

September 15, 2005

Great Teachers Retreat Fall Semester 2005

1. What was a valuable thing you gained from this experience?

That there are a lot of great teachers at SCC and that I don't know everything it takes to be a great teacher. I was humbled and raised up at the same time.

That teaching—becoming a great teachers is a continuous motion of ART! We are artist.

I learned that it is O.K. to teach less and make space for my students to learn—from each other, from reflection and from taking chances. I also gained new respect for my colleagues.

To get back my passion for teaching and reduce my need to feed information to my students.

Comradery. Techniques in the classroom.

Friendships with joy. Laughter. Differences in area of expertise makes for a whole in commonality.

Getting to know fellow instructors (and their problems and successes) better. Nice to know others have similar problems.

Fellowship with others instructors.

We are a faculty—a team working together for the common success of our students.

Tools, different classroom techniques; there were several.

Sharing of ideas and suggestions. Getting together with colleagues.

I learned many new techniques to take back to my class. Retest the test immediately after the test.

Working together, friendships, different techniques.

I was inspired by witnessing the dedication and talent all around me. I have a new appreciation for my colleagues and want to aspire to go back and give it my all.

That we are all in this teaching thing together. i.e. We have more in similar than we have different.

A closer tie to colleagues.

The tips/tricks other instructors used and are using in the classroom.

To eliminate, eliminate, eliminate and to involve, involve, involve.

Opportunity—to get to know your peers as we don't take the time at work when we are all in this together.

The importance in the classroom of groups to empower students to be more responsible and develop peer dependence.

It was great to learn from some of the instructors who have been here longer than I have.

Getting to know the people I work with on a personal level.

Rejuvenation via relaxation, relationships and relevant discussions.

Exposure to a great variety of teaching styles, techniques. Became better acquainted with colleagues.

Additional colleague interaction. More tools for the bag of tricks.

Getting to know others.

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2. How would you describe this experience to a colleague?

It's a chance to know more about yourself and to affirm you are where you belong. And, it's a chance to connect with others who are just like you.

This is an "open-format" expression of sharing the quest to find/and develop the great teacher within all of us. It is within this rigid minimal structure--we are unfamiliar with where we can gain the most.

Enriching, fun, inspirational and fattening! Everyone can learn to be a better teacher at this conference if only they will allow it to happen.

A chance to relax and appreciate the talents and devotion of fellow teachers.

If you leave this place not feeling you've improved as a teacher/person, you missed something.

We laughed, joked, empathized and led each other to good ideas.

Good exposure to co-workers in a "group-discussion" type format. (More of this could have been better). Could have reduced the "touchy-feely" stuff by about 50%. Overall a worthwhile experience.

Very authentic, organic, and inspiring way to share ideas, learn from others, and re-energize. It is a way to "re-discover" what we already know--what a miraculous and beautiful thing it is to teach for a living.

Freeing (if that is a word).

Great to get to know other instructors but wasn't wowed with problem solving wisdom. We should quit thinking too hard and use common sense.

A gathering of teachers to share ideas and methods in order to become better teachers.

Inspiring.

I really did enjoy it, very knowledgeable stress reliever.

It was a great way to get to know the people you work with.

A tremendous opportunity to connect and bond with my peers.

Lots of fun, very fine humor.

It was a good experience.

Rich in interpersonal relationships and an understanding s and their philosophies, etc.

Enlightening--great time getting to know others have the same or experienced the same and may help with your solutions.

Great opportunity to share innovation and common problems used in the classroom. Fun. Social. Lots of free time for personal reflectance.

It was a great experience. I learned that no matter what discipline you are in, you have the connection of teaching with everyone else. It was a very relaxed environment.

Fun, relaxing, and it opened my mind to being creative (and quite entertaining) in my teaching approach.

Great opportunity to relax--visit with colleagues, and share some "down time."

Very useful for a teacher with little experience. Enjoyable for "veteran" teachers but not as relevant.

Enjoyable, but three days is too much.

Cannot be described--it must be experienced.

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3. Other comments...

Listening is #1 in becoming a great teacher.

A. Have energy food, cookies at the 1/2 point between each session.

B. Less is more!

No matter what you say, Mr. Gottshall, this would not have been the same with another facilitator. You are the personification of "less is more" -- much more.

I believe it was very valuable to make this program for only the SCC "family" of teachers. Now, if I came to the one in the spring, I would know everyone!! I also think it would be good to keep the spirit of teaching and connecting if we could have "mini" retreats on campus.

Very nice, much better than I anticipated.

Us as humanity is the important thing.

Good location, good facilitator...good food!

Thanks for a wonderful time.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Appreciated time off from the school but would have been nice to share with a loved one.

Very enjoyable and informative.

We are all great teachers with great ideas to share.

I would do it again.

It was great that administration provided this opportunity, but their presence off and on at the retreat was counterproductive and killed the spirit (momentarily). Other than that, I felt this was an invaluable and enriching experience.

Less is more.

A good experience for all disciplines, especially good for inter-disciplinary bonding.

Good facilitator.

Reading autobiographers has always benefited me the most in life because we learn from others. The seminar has been about autobiographies in a real sense and most rewarding. Thank you for this opportunity.

Seemed slow starting, better towards ending. Look for more unique ideas of sharing brainstorming or learning to keep up with the every changing needs in education.

Unstructured agenda does promote creativity and leader was inspiring and motivational and positive.

Thanks for a great conference. It was well ran. It had the right mixture of being a retreat, relaxation and reflection, and of being a learning experience.

Uncomfortable chairs!

See #2. (Very useful for a teacher with little experience. Enjoyable for "veteran" teachers but not as relevant.) A "conference" or workshop of this type would work well for Professional Development Day.

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It ruins the first of the experience when made "mandatory."

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