

Summary of Chancellor's Academy 2008 Participant Feedback

Overall satisfaction

Teacher participants were **satisfied overall** with the 2008 Chancellor's Academy (CA).

- Reflecting on their overall experience at the end of CA, 54 of 78 (69%) respondents strongly agreed and 23 (30%) agreed that they were satisfied with CA.
- 98% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that CA was a **productive use of their time**.

The following written comments represent the kinds of feedback offered by respondents about their CA experiences:

"[What I found most valuable was] collaborating with teachers within our own building as well as other buildings; practical application of materials - this often doesn't happen at conferences. It is meaningful."

"The learning community of teacher collaborators, Champaign-Urbana teachers, and the expert speakers that made up the CA – CA has been an invaluable opportunity to advance my professional development, I am very please with the focus I will have on improving my teaching in the next few years."

"All of the info and collaboration was invaluable! I am blessed to have been invited and learned so much! Thank you!!"

What did they like best?

Teacher participants found the following aspects of CA most valuable:

- They appreciated the **expertise of each keynote speaker/presenter**. Many participants said that Dr. Campbell's, Dr. Strickland's, and Dr. McTighe's presentations were the highlights of their CA experience.

*"Many "ah-ha" moments of learning from speakers who KNOW SO MUCH!
Great to have so much time to practice and engage!"*

- 100% of respondents said that CA provided **differentiated instruction (DI) strategies that were applicable**. They appreciated leaving with specific strategies for their teaching.

"My understanding of DI is much clearer. I feel that I now know all the steps to take to differentiate in my class comfortably."

"[I learned] specific strategies for my class. I especially enjoyed learning how to design & work on my own unit & how to approach my curriculum."

- Instructional Collaboration Project (ICP) **school-team planning** was also a valuable component of the CA experience; 95% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their planning time had allowed for **meaningful discussion with building colleagues** and had been productive. Even though collaborative planning is challenging work, the teachers benefit from the engagement. Team planning also seems to get better with practice.

"I love the ICP because it gives us a chance to reflect, implement, and learn from all of the presentations and discussions."

*"Working/collaborating with my school team helped a lot - even though it was ****so hard**** to find common ground at first."*

"Time to plan, collaborate and talk is wonderful, as well as a year-long goal to implement. We feel our focus is more realistic this second year. Last year we were lambs. This year we are shepherds."

- 85% of respondents were **confident that their ICP will be implemented** as they had planned. At the same time, 80% of respondents were **anxious about if their building colleagues will participate** in the projects they planned.

Suggestions for future

Participants shared some suggestions for future CA:

- Many teachers commented that the **7-day program was too long** and suggested a 5-day program. Some suggested shortening the length of each day. Many also expressed the need for an **open lunch format** to allow for "down time."
- Participants noted some benefits of K-12 discussions but some suggested **splitting up elementary and secondary teachers** so that the content can be more relevant and specific to each group.
- Several participants suggested **having the Academy earlier in the summer** so they have time during the summer to integrate new learning into their planning for next year, and before they become preoccupied with starting school.

Participants also expressed the need for ongoing professional development during the school year:

- Some suggested "**booster shots**" during the school year, possibly in schools, both to remind participants of what they learned and to introduce DI to their building.
- Some suggested a **mini-CA** for teachers who could not attend the summer CA. Many CA participants noted the need for their **whole school to participate** in PD together.
- 85% are interested in engaging with the teacher collaborators during the school year.

"We need workshops like this all the time, because we never stop learning!"

"Could you invite an entire school faculty to CA? You should have the experts (Tomlinson, McTighe) work with one school for an entire school year to fully implement DI."

"We loved using your expertise during the year. Keep on coming out to our schools and influencing us!"