

## English Curriculum Dialogue Follow-Up

March 25, 2009

Total: 17

### Was this gathering worth your time? (Why/Why not)

- Yes! (The chocolate cake!) The information on the “re-visioning” of the ed curriculum and courses. It helped encourage us to stick to our high expectations and not give in to lowering the bar.
- Yes! From an intern’s point-of-view, this conference was very eye-opening and enlightening. It was nice to see how WCU’s program is changing in order to try and meet public school requirements and expectations; also, hearing ideas from other schools/counties was helpful.
- Yes, it was interesting having other counties’ ideas
- Absolutely- I gathered great ideas to bring back to my dept.- contact with parents, page length papers, etc...
- Definitely! I enjoyed talking to other educators to see what they are doing with their classrooms and to brainstorm ways to strengthen our classroom instruction.
- Absolutely! I am extremely motivated/interested/driven by the communication between secondary and higher ed.
- Yes, definitely. I was pleased to hear that, unlike many dialogues, our conversation was used to make decisions at the university level in the “re-visioning” process. I enjoyed hearing the changes made at the high school level and obtaining ideas for future change.
- Yes, I will share some of these ideas with our administration especially our assistant principal in charge of the freshman academy committee.
- Yes- it gave me valuable feedback and suggestions for assessment from our school partners.
- Absolutely! It is critical for all levels of English Educators to have time to work together
- Yes, definitely! The opportunity to collaborate with other teachers of English is extremely beneficial! Learning what is taking place in college level is very helpful!
- Yes- I am better aware of the changes that are happening in teacher education courses
- Yes- very encouraging. It is very worthwhile to hear and discuss ideas with peers and with college/community college staff.
- Yes. We get so many ideas that I will use.
- Yes. It is good to not only get ideas from other teachers, but to be validated for my feelings and ideas.
- Yes- important topics were covered. I appreciate the opportunity to provide my ideas and opinions.
- Yes. Once again, a plethora of ideas have arisen from our discussions and contacts have been made. The small steps forward my school has been making have, in my mind, been validated.

### **What did you learn from your conversations with others?**

- Good ideas of how other schools/teachers address issues that are of concern to all. It's also a bit discouraging to hear and not give in to lowering the bar.
- Ideas that other schools implemented
- Rutherford's jumpstart program seems to have a successful partnership with freshman achievement program.
- We are working to strengthen the ninth grade programs
- I learned how other schools are building partnerships with schools (domestic and international), businesses, and universities. Very exciting!
- Mostly similarities- student attitudes, teacher attitudes.
- I did obtain several ideas for making the transition from high school to college easier for our students.
- I learned about other strategies that are facilitating freshman success such as Jump Start and upper classmen mentoring
- In particular, I was interested in McDowell's bridge organization and in the discovery that I could donate to specific teachers at [.uchoose.org](http://.uchoose.org)- and I will.
- I learned what other schools are doing with respect to graduation projects.
- Validated what I do- my approach. Share ideas for implementation of graduating project, motivating strategies, literacy ideas.
- Methods of implementing programs to aid student success; ways to motivate students to read and write more and lessen the achievement gap.
- Good ideas about involving parents and businesses and educational partners. Glad a student intern was here to give his opinions.
- If I have this opportunity to talk to other English teachers, I have a greater opportunity to make changes at my school and in my classroom; I'm excited about many of the programs in other schools.
- Problems are the same all over! Graduation project information.
- Ideas
- I have learned that, though most schools face the same issues, they attack them from various vantage points. I have renewed faith in my school and the strides it is making.

### **How do you see yourself being a part of this curriculum effort?**

- Working with interns, continued professional development, and the opportunity to have input into secondary level programs
- This was interesting, being the one person in the room on the "other end of the stick," and also being the one that a lot of this will apply to.
- I enjoyed representing my community.
- Hopefully, we will have a partnership with a WCU grammar class in the fall.
- I bring my perspective from the high school classroom to the dialogue. I also carry this conversation back to the staff at my school.
- I am interested in advancing my own knowledge of higher ed. curriculum. It is extremely helpful for me to be able to advise future college students.

- I have already taken the info from the first dialogue to my English dept and we have revamped much of our curriculum based on that info. I will once again do the same and hope to continue to open the doors for more students to be successful and prepared for college.
- I shared ideas that our school has researched for freshman orientation
- It's central to the ongoing refinement of my program, English education, it's the only place my school partners come together in large numbers.
- I feel it is critical for me to take what I have learned back to my school to continue the dialogue.
- I have valuable information from my teaching experience to share in addition to knowledge of what is taking place at my school.
- I strive to be an agent of change and to better the education of my students and to prepare them for bright, successful futures.
- Offering ideas, taking them back, and sharing them with my school.
- Explaining what we do at the Early College and taking ideas and suggestions to implement at our EC
- I feel I have had a part in preparing future teachers; shaping the curriculum.
- I believe it is important for public school educators to share concerns and to have a forum in which we can share.
- I think that this is a comfortable environment in which I may speak my mind and share my ideas- these types of opportunities are few and far in between in the realm of education (i.e., no time and no real place for these discussions to take place, other than at this workshop)

#### **What suggestions do you have for making this a better English dialogue initiative?**

- Perhaps interactions that would specifically address small school and remote locations; also working with interns.
- I think it may be a good idea to have a few interns attend the conference and allow them a chance to voice their thoughts and concerns.
- I would love to see more counties and schools attend next year.
- Set up a web conference a couple of times between our face to face meetings so we can continue our discussion throughout the year.
- Keep doing it!
- You could ask teachers to bring handouts about programs they are using to promote student success.
- Keep doing it! Maybe we can try to get a wider range of teachers, geographically speaking, and take a lot more time.
- I would love to have more time to see what other schools/districts are doing to prepare students for college.
- I would like to see more participation from other colleges in WNC. Otherwise, it is an awesome opportunity for productive engagement in our profession.
- A more central location? Perhaps Asheville. It takes me over two and a half hours to drive to WCU from Yancey County. Anyway, I still want to attend your meetings next fall and spring.
- More time to talk to each other
- I would like to have some of the ideas that others have shared- email info that will keep me up to date in educating my students.
- More intern participation. Perhaps a few from Intern I and a few from Intern II.

- I would suggest including administration and making this a regular event.

**What would you like to see happen next?**

- More specific dialogues
- Even though I will be gone, I would like to see WCU change its courses around a bit which it seems to be doing. Hopefully, these changes will help interns for teaching.
- I would love to meet again in the fall. What a great opportunity to mesh with other teachers.
- Schedule another dialogue. Let's also focus on how to support college readiness in our high school classes.
- Continue the dialogue. The better prepared teachers are, the better we can advise our students.
- More conversation about ideas that are working.
- You could start a wikispace from teachers to dialogue about these and other issues.
- Assessment suggestions back to English.
- I would like to learn how we can better prepare H.S. students in the technology they will need to use at the college level.
- Continuation- but devote time to discuss and share what we all plan to do for the new state requirement of the Graduation Project.
- A meeting concerning more ways to better prepare students for the rigors of college academics and changes in high school English from NCDPI.
- I'd like to see us meet again next fall- earlier in school year- to implement some ideas.
- I would like a copy of everything we have discussed so I can try some of these things then. I hope we can meet in the fall to see if others have tried things and if it has worked.
- More discussion like this again.
- Additional dialogue sessions.
- A website for these discussions to take place on between sessions (info about how to build partnerships).

**Did you attend the fall 2008 dialogue session?**

14 - Yes

3 - No