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TEPS Abstract

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National Institute for the Teaching of Psychology

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I would like to thank the TEPS Committee and Dr. Frahm for allowing me to attend the National Institute for the Teaching of Psychology (NITOP). The four days were outstanding and filled with many sessions that will have a major impact on my students and the way I deliver material in class. A few sessions that will have the most direct impact on my students were:

Lighting a Fire: This session was led by Dr. Brigitte Hard, the director of undergraduate psychology at Duke University. The focus was on how to create an inclusive inviting classroom, delivering material in a balanced, non-biased way, and exciting students to learn the material. While these are all tenets of my classroom now I learned new ways to encourage all students and how to excite students about material they may not always find fun. They shared specific ways they teach neural behavior that I plan on implementing in the future and gave me multiple ways to make sure all students feel welcomed and encourage to participate in class.

Teaching Slam: In this session there were six separate lessons delivered by six different teachers. The one that really resonated with me and that I plan on implementing in my classroom is Dr. Stephen Chew's lesson entitled 2 lies and a truth. In this he presents three statements to his classes and asks them to determine which one is a myth of psychology. I like an adaptation that he suggested where students create their own sets. In psychology, one of the major issues that arises is popular myths that get spread by social media and other ways and this is one way to show students that things they hear and that many people believe may not actually be the truth.

Student Cognition Toolbox: This session is something that I will definitely implement and will be recommending to my colleagues who teach a college readiness class that they potentially use. It focus on a program developed by UNH and housed in Carnegie Mellon's IT department which includes a plan to teach students how to better study and better learn information. There are a series of modules to teach students and educators the different researched based learning methods that are the most effective.

Again, I would like to thank the TEPS committee and Dr. Frahm for allowing me to attend the conference. These three sessions are just examples of some of the items I will bring back to my classes. This conference allows me to continue to refine my teaching to have the most impact on the students at Clarence High School.

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