

MTTC 1002
Summer 2007
Post conference
Coach: Ellen Zimmerman
Mentee: (MTTC Student): Shawn Smith

Ellen: Overall, how do you think your mentoring experience went?

I think this experience went very well. The teacher expressed that she was uncomfortable doing a "talking head" type of presentation for the required ESL training at the beginning of the year. Together, we designed a game format which facilitated a student-centered learning environment for the teachers. They seemed to enjoy it, and hopefully, will retain the information.

Ellen: Did you achieve the goals you set for yourself?

My goals were to encourage technology integration into campus learning activities with appropriate technology, and to develop techniques to strengthen reflection and follow-up with mentees. I think I definitely accomplished the first goal, but the second one is ongoing. I have followed up informally with my teacher, and she is very open to doing more collaboration and tech integration this year, so that is a success. I hope that this reaction creates a domino effect on the rest of the faculty at my campus.

Ellen: How do you think this mentoring experience will help you promote technology integration on your campus in the future?

Again, I hope that there is a ripple effect from this experience, which extends to more teachers on my campus. The teacher I worked with for this lesson plan gave credit after the lesson to me and to how we worked together. I am hoping this will reap some results this school year. I do plan on talking about tech integration at faculty meetings, and will be doing a monthly (optional) tech training for all faculty.

Ellen: Are there still areas of coaching in which you still feel some discomfort? What are they and how do you think you can address these?

I think the one area I am still somewhat uncomfortable with is the necessary prompting and urging to integrate technology. There is a fine line between nagging and being tiresome, and in being persistent. I need to be careful not to cross that line.

Ellen: Your teacher seemed quite knowledgeable and open to technology. Are there some areas that you feel you were able to be of particular help to her?

Yes, she is very open and comfortable with technology, but still is unsure of certain areas such as search strategies and website management. I feel that I was able to help her a lot in those areas. Also, she is less sure of herself when it comes to designing creative instructional solutions, and I think one of my strengths is my ability to be a creative thinker.

Ellen: Was there anything you learned in this mentoring experience which will help you promote collaboration in the future?

Yes – the level of interaction which was ongoing during the planning. We planned together extensively, but when it came time to the lesson, there were some details which she had forgotten. I need to remember to provide better last minute follow up with the teacher, just prior to the lesson. This follow up is integral to the lesson's success, and the lesson's success is a key factor to the level of validation and credibility to my role as a coach.