

OST Career Ladders and Professional Development

June 2014

“10 Keys to Making Professional Learning Meaningful”

by Samantha Cleaver

Overview: This article explores the connection between learning and application, especially for K-12 classroom teachers. As the Common Core State Standards have prompted discussions in the education world regarding expectations and assessments for students, the role teacher preparation plays in providing teachers with the skill set to adapt to the Common Core has also emerged as a discussion about setting expectations and promoting outcomes for students. Throughout the article, Cleaver discusses key tips that turns professional learning from a passive to an active experience; including the importance of maximizing technology and other 21st century tools, having teachers themselves do the “heavy lifting” in their growth and development, and giving educators time to reflect both as individuals and with colleagues about lessons learned and what application looks like in their specific contexts.

Where to Find It:

<http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/ostrc/doclibrary/documents/10KeystoMakingProfessionalLearningMeaningful..pdf>

“Become a Top Networker: 4 Ways Anyone Can Build Bonds Faster”

by Christine Comaford

Overview: This article takes a refreshing look at networking from someone who admittedly struggles with it. Comaford provides straightforward tips on turning networking into a tool for building fulfilling professional relationships without so much reliance on taking from what those around you have to offer. Some of the advice provided includes notes on equalizing yourself with others, building networking momentum in nontraditional environments, and following through when you offer to help someone, no matter how small the offer.

Where to Find It:

<http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/ostrc/doclibrary/documents/BecomeaTopNetworker.pdf>

Featured Information:

“Leap of Faith: A Literature Review on the Effects of Professional Development and Youth Outcomes”

By Sarah Hill, Ed.D.

Commissioned by the Robert Browne Foundation

Summary:

As the title suggests, this literature review explores the notion that professional development provided to staff of OST programs translates to tangible adjustments in their behavior as practitioners and, ultimately, lasting outcomes for students as worthy of critique. Although there is no empirical research that clearly links professional development and youth outcomes, there exists a large body of OST literature that establishes the characteristics of high-quality professional development. Some of these characteristics include coherence, focus on content, presence of a community of learners, and continuous (as opposed to one-off).

Where to find the full article:

http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/ostrc/doclibrary/documents/leap_of_faith.pdf