



PA High School Coaching Initiative Newsletter

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April 06

Free Web-based Tools

A New Feature on PaCoaching.org

The PaCoaching.org site has a new feature. Each month, a new web-based tool will be featured. Last month's was the Citation Machine. This tool is incredible!

Citation Machine is an interactive Web tool designed to assist teachers in modeling the proper use of information property. Simply click the citation format, APA or MLA and then the type of resource you wish to cite. Next, complete the Web form that appears with the information requested and then click on "Make Citations." This tool can be accessed at <http://citationmachine-east.net/>.

This month's featured Web tool is Showing Evidence. This free tool from Intel includes a collection of resources for creating structured arguments for research, debate, and analysis in the classroom. It includes an interactive online workspace for teachers and students to discuss and collaborate as they evaluate claims and evidence. This tool can be used in any subject area to help students support hypotheses, collect and evaluate evidence, debate differences and organize ideas. This tool can be accessed at <http://www97.intel.com/en/Thinking-Tools/ShowingEvidence>

Meet Our New Partner At The Philadelphia Foundation

Bridget Donlan has replaced Heather Moody as the new Project Analyst for The Philadelphia Foundation working on the PA High School Coaching Initiative. Heather will be working closely with Bridget over the coming months to ensure a smooth transition for this critical Initiative. Please begin to direct

questions, reporting and requests for reimbursement to her attention. You will have the opportunity to meet Bridget in person in the near future. Bridget's contact information is below:

Bridget Donlan

Project Analyst

(215) 563-6417, phone

(215) 563-6882, fax

bdonlan@philafound.org, email

Update From PLN

PLN just needs to add a "gentle reminder" (smile!) that registration forms for the Centralized Course and PLN Regional Courses need to be submitted ASAP.

email:

gina2@gse.upenn.edu

fax: 215.573.9593

mail:

Graduate School of Education

Penn Literacy Network
3700 Walnut St.

Philadelphia, PA 19104

attn: Gina Calzaferri



- ◆ **May 7-8, 2006**
Network Meeting in Cranberry, PA
- ◆ **June 25-28;**
August 14-16;
September 24-26, 2006
Centralized Course training at Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA
- ◆ **July 27, 2006**
Phase I cumulative report due to Philadelphia Foundation
- ◆ **Sept. 12, 13, 14, 2006**
PLN and Foundations training for new coaches. Location TBA

All events can be found on the calendar at

www.PaCoaching.org





RESEARCH for ACTION

Update From Research For Action

Research for Action (RFA) has conducted interviews with the majority of principals who are involved in the Initiative. We appreciated hearing their perspective. We have also completed two site visits to participating schools to see the Initiative in action. During April we visited Central, East, and Strong Vincent High Schools in Erie and J.P. McCaskey and McCaskey East in Lancaster. Administrators, coaches, teachers, students and mentors at both sites graciously opened their offices and classrooms to us and helped us learn about their schools and about how the Initiative is being implemented there. We have learned a great deal and are looking forward to visiting Scranton and Philadelphia high schools in May.

RFA is continuing our analysis of the coach

survey. The end date for the teacher survey was extended to enable us to work out technical problems in some districts so that all teachers had access to the survey. We anticipate that administration of the teacher survey will be over by the end of April.

We are finding that coaches throughout the Initiative have created unique and helpful tools both for communication about the Initiative and for instruction. If you have a tool or document you would like to send to RFA to be included in our overview of tools and instruments that have moved the Initiative's implementation along – please email it to pduplessis@researchforaction.org. Also, you could bring a copy to the May Networking Session.



Summer Centralized Training

This summer our PLN and Foundations Centralized Training will be held at the Hershey Lodge. Due to increased lodging costs during the summer months, all rooms will be double occupancy. You can reserve rooms now by calling 800.533.3131 and indicating that you are part of the PA High School Coaching group.

Check-in is 4 p.m. and check-out is 11 a.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Keck at