



Teaching & Learning Initiative Update Number 4

11.12.12

⇒ “Only by reflecting on our actions can we increase our capacity and the likelihood that we will enhance our decisions and actions in the future.” (Donald Schon, *The Reflective Practitioner: How Professionals Think in Action*)

⇒ In the most recent session of the Teaching and Learning Initiative, participants acted on Donald Schon’s advice, delving into their experience with Area of Performance 3 of *The Framework for Effective Teaching, Creating and Maintaining an Effective Environment for Student Learning*. The reflecting process included personal journaling, partners offering each other structured Reflecting Conversations, and drafting personal learning goals for the future.

⇒ Participants also focused on *8 Principles and Practices of Effective Observation in Peer Coaching*, both reflecting on their observations of Area 3, and looking ahead to another exchange of observations focusing on instruction. This material is based on the reality that

Classroom observation is not necessarily an objective process. ... While two or more people may agree on events that occurred – as they are described, they may interpret the events differently. Personal experience, assumptions, beliefs, and mental models influence interpretations. Consciousness of these and how they might affect an observation may be explored as part of peer coaching conversations.

An important focus for participants is developing consciousness of the differences between data – what one sees and hears, interpretation, and judgment.

⇒ Participants also introduced themselves to Area of Performance 4: Engaging and Supporting All Students in Learning. Educators look into one another’s proficiency in this Area through an exchange of observations, framed by planning and reflecting conversations. These observations form the **Extended Learning** for the next session.

⇒ The next session will focus on:

- Reflecting on experience with Area of Performance 4, and
- Learning *The Framework’s* first Area of Performance, Understanding and Organizing Subject Matter for Student Learning
