

The background is a teal-to-blue gradient with technical diagrams. On the left, there is a large circular scale with markings from 40 to 260. Several circular arrows and dashed lines are scattered across the background, suggesting a technical or scientific theme.

BRAVING THE NEW WORLD OF STEM EDUCATION: THE PARTNERSHIP PERSPECTIVE

JANNA DRESDEN, PH.D.

PRESENTATION AT THE THIRD ANNUAL UGA STEM INSTITUTE

ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

APRIL 5, 2014

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS ON PARTNERSHIP WORK

- You can't have a partnership
- Without a partner



THE STORY OF 'TEACH TO LEARN,'
A STEM PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UGA AND
THE CLARKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**BEGINS WITH THE STORY OF THE UGA & CCSD
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

BACKGROUND ON THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (PDSD)

- Open-ended meetings began in January of 2008
- In 2008-2009 we visited other school-university in partnerships in Illinois, Wisconsin, South Carolina and Georgia
- In August of 2009, J.J. Harris Elementary Charter School opened as a PDS
- In 2011 expanded to a Professional Development School DISTRICT

UGA/CCSD PDSD TODAY

- 11 schools actively involved: 5 Elementary Schools, 3 Middle Schools, 2 High Schools, and The Early Learning Center
- 6 Professors-in-Residence at 5 schools plus 1 District-wide Professor-in-Residence
- 20 College of Education courses taught on-site at schools
- ~500 COE students taking classes, in field placement or student teaching at Professional Development Schools each semester

PDSD REGULAR MEETINGS

- School level meetings
- COE PSD faculty meetings
- Coordinating Council
- Monthly Executive Committee meetings

TEACH TO LEARN

- Goal was to improve retention rate and quality of early career science and math teachers in CCSD middle and high schools
- Supported by a Georgia Innovation Fund grant (federal Race to the Top)
- \$850,000 over 2 years (2012-2014) and just received a no-cost extension for one more year (until June 2015)
- Combined a residency program for newly certified teachers (or those nearing completion of certification) with an induction program for Early Career Teachers (in 1st three years)

TEACH TO LEARN PARTICIPANTS

- 13 Teacher Coaches
- 19 Early Career Teachers
- 12 Teacher Residents
- COHORT FACILITATORS:
 - Dr. Sally Zepeda, Teacher Coaches
 - Dr. Amy Peacock and Ms. Glenda Huff, Early Career Teachers
 - Dr. Ryan Smith, Teacher Residents

TEACH TO LEARN PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Teacher-Coach and Teacher Resident co-teaching
- Teacher Resident responsible for classroom so that TC could work with Early Career Teacher
- Planning meetings for all members of the triad
- Professional learning
 - Bi-weekly seminars for teacher-residents
 - Monthly sessions for early career teachers and teacher coaches
 - Professional Learning Days
 - Workshops
 - Science Day visit to UGA labs

PRELIMINARY LESSONS LEARNED—THE PROGRAM WORKED BEST WHEN:

- Teacher-Coaches were only responsible for mentoring one Early Career Teacher
- TC, ECT and TR (triads) shared common planning time and taught the same subject and grade level
- Emphasis of professional learning was on content and pedagogical content knowledge
- Professional learning was directed at triads rather than at cohort groups
- There was time to develop trust (so that true collaboration could take place)
- Flexibility allowed for modifications

PARTNERSHIP WORK REQUIRES

- Time
- Tenacity
- Trusting and trustworthy behavior

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS

- **Emergent**—Based on
 - The needs and interests of the participants
 - The interests and capacity of those involved
- **Organic**—Created by the people doing the work
- **Dynamic**—Constantly changing
- **Collaborative**—Planning and decision-making is shared at multiple levels within and across institutions

The background is a gradient from teal at the top to dark blue at the bottom. It features faint technical diagrams, including a large circular gauge with numerical markings (100, 120, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200) and arrows, and other smaller circular elements with arrows. A pattern of small white dots, resembling a starry sky, is scattered across the background.

YOU HAVE TO HAVE A PARTNER
BEFORE YOU START TO DANCE