



Working at the Intersection of Families and Learning

Professionalizing A
Field And Building
Capacity

Anne Henderson, Annenberg Institute for School Reform/NAFSCE


Michelle Femc-Bagwell, University of Connecticut

Bea Fernandez, San Diego Unified School District

Judy Carson, CT State Department of Education


Betsy LeBoriosis, Capital Region Education Council

Overview and Introductions




PREPARING FUTURE TEACHERS FOR ENGAGING PARENTS IN MEANINGFUL AND PURPOSEFUL WAYS

Michele Femc-Bagwell, PhD
University of Connecticut



Teachers and administrators are educated to think of themselves as individual leaders of classrooms, schools, or districts, with little attention to the importance of teamwork and collaborations with parents, community partners and others interested in students' success in school.

(Epstein & Sanders, 2006)



Shartrand, Weiss, & Lopez (1997) recognize vast discrepancies between how educators are prepared to involve families and the expectations for their home, school and community connections.

Many standards, few imbedded practices.

Suggested Authentic/Applied Practices for Pre-Service Teachers

Required Readings

- *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis* (2012) Robert D. Putnam
- *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships* (2007) Anne Henderson, Karen T. Mapp, Vivian R. Johnson, & Don Davies

Building Relationships

- Case Studies, Role Playing, Writing Emails
 - Make phone calls!!! * Integrate a Math lesson
 - Recognize that no one knows their child(ren) better than a parent/caregiver.
-

Parent involvement is typically classified as **deliberate** acts of engagement (Jeynes, 2010)

- Family-School Compacts- Partners in Learning

www.ctschoolparentcompact.org

* Judy Carson (CTSDE)

- Welcoming Schools: School Climate & Culture

www.crec.org/welcomingschools

*Betsy LeBoriosis (CREC)

- The ASPIRE Survey- Inventorying Families' Human Capital
(interests, skills, work experiences)

www.theaspireurvey.com

* Michele Femc-Bagwell (UCONN)

Results

- Builds trust!
 - Creates a cultural awareness and appreciation of families in your classroom/school.
 - Alleviates the “They scare me syndrome”
 - Proactive vs. reactive...
-

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE FOR PARENT LIAISONS

**Bea Fernandez
Program Manager
Parent Outreach and Engagement Dept.
San Diego Unified School District**

**CENTER FOR
FAMILY, SCHOOL,
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA
PARENT CENTER |
COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION**



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE FOR PARENT LIAISONS

- Why offer a certificate?
 - Recognize the importance and value of parent liaisons
 - Professionalize the position
 - Provide skill-building and support
 - Create a Professional Portfolio to organize work tasks and increase accountability



CENTER FOR
FAMILY, SCHOOL,
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA
PARENT CENTER |
COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION

<http://parent.sdsu.edu>

WHAT IS THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE FOR PARENT LIAISONS?

- The Center for Family, School, Community Engagement at San Diego State University, College of Education is the **ONLY** organization in California that offers a certificate
- Graduates are from all over the US and Canada
- Requirements: Level 1 Foundational Training and Level 2 Parent Liaison-Focused Training, (24 hrs)
- Level 1 Foundational Training – Twice a year
Level 2 Parent Training – Once a year

CENTER FOR
FAMILY, SCHOOL,
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA
PARENT CENTER |
COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION

<http://parent.sdsu.edu>

WHAT IS THE CONTENT IN LEVEL 1 AND LEVEL 2 TRAININGS?

- Roles and Responsibilities – *If you don't define your job, they will define it for you!*
- Establishing effective family and community engagement at schools
- Linking family engagement research to student achievement
- Types of family engagement that most impact achievement
- Welcoming school environment / Reaching out to **ALL** families
- Communication skills and positive problem solving
- Practical resources to implement NOW!

CENTER FOR
FAMILY, SCHOOL,
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA
PARENT CENTER |
COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION

<http://parent.sdsu.edu>

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED OUTCOMES?

1. An understanding of the impact of family engagement on student learning
2. Knowledge of steps for planning / maintaining family engagement programs
3. Enhanced communication and positive problem solving skills
4. Ability to effectively reach out and engage ALL families
5. Increased confidence and competence to be accountable for assigned jobs and tasks

CENTER FOR
FAMILY, SCHOOL,
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA
PARENT CENTER |
COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION

<http://parent.sdsu.edu>

Join
the
Network!



COMMUNITY AND
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Friday CAFÉ

A Professional Learning
Network for Community
And Family Engagement

“Who are they and what do they do?”

- Hard to Locate
- Varied Job Titles
- Felt Isolated
- Lacked Validation as Professionals
- Wanted New Ideas
- Wanted Time with Colleagues



What's On



The Menu?

**Monthly
Friday Morning
8:30 – 10:30**

**Short
Talk**



**Broad Outreach
Inclusive
Accessible Content
Free of Charge**



Mission and Goals

A morning discussion and networking series for people who work at the intersection of families and learning



Expand Thinking



Build Connections



Develop a Robust
Professional Identity

Our Values

- Networking – Not Training
- Safe “Lab” for practice
- No penalty for not attending
- Egalitarian
- Jointly owned
- Strength-based and Welcoming
- Invest in marketing



**COMMUNITY AND
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**



If We Build It Will They Come?

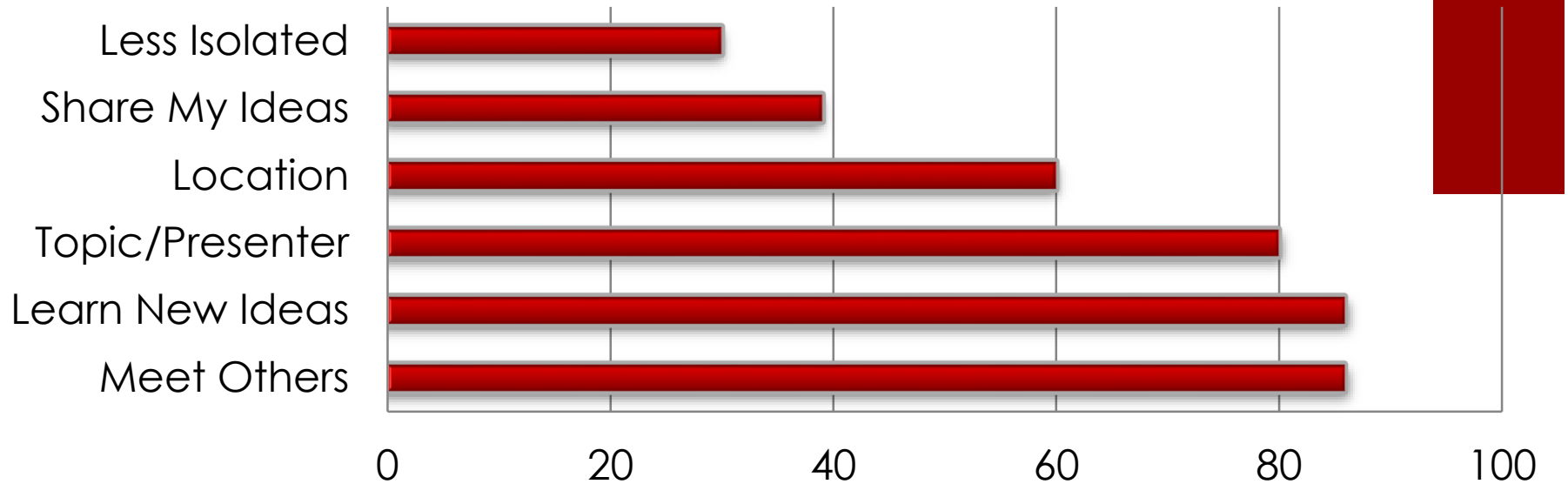
They Came!

- 384 over 8 sessions (224 individuals)
- 62% attended 1-2 sessions
- 33% attended 3-5 sessions

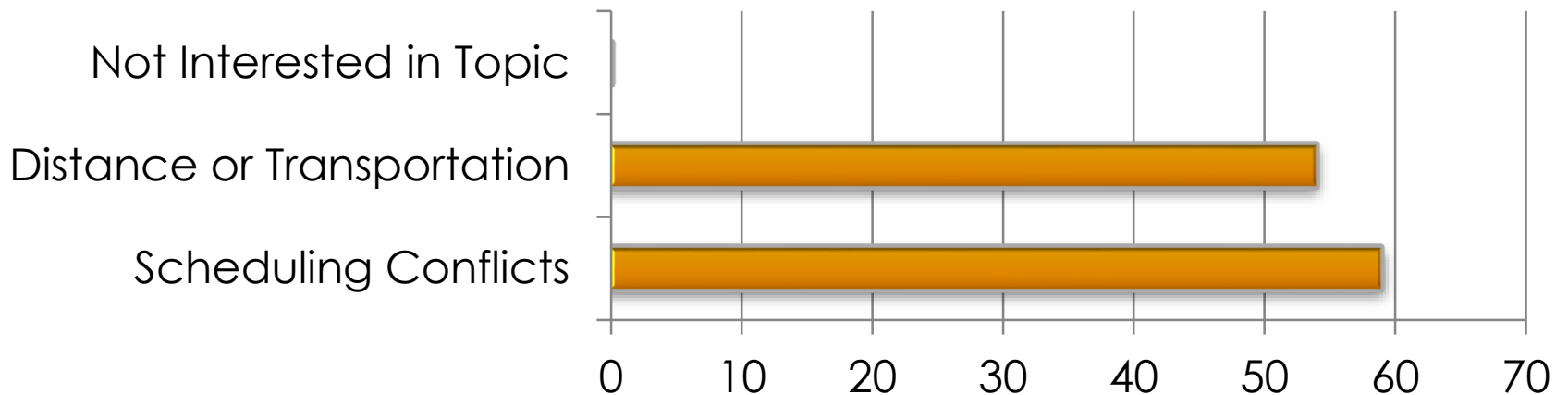
Broad Representation

More...	Fewer...
Urban	Suburban
School Level	District, Organization, Higher Ed, State
Direct Service	Administration

Reasons for Attending



Barriers to Attending



What Happens When They Leave?

Share information	With others in their school/district
Make change	Used idea in the District Improvement Plan Made school more welcoming Used new ideas in the afterschool program Used new ideas during home visits
Interact with families differently	Involved parents more in program planning Met families in their own spaces Make family outreach more personal
Collaborate with new colleagues	Met someone from the same district and now working together
Return to venues	Promoted the use of the new venues with others at school
Find new resources	Found out about a new grant and applied

Respect BUILD ALLIES Trust
START WITH THE POSITIVE BREATHE IS A CLIMATE
Welcome OPEN DOOR
CAN DO EMBRACE DIFFERENCES MAKE RACE AND CULTURE VISIBLE IS A CULTURE
KNOW YOUR LIMITS
BUILD CONNECTIONS BETWEEN FAMILIES
LINK TO LEARNING
TRUTH OVER ARTIFICIAL HARMONY
MAKE TIME TO REACH OUT
NO ONE SIZE FITS ALL
VALUE PARENTS' EXPERIENCES ARE THEY GLAD TO SEE YOU?
Honor
Compassion FAMILIES WON'T CARE WHAT YOU KNOW UNTIL THEY KNOW THAT YOU CARE
GO WHERE FAMILIES ARE
CELEBRATE WHAT WORKS
HOPE INSPIRES HOPE
STUDENTS' VOICES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR ENGAGEMENT
MOVE FROM FRUSTRATION TO ACTION TO SUCCESS
YOUR WORD IS YOUR BOND
DON'T ASSUME AN ABSENT PARENT DOESN'T CARE
TAP INTO STORIES TO CONNECT FAMILIES
Ask students



FOR PEOPLE WHO WORK AT THE
INTERSECTION OF FAMILIES AND LEARNING



www.
fridaycafe.org



Questions and Comments