



# PA High School Coaching Initiative Newsletter



CAIU

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## Visit PaCoaching.org!

At our March Network Meeting, the new web site developed to support our coaching work across the commonwealth was shared with about 160 educators. Please visit the site often to find out about the most recent events, dates for upcoming trainings, and valuable resources on coaching.

Also on the site is a blog which provides an interactive forum for discussions about our work. Please register and send your responses. This is a way for us to continue our networking!

## PLN Regional Course Dates

### Regional Course dates:

Proposed Regional Course dates for PLN 1 and PLN 2 courses for 2006-2007 have been distributed to each district electronically and by hard copy.

Please review these dates, inform Gina of any

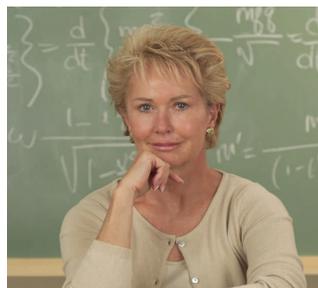
## May Network Session

The May Network Session will be May 7-8 in Cranberry, PA. Sunday night lodging and activities will be at the Pittsburgh Marriott North. To make your lodging reservations, please call 724.772.3700 and inform the Marriott that you are with the PA Coaching Initiative.

Credit cards are needed to make the reservation, but upon check-out, room cost will be added to the master account. This is the same process used when we met at Hershey and at the Penn Stater.

possible conflicts, and approve the dates. Please review ASAP.

Also select a location for the courses. The site should include a main room, a breakout room, and overhead projectors or document cameras for both rooms.



"Since becoming a coach, I have changed so much. I don't talk the same way about education and I don't think the same way about teaching and kids. I can't believe how much I have learned and grown in the past six months."

PA Math Coach

## PLN Regional Course Grades

All spring course grades are not due to the University of Pennsylvania Registrar until May 8. Once grades have been turned in, participants will receive an unofficial grade mailer in early June. If participants need an official transcript, they must personally contact the Registrar. Information can be found on the Penn website.

[www.upenn.edu](http://www.upenn.edu)



Mark Your  
Calendar!

- ◆ **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
- ◆ **Sept. 12, 13, 14, 2006**  
PLN and Foundations training for new coaches. Location TBA

All events are on the calendar found at [www.pacoaching.org](http://www.pacoaching.org)

## Technology Fun!

At our March Network Meeting we had some fun with the Oscar theme and were introduced to photostory3. More technology fun to come this summer at our Centralized Training Sessions!



## Update From Foundations, Inc.

Foundations, Inc. will be videotaping at the following sites in April and May: Sci Tech HS in Harrisburg on April 12 and in the Erie schools on May 18-19.

The pre-planning, classroom coaching, debriefing and professional development sessions with teachers will be videotaped along with interviews with the coaches, teachers and administrators in the schools.

Please let your Foundations mentors know if you are interested in being part of our video project.



## 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 [skeck@caiu.org](mailto:skeck@caiu.org).

## Summer Technology Workshops



This summer during our Centralized Course, we will be offering three different voluntary technology workshops in the evening. The first session will be in June, focusing on blogging in the educational setting. The August session will provide participants with hands-on training in photostory3 and the September session will be announced in the near future.

These sessions will be lead by Joan Cusano, PLN facilitator and school technology director and Susan Keck, Director of PA Coaching Initiative.

A special guest will be joining us in August—A national keynote speaker and author on educational technologies! Be prepared for lots of technology fun!

## Update from RFA

As is the case for many of you, this time of year is very busy for us at Research for Action (RFA), with many research activities occurring simultaneously.

The Coach Survey is now complete. We had an incredible 96% response rate and thank all the POCs, administrators, mentors and coaches for making this happen. RFA presented some initial findings from the survey at the March Networking event. We are continuing our analysis of this data. Here are a few highlights from those initial findings:

- ✦ Coaches' average years of teaching experience – 17.5.
- ✦ About ½ of all Coaches are new to their current school.
- ✦ A majority of coaches report that the staff at their school is encouraged to listen to new ideas and that the school has provided many professional development

opportunities.

✦ A large majority of coaches reported that both the PLN regional training courses and training with Foundations mentors were useful.

✦ Slightly over ½ of all coaches report that they were provided a clear description of the Coach's role in this initiative (when they became a coach).

A large majority of coaches report daily or weekly involvement in: providing a listening ear for teachers' concerns; locating and creating classroom resources; planning lessons with teachers; and communicating pedagogy to staff not enrolled in the courses.

Teacher surveys are currently being administered in all Initiative high schools via the web. Due to technical challenges, we have extended the administration period until month's end.

We are currently con-

ducting individual phone interviews with administrators from each of the Initiative high schools. These interviews will be complete by the end of March.

In April and May, we will be conducting site visits in four districts – Erie, Lancaster, Philadelphia and Scranton. During these visits we will see the initiative in action and learn about how it is working for coaches, teachers and students. This qualitative data, combined with quantitative survey and interview data, will help provide a richer understanding of overall implementation, successes and challenges.

*\*We want to emphasize that all data, whether it is from surveys, interviews or observations is confidential. Data from all coach and teacher surveys will be analyzed and reported anonymously. E-mail addresses and names are separated from the sur-*

*veys will be analyzed and reported anonymously. E-mail addresses and names are separated from the survey responses.\*\**