

State Personnel Development Grant

The Newsletter for Vermont's SPDG

Volume 1, Issue 6

From the Laptop of Meg Porcella: Updates

April, 2017

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From the Laptop of Meg Porcella, Co-Director: Updates

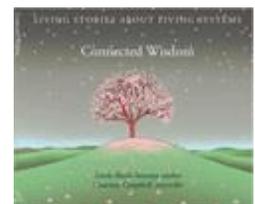
The application for the next round of State Personnel Development Grants was submitted on April 13, 2017. I'm excited about the proposal, and I want to thank everyone who helped with its development. External gratitude is due to, Pat Mueller, Beth Steenwyk, and Brent Garrett. Internally, I want to thank many people, most notable among them are Tracy Watterson, Tonya Rutkowski, Debbie Lesure, and Karin Edwards for their feedback and support.

Moving forward, we will use this forum, among others, to let administrators at the SU/SD level know about the criteria and process for participating in the next round of the Grant. Watch for that information in the next few months.

I am excited to announce that the [SPDG has its own space on the AOE's new website](#). Currently, the content of the page is limited. However, as our proposal for the next round of SPDG (VT SPDG5) becomes more established, I will use that space for important information and links.

Spotlight: Systems Thinking

The community of practice that is composed of the K-12 External Systems Coaches as well as the Early-Aligned Systems Coaches and Practice-Based Coaches have used our meeting times this year deepening our ability to be "systems thinkers." We began with reading and discussing two separate articles by Brian Hinken, "Confessions of a Recovering Knower" (*The Systems Thinker*, Vol. 16. No 7) and "The Learner's Path" (*The Systems Thinker* Vol. 17. No 1). Both articles served as the content around which quality conversations took place around "Knowers" and "Learners," how we recognize those qualities in ourselves as well as in others with whom we are working. At our final meeting we were given two chapters from the book "Connected Wisdom: Living Stories About Living Systems" by Linda Booth Sweeney. We found benefits in reading folk tales about systems and then applying the message embedded in the story to our understanding of systems such as a multi-tiered system of supports. In this month's spotlight, I'm recommending Brian Hinken's articles as well as Linda Booth Sweeney's book "Connected Wisdom." Lindaboothsweeney.net is an online source rich in resources around systems that go beyond a leadership team's need to implement a multi-tiered system.



Upcoming Training

2016-2017 Save the Dates!

Upcoming training opportunities through the SPDG will be posted here. Contact your systems coach with questions about registration.

Literacy:

[VRI at UVM Event](#)

Behavior:

[PBIS PD Calendar](#)

Data Snapshot: MTSS Survey

The MTSS Survey, formerly the ESS Survey, is available online through June 1, 2017. Act 117 – VSA Title 16, Section 2904 – requires that each superintendent shall annually provide the Vermont Secretary of Education with a description of the educational support systems at each school in each supervisory union. The report shall describe, services and supports, how they are funded, and how building the capacity of the educational support system is addressed in the School's Continuous Improvement Plan. Please [complete the MTSS Survey online](#) by June 1, 2017. Please Contact Emma Louie at (802) 479-1336 or emma.louie@vermont.gov if you have questions about the survey.



The VT SPDG web page is here!

education.vermont.gov

This month, I want to draw attention to [the vtMTSS Moodle site](#). Participants in trainings such as the Universal Design for Learning that was given by Amanda Duffy from American Institutes for Research (AIR) and the Literacy training sessions offered by Vermont Reads Institute have had possibly the most exposure to this site, but our data shows that it's an underutilized resource. The site was initially developed through a grant with the Research Collaboration Lab at the University of Kansas. Currently, there are 6 learning portals available to those who log into the Moodle site: Universal Design for Learning, Specific Learning Disabilities, Secondary Transition vtMTSS Academy, MTSS Literacy, Math, and Early MTSS. Each portal contains learning modules and resources for visitors to access. Some of the resources reflect presentation information provided at training sessions. Other modules reflect online learning visitors are welcome to take part in. Chances are good that you have a username and password already associated with the Moodle. However, if you can't find it, please email me at meg.porcella@vermont.gov, and I'll get you what you need to be able to utilize the Moodle resources.

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