

Christine Coussouloudis
24, 2018

November

Teacher Leaders: Social Media Post

I always strive for excellence in professional development to become a better teacher for my students. Student engagement is critical. I wanted to find a way to express my beliefs to other teachers who would make learning more fun for their students. I read about a new approach to science explorations called STEM. With permission from my administrator, I started to attend STEM trainings and eventually presented the process in a PD to the teachers in my school. I asked my CS4ALL representative if he knew of a program to increase my understanding of STEM, and he suggested the Endeavor STEM Leadership program. I reviewed the program objectives and was struck by their main objective, "Integrate STEM content and pedagogy in your classroom and district". Perfect! I signed up for the program immediately.

I am now in my last class of the program and, writing this social media post about the concept of teacher leadership. One of my favorite quotes about the role of a leader is from John C. Maxwell, "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way". In our class readings on leadership and how schools can be a conduit to improved teacher leadership capabilities, there were many ideas cited on how to create and use teacher leaders effectively.

It's apparent to me that the lead teacher should always have the subject expertise to teach others. They should be sought out for assistance in addition to leading PD sessions. Other teachers should visit the classroom of a lead teacher and just observe how they conduct a lesson. "We must end the practice of moving skilled teachers from the classroom and into the front office and calling that teacher leadership. Now more than ever, skilled classroom educators must hone their craft, mentor others, and grow professionally—while keeping one foot firmly inside the classroom." (ASCD, 2014, p. 10)

To mentor others in my role as CS4ALL PD lead teacher and cluster teacher. I developed a PD to introduce NASA Online Educational Resources to the teachers of my school. It is a subject that I am skilled in due to my work as a science teacher for 15 years, my training through NASA Endeavor, and current computer science teaching expertise. The PD was specifically designed to focus on website resources for STEM projects and NASA Math, so teachers can utilize the resources to create engaging STEM-related lessons.

The URL for the STEM projects was (<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/>) and NASA math (<https://spacemath.gsfc.nasa.gov>) Using both resources, I created and implemented a unit on global warming for another class which

can be accessed on my google drive at
(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/180yu3EH1an5xII04A4mVUX1H8-3l6nz0/view?usp=sharing>).

“I, Christine Coussouloudis, give the Endeavor STEM Teaching Certificate Project permission to post this content on their social media pages.”

Signed: Christine Coussouloudis Date: November 24, 2018

References:

ASCD. (2014). Teacher leadership: The what, why, and how of teachers as leaders. In a report on *the fall 2014 ASCD whole child symposium*. Symposium conducted at the meeting of the ASCD.

John C. Maxwell Quotes. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/john_c_maxwell_383606?src=t_leadership