

Proposal – Using Distance Learning for Interactive Mentoring Presentations

This proposal was developed to determine interest in providing linkages for local district instructors to speak with and meet colleague teachers via distance learning on mentoring topics of interest. Topics could include:

- How to communicate effectively with parents
- Surviving open houses
- Strategies for improving curricula
- Motivating the diverse needs of students
- Differentiated instruction
- Motivating students
- Integration of technology into lessons

Mentoring Coordinators would engage the presenters and then solicit other schools in the Distance Learning Network consortium that may benefit from this professional development opportunity aimed at mentoring teachers. It would be especially beneficial to rural districts and small districts whose resources are more limited. It would be more cost effective and time smart since the costs and time expended travelling would be eliminated except for the presenter. Each of the districts has master teachers who are potential presenters. The Capital Region Teacher Center and NYSUT also have identified experts that could be utilized.

Suggested Action:

The suggested first step is to initiate a subcommittee to explore local and regional needs and identify some of the resources that are available for such collaboration. Initial feedback indicates there is interest from local districts, Capital Region BOCES, and the New York State Education Department to explore any options that will benefit new teachers and also be cost effective.

If you are interesting in participating in a subcommittee meeting, or have any additional questions, please contact Linda Berquist at Berne_Knox-Westerlo at lberquist@bkwcsd.k12.ny.us or (518) 872-5253.