

Fran Hess

I am located in [Otsego County](#) in upstate New York (about halfway between Albany and Syracuse). My teaching experience focuses on Earth Science and A.P. Environmental Science. I also have taught A.P. Biology, Biology, Forensics, Astronomy and Computer Applications. I am one of the authors of the McGraw–Hill Glencoe Earth Science textbooks: Earth Science: Geology, the Environment and the Universe. I plan to reach out to teachers in our region working through the Catskill Area Teacher Center and the Catskill Leatherstocking Section of the Science Teachers Association of New York State (CLS –STANYS). I am looking forward to participating in the LifeLines' project.

Our PLC, based on our location, will be called Lifelines Between Teachers and work off of this link:

[Lifelines Between Teachers](#)

Update: Based upon a broadening interest in using the iPad for educational purposes, it has been decided to start a second PLC group that will be composed of iPad users who wish to collaborate on exploring the use of the iPad to assist in the teaching of climate change topics. Individuals wishing to join this PLC may find out more information and complete the application form at this link:

[IPad Climate Change PLC](#)

Recruitment

12.07.10: I have 13 people, and we had our first meeting yesterday at 6 pm. We had 5 people in our first meeting at 6 pm, and it went well. The second meeting was scheduled for 8 pm but perhaps there was a misunderstanding in our communications because no one logged in for that meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 3rd at 8pm EST. I gave every member a page. On my page, under administrative details, you may see a list of my group members and their locations. The membership of my group covers a number of states.

Resources

Reflections

August 25, 2010

Meeting Reflection:

Expectations;

1. To work out logistics of the teleconferencing process.
2. To find out expectations of the Leader's Role
3. To be introduced to and begin to develop a relationship with the individual members of the group.

What I gained:

I feel that each of the expectations reflect what i gained from the session.

What I wanted to happen:

What I expected is what I thought and wished would happened. I felt that we accomplished what we needed to the level at which we could. Each person was basically testing their own setup and establishing a level of comfortableness.

Things I especially appreciated:

Ongoing notetaker. Excellent. As someone stated, it allowed us to focus on the interactions and not be hampered by writing down notes.

Open and responsive nature of the setup. Everyone had the opportunity to talk and ask questions. I for one always have many questions/comments and I want to feel free to ask/express them. I can readily understand student frustrations in the classroom when they too have the same characteristics.

Issues to think about/ address

I am hoping for follow up by someone on the suggested sites to check out. I am excited about establishing this PLC and want to have all the tried and tested logistics figured out before beginning my owen so we could be productive as possible from the first session. Some teachers don't have the patience to plow through the learning curve. I want to make it easy and enjoyable for them and earn their respect through credibility.

I know the scheduling issue will always be there. Wondering if aspects of this problem could be addressed in the initial blurb or if by doing so we would loose good candidates or filter out a particular segment without that being our intention. Something to think about.....

Maybe we should have some type of schedule of our upcoming teleconference leader meetings? Hopefully if we had the day and time agreed upon early enough, we could plan to be ALL together. Maybe set up day and time using some survey tool/ calendar?

Given the fact that I understand one of the purpose of this project is to explore online LC, I think that nothing replaces face-to-face interactions. I think part of the program should include the opportunity for all to meet at the annual NSTA

convention and while this is not part of the existing grant, that perhaps additional sources should be explored to provide at least transportation/hotel coverage for all. And when this would happen, to have an established meeting and activities to develop further cohesiveness amongst the leaders. The informal goals of this project should go beyond our commitment of two years. The links we are making to one another will foster our future direction and reinforce our ongoing commitment to life learning.

Overall, I am very please about our first encounter and will be looking forward to continuing on. Thanks for all for making it as productive as it was.

Oct. 12, 2010

This meeting provided a good resource of individuals to share ideas and resources. It was good to have a rather large group so that more ideas could be shared. I did pick up some ideas to improve my plan for recruitment which I intend to incorporate.

I hope we find a site that may assist with having a meeting directly over the computer and not involve the telephone. I have used Skype with up to 5 people with no problems to date. I also like the idea of obtaining individuals who may be lead to another group should the individual have a specific meeting time or interest area that they wish to join.

I think it was a good plan to setup the next meeting date while the group was convened so that we could have a definite time to add to our calendars.

Overall it was a productive meeting. Thanks to all.

Meetings

2011-12-13 GEMS Meeting

2011-11-08 Meeting

Barrows Trip

May 2012

Here are some links on my Visiting Barrow Alaska website:

Home Page: <https://sites.google.com/site/visitingbarrowalaska/home>

Blog: Feel Free to Subscribe to Posts by Clicking on the "Subscribe To Posts" icon on the webpage to receive notice of added blog entries.

<https://sites.google.com/site/visitingbarrowalaska/my-blog>

VIDEO ON PROJECT: <https://sites.google.com/site/visitingbarrowalaska/studying-sea-ice>

The website is a work in progress and will be changing and be added to as it develops. Some pages are placeholders for things to come and others have information posted.

Feel free to browse the site and refer to others to join my journey.

The project includes adding teaching resources and student activities during and following the excursion.

Fran