

Vermont as a Center of Activity

Gavin Wallace, Vermont

In October a diverse group of educators met along the shores of Lake Champlain to discuss how to continue the work of the National School Reform Faculty that Faith Dunne had fostered in Vermont. We explored the extensive impact she had had on Vermont schools and how we could



each play a role in supporting, sustaining, and deepening her work. Three months later, after responding to the immediate needs created by Faith's passing, we reconvened with the expanded purpose of establishing explicitly what it means to be an NSRF Center of Activity. Highlights of that meeting were:

Where we are now

We are compiling a range of

information on the CFGs currently meeting around the state to help support their work. Initial work has also begun on a database of seminar participants. In addition we are exploring the variety of seminar formats currently used in Vermont to assess the value of each method. Lastly, we are working to identify experienced coaches interested in becoming facilitators.

Support

We looked at what regional and national support is presently available to coaches and schools supporting CFGs and brainstormed ideas for increasing it. We also explored the connection between CFG/NSRF work to the broader concept of learning communities and how the Vermont Center of Activity could work to support these efforts.

Steps towards facilitation

We discussed establishing a state-wide process from participant/coach to facilitator. We looked at Nancy Mohr's rubric that sets out the process of training, application of new skills, and demonstration of competence that leads to NSRF facilitation endorsement in the New York Center of Activity as a possible model.

What we'd like to accomplish in the next year as the Vermont Center

- Complete the database of Vermont coaches and seminar participants;
- Implement supports to sustain the work that has begun;
- Develop a regional coaches support

system;

- Work to establish teams – principal and 2 staff attending initial seminar followed by ongoing support for participants;
- Set up a Vermont coaches listserv to be moderated and active;
- Hold a colloquium followed by a Vermont Center of Activity meeting;
- Help to sustain existing CFGs by preparing new coaches;
- Have CFG concepts be broadly understood by DOE/local standards boards/TQN etc.;
- Establish an administrators' CFG, to provide continued support for principals;
- Plan for an experienced coaches seminar (summer 2003);
- Conduct three effective seminars in summer 2002. □

Affiliated Organizations

Vermont Institute for Science, Math & Technology: Teacher Quality Enhancement -- strives to strengthen leadership capacity in education

Vermont Rural Partnership/Rural School & Community Trust -- Committed to making a seamless connection between schools & community

*Americorps*VISTA* -- Exploring how CFGs can be used to incorporate service-learning

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For more information on the

Vermont Center of Activity contact:

Edorah Frazer <edorah@aol.com>

or Gavin Wallace

<gwallace@zoo.uvm.edu>

What's Happening In Arizona In 2002

April 19
Southwest Regional CFG
Coaches Retreat

April 20
Spring Symposium on
School Improvement

July 29 - August 2
New Coaches' Institute

for more information
<www.nsrffharmony.org>

What's Happening In New York In 2002

April 12- 13
New Coaches Training
Part 2

May 17
CFG Spring Colloquium/
Coaches Retreat

for more information,
contact Nancy Mohr at
<nanmohr@rcn.com>

What's Happening In Vermont In 2002

May 16
Vermont Coaches' Retreat

July 14 -18
Rutland School District
New Coaches Seminar

July 14 -18
New Coaches Seminar

August 5 -9
VISTA Coaches Seminar

