*, (Category 1: Mentor recruitment), Dr. Ellyn Zimmerman, Co-Coordinator, Mentor Grant & System of Support Specialist, Lake County ROE and Shay McCorkle, Language Arts Coordinator and Mentor Trainer, North Chicago CUSD 187.

Abstract: This session will help participants to understand the value of a team approach when recruiting and selecting mentors. They will be able to develop and customize a mentor recruitment process to suit their own specific needs. Resource ideas and documents will be shared.

Vista 2-3: *Supporting the Development of New Teacher Practices: A Collaborative Model*, (Category 2: Support and Development), April Haar, Principal and Tammy Bailey-Smith, first grade teacher leader and mentor, Unity Point CCSD 140, Carbondale.

Abstract: The session will address challenges that face a district when implementing a mentoring program with sustainability. Participants will understand the positive impact a successful mentoring program can have on the overall culture of a district, and they will be exposed to some effective practices of mentoring programs that support the development and retention of new teachers.

Vista 4: *Lesson Study*, (Category 3: Collaborative leadership), Marilyn Williams, Berwyn South School District 100.

Abstract: The focus of this session will allow participants to identify ways to use teacher leaders to increase learning in novice teachers and provide effective systems for collecting documentation of novice teacher/mentor work.

Vista 5-6: *Research Findings from the Original State-Funded Induction and Mentoring Programs*, (Category 4: Program Assessment and Research), Marjorie Wechsler, Education Policy Analyst, SRI International.

Abstract: This session will inform policy makers and induction providers on how the Illinois state-funded induction and mentoring program is enacted across the state and provide insight about the factors that contribute to positive teacher outcomes.

Plaza I-II: *Just Enough—Just in Time*, (Category 2: Support and Development), Deborah Cota, District Mentor Coordinator, Naperville School District 203 with Jackie Pfeiffer, Assistant Principal, Naperville Central High School and Tim Wierenga, Assistant Principal, Naperville North High School.

Abstract: Recognizing the importance of new teachers' integration into school cultures and communities, this session seeks to facilitate the process through an outline of summer training and on-going first year activities that will foster success from day one.

Plaza III: *Evaluating Your Induction Program: Q&A*, (Category 4: Program Assessment and Research), Kathleen Brown, Executive Director with Brenda Klostermann, Assistant Director, Illinois Education Research Council.

Abstract: Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions of experienced evaluation researchers, providing guidance for improving the evaluation process of their local mentoring programs. Examples will be drawn from state-funded sites.

Session Two: 3:40-4:30

Capital/Illinois: *Developing New Teachers with Co-Teaching*, (Category 2: Support and Development), Dr. Juanita Morris, Math teacher, and Andrea VanLeer, Math Division Chair, Danville High School.

Abstract: New teachers sometimes have difficulty becoming acclimated to the academic environment and the students within it. This session will provide participants with a better understanding of how to structure and implement successful co-teaching opportunities.

Embassy: *Increased Buy-in and Participation through Collaborative Leadership*, (Category 3: Collaborative Leadership), Amanda Christensen, DeKalb CUSD 428 and Ron Rull, Calhoun/Greene/Jersey/Macoupin Counties ROE #40.

Abstract: This session focuses specifically on meeting the collaborative leadership criteria within “Standard 1: Induction Program Leadership, Administration, and Support” from the *Illinois Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Beginning Teacher Induction Programs*

Ambassador: *Strengthening the Administrator Role in Supporting Novice Teachers*, (Category 3: Collaborative Leadership), Dr. Karen Peterson, Induction/Mentoring Coordinator, with Dr. Dor Fitzgerald and Dr. Vita Meyer. Governors State University

Abstract: This presentation will explore the work involving administrators in support of induction and mentoring through exploration of the model of the Governors State University funded program. The session will focus on research regarding the importance of the administrator’s role in mentoring and suggest strategies to involve administrators in induction/mentoring initiatives.

Vista 1: *Induction for the 21st Century Educator (ICE21)*, (Category 1: Mentor Recruitment), Vicki Hensley, Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools, I-KAN ROE #32 with Nicki Rosenbaum, Assistant Regional Superintendent (ret.), DeWitt/Livingston/McLean ROE #17.

Abstract: At the end of this presentation, participants will: (1) know how to go about partnering with an ROE/ISC to set up trainings for both educational leaders and mentors; (2) be aware of several Illinois-specific tools and how they are used with the mentor and new teacher; and (3) be aware of tools designed to use for documentation for both the mentor and new teacher.

Vista 2-3: *Issues and Strategies for Evaluation of Beginning Teacher Induction*, (Category 4: Program Assessment and Research), Dr. Robert Fisher, Illinois State University, et.al.)

Abstract: This session will delve into pertinent issues for evaluation of induction programs, identifying critical measures for success and resources needed for conducting effective evaluation.

Vista 4: *Using Education Research and Data to Inform Induction and Mentoring*, (Category 4: Program Assessment and Research), Christopher Mullin, Research Fellow with Bradford White, Senior Researcher, Illinois Education Research Council.

Abstract: Participants who attend this session will have a broad understanding of the current research literature on mentoring and induction and understanding the importance of data in monitoring program development and progress.

Vista 5-6: *Mentoring for Best Practice in a Data-Driven Environment (OR How to Swim with Sharks without Being Eaten Alive)*, (Category 1: Mentor Recruitment), Valerie Pientka with Sue Loeschen, Barrington CUSD 220 and Dr. Elizabeth Wilkins, Northern Illinois University.

Abstract: At the end of this presentation, participants will be familiar with best practice techniques mentors can use to support the growth of beginning teachers in this data-driven environment, when to apply them, and where to receive additional professional development about the techniques.

Plaza I-II: *Mentoring... "Moving on Up"* (Category 1: Mentor Recruitment), Rene Garren, Oswego District 308.

Abstract: Participants will be able to: (1) view mentor selection criteria and the process encountered to create the criteria; (2) view best practice ideas and how to implement a schedule; (3) incorporate all stakeholders in the success of new teachers; and (4) see a mentor program handbook and understand the process through which it was developed.

Plaza III: *Evaluating Your Induction Program: Q&A*, (Category 4: Program Assessment and Research), Kathleen Brown, Executive Director with Brenda Klostermann, Assistant Director, Illinois Education Research Council.

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Conference Center 4: *An Alternative to Paper Documentation, or Save Those Trees!* (Category 4: Program Assessment and Research), Rosalie Gardner, Curriculum Specialist, Monroe-Randolph County ROE #45.

Abstract: Monroe-Randolph County ROE #45 has developed a web-based documentation format to provide a feasible alternative to stacks of papers, yet provide accurate tracking of program requirements for new teachers. The program provides a web page with resources, information on workshops, and a listserv for both mentors and teachers to make connections. This session will focus on the purpose, the format, difficulties with implementation, and necessary refinements for maintaining a system.

Session Three: 4:40-5:30

Embassy: *Professional Learning Seminars—Practical Collaborative Opportunities*, (Category 2: Support and Development), Dr. Fran Etter, Department Chair and Mentoring Coordinator, Belleville West High School.

Abstract: This session is designed to make participants familiar with the structure and format of an after-school professional development opportunity for mentors and mentees, including book study, professional collaboration, and theoretical discussion about teaching and learning. Participants will understand how study of a practical application resource can foster professional discussions about how to enhance student learning.

Ambassador: *Technical Assistance for RFP Preparation for State Funded Beginning Teacher Induction Programs*, Illinois State Board of Education staff.

Abstract: This session will provide information and assistance to those who are interested in submitting an RFP for a new round of ISBE Beginning Teacher Induction Programs. **Please limit attendance to one person only from a team. (To be repeated Wednesday, February 25, 8:25-9:25 am)**

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Vista 5-6: *Lessons Learned from the ISBE Beginning Teacher Induction Programs: Moving Toward Meeting and Exceeding the Standards*, (Category 4: Program Assessment and Research), Lara Hebert and Dr. Mary Elin Barnish, ISBE Funded Beginning Teacher Induction Program Co-coordinators, Dr. Renee Clift, Director, and Dr. Linda Fisher, Assistant to the Director, Illinois New Teacher Collaborative.

Abstract: Participants will be advised of common challenges experienced across the state-funded programs and provided strategies for overcoming or preventing similar problems within their own mentoring programs.

Plaza I-II: *Identifying Disconnects: From Pre-service Preparation to the First Years of Teaching*, (Category 2: Support and Development), Jan Fitzsimmons with Kelli Diaz and Joanne Syncheff, North Central College, and Brian Kahn, Elmhurst College.

Abstract: This session will focus on strategies for higher education and school district partnerships to enable seamless transitioning from pre-service to in-service teaching.

Plaza III: *Three's Company: How Three Districts Collaborate to Develop, Implement, and Evaluate Their Mentoring Programs*, (Category 1: Mentor Recruitment), Megan Novotney, Mentor Coordinator, McLean County Unit 5 Schools, with Ann Mathieson, Decatur District 61, and Sara Oehlert, Springfield District 187.

Abstract: The purpose of this presentation is to showcase and share how school districts in Decatur, Normal, and Springfield have formed a strong network of support in the development and implementation of their mentoring programs with the help of the Consortium for Educational Change (CEC).