



Educators' Teaching & Learning Initiative Update Number 5

5.18.12

⇒ In the most recent session of the Teaching and Learning Initiative, participants reflected on their experience with Area of Performance 1, Understanding and Organizing Subject Matter for Student Learning. As in previous reflections on the Areas of Performance in the *Framework for Effective Teaching*, the process included personal journaling, partners offering each other structured Reflecting Conversations, and drafting personal learning goals for the future.

⇒ Participants also introduced themselves to Area of Performance 5: Assessing Student Learning. Educators look into one another's proficiency in this Area through a protocol-structured Assessment Conference in which an educator speaks about an assessment task in response to specific prompts designed to focus reflection. This is a new sort of reflecting conversation for most educators in that it focuses on the design of the assessment task as well as its results.

⇒ The Assessment Conference is followed by an inquiry into the student work in response to the prompts of the assessment task. Using a protocol to guide the process, educators complete a [Student Performance Grid](#) that displays strengths and areas for improvement in each student's performance. When color-coded, a Performance Grid reveals patterns which guide consideration of improvements in instructional strategies and assessment design.

⇒ **Extended Learning** for the next session.

1. Teacher Partners: select an assessment to serve as the focus for an *Assessment Conference* and a *Preliminary Exploration of Student Performance on a Learning Task*.
 2. Administrator/Facilitator Partners: offer Teacher Partners an *Assessment Conference*.
 3. Collaboratively engage in a *Preliminary Exploration of Student Performance on a Learning Task* with a subset of student work .
 4. Pause, paraphrase, and pose skillful questions!
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⇒ The next session will focus on:

- Reflecting on experience with Area of Performance 5, and
 - Learning the skills associated with skillfully Putting Ideas on the Table in ways that make them accessible to others.
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