

B TSA INDUCTION NEWS

BEGINNING TEACHER SUPPORT, ASSESSMENT, AND INDUCTION

Numbers to Know

B TSA Director: Irma Bravo Lawrence, 238-1306

B TSA Consultant: Vicki Stewart, 238-1329

B TSA Consultant: Lisa Tiwater, 238-1330

B TSA Support Staff:

Aurora Contreras, 238-1309

Ruth Des Roches, 238-1311

Helen Markiss, 238-1318

Tricia Stewart, 238-1323

Collaboration Between IHEs and the Central Valley B TSA Induction Programs



As part of the ongoing collaboration between the B TSA induction programs of the region and the Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), a meeting took place on January 31, 2008 at the Stanislaus County Office of Education. A group of B TSA induction directors, consultants and university staff came together to help create a bridge for beginning teachers between beginning teachers' pre-service work at the university and the B TSA induction program experience. As of July 1, 2008, all teacher training programs will have to implement the Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA) which created the question as to how the information from the TPA might be shared with B TSA Induction programs.

Basically the TPA is a set of tasks and activities that are imbedded within the teacher preparation program at the university. All candidates must pass all four tasks prior to being recommended for their preliminary credential. The tasks are scored 1-4 on a rubric and some teacher preparation programs will provide more narrative to give a clearer interpretation of these scores. The four tasks of the California Teaching Performance Assessment, with subtasks within each task, are as follows:

- Principles of Content-Specific and Developmentally Appropriate Pedagogy
- Connecting Instructional Planning to Student Characteristics
- Classroom Assessment of Academic Learning Goals
- Academic Lesson Design, Implementation, and Reflection after instruction.

At this meeting, a very simple form was created that the candidate would begin to fill out while still at the university. It is the intention that this form will begin at the university with documentation of strengths and areas for growth determined by the TPA and the student teaching experience and then be brought by the

participating teacher to one of the first meetings with the support provider. This document, still in draft form, is designed to be flexible, yet meaningful. This is so the support provider and participating teacher can begin their conversations with those areas of strength and areas in need of growth. Right from the beginning the support provider will be able to be thinking about a possible teacher for their beginning teacher to observe, a training that they want to make sure they have the dates for, an article that might be helpful and other ways to give support.

Support providers are the foundation of any B TSA Induction Program and the SCOE B TSA Induction Program is fortunate to have a group of support providers of high quality. This bridging document between the university teacher training program and the first days of induction is being designed to:

1. Support the work of the support provider by increasing their understanding of the induction needs of their participating teacher, and
2. Also support the beginning teacher to better understand and communicate their strengths and areas of concern where the work needs to begin.

IHEs and B TSA Induction programs represented at this meeting were: Stanislaus COE, Modesto City Schools, CSU Stanislaus, Chapman and the University of the Pacific. National University was unable to join us, but plans to be a part of the next meeting. These IHEs represent the teacher preparation programs where the majority of the participating teachers in the surrounding area are trained.

This bridging document holds much promise for helping to give the participating teacher more individualized support much earlier in the induction process.



Take Time For The Portfolio Read



It was Vincent van Gogh who said, "Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together." The SCOE BTSA participating teacher's portfolio is truly a great thing. It is a record and reflection of the learning that takes place in the beginning years of teaching. This portfolio reflects the challenges, the understand, the frustration and the gains felt by participating teachers during those first two years.

In May and June the SCOE BTSA Induction program will be having its 9th annual portfolio read. District administrators, site administrators and support providers will be invited to participate. We realize that it is difficult to be away from your jobs for a day or even half a day, but there is much to be gained by being a part of the SCOE BTSA Induction Portfolio Read.

Administrators and support providers are faced with the challenge of making sure that beginning teachers are as highly competent as possible. The challenges faced in the classroom daily by participating teachers can be

overwhelming. The Portfolio Read day offers a day to reflect, to remember and to more fully understand the challenges faced by participating teachers. As portfolios are read, insights into the difficulties, and also the victories, successes, and the paths that participating teacher have taken to overcome their challenges come alive. We hope that you consider joining us for a very worthwhile day. As a reminder, in order to successfully read all the portfolios, each district should send one reader for every 6 portfolios it will submit, with a minimum of (1) representative per district.

Please save the date for:

Day 1- May 22, 2008

Day 2- June 12, 2008

Location: SCOE Petersen Event Center

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Feel free to attend one day or both! We look forward to seeing you there!

Generation X and the Role of Mentoring



Baby Boomers supervising and mentoring Generation X new teachers can be challenged and enlightened all at the same time. A recent article in Educational Leadership, October 2007, discussed this very dilemma.

Generation X has a completely different experience with technology than previous generations. MySpace, YouTube, power points, laptops, cell phones, iPods and digital cameras are essentials in the life of Generation X. This generation was born between 1965 and 1980, following the Baby Boomers. Generation Xers were raised by television, Atari and personal computers. New technology challenges are easily met for this generation due to their vast amount of experience and prior knowledge. Generation X has also been observed as very comfortable with change. This is a fortunate trait to possess since information is increasing exponentially every second. Change is occurring in our daily lives and the world at a rate never experienced before.

This article points out that Generation X has been characterized as less intimidated by authority than previous generations, and this is a trait that may become apparent during the evaluation process. Generation Xers may be less upset over a poor evaluation, but not necessarily less likely to do something about it.

What does all this mean? Generalizing and stereotyping can be very dangerous, but an awareness of generational traits can be helpful to both mentors and supervisors in understanding and working with differences that may or may not occur between the generations.

BTSA

UPDATE!



BTSA State Survey
OPENS: March 17, 2008

The State Survey will be opening on March 17, 2008. All BTSA participating teachers, support providers and site administrators who have participating teachers at their schools will need to complete this survey. This survey is extremely important to the SCOE BTSA Induction Program. It lets us know what is working well and where we need to place our efforts for improvement. Taking the time to fill out this survey is very appreciated.

Go to: <http://www.btsa.ca.gov/>

We'd Like to Introduce You To...

SCOE BTSA Induction would like to introduce you to our newest Event Planner, Tricia Stewart. She comes to us from the SCOE short-term employee pool. Prior to coming to SCOE, she was an office manager for H&R Block. Her computer and webpage skills are welcomed here in BTSA. Tricia is an avid movie buff, family genealogy investigator and lover of books.

Next time you visit SCOE BTSA, please take a minute to introduce yourself and say hello to Tricia Stewart. We're sure that you'll find her every bit as delightful as we do.