

Title of Session: Teacher Education Faculty Forum

Moderator: Jan Naher-Snowden

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BJB2: small group

Jan_NS: yep

BJB2: maybe we need to talk about how to get more teacher educ involved

BJB2: . o O (there are certainly enough teacher educ in TI)

Jan_NS: I wanted to talk about how to reenergize this group - yep, you got it.

BJB2: did you write an article for the newsletter?

BJB2: I can do a group profile

Jan_NS: Maybe we need to have special speakers to get us going again.

Jan_NS: no - I am swamped between teaching, dissertation, and family stuff.

BJB2: can't think of anyone more special than you!

Jan_NS grins and winks at BJ

Jan_NS: Thanks for the vote of confidence. I just am not a big enough "name" out there (yet!)

BJB2: maybe Marianne can write something...as payback for missing all these sessions

LindaU teacher education networking is very important

BJB2 agrees with Linda!

Jan_NS: I agree, Linda. Not enough happens on a semi-regular basis in a casual format.

LindaU: It is perhaps the best way to improve teacher education.

Jan_NS: Conferences are one thing - but not all of us have \$ to get there.

BJB2: did you see the current enc Focus?

LindaU: true... there are many ways.. but the networking between teacher educators can only improve what we do.

Jan_NS: So, Linda, what are your thoughts to get us networking here in TI - I know the list needs to get going.

BJB2: <http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/isolation/>

Jan_NS . o O (saw it but didn't stop long enough to read it)

Jan_NS: Maybe that would be a good lead in for next month - or use the list to get the discussion going.

LindaU: I like that... teaching is an isolated profession (although it now longer needs to be)... and teacher educators are also isolated.. If we can share what works..and doesn't we can do our jobs better...

Jan_NS leans over and grabs the large glass with orange juice and ice

LindaU: and help teachers do their jobs better..

MelissaIM joined the room.

Jan_NS: I agree! I barely see some of our full-time faculty. Part-time folks hardly ever go to the faculty meetings.

BJB2: hi, Melissa. Welcome

MelissaIM: hi

Jan_NS: We are chatting about teacher isolation and ways to bridge the gap.

MelissaIM: I am poking around Tapped In before my cadre office hours start

MelissaIM: I just attended a big Wisconsin DPI conference

Jan_NS: Tell us more, Melissa

MelissaIM: I was dismayed that they had a keynote and concert during lunch'

Jan_NS smiles - multi-tasking again.

MelissaIM: There was no time to talk or network during the lunch after we'd been at a keynote, and sessions

MelissaIM: when did these "working" lunches become the norm

Jan_NS: Unfortunate planning - did you consider giving the organizers some feedback?

MelissaIM: I look forward to chatting with new people at these conferences, and every time I go to one, it seems they take lunch away...

MelissaIM: I DID

Jan_NS: Maybe because all teachers seems to eat lunch while dropping crumbs in books and leaving coffee stains on student work.

Jan_NS: Good for you, Melissa! Sometimes we don't even take the time to give constructive feedback.

MelissaIM: so where are you from?

DavidWe joined the room.

Jan_NS: I am part-time faculty at Univ. of Akron - science methods and instructional technology in Curr. and Instruction. also a doctoral candidate.

Jan_NS: David - we are doing belated introductions.

DavidWe: Thanks, Jan.

LindaU: Belated intros.. good idea.

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I help teachers learn more about technology and math and science and I'm currently in Spokane, Washington, although I live in New Jersey

Jan_NS: Hi, David - welcome

DavidWe: Hi, Jan. Thanks

LindaU: Jan, I'm Linda Ullah.. I'm full time faculty at the Foothill College Krause Center for Innovation. We provide technology staff development courses for educators.

DavidWe needs to associate himself with a "center for innovation"

MelissaIM: I'm Melissa Menge, I'm the Lead Teacher at a small alternative high school in Milwaukee, and I'm in the Educational Computing Department at Cardinal Stritch University

DavidWe is interested in the Educational Computing Dept.

LindaU sounds like David and I have something in common.. Educational Computing..

Jan_NS: We have been talking about teacher isolation - both at k-12 and higher ed levels.

DavidWe: Well, we kind of all do that

DavidWe . o O (Oooh! Good topic, Jan)

Jan_NS: actually BJ reminded me about the current ENC focus issue. BJ could you share the URL again, please.

MelissaIM: We run an accelerated Master's program for teachers that want Ed computing Master's

DavidWe . o O (www.enc.org/focus)

LindaU: We have an instructional technology MA program here in collaboration with San Jose State Univ.

MelissaIM: My isolation response was about the lack of "freetime" to network at conferences.

Jan_NS: We have a similar program - I wonder what the grads of these programs are actually doing with this degree and knowledge. Taking courses is definitely one way to network. At least temporarily.

DavidWe: That's always nice to hear, when a teacher says that

MelissaIM: I was the tech coordinator of a large high school (1800 kids) before this fall, talk about isolation

Jan_NS: wow! a mob scene.

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: Well, there are Philly schools (and, I'm sure, NYC schools) with 3000 students

MelissaIM: the only time most people talk to you is when something is broken

JjmGst6: I am tech teacher now for k-8

DavidWe: Welcome, Jjm

Jan_NS: Do you find that you are mostly the "fix it" person or do you even get to work with students in collaboration with their teachers?

MelissaIM: I have office hours now, nice meeting you...

JjmGst6: I have a net admin, so I'm not allowed to touch anything

DavidWe waves to Melissa

MelissaIM left the room.

Jan_NS: Bye Melissa - thanks for your input

JjmGst6: do profs use this place for online office hrs?

Jan_NS: Some people do, but I am a facilitator for online discussions such as this one.

JjmGst6: I had heard this place was buzzing but I find few here

JjmGst6: is there a best time?

Jan_NS: On any particular day and time, you might find lots of people or very few.

JjmGst6: there's so many channels/rooms

JjmGst6: is there any good way to find the populated ones?

Jan_NS: A lot depends on the topic of a discussion or if there are students meeting with an instructor.

JjmGst6: well, I'm not interested in someone's office hrs

Jan_NS: This discussion tonight is focusing on teacher isolation at all levels of teaching.

JjmGst6: I just need to vent and dump occasionally!

JjmGst6: oh I know that feeling

LindaU: Jim.. the best thing to do is look at the TI calendar and attend the sessions that interest you.. then # of people isn't as important, in my opinion as the topic and the quality and usefulness of the discussion.

JjmGst6: very true

LindaU thinks.. TI helps reduce teacher isolation.

JjmGst6: I'm not into crowds anyway, just don't want to come online and stare at a blank screen

DavidWe agrees wholeheartedly with Linda

DavidWe: I'm not sure anyone does, Jjm

JjmGst6: well, I for one feel totally disconnected from my principal, and I'm never sure who to turn to at work for fear they are her confidante or something

Jan_NS: Sometimes it takes a few visits to TI to get oriented and discover the resources and sessions you want to attend.

LindaU: Just think of it.. Jan's in Ohio, Jim in WA, BJ in PA and Linda in CA.. I'm not sure where you are jim.. I gather you do K-8 tech support or teaching.. I used to do that

JjmGst6: teach

Jan_NS: Are you new at the school?

JjmGst6: 3rd yr

JjmGst6: it's only gotten worse

DavidWe is in Spokane, but usually in New Jersey

JjmGst6: one other man plus me, the rest females, and the principal seems to not be real comfy with male teachers

LindaU: I remember not knowing what the teacher in the next classroom who taught the same grade level I did ..was teaching... Now I work with teacher from all over.. and find we all have the same "issues," problems, concerns, needs.. etc...

Jan_NS: Do you get time to chat with other teachers at your grade level?

JjmGst6: I teach k-8, so yes

LindaU: Is your school K-8 or do you work in multiple schools?

Jan_NS: So how can we break the isolation that Jim feels in his mostly female school faculty group.

Jan_NS think not to break up the camaraderie that we are building! snicker

DavidWe smiles at our leader, Jan

LindaU: hey..the rain has taken a break in CA...

DavidWe smiles

Jan_NS: that is a good thing, Linda!

DavidWe: I'm glad to hear that. California has gotten pummeled

JjmGst6: I loved the airplane

JjmGst6: the starship was gag

LindaU: Their drummer just died of cancer.

JjmGst6: oh really?

JjmGst6: what's his name?

LindaU: Heard it on the news on my way to work this morning.. he was 66 years old.

JjmGst6: wow

DavidWe: I served dinner to Eddie Money in a restaurant in Alamo, California in 1986

JjmGst6: all the good rockers are going by the wayside

JjmGst6: I used to live in Alamo

DavidWe . o O (California?)

DavidWe smiles

JjmGst6: I also used to work with Mickey Hart's son (from grateful dead)

JjmGst6: nice kid

DavidWe: Neat

JjmGst6: yes

DavidWe: Way cool!

JjmGst6: I got to go backstage 4x!

Jan_NS . o O (interesting discussion to break down isolation)

DavidWe: I worked there (cooking, mostly) in 1985 and 1986

DavidWe agrees with Jan

JjmGst6: to stand on the stage and look out at adoring fans, it's such an incredible feeling, no wonder ppl love performing

DavidWe smiles

LindaU agrees with Jan.. but this kind of networking is important, too.

LindaU thinks all work and now play makes "jack" a dull boy

Jan_NS: yes, indeed-ee!

DavidWe smiles

JjmGst6: have I been naughty?

DavidWe doesn't think so

JjmGst6: rats

Jan_NS: seems to me that this tactic would work with students as well as teachers.

DavidWe: You can keep working on it, though, Jjm

JjmGst6: distractic tactic?

DavidWe chuckles

LindaU thinks besides I'm multitasking.. getting materials ready to drop off at a school tomorrow.. so this is light enough to follow.. and hey.. I'm still here.. I haven't dropped out.. could it be I'm behaving like an engaged learner?

DavidWe: Way to go, Linda!

JjmGst6: I have to go back to school for a freaking mtg in an hr

Jan_NS: actually I was thinking that music is something all of us have in common.

DavidWe: Linda, Have you seen Ted recently?

Jan_NS: and a good way to get us "rubbing shoulders" so to speak!

DavidWe plays the piano poorly

JjmGst6: but the music kids listen to annoys me

Jan_NS: part of our job as "elders" is to make sure that the youngsters are introduced to "good, classic" music.

JjmGst6: so this particular room, is there a theme besides warm water?

Jan_NS grins - and splashes Jim.

JjmGst6: heh

JjmGst6 takes his pool toys and stomps home

Jan_NS: Nope, just one of the places that discussions are held - each room has a different ambience.

JjmGst6: brrr, I'm back

Jan_NS: My office is a tree house!

JjmGst6: no way to access multiple rooms?

JjmGst6: other than more browser windows?

JjmGst6: did I just fall and break my neck?

Jan_NS: you can "transport" to other rooms.

Jan_NS: but unless you have multiple personalities, like BJ, only one place at a time.

JjmGst6: why do educators need this site for offices; don't most online courses have those built-in?

Jan_NS: course management systems usually do, but I like my students to get an idea of what they might do when they have their own classrooms.

JjmGst6: I see

DavidWe: Thanks for the session, Jan. I've got to run off for a bit

Jan_NS: I teach preservice teachers - so I want them to get their feet wet, so to speak.

JjmGst6: cya

DavidWe: Good to "see" you, Linda

DavidWe: Nice to meet you, Jjm

Jan_NS: Thanks for being here, David

DavidWe: Good luck with the job and the school and the principal

JjmGst6: pre-service for what level?

JjmGst6: ha! thx

DavidWe: My pleasure, Jan. Thanks again.

DavidWe smiles and waves bye

Jan_NS: all levels - science methods and instructional technology applications.

DavidWe left the room.

JjmGst6: for HS teachers?

Jan_NS: yes

JjmGst6: ok

LindaU: Thanks.. time flies.. boy does it... I've been running up and down the steps to the copier during the past hour, too.

Jan_NS: wow - queen of the multi-task.

JjmGst6 curtsies again

LindaU thinks exhausted.. and a bit crazy..

Jan_NS: Good to see you again, Linda. It has been awhile

Jan_NS: take care, Linda.

LindaU: bye all.. I'm getting back to work.. eventually I'll need to head home..

LindaU: but this was fun.

Jan_NS: Thanks for being here.

LindaU left the room (signed off).

Jan_NS: well, what do you think of Tapped In, now, Jim?

JjmGst6: it's interesting

JjmGst6: how's that for diplomacy

Jan_NS: it is that!

Jan_NS: excellent.

Jan_NS: but all feedback is welcome

JjmGst6: it's something I need to work on according to my principal

JjmGst6: hehe

Jan_NS: what is that - feedback?

JjmGst6: diplomacy

Jan_NS: too blunt?

JjmGst6: I suppose on occasion

JjmGst6: I don't like it when ppl aren't straightforward

JjmGst6: tap dance around the issue etc

Jan_NS: on occasion bluntness might be appropriate.

Jan_NS: ppl?

JjmGst6: her drawback is her lack of any sense of humor

JjmGst6: people

Jan_NS: got it

JjmGst6: I've never seen someone who takes every word so literally

Jan_NS: sounds like a person who is concerned with control, too

JjmGst6: big time

JjmGst6: the "do I make myself clear" type

Jan_NS: very much the principal!

JjmGst6: she's dividing our staff unfortunately

JjmGst6: we had an outside consultant come in to try and do team-building

Jan_NS: just recently or has this been going on since you got there?

JjmGst6: turns out the consultant was a good friend of mine from 20 yrs ago!

JjmGst6: since I got there

Jan_NS: oh, yipes.

JjmGst6: anyway, this consultant made a blunt comment to a few of the staff but not to the principal unfortunately

JjmGst6: two teachers retired at the age of 55 just to get away from the princ

Jan_NS: is the principal close to retiring?

JjmGst6: anyway, she said, "You know, the jr high kids pick up the divisiveness amongst this staff"

JjmGst6: we hope

JjmGst6: but I doubt it

JjmGst6: this is a catholic school btw

JjmGst6: I've worked all my life in public til now

Jan_NS: ugh. - I would love to talk more, Jim but I have another discussion starting right now in another room

JjmGst6: but CA laid off so many teachers the last few yrs

Jan_NS: please come back at another time

JjmGst6: that's ok, I need to get going myself

JjmGst6: thx, I shall

Jan_NS: I also lead the middle level science discussion in several weeks

JjmGst6: ok, cool

JjmGst6: cya

Jan_NS: take care, Jim - thanks for joining us