



Educators' Teaching & Learning Initiative Update Number 7

6.1.12

⇒ “We can’t be creative if we refuse to be confused. Change always starts with confusion; cherished interpretations must dissolve to make way for the new. Of course it’s scary to give up what we know, but the abyss is where newness lives. Great ideas and inventions miraculously appear in the space of not knowing. If we can move through the fear and enter the abyss, we are rewarded greatly. We rediscover we’re creative.”

⇒ *Margaret Wheatley*

Turning to One Another:

Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future

⇒ In the final full session of Phase 1 the Teaching and Learning Initiative, participants reflected on their experience with Area of Performance 5, Assessing Student Learning. As in previous reflections on the Areas of Performance in the *Framework for Effective Teaching*, the process included personal journaling, partners offering each other structured Reflecting Conversations, and drafting personal learning goals for the future.

⇒ Participants applied the Norms of Collaboration – Pausing, Paraphrasing, and Posing Questions – to the template for Reflecting Conversations, learning how to sharpen the focus and deepen the learning that they realize through Reflecting Conversations.

⇒ Resources from this session can be found on this site, specifically:

1. PowerPoint slides of Cognitive Styles and Representational Systems
2. The Conversation About Teaching and Learning, Leading to an Opportunity for Marty to *Put Ideas on the Table*
3. A Four Box *Synecitic* about learning the Norms and practicing them with the consistency of habits.

⇒ The final session, June 6th from 3:30 to 5:00 at the Century Center, will focus on reflection, acknowledgement, and celebration of the Teaching and Learning Initiative’s Phase 1 accomplishments.
