JUMPING INTO CAMPUS CONVERSATIONS

LIBRARIANS & PLCs



Ashley B. Crane Research & Instruction

Librarian abc064@shsu.edu



Dianna L. Kim

Research & Instruction Librarian dlk011@shsu.edu



Heather F. Adair

Instruction Librarian adair@shsu.edu



AGENDA

TODAY WE WILL:

- What is a Professional Learning Community?
- Explore roles within a PLC
- Examine opportunities that emerged to connect and collaborate
- Dive into practical benefits of participation
- Collaboratively discuss pathways for connection

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

a group of educators meeting on a regular basis to improve student learning by drawing on diverse experiences and techniques to meet a variety of teaching and learning goals



Lots of Experience



Some Experience



OUR CONTEXT

- Academic Library
- Instructional Responsibilities
 - Library Instruction (undergrad doctoral)
 - For-credit Information Literacy course
- Needs:

Experience

Continuum

- for professional development
- to be seen as instructional colleagues
- to build relationships
- to be/become familiar with campus
- o for support due to teaching in the pandemic

PLC ROLES

- Wallflower
- Participant
- Contributor
- Resource
- Facilitator



WALLFLOWER

- Might just be there to listen
- May have limited knowledge of the areas being discussed
- Could be apprehensive or hesitant about contributing to the conversation



PARTICIPANT

- Asks exploratory or explanatory questions
- Volunteers applicable anecdotal material
- Presents ideas for additional exploration
- May not be willing to speak about their own experiences
- Becoming more comfortable in group and transitions into a more active role



CONTRIBUTOR

- Asks for help with an instructional problem
- Listens effectively and offers solutions or suggestions to others
- Highlights issues and actively engages others to enrich attendee experience
- Actively seeks to develop rapport with others



RESOURCE

- Familiar with current pedagogy
- Links to books or other materials
- Performs role of mentor for those seeking guidance
- Offers support and advice based upon knowledge and experience



FACILITATOR

- Creates and guides attendees through an agenda
- Mediates the conversation
- Asks driving questions
- Maintains a productive atmosphere
- Communicates conclusions and identifies additional areas for growth



OPPORTUNITES TO CONNECT & COLLABORATE

- Connect with instructors from all subjects across the institution
- Highlight past instructor-librarian partnerships of various depths and complexity
- Inspire new collaborations for both instruction and research
- Communicate librarian value as contributors through participation and engagement

PRACTICAL BENEFITS

- Developing a growth mindset
- Honing instructional strategies
- Sharing lived experiences
 - connection through shared experiences or feelings
 - relationship building
- Being exposed to teaching and learning happening across campus
- Demonstrating instructional leadership thereby contributing to the campus conversation



ACTIVITY PATHWAYS TO CONNECTION



https://bit.ly/CTLC_PLC



A PLC FOR EVERYONE

Find a PLC

- Check in with
 - your center for teaching and learning
 - your instruction librarian, instructional coach, or supervisor
 - colleagues outside the institution
 - List Servs
 - Social Media
 - Professional Organizations

Create a PLC

- Host one in your library for
 - Librarians
 - Staff
 - Campus instructional staff
- Start an asynchronous PLC
 - Discussion Board
 - Blog





EMAIL ADDRESSES

abc064@shsu.edu dlk011@shsu.edu adair@shsu.edu



PRESENTATION MATERIALS

http://bit.ly/CTLC_PLC





REFERENCES

Solution Tree. (2021). All Things PLC. https://www.allthingsplc.info/about

Miller, A. (2020). Creating Effective Professional Learning Communities. Edutopia. https://www.edutopia.org/article/creating-effective-professional-learning-communities

Serviss, J. (2021). 4 Benefits of an Active Professional Learning Community. ISTE BLOG. https://www.iste.org/explore/professional-development/4-benefits-active-professional-learning-community

Bedford, L.A. & Rossow, K.A. (2017). Facilitating Professional Learning Communities Among Higher Education Faculty: The Walden Junto Model. Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration, Volume XX, Number 2, Summer 2017, University of West Georgia, Distance Education Center. https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1152292

Dees, D., Mayer, A., Morin, H., & Willis, E. (Oct 2010). Librarians as Leaders in Professional Learning Communities through Technology, Literacy, and Collaboration. Library Media Connection, v29 n2 p10-13. https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ904829.

Gibson, C., & Mader, S. (2019). Building teaching and learning communities: creating shared meaning and purpose. Association of College & Research Libraries.