

Establishing a Future Direction in Pursuit of Excellence

Linda S. Ralston, Ph.D.

Foundations of Teaching for
Learning (Part 2)

<http://www.lindaralston.com/>



Agenda

- Teaching Philosophy
- Professional Development:
 - MOOCs in education & marketing
 - Development of a Professional Learning Community

Why have a Teaching Philosophy?



- The main purpose of education is to develop students' ability to think critically and integrate ideas, rather than to accumulate facts.



My Teaching Philosophy



**Student
Centeredness**

**Ignite the Fire
Within**

**Active & Authentic
Learning**

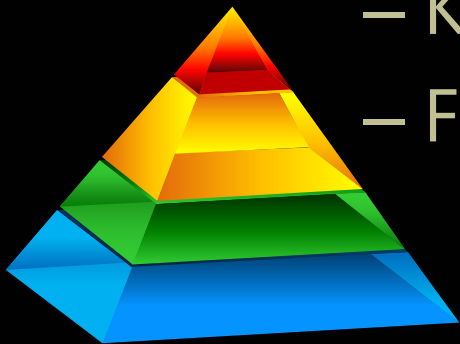
**Teacher
Professional
Development**

<http://www.lindaralston.com/>

Student Centeredness



- The student is our most important resource
- Know my students!
 - Learning styles
 - Know what is happening
 - Foster a rapport



A vintage-style map of the Indian Ocean region, showing countries like India, Australia, and Southeast Asian nations. A compass rose is visible in the top left corner. The title "My classroom . . ." is overlaid in a large, white, outlined font.

My classroom . . .

- Constructivist theory
- Authentic learning activities
- Socratic Method – *Sage on the Side*





"Ignite the Fire"

- Zeal for learning
- Dedication to excellence
- Passion & expertise





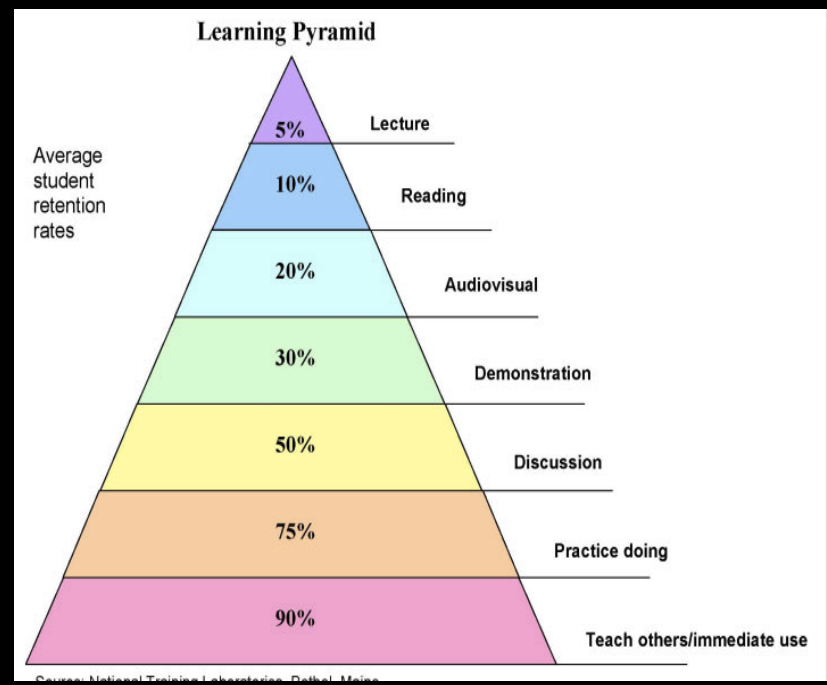
- ***"The mind is a fire to be kindled, not a vessel to be filled." - Plutarch***



Active & Authentic Learning



- Foster Critical Thinking
- Active engagement
- Authentic Activities



Community of Learners



- ***"Education is understanding relationships."*** - George Washington Carver



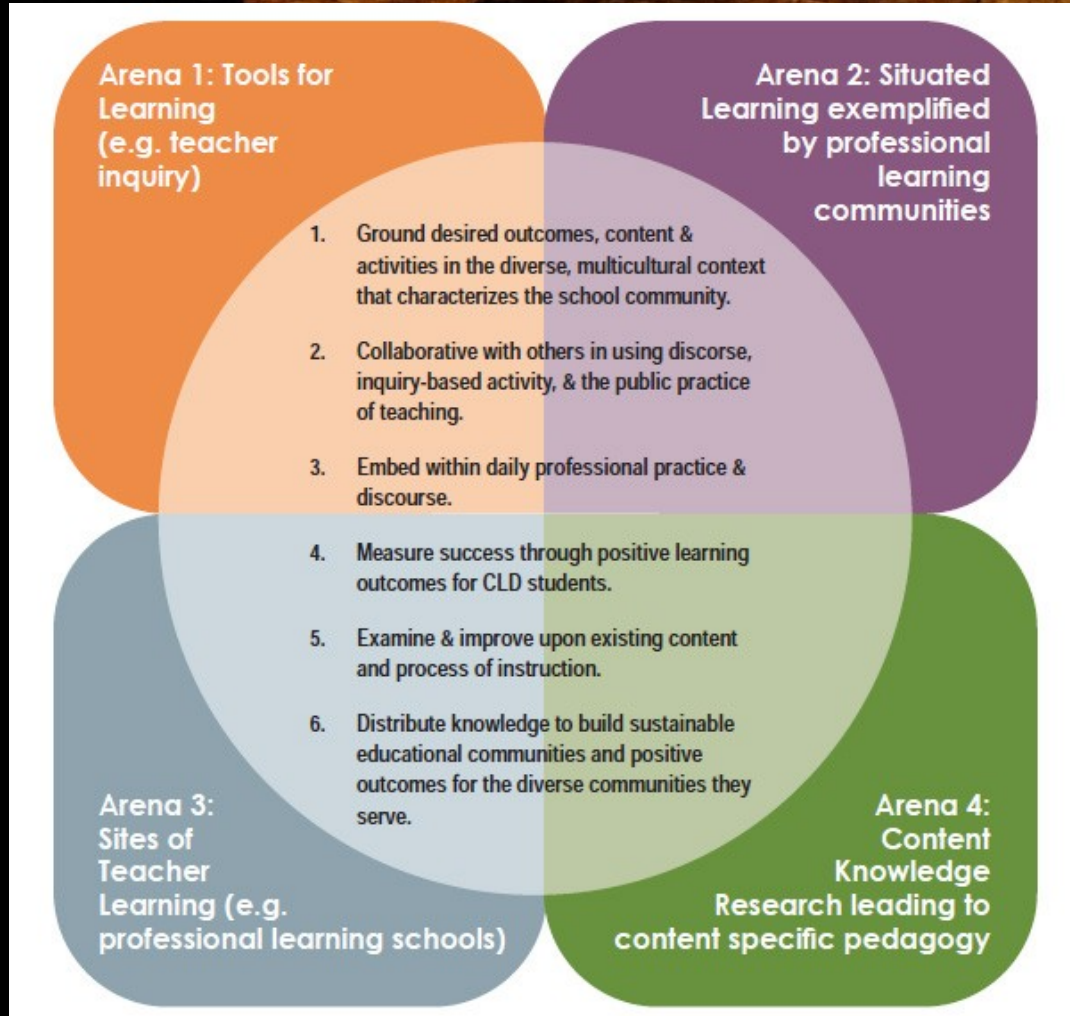
Professional Development



- Seek Work-Life Balance
- MOOCs
- Professional Learning Community for Online Learning

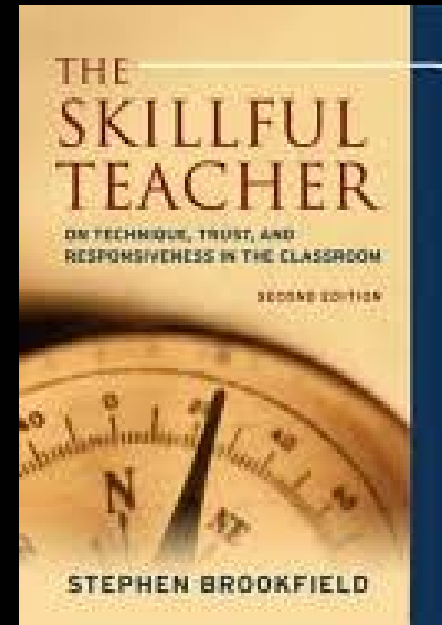


Professional Learning Community



Shared Mission – Collective Identity

“What effect am I having on
students and on their
learning?”





- ***"Excellence is not an act but a habit. The things you do the most are the things you will do best." ~ Marva Collins***



A vintage-style map of the Indian Ocean region, showing countries like South Africa, India, and Australia, and oceans like the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans. A compass rose is overlaid on the left side of the map.

References

- Block, P. (2003). **The answer to how? Is yes: Acting on what matters.** San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler.



References

- Bolam, R, McMahon, A, Stoll, L, Thomas, S, & Wallace, M, with Greenwood, A, Hawkey, K, Ingram, M, Atkinson, A, & Smith, M, (2005). **Creating and Sustaining Effective Professional Learning Communities**, DfES Research Report, University of Bristol



References

- Boynton, M. & C. Boynton. (2005). **Educator's Guide to Preventing and Solving Discipline Problems.** Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development.
- Brookfield, S. (2006). **The Skillful Teacher: On Technique, Trust, and Responsiveness in the Classroom.** San Francisco: John Wiley & Sons.



References

- Marzano, R. J. (2007). **The Art and Science of Teaching: A Comprehensive Framework for Effective Instruction**. Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development



References

- Newmann, F. (2000). *Authentic Intellectual Work: What and Why?* **Authentic Pedagogy, Vol. 8: 1.**
- Stoll, L., et al. (2006). **What is a Professional Learning Community: A Summary.** University of Bristol.



References

- Wiggins, G.P. & J. McTighe. (2005). **Understanding by Design.** Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development