



Teaching & Learning Initiative

Update Number 7

1.25.13

⇒ “We can’t be creative if we refuse to be confused. Change always starts with confusion; cherished interpretations must dissolve to make way for the new. Of course it’s scary to give up what we know, but the abyss is where newness lives. Great ideas and inventions miraculously appear in the space of not knowing. If we can move through the fear and enter the abyss, we are rewarded greatly. We rediscover we’re creative.”

⇒ Margaret Wheatley

Turning to One Another:

Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future

⇒ In this session of the Teaching and Learning Initiative, participants reflected on their experience with Area of Performance 5, Assessing Student Learning. As in previous reflections on the Areas of Performance in the *Framework for Effective Teaching*, the process included personal journaling, partners offering each other structured Reflecting Conversations, and drafting personal learning goals for the future.

⇒ Building on the first three Norms of Collaboration – **Pausing** and **Paraphrasing** to listen for understanding, and **Posing Questions**, participants learned the fourth Norm: **Putting Ideas on the Table**. The tools for this Norm are both perceptual – such as attending to the cognitive styles of others with whom ideas will be shared, and linguistic – such as how to use transition phrases to shift from inquiring into the thinking of others to making one’s own thinking visible by putting an idea on the table. ([Putting Ideas on the Table](#))

⇒ The Extended Learning Opportunity for Session 8 is to read Area of Performance 6 in *The Framework* (Developing as a Professional Educator), noting key concepts and ideas; and to dialogue about it as learning partners.

⇒ The eighth and final session of this round of TLI is on February 7th and 8th at the Century Center.
