

## Professional Development

by dherrenbruck - 2010-02-27 22:24:03

<http://headinthecloudsfeetontheground.com/professional-development/>

*"My school seriously needs to take your class....  
This was the most valuable class I have taken  
in all my years of credential classes."*

Laura M. [more...](#)

**I custom design online professional development programs by contract with your district or university.  
Graduate or continuing education credit options may be arranged.**

## Professional Learning Communities:

### Online Cohorts

Faculty participate in a professional learning community online using a Blackboard course shell (or similar platform) with an online moderator. The PLC may focus on specific topics or institutional goals. Participants explore materials and resources online, participate in online discussion, collaborate online, conduct student study, peer review posted materials, and/or mentor new teachers. Asynchronous communication allows participation on a flexible schedule from a variety of locations. Provides a practical, sustained, participant-directed professional development experience.

### Professional Development that is:

- a continuous process, not a one-time product
- learner-centered: individuals and groups identify needs and goals
- problem solving applied directly to students and classes
- collaborative, cooperative, supportive
- networked with affinity groups and national models
- reflective

### What makes it successful?

- establishing an effective a learning community
- effective use of digital networking tools
- excellent moderation

### Read more about it:

Nussbaum-Beach, Sheryl. (2009) [Creating Learning Organizations](#). *The Professional Development Sourcebook*, Vol 2:1, p. 8, Oct. 1, 2009

Humefeld, Ross. (2009) [When Teachers Are the Experts](#) *Education Week*, Vol 29:10, p 24-25, Nov. 4, 2009.

Rich, Elizabeth (2009) [The World's Largest English Department](#): A Ning group for English teachers reveals the potential of online social networking to break the culture of professional isolation. *The Professional Development Sourcebook*, Vol 2:1, p 26-29, Oct. 1, 2009

Fulton, Kathleen and Riel, Margaret. (2008) [Collaborative Online Continuing Education: Professional Development Through Learning Communities](#). Edutopia.org 7/13/2008

## Differentiation/Special Needs/Inclusion

### **Differentiated Learning for Diverse Needs**

An interactive online training suitable to all educators:

- Multiple entry points; adapt learning to your needs
- Covers disabilities, gifted, and English language learners
- Collaboration and co-teaching models reviewed
- Collaborate with colleagues online
- Practical ideas for addressing diverse and special needs in your classroom
- 30 clock hours professional development, credit option

### **What Every Teacher Needs to Know About Students with Special Needs**

- Covers IDEA, IEPs, 504, differentiated instruction, classroom management
- Understand the K-12 special education system
- Practical ideas for addressing special needs in your classroom
- Collaborate with colleagues in online forums
- Personal interaction with the instructor
- 30 clock hours professional development, credit option

### **Advanced Study in Teaching Special Populations**

An advanced online training for general education teachers.

- Addresses quality standards for teacher license programs
- Great for district teacher induction programs

### **Inclusion & Co-Teaching Resources & Collaboration**

A resources and collaboration forum for inclusion teams.

- Review resources on collaboration, co-teaching, special needs, accommodations and modifications
- Collaborate and co-plan to address specific needs in your school
- Peer and Moderator feedback
- Confidential online work areas for teams

## Online Learning:

### **Introduction to Hybrid and Online Teaching**

An online course designed for all educators. Learn to teach online through direct experience.

- 21st Century Literacies

- Internet Safety
- Copyright and Creative Commons
- Web 2.0 Tools, Bookmarking, Forums, Blogs, Wikis
- Digital Libraries and Learning Resources
- Course Management Systems
- Experience Online Learning in this Model Course

**Online Learning Practices for Administrators and Policy-Makers**

Gain an understanding of online learning practices through direct experience. Same topics as above, geared towards administrators and policy-makers. Online networking with colleagues.

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