

Kircher Career Development Report & Reimbursement Request

Report on:

SEL in Action Institute

May 6-7 Mesa, Arizona

Submitted by Karl Kircher

Highlights of Impactful Sessions

Creating a Vision of Learning and Using Dialogue Strategies to Teach Social and Emotional Competencies.

This session sought to ferret out what skills students should have when they leave school. They were looked at through the eyes of students, society, school and the potential employers. The end result was the realization that social emotional competencies are a big part of what students should have when they leave school.

My take away... Reaffirmation of current beliefs.

Session 2...Igniting Your S.H.I.N.E. – The Heart of Achievement

This session was led by a La Vonna Ruth a highly inspirational speaker speaking about the diversity of our student population in terms of talents and the need to recognize, honor and celebrate each students talents.

My take away.... Every teacher should know their students well enough to know each one SHINES. Not just educationally but outside of school as well. This knowledge helps build the relationship necessary for teaching and learning to happen. I will let my teachers know that I will be asking them "what makes your students SHINE?" and expect that they have an answer for each of their students. I will also be implementing school-wide the phrase "I can't do this yet" I believe if we can get students to consistently add that one little word when they explain their struggles to their teacher it will create a whole new mindset. It sounds pretty simple but I think over time it could really add to the growth mindset.

Session 3... Using Social and Emotional Learning Data to Support Teaching and Learning

This session used lots of data from Sanford Harmony SEL program and assessments to show how it can guide SEL instruction.

My take away... This session did produce what I think really sums up the definition of SEL **The skills needed to interact effectively and deepen relationships with others.** It's really hard to argue with wanting our kids to have that when they leave school or that they need that to succeed in school. This was a reaffirmation that our focus on teaching students to positively respond to conflict is valuable. The other ah ha moment was during the discussion **the above skills are broken into three categories, thinking, behavioral, and self-regulation.** I realized that often we attempt to teach kids self-regulation (because that's what we want them to do, basically be compliant) before we have taught them to understand their thinking and behavior. We often put the cart before the horse so to speak and wonder why our efforts to get kids to self-regulate fail

Session 4... Be the Educator you Always Needed

This session was what the title implied. Led by a Chicago's "Rapping Teacher"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_M2DA8snew

My take away... Make deep relationships with kids, go beyond the superficial and be sure to share plenty of information about yourself.

Session 5... It Takes Two Wings to Soar

This session focused on helping students understand enough about neuro psychology to help themselves in stressed times. It gave a good rationale for teacher actions during these times to help kids.

My take away... The best slide deck. I will get it and use at inservice. It goes beyond simple fight and flight. Teachers will see the need for SEL activities in their classes.

Absolute Best Quote: **These students aren't giving you a hard time they are having a hard time**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Dush".

5-29-19