

2013 Ceremony Networking Session: Transcript: *Professional Learning and Invention (2:44)*



Sam Machesky, Principal, Stonegate Elementary School, Irvine, CA. Our signature assignment or things that we would highlight would have to be around the integration of student collaboration and technological integration in the school. Fundamentally that's achieved through a pretty vibrant vertical professional learning community that we have. We're taking this year in particular a sort of action research-based approach to what we're doing. Let's take a stab at adding more integration, getting more students engaged in learning and working together, and then come back and reflect upon, "How did that work? What went well? What didn't go well?" And [to] be diagnosticians of our own instructional practices, and share that vertically, so every staff meeting, every development opportunity that we have, we carve out ten or fifteen minutes where practitioners in grade levels to share among all of the grade levels [tell] what it is they've done and what they felt was successful and what it is that they felt that they fell down on so that we're learning together as a group and forging forward with the Common Core.

Janice Womble, Principal, Thomas Magnet School, Shelbyville TN. I'm Janice Womble, from Thomas Magnet School, Shelbyville, Tennessee, it's about an hour south of Nashville, Tennessee. And we're a pre-K through fifth grade. A couple things we do that's a little different from the other schools, which is a rural district. One thing is, Dr. Bob Baker has worked with our system extensively on develop PLCs that are truly student focused. We at our schools use the Paedeia seminar philosophy of teaching and we also teach Chinese to our students.

David Leach, Principal, Cherry Lane Elementary School, Suffern, NY. My name is David Leach, I'm the proud principal of a school named Cherry Lane Elementary School which is in Suffern, New York. Using instructional technology to intellectually engage students is certainly a strength. But in particular two years ago we recognized our students really needed a tool to enhance their digital literacy skills. So a few of our teachers went out and actually designed our own program; it didn't exist. So it's called qwertytown.com. And it's
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really an opportunity to learn [a]digital literacy skill, learn how to type. And on the cusp of these online assessments coming that we've been reading about for years now, we were concerned that, yes our students do think critically, yes we have really been implementing the Common Core in some way, shape, or form for years now, but our students aren't going to be able to articulate their ideas and thoughts in typing. So a few of our teachers went out and designed this program, qwertyowncom. So that's been working very well for us. It's pretty unique to have your own staff develop their own software.