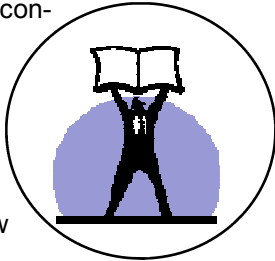


Laddering-Up: Igniting Shifts in Educational Thought

"It must be remembered that the purpose of education is not to fill the mind of students with facts...but to teach them how to think."

—Robert M. Hutchins, mid 20th century

The challenge of Hutchins' admonishment still lies before us though the context of our world has changed. Laddering up is to expand our thinking—moving from concrete to conceptual, from what we teach to how we teach, from what we know to how we know.



Working with you for school improvement

Information and the potential for knowledge is increasing at exponential rates. Federal mandates ask that all students have skills to capture, comprehend, and manipulate that information. Rapid growth in technology and shifting social patterns heighten the challenge of learning communities to make a difference as they meet the needs of diverse populations.

Resolving the issues that face your school can best be achieved through professional development—sharing a responsibly cohesive and consistent message. However, professional development is much more than the message. It begins with assessment and is followed by planning. Once the message is shared, effective professional development does not end, but continues through feedback.

What makes professional development effective? What helps teachers ladder-up? Educators must feel their time is used towards a relevant goal. The goal itself must be based on current, reliable research and directed towards improving instruction. Together we can plan a course for your district that will enhance teacher preparedness and raise student achievement in the months to come.

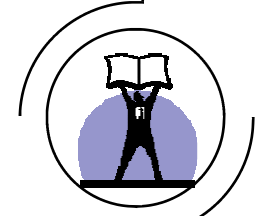


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A Sample of Presentations & Workshops

Differentiating Instruction

Our students do not look alike—they do not learn alike! This presentation provides information and supportive resources to transform conventional classrooms into learning havens that celebrate individualized achievement. Learn how to accommodate for student difference in learning processes and assessments that allow students to show what they know!

Reading, Writing and the PSAT

The ACT is primarily a reading test. This presentation identifies specific content approaches that will scaffold student achievement in the reading, science, and English portions of the test. Learn, too, about the ACT writing assessment, develop a content prompt, and receive a teacher-friendly scoring rubric

Bridging Content & Comprehension

No, we're not all reading teachers—but we all read. And successful student performance on high stakes testing demands that content teachers teach the reading skills students need to be successful content areas. The challenge of content classes is often found in textbooks that exceed students' reading levels. Learn how to use reading strategies to support content learning and improve ISAT performance.

Isn't All Writing Persuasive?

Whether your students are preparing to write the ISAT reading assessment's extended or they are laying out the threads of a narrative tale, the eventual reader must be convinced of the author's skill in context development as it relates to the prompt. This workshop will address how to get kids writing in response to clearly defined differences among the testing genres.

Developing a School-Wide Vocabulary

Vocabulary development has the greatest impact on reading comprehension; however, it also has the longest term payoff. On average, middle school students will increase vocabulary by 15,000 words and graduating seniors need 60,000 words in their vocabulary bank! This workshop will enable teachers to impact rich vocabulary growth.

Boys and Books

Finally, science and educational research support what teachers have known all along: boys and girls have different learning needs. Explore the biological and resulting neurological differences that influence approaches to effective reading and learning.

"I am passionate about education for learners of all ages. Working together, we can impact the quality of education for all students and rekindle the sense of empowerment within each and every teacher."



"Always learning and always teaching" would best describe Dea Conrad-Curry. An invited speaker to various state and national conferences, Dea also attends numerous workshops throughout the year to keep abreast of best practices and up-to-date research.

After twenty-five years in education Dea does not sit back and rest on accomplishments, rather, she actively builds bridges between research and practice to share with teachers and schools throughout the Midwest and the country. In this mission, Dea offers high-quality, affordable consulting services in professional development, system analysis, and curricular planning and design.

Dea recently completed coursework towards a doctoral degree at Illinois State University and begins dissertation research in the fall of 2009. In addition, she holds Illinois' teaching and administrative certificates, and two Masters' Degrees from Western Illinois University.

Dedicated to school improvement and passionate about learning and teaching, Dea develops professional relationships through ongoing communication, even after the workshop. Call today and begin a partnership that will ladder-up the teachers and students in your district.

References available upon request.

Visit www.partnerinedu.com for more information

"Dea Conrad-Curry knows her content and respects the knowledge base of her audience. Dea is an engaging presenter who consummately blends levity with current, complex educational topics. Dea practices the best instructional strategies, involving every teacher in the learning process. We brought Dea back to our school because our teachers asked for her!"
**Georgia Kouris, Rock Island High School
 Asst. Principal of Curriculum**

"Dea offers a clear correlation of the presentation materials to course materials."
 "The best feature of her presentation is clear demonstrations of methods"
 "She allows participants time to practice and work together in small and large groups."
 "Dea models and then allows us to implement the strategies she teaches."
 "All of her presentations are great!"
 "Dea has a great sense of humor!"

Dea Conrad-Curry

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