

Digging Deep Expert Series: Fostering Professional Learning in Vermont

Video Transcript

Introductory Text: The Digging Deep Expert Series is a VT PLN professional learning opportunity featuring national proficiency-based learning experts. During the 2016-17 series, Dr. Karin Hess led four days of learning on research-based frameworks, practices, and tools for personalized, proficiency-based learning.

Andre Messier, Principal, Lake Region Union High School: We are part of the Digging Deep series. It's essentially a four day series of time, professional development that PLN has put together for schools and supervisory unions in the state. The focus really has been on proficiency-based learning and helping schools and supervisory unions move forward from wherever they are at.

Dr. Karin Hess, President, Educational Research in Action: Hi, my name is Karin Hess. I am an independent consultant working with the Digging Deep Series in Vermont.

Many of these schools are just in the early stages. They've been reading about what proficiency-based systems look like, they have bought into the philosophy, and they're wrestling with how to get started. I think it's instructive when they hear other stories.

Michaela Martin, Co-Director of School Transformation & Effectiveness, Orange North Supervisory Union: The story I shared today was about how specifically Orange North approached the idea of moving to a proficiency-based model.

Dr. Karin Hess, President, Educational Research in Action: It's quite a diverse group that we've had in the series. Some are school districts that bring a very large team, some it's only a few people. I think the broader the representation from a district, the more they can have the rich conversations that are carried on back at school.

Rhoda McLure, Director of Instruction, Assessment, and Grants, Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union: I chose to attend because one of the main focuses was around assessment and learning scales, and that's where I feel like we are headed as a district.

Bev Davis, Director of Instructional Services, Orleans Central Supervisory Union: I brought a team of people from three different schools, three people from each school to the Digging Deep series to learn more about proficiency-based learning.



Digging Deep Expert Series: Fostering Professional Learning in Vermont

Video Transcript

We never have the time to have the great conversations, and so just having that time has been wonderful. Also, getting the professional development to help guide us, because we've had different people have had bits and pieces of PD, but to have everyone in the same room hearing the same thing, and then to think about the entry point for them has been really powerful.

Dr. Karin Hess, President, Educational Research in Action: Some start with developing assessments. Other ones start with we've got to communicate the vision of what proficiency-based instruction and assessment looks like. Others start with building structures, like PLC teams, so that they'll have a vehicle for having the conversations. That's what my goal would be for them, is to decide what do they think they could be successful at in the immediate future.

Andre Messier, Principal, Lake Region Union High School: While we are all at different places, this has given us the time, given us information to not only take each of our individual schools forward, but also to begin to look at the supervisory union and the direction that we're going to go there.

Michaela Martin, Co-Director of School Transformation & Effectiveness, Orange North Supervisory Union: Our teachers feel proud, our kids feel proud. I feel great at this time about where we are, but I also know that we still have work to do.

Closing Text: For more information about VT PLN, visit <http://pln.education.vermont.gov/>.

