

Science Curriculum Dialogue
October 14, 2008

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

- Yes. We will report to our principals practices implemented in other school districts.
- Yes – allowed an exchange of ideas and compare ideas with other colleagues.
- Yes. Always good to hear/listen to new ideas.
- Yes. Good info, nice to know what the university level instructors want/need/deserve.
- Yes. Getting to discuss with other teachers.
- Absolutely!
- Yes, because I was able to freely discuss problems w/science education w/academia.
- Yes – great exchange of ideas/suggestions.
- Yes – good food, great conversation, lots to think about.
- Yes – I learned a lot from my colleagues and got to make connections.
- The conversation was not very focused. The community college instructors talked to each other and the two high school teachers (from the same school) talked to each other. Each person filled out post-it notes to answer questions on their own. There was very little conversation about the four questions.
- Yes – I hope that some ideas have been put forth that will help make the transitions from high school to college work easier.
- Yes, absolutely. It reinforced my love of teaching, re-energized me, and gave me adults to eat lunch with.
- Yes, it is refreshing to have time to talk to other teachers.
- Yes, hearing from high school teachers is valuable.

What did you learn from your conversations with others?

- We are NOT alone! We are behind.
- We as science instructors share similar problems, issues, and concerns.
- Everyone/everywhere in this area has the same issues.
- Common concerns, common observations.
- That you are not alone.
- I am so impressed with the level of dedication and expertise of these teachers.
- Common problems across all disciplines of science.
- Diversity – different methods of doing the same thing.
- That we are all dealing with similar issues.
- I learned that the things I struggle with are commonalities, not problems I have.
- Community colleges do not believe their students come out of high school with the necessary science skills.
- That we have lots of concerns that are in common – both at the high school level and at the university.
- I learned (was reminded) of how different schools assign/treat teachers? I learned about the science ed curriculum for soon to be teachers.
- Our issues at the high school are universal.
- What challenges are high school teachers facing?

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

- Liaison between science department concerns and how university can address concerns via curricula programming.
- Part of a team.
- Not sure. I will retire next May.
- As a student of how to improve ed in NC. As an info resource of front line issues.
- Good input.
- Different perspective.
- I continue my enthusiasm and maximum efforts for teaching.
- Process of change/improvement every day.
- As part of an ongoing dialog between science instructors.
- I want to share and be open about my successes.
- Not sure at this point.
- I appreciate the opportunity to express my opinion – I would like to continue to be a part of this dialogue.
- Idea generator for your program and/or for student teachers.
- My classroom is open to anyone interested in science education.
- I am interested in supporting efforts to educate students on the benefits of science careers and sustainable energy technologies.

What suggestions do you have for making this a better science dialogue initiative?

- Invite principals to an educational informative meeting regarding challenges that face science teachers.
- Share success rather than all complaints.
- Meet more often. Day long – maybe at NCCAT.
- Review of research/literature regarding issues.
- Continued discussion.
- Meet more often!
- It was good!
- Continued communication and willingness to try new ideas.
- Have another gathering like this one.
- I'd like to get more time for a get together.
- Assign people to groups so each group has a more diverse make-up. Conversations will be more informative if people have different experiences.
- Have more pre-service teachers involved directly with current teachers.
- Day long?
- Continue the discussion.

What would you like to see happen next?

- Evaluate college curricula and see how it aligns with NC Standard Course of Study. Personally, I would be in favor of offering a science degree with education certification.
- Continued funding; email contact.
- Email me. Follow-up with ideas.
- Compilation of answers to questions emailed to participants.
- More contact
- Follow up meeting. Perhaps action plan to reach identified goals.
- Have another gathering like this one.
- Another meeting – perhaps over the summer.
- Implementation of ideas into science ed programs.
- More science education – a content drive (5 year) program.