



The Early Childhood Education *Bulletin*

LEADERSHIP CORNER

By Mary Sibley

Where Are They Now?



CoP leaders at the Strong Minds Kick-Off Expo on September 19, 2015.

The Institute of Excellence is excited to update our readers on the growth of the Early Childhood Leaders Community of Practice, which was featured in the December 2013 edition of our newsletter. For those who have not yet heard the buzz about Communities of Practice, Kaplan & Suter (2005) define this exceptional method as “a group of people who share a common concern, a set of problems, or an interest in a topic and who come together to fulfill both individual and group goals.”

Within two years, the group has grown to include 18 members, forming two communities. The groups meet independently every month, and as a joint community quarterly. Each member has completed the five-day National School Reform Faculty (NSRF) New Coaches training to become a certified coach. This special group of leaders are ambassadors and advocates for our profession, joining together to share, create and implement the best strategies for teacher and child success.

As a result of the demonstrated dedication to best practices for successful child outcomes, the Institute of Excellence has offered top tier trainings in leading-edge approaches like CLASS and Conscious Discipline to these leaders. As one member expresses, “I love how creative our thinking becomes when we meet to address shared dilemmas and challenges, and apply the principles and protocols of NSRF. We think outside the box to meet the challenges of implementing initiatives like CLASS and GOLD.”

In addition, the Institute of Excellence is excited about the “Communities of Practice, Creative Collaboration” presentation by CoP facilitator Mary Sibley and CoP leader Ali Eger at the NAEYC Conference next month! “Communities of Practice: Professional Development That Engages and Builds a Competent Team” will also be presented during the poster session at the First 1,000 Days Florida Summit, scheduled to be held this month at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

For more information about Communities of Practice, contact Mary Sibley at 561-868-3956 or sibleym@palmbeachstate.edu.

Reference:

Kaplan, S., Suter, V. (2005). Communities of practice design guide: A step-by-step guide for designing & cultivating communities of practice in higher education. Darren Cambridge, p.1-8. Retrieved November 21, 2013, from <http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/nli0531.pdf>