

Tuesday, November 7, 2006

Re: MSUM/School Dist. Professional Development Partnership Program

To: School of Teaching and Learning

Fr: Dr. Steve Street, Associate Professor, STL

Here is a brief overview of current partnerships in which I am providing professional development services.

Waubun/Ogema/White Earth School District PLUS

The primary activity in this school district is centered on the Masters in C & I program. There are currently 27 educators participating in this program representing kindergarten through grade 12. Most of the educators in the cohort teach in the W/O/WE School District. There are also educators attending this program from Fargo, Norman County East, Mahnomon, and Circle of Life schools. Two courses are currently in session: Ed. Psych. is taught by Scott Mattheson, MSUM Adjunct, and I teach the Curriculum, Instruction, and Learning course. This is a two year program culminating in an action research project applying the acquired knowledge and skills to the respective teacher's classrooms.

There are two prominent aspects to this model beyond the actual class instruction: first, in-class coaching and mentoring is provided to teachers to facilitate the generalization of knowledge and skills into their classrooms and secondly, the development of a Community Advisory Committee that meets with the school/district administrators and a MSUM representative to discuss program details and provide ideas for the school district's consideration.

Breckenridge School District

A professional development partnership letter of agreement was signed in late August 2006 to provide 100 hours of service to the BSD. The focus of the services included the development of Kansas Strategies to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics at the elementary school as well as addressing the reading needs at the middle/high school programs. The format to date that appears to be working the best at the elementary school is individualized consultations (e.g. special ed and grade level teachers) and small groups (e.g. Kindergarten – 3 teachers). In addition to the application of Kansas strategies, requests have been received for needs in mental health certification for licensure, Response to Intervention, and behavior management. At the high school, two presentations have been made: the first one describing the availability of professional development services and the second was a one hour workshop on balanced literacy, the Kansas strategy RAP (reading comprehension), and the need for consideration of school wide use of essential questions. Evaluation results from the RAP workshop indicate an interest from 16 teachers to receive further services. A request has been submitted to the district's professional development committee to report on the services provided to date and discuss other professional development ideas the partnership may be able to address.