COURSE DESCRIPTION

(25 clock hours and/or 1 quarter credits)

Competency: Evaluate Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

Want to make your PLC better? Learn how to start or improve a Professional Learning Community (PLC) for maximum effectiveness and impact on student performance. Explore and evaluate current structures and systems and learn how create and maintain a secure digital environment for professional learning.

Evaluate your own PLC using adult and social learning theory and analyze the impact of your PLC on both your teachers and your students. During this course you will build

- An evaluation of your PLC aligned to adult and social learning theory

- An analysis of the impact of your PLC on both the teacher and the student

- A PDSA collaborative activity that aligns to one of your student or teacher goals.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. **Evaluate Professional Learning Communities (PLC)**
   a. Analyze the various ways that PLC can be used to improve student performance and enhance teacher effectiveness.
      i. Professional Learning Communities and Collaboration
      ii. SMART Goals and Improvement Tools
      iii. 5 Essential Learning Questions
      iv. Calibrating and Collaborative Scoring of Student Work
      v. Learning Walks as a Collaborative Tool
      vi. Applying SMART Goals
      vii. Continuous Improvement Cycles
   b. Develop a PLC plan that incorporates technology to increase student engagement and performance
      i. PDSA and Increasing Student Engagement
      ii. Shared/Distributed Leadership
   c. Analyzed theories, such as social learning theory and adult learning theory, related to PLC.
      i. PLCs and Social Learning Theory
      ii. PLCs and Adult Learning Theory
   d. Reflect on how PLCs can enhance teacher effectiveness and student performance.
      i. Reflect on PLCs

MILESTONE (SUMMATIVE) ASSESSMENT

BUILDING YOUR ARTIFACTS

- Identify specific ways in which social learning theory and adult learning theory apply to the design, format, and implementation of your PLC. As part of your analysis, you may wish to consider the basic tenets of PLCs (including vision, mission, goals, and norms).

- For areas of existing alignment, summarize the ways in which the tenets of these learning theories are observable in the format and implementation of your PLC. Indicate how this alignment has supported effective functioning of the PLC.
- For areas of existing misalignment, if they exist, summarize the ways in which this misalignment may contribute to reduced effectiveness of the PLC.

- Consider the impact of your PLC on student performance, addressing the following questions: How does the format of your PLC support efforts to improve student performance?
  - Is your PLC currently working towards goals that focus on student performance?
  - What behaviors or routines in your PLC support improvements in student performance?

- Draft a student-centered PLC goal that would allow the members of your PLC to engage in a collaborative effort to improve student achievement. Consider using a SMART goal template as you write this goal. Consider the impact of your PLC on teacher effectiveness, addressing the following questions:
  - How does the format of your PLC support efforts to improve teacher effectiveness?
  - Is your PLC currently working towards goals that focus on teacher effectiveness?
  - What behaviors or routines in your PLC support improvements in teacher effectiveness?

- Draft a teacher-centered PLC goal that would allow the members of your PLC to engage in a collaborative effort to improve teacher effectiveness. Consider using a SMART goal template as you write this goal.
  - Select either the student-centered goal or the teacher-centered goal from the previous challenge application.
  - Develop a PDSA cycle that will support collaborative work of the PLC members towards the selected goal. Be sure to clarify the specific evidence that will be examined during the "Study" stage of the PDSA cycle.
  - Be sure to emphasize the collaborative opportunities in the PDSA cycle.

- Also describe how technology will be used as PLC members work towards the goal. Consider especially how technology can support collaboration, data collection, data review, and analysis.