



Building Partnerships to Support Teacher Candidate Development

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Research Concerning Teacher Development

In order to successfully meet the expectations of being a lead teacher, novice teachers must implement strategies they learned through their teacher preparation program and during their student teaching experience (Fry, 2009).



Communities of Practice

Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.

- *Etienne Wenger*



Introduction to Teaching Practicum

- Freshmen and sophomore teacher candidates
- 30 hour practicum
- Graduates serving as Mentor Teachers
 - MT's can relate to the college experiences of TC's
 - MT's share their transition from college student to practicing professional
 - Common language between the MT and TC
 - MT's communicate their personal experience concerning their career choices and teaching locations
 - Open dialog can occur between the MT's and the college faculty involved in the course experiences



Junior Practicum

- Tuesdays/Thursdays at a Christian school setting
- Formal training for MT's prior to the beginning of the practicum
- Teacher candidates are taking content courses related to the practicum placements- Essentials of Instruction, Reading Methods, Math Content and Skills
- Course assignments are tied to practicum experiences



Senior Field Experience

- Tuesday/Thursday practicum
- MT's participate in a formal training for supporting TC's through edTPA
- Methods' course assignments are aligned to practicum experiences
- TC's receive formal observations from MT and College Supervisors
- College Supervisor works with MT to support TC professional development
- Senior Field Experience Seminar focuses on professional development of TC's



Clinical Practice

- Partnership Meeting Prior to Clinical Practice
 - Daylong planning event held at Covenant College
 - MT's, TC's, and College Supervisors
 - Covenant College pays for substitute teachers to allow for MT's to attend the event, along with a catered lunch
 - Topics include curriculum planning, co-teaching methods, and instrument training
- Formal Observations by MT (4) and College Supervisor (10)
- Ongoing support conversations held between the MT and College Supervisor
- Professional development issues are addressed in Clinical Practice Seminar meetings on a weekly basis



Looking to the future....

