

Central Oregon Training Focuses on Instructional Strategies

A regional training in Redmond drew about 175 secondary principals and teachers on October 11-12. The session, titled "Improving Content Area Literacy: Instructional Strategies for Secondary Teachers," was conducted by Dr. Kevin Feldman, director of Reading and Early Intervention for the Sonoma County (CA) Office of Education.

The session gave participants strategies for and practice in the role of instructional leader, with an emphasis on literacy across all content areas. Dr. Feldman provided guided practice in effective strategies designed to enhance vocabulary and comprehension, increase student engagement, and provide intensive interventions for struggling readers.

Teachers and administrators signed memorandums of understanding pledging to carry on the work. Teacher teams will do at least one visit monthly to their partners' classrooms and share their observations. Principals will help support those observations

by covering classrooms for the observing teacher.

The training was exceptionally well received, with Dr. Feldman receiving near-perfect evaluation scores. "As a classroom teacher, I can't seem to get enough of this information. I would skip breaks and lunch to get more," said one participant. "One of the best workshops in my 35 years," said another. "Ties research to relevancy with examples and modeling."

Dr. Feldman will continue his work in the region with two days of hands-on training for each participating district.

The session was sponsored by the Oregon Direct Access to Achievement (DATA) Project, with support from Harney, High Desert, Lake, and Jefferson County ESDs.

"The whole room was completely engaged in the training," said Mickey Garrison, DATA Project training director. "No one was checking their email, no one left early. You could tell it really struck a chord with participants."

Districts Collaborate in Work

The Oregon DATA Project provides support to districts that have opted to participate in the project's sustainability phase. Sustainability activities are coordinated through regional groupings of ESDs, who tailor the activities to the needs of the districts. Activities range from formation of data teams to professional development opportunities like that provided by Dr. Feldman. All regional activities are open at no charge to any sustainability district statewide.

Last year, teacher teams in the Central Oregon region worked on unwrapping standards in math and science and on creating a bank of formative assessment measures. This year, districts are focused on creating effective strategies for reading across content areas, vocabulary comprehension, and interventions. You can view the region's collaborative work at: <http://www.hdesd.org/services/oregon-data-project/unwrapping-standards>

School Wellness

The fall 2010 issue of the School Wellness Newsletter is now available online at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/teachlearn/subjects/health/wellnessnewsletterfall2010.pdf>. Included in this issue you will find information on the 2011 School Wellness Awards, a Wellness Showcase on Clarendon-Portsmouth School, staff wellness grants, healthy drink options, and more. The School Wellness Newsletter is produced by members of the Wellness in School Environment (WISE) workgroup.