Thank You Mentors!

As we progress through the halfway point of our first semester working with the Noyce Phase II Fellows, we would like to recognize the important role you play in its success. We appreciate the adjustments you have made to your personal schedules in order to carry out this work. As we listen to, and engage in conversations with Fellows during class, it is clear that your efforts have not gone unnoticed by them either.

Thank you for sharing your time and expertise to make this project a success. We value your role as mentors and as an important link between class, leadership seminar, and the Fellows’ practice in the classroom. In an effort to keep you informed about what Fellows are learning in class, we thought an occasional newsletter would be helpful. We welcome your ideas and suggestions for future communication.

With sincere appreciation for your service and contributions to the Noyce Master Teaching Fellowship, please join us for lunch and a professional learning experience designed for MTF Mentors

Thursday, April 28, 1:00PM - 3:30PM
Rush Rhees Library, Gamble Room

Please note, our regularly scheduled mentor meeting will immediately follow the Lunch and Learn in the Gamble Room, 3:30-4:30PM. We will return to LeChase Hall, room 285, for Leadership Seminar.

Click here to RSVP by Thursday, April 14
We were pleased to have Julie Kopp join us again on March 17 to continue the Understanding by Design work. The focus of this work continues to be on identifying, developing, and implementing “Meaning Making” experiences.

Fellows were given the task of playing around with this idea following the February Leadership Seminar. During the March class, Fellows watched a video of students engaged in a meaning making experience, “Roller Coaster Physics: STEM in Action.” This public video can be found through the Teaching Channel if you are interested. This led to a discussion around the student and teacher behaviors that contributed to a successful meaning making experience. Fellows then shared what they learned from their own experiences within small discussion groups.

Armed with more images and opportunities for conversations, Fellows were given the task of trying it out again in their classrooms. Additionally, it is now the expectation that Fellows will continue to embed meaning making experiences into their instruction. While Fellows were not charged with formally involving mentors with this new task, due at our next Leadership Seminar on April 14, they may reach out to you for advice and support.

Full details about this assignment are attached here, and can also be found on Blackboard in the “Assignments” section.

Fellows were given their second major assignment for EDE548. They have been charged with identifying a “Problem of Practice” (PoP) that they are wrestling with. This is being defined as a deliberate classroom practice that Fellows would like to focus and work on in their classrooms. A PoP can be any component of STEM teaching that is problematized by the Fellow or in the literature. These may include, but are not limited to, fostering student-to-student discussion; using models as a means to deepen conceptual understanding; or formatively assessing student explanations of concepts or phenomenon.

Full details about this summative assessment are attached here and can be found on Blackboard in the “Assignments” section.

While this is a class assignment for Fellows, it requires them to investigate and implement ideas in their own classroom so they may seek advice from their mentors.

Contact Us

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 14, 2016
3:15-4:30 Mentor Meeting
4:50-7:30 Leadership Seminar
LeChase Hall, Room 285

April 28, 2016
1:00-3:30 Lunch and Learn*
3:30-4:30 Mentor Meeting
Rush Rhees Library, Gamble Room
4:50-7:30 Leadership Seminar
LeChase Hall, Room 285

June 2, 2016
3:15-4:30 Mentor Meeting
4:50-7:30 Leadership Seminar
LeChase Hall, Genrich Rusling Room 215

June 26 - 27, 2016*
Learning with Lucy West,
Metamorphosis TLC
LeChase Hall, Room 481

July 26, 2016*
A Day with Peg Smith,
University of Pittsburgh
LeChase Hall, Room 481

August 14 - 15, 2016*
Leadership Seminar
LeChase Hall, Room 481

August 22, 2016*
Leadership Seminar
BadFish Consulting LLC
Village Gate Square
274 N. Goodman Street
Suite 273B

*Mentor attendance is not mandatory, but we would love to have you join us!

We welcome your feedback! Please let us know if you have any suggestions, concerns, or questions along the way.

MENTOR MEMO