

SMALLER LEARNING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Summer 2012 Project Directors Meeting

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Plenary Session II: Fishbowl Conversation – *Susan Gann (Chicago, IL), Wendy Drury (Red Bluff, CA), Michael Martin (Tacoma, WA), Gregg Bethel (New York, NY) Aron Gabriel (Iredell-Statesville, NC), Sean Halpin, (Plymouth, MA)*

During this session, six Project Directors will share highlights of their SLC work and discuss how they will continue the work beyond the life of their grant. The session will address the following questions: How are sites working to incorporate their SLC work into the overall district framework and school culture? Where are sites identifying resources to continue their SLC work as the grant ends? What have sites had to stop doing in order to begin new work or put something more impactful in place? Presenters will represent perspectives from a range of large and small district grantees as well as urban, suburban and rural schools.

Fishbowl Extension Sessions

Iredell-Statesville, NC and Chicago, IL- Bryan Paslay and Susan Gann

Iredell-Statesville, a 2008 grantee, will describe an intervention system they have put in place involving teacher/parent/student collaboration that will outlive their SLC funds and has already contributed to student achievement and attainment. The Chicago Public Schools, 2010 grantee, will share how they have utilized their grant success to develop a toolkit for Smaller Learning Communities Design which they plan to use in the entire system to embed the learning and success of their grant work.

Red Bluff, CA and Plymouth, MA- Wendy Drury and Sean Halpin

Red Bluff School District, a 2010 grantee, will describe how they connected to and collaborated with community partners to broaden and strengthen the impact of their SLC grant. They highlight how they will continue this partnership into the future and will demonstrate how other schools/districts can organize these community collaborations to benefit their students. The Plymouth School District, a 2008 grantee, will share the tools they have used to assess their preparation for sustainability of their grant work, and ways in which the district has committed to sustain their most meaningful grant work.

New York, NY and Tacoma, WA- Gregg Bethel and Michael Martin

The New York City Public Schools, a 2010 grantee, will share how they navigate the people, politics and positions involved to create alignment of all their school improvement efforts and sustain their success into the future. Tacoma, a 2010 grantee, will describe how their teacher inquiry groups (professional learning communities that support the social capital of student learning and success) will be continuously developed beyond the SLC grant.

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Concurrent Sessions: TA Guides

Summer Bridge, Thematic Tool and ELL Guide for 9th grade – Mary Hastings, Ken Templeton and Anna Fazekas

During this session, members of the SLCP Technical Assistance Team will present 3 upcoming tools that are in various stages of development in order to get feedback from meeting participants. The Summer Bridge and English Language Learner tools are part of the Ninth Grade Transition Guide, and the Thematic Tool is an outgrowth of the April 2012 Thematic Meeting that focused on Strategic Interventions. The process for developing tools and guides for the SLC community will also be explained in this session.

9th Grade Counts: The Tool and its Use – David Ruff, GSP

Participants will have an in depth look at the newly released Ninth Grade Transition tool, including how it is constructed and how it can be used by schools to determine their own transition process for students entering their high school. They will have an opportunity to offer their ideas for use of the tool and to ask questions about the tool.

Post-Secondary Data Guide – Leslie Rennie-Hill, TMG

Participants will learn about an upcoming guide that will focus on collecting and using postsecondary data, and will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the type of information and support they need in this area. Participants will discuss the following questions and learn from and with colleagues: What data do we have? What data do we need? When analyzing data at key leverage points, what questions should we be asking? What are the gaps between our needs and our capacity to use postsecondary data to improve student success in college and career? What would help us bridge the gaps?

Project Directors and PD Proxy Participants:

Grants Management Session - Department of Education

With the assistance of the SLCP Program Officers, participants will discuss Effective Grant Management for 2012, including the latest government regulations regarding travel expenditures from grant funds. The following essential questions will be addressed: What activities are fundamental to the goals/objectives of the grant? What grant activities best align with your district's strategic plan and overall goals? What data helps you to evidence the importance of sustaining specific SLC-funded activities? What activities will have the most impact on student achievement? Are there other ways to support SLC-funded activities after the grant is over?

Practitioner Team Members

Engaging Colleagues, Parents, Community Members, & the Media: Straight Talk about the Work – David Ruff

In this session, participants who are not Project Directors will have the opportunity to learn the best methods for communicating their district and school efforts to their constituencies. They will also explore the challenges of getting their educational message out in the public eye and help each other address these challenges.

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