

Illinois Teacher Education Division (ITED) Newsletter

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Newsletter, 2009-2010

Developing Leaders: Impacting Learners

ITED is pleased to sponsor this special conference centered on improving instruction and teacher leadership on Thursday, October 22 through Friday, October 23 in Bourbonnais, Illinois. More details inside.

Instructional Coaching: Guiding the Development of Effective Practice (submitted by Regina Foley)

Over the past five years, much of the professional dialogue between general and special education professionals has been about using evidence-based practices and supports to meet the educational needs of students identified as having a disability or who are at-risk. For example, professional development programs and workshops to prepare schools and teachers to utilize evidence-based, academic and behavioral strategies in a Response to Intervention (RtI) approach have been delivered to school administrators and teachers. Yet, while school



educators may understand the components and function of a given strategy, the implementation is approached often with

uncertainty. At this point, teachers often desire the

assistance or support of a colleague to help them to achieve their goal of successful implementation.

Across many disciplines, coaching facilitates and supports changes in professional practice or routines of individuals (Knight, 2007). More recently, instructional coaching has been introduced into education as a professional support for educators. Instructional coaching is a collaborative-based approach between a school-based colleague and an educator whose primary goal is to assist teachers in implementing research based strategies, yet honoring the professionalism of the educator and their responsibility for the instructional program in the classroom. This collaborative activity between instructional coaches and educators may occur in a number of contexts. For example, an instructional coach may work with an educator to identify his or her professional goals, as well as classroom goals, and assist the educator in developing a workable plan.

Other forms of collaborative support may include demonstrating a new instructional practice during classroom instruction, (continue on page 2)

observing and supporting a teacher as she implements a new intervention into the classroom, and conversing with educators about their professional role including successes, triumphs, and challenges while continuing their professional development



The Partnership Philosophy

The Partnership Philosophy is the guide for instructional coaches as they engage in their collaborative work. This philosophy identifies a parity-oriented relationship between instructional coaches and their colleagues. As equal partners, instructional coaches are supportive of the teacher's right to choice and voice in their instructional decisions and interactions. Furthermore, instructional coaches are prepared to engage teachers in a conversation about content and to think and learn as a team. Finally, teachers are encouraged to reflect on ideas and put them into their professional practice (Knight, 2007). Through this approach, the team (instructional coach and educator) engage in a reciprocal relationship in which both persons are sharing and learning together, thus empowering teachers to become classroom leaders and agents of change.

Illinois Teacher Education Division Council for Exceptional Children Special Conference

Developing Leaders: Impacting Learners

ITED is pleased to sponsor this special conference centered on improving instruction and teacher leadership on Thursday, October 22 through Friday, October 23 in Bourbonnais, Illinois, at the Holiday Inn Express. ITED invites school administrators, P-12 general and special educators, teacher educators, and school support personnel to attend. Register by October 1, 2009. For conference registration information, visit our ITED web site www.itedcec.org If you have questions contact Dr. Rebecca Cook, Eastern Illinois University, rjcook@eiu.edu . Registration is open each day of the conference. CPDUs are available.

ITED Special Conference Highlights for Thursday, October 22, 2009. Registration opens at 1:00 PM

11:30 AM - ITED Welcome Address and a Special Education Update from Dr. Linda Tomlinson, Assistant Superintendent, Illinois State Board of Education

A welcome address by representatives of ITED's Executive Board will start our special conference. Next, Dr. Linda Tomlinson will bring us up-to-date with regard to the impact of national initiatives on the State of Illinois, status of new professional teaching standards and what that might mean for approval of teacher education programs, and other "State of the State" topics.

2:50 to 3:35; 3:40 to 4:25; and 4:30 to 5:15 PM Break-Out Sessions

5:30 to 6:30 PM - Social Networking Opportunity - Thursday Evening

Let's visit together with new and veteran colleagues. ITED Executive Board members will host a social hour and hors d'oeuvres for all conference attendees from 5:30 PM to 6:30. Come join us!

6:30 PM - Opening Session by Dr. Jim Knight - Thursday Evening

Dr. Jim Knight is a researcher and teacher educator at the University of Kansas



Center for Research on Learning. His session centers on improvement of educational practices through the use of instructional coaching and includes a focus on the research base. Dr. Knight has been involved with researching and developing effective coaching programs for more than a decade. Knight is a research associate at the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning. He has spent more than a decade studying instructional coaching and has written several books on the topic including *Instructional Coaching: A Partnership*

Approach to Improving Instruction published by Corwin Press & NSDC (2007). Knight co-authored *Coaching Classroom Management*. His new book, *Partnership Learning: Scientifically Proven Strategies for Fostering Dialogue During Workshops and Presentations*, is published by Corwin Press.

ITED Special Conference Highlights for Friday, October 23, 2009. Registration opens at 7:30 AM

7:30 AM Breakfast and Poster Sessions till 9:00 AM

Join us for a continental breakfast after registration and then casually find your way to our poster session venue.



9:00 to 12:30 Morning Session
“Implementing and Supporting the Use of Evidence-based Strategies Through Instructional Coaching.” Dr. Jim Knight

Lunch Provided - 12:30 PM to 1:15

Closing Session, Conference Evaluation, and

Raffle Drawing - 1:15 PM to 2:15

Current ITED Executive Board

President: Mary Bay

Past-President: David Yasutake

President-Elect: Fran Reed

Vice-President: Michelle Parker-Katz

Secretary-Treasurer & IAASE Liaison:
Kathlene Shank

ICEC Liaison: Melissa Jones

Member-at-Large: Rori Carson,

Lisa Monda-Amaya, Regina Foley

Historian & Membership: Rebecca Cook

Newsletter: Emily Watts

AD HOC Executive Board Appointment:
Suzanne Lee



ITED Excellence in Teaching Award for 2008-2009

Dr. Toni Van Laarhoven was the recipient of the ITED Excellence in Teaching Award for 2008-2009. Toni is currently an Associate Professor in the College of Education, Department of Teaching and Learning, at

Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois. It was noted by colleagues and students that Dr. Van Laarhoven has high expectations of her students, shows unending support and feedback to help her students achieve, and possesses the ability to make the content, no matter how involved, accessible in unique ways. She has integrated technology into not only special education classes, but has worked with general education faculty to integrate assistive technology into their undergraduate classes.

Congratulations!

A Message from ITED's Past-President: David Yasutake

After the last Executive Board Meeting I was able to spend some time reflecting during the drive from U of I back to Chicago. I became involved with ITED during the late 90's. There were a great many changes occurring at that time that were affecting all levels of special education from early childhood through higher education. We at ITED became extremely involved with the changes in teacher certification and the move to standards based programs. ISBE turned to us to share our expertise and we worked closely with ISBE to help navigate those waters during difficult times.

More recently with funding from ISBE we were able to hold our Faculty Institutes for our colleagues in teacher preparation in higher education. Those institutes proved to be very successful in addressing relevant and current topics in our field

(e.g., RTI) and drawing faculty from across the state. These became the forum by which, in addition to our topical presentations, we could receive important updates from ISBE concerning special education. It also became a venue where we as faculty could share our experiences and issues in teacher preparation. Our newest generation of the Institute is our ITED Special Conference that will be held October 22 and 23rd. Currently, with the continuing changes in education we find ourselves at the crossroads of further involvement in monitoring and assisting in these trends. The involvement of our colleagues in general education, support personnel, and leadership seem to be the focus of future actions. We look forward to building and strengthening those relationships so that we can ultimately help to positively influence the education of all students in our schools.

David Yasutake,
ITED Past-President

Upcoming Events

- Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Conference, Albuquerque, NM, October 15-18, 2009.
- Illinois Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Lisle, IL, November 5-7, 2009.
- 32nd Annual TED Conference, Charlotte, NC, November 10-14, 2009.
- Illinois Reading Council Conference, Springfield, IL, March 18-20, 2010.
- CEC 2010 Convention & Expo, Nashville, TN, April 21-24, 2010.

Preview items for our next newsletter:

- Mavis Donohue receives an award. Find out more about her.
- What are ISBE's hot topics?

Become an ITED Supporter



One way to become more active is to become an ITED Supporter by letting us know how you would like to become involved, what issues are of concern to you, and what topics or events you think ITED could address. To get started, please fill out the form below and enclose a check that is addressed to Illinois Teacher Education Division (ITED). As a thank you gift for being an ITED Supporter, you will receive a specially-designed, attractive ITED lapel pin!

Fill out this *ITED Supporter Form*, enclose your check made out to ITED.

(\$15 for a year or \$30 for 3 years) and send to:

Dr. Rebecca J. Cook
Department of Special Education
Eastern Illinois University
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston IL 61920

Please print:

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

I am interested in becoming more active in ITED through:

_____ planning events _____ holding an office
_____ contributing to the newsletter _____ committee work