

## Reflections on QTL's New and Emerging Teacher Institute Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

*April - December 2008*

“During NETI, and the time I spent with my group, I really feel like I grew as a teacher. I always felt comfortable giving examples, asking questions, or sharing my classroom experiences. Anyone starting out as a new teacher would have a great time with Steve (instructor) and take away a lot of great info and resources for the classroom.”

- *Holly Mullen*

“The most valuable thing for me has been being able to listen to and share with other teachers in the school district. It has given me an opportunity to hear what other teachers are doing and to gain confidence about what I am doing in my own classroom.”

- *Marlies Kreutzburger*

“These six days at the NETI have been a success and a valuable asset toward my progress as an accountable, reflective educator. I would advise all new teachers to participate in this workshop.”

- *Camille Livermore*

“NETI was an amazing resource during my first two years in education. I was able to communicate and collaborate with colleagues facing the same challenges as me. This workshop was fast-paced, entertaining, interactive, and extremely useful. Steve (instructor) differentiated our sessions based on what we needed, and I highly recommend the program.”

- *Natalie Hymel*

“The New and Emerging Teacher Institute workshop was a breath of fresh air for new and emerging teachers. It provided a chance for teachers to get together and collaborate on ways to make their first few years successful.”

A lot of useful information and readily available resources were discussed throughout the sessions.”

- Leigh Beaty

“This training has made me feel a part of a true learning, growing, professional community. I have learned strategies and shared the joys and frustrations of others. Now, I know that I am not alone in my desire to become the best teacher I can, despite the overwhelming feelings of inadequacy and defeat teachers often feel.”

- Devan McLean

“The New and Emerging Teacher Institute was a wonderful way for teachers to bond over similar struggles and successes, grow in reflection and the sharing of new ideas, and support one another as friends and professionals.”

- Lisa Smitherman

## **Significant Learning**

*The following are reflections of NETI participants when asked after the 2008 sessions what they had learned:*

- That I *am* capable. More than I initially believed.
- How to reflect on daily lesson. I have received plenty of useful ideas, plans, and activities.
- I learned a lot about the education system, along with many new tools for the classroom.
- I learned that there are many new resources available outside of school that can help teachers.
- I have learned reflective practices, and how to stop and look at my teaching as it relates to the needs of my students.
- How to become a more reflective practitioner and how to incorporate various resources during instructional and non-instructional periods.

- I am not alone! All new teachers struggle. I have learned different ways to present lessons. I have new tools for student success. I love the placemat strategy and the use of different types of graphic organizers.
- I have learned many techniques and activities to use in the classroom. I have also learned the importance of reflection and the need to collaborate with other teachers.
- That it is normal to feel overwhelmed at times. I have learned ways to make the year more successful by communicating with other teachers. I also learned many online resources that are readily available.
- I learned new ideas from the other teachers as well as the presenter. I liked the time I was given to collaborate and plan with another kindergarten teacher.
- I learned how to use my time more effectively to plan, assess, reflect, and address different learning styles.
- PowerTeaching and Perseverance!
- I learned that teaching encompasses planning, delivery, assessment, reflection, etc.
- How to make learning connections through drawing, movement, etc.
- I have learned a variety of instructional presentation methods. I also learned how to use strategies when peers are to be talking with one another.
- I learned several collaborative learning strategies that keep students engaged.
- I learned strategies for planning, engaging students, and addressing multiple intelligences.
- I learned how reflection, learning styles, planning, clear objectives, and collaboration can help me grow as a teacher.
- Lots of fun games (“PowerTeaching, “I have...who has”) and activities.
- I have learned and reflected a lot on the professional, instructional, and managerial roles for a new teacher.
- I learned to reflect, and to value professional dialogue as a tool to teach and learn.
- I have found ways to reach even the most difficult students without allowing frustration to take over.

- I learned a lot from working with others!
- I have learned a lot about what *doesn't* work, too. It was great to collaborate with other teachers.
- I learned to think about how I teach compared to how students learn.
- I have learned how to change my planning and teaching to be more effective.
- I learned a lot about INTASC Standards, effective planning, learning styles vs. teaching styles, classroom organization, Power Teaching, and a lot more.
- I have learned to become better organized and to become better at lesson planning.
- I learned a lot of engagement strategies. It was fun for me to try things with my students that I learned in our sessions.
- I have learned to change my thinking about low achieving students.
- I have learned the value of procedures and rehearsal instead of negative consequences.
- To think about student outcomes, rather than how/what I am going to teach.
- I learned to reflect upon adapting strategies to meet the needs of my students.
- I learned that I need to take a chance.
- I learned to think about my own challenges and how they relate to challenges other teachers in other grade levels face.
- I learned to see the difference between discipline and management.
- I learned that I am part of many learning communities.
- I learned a lot of things I did not learn in college.
- I learned a lot about collaboration, student motivation, and teacher data organization.
- I learned that NETI is aware of the challenges we face, and is there to support me.
- I have learned the importance of modifying content and differentiating instruction.