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## Possibilities in engaging partnerships: What happens when we work together?

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# **Possibilities in engaging partnerships: What happens when we work together?**

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Julie Horwitz, Gerri August, Fran Gallo,  
Joshua LaPlante, & Kimberly Cataldo

# Our Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of Innovation Lab
- Overview of Resident Teacher program
- Big learnings
- Our Questions

# Introductions

- ❧ Who we are.
- ❧ Who you are.
- ❧ What we are going to do.

# Achieving Together: RIC/CF Innovation Lab

- ❧ Brief History
- ❧ Stakeholders
- ❧ Visions
- ❧ Other Projects

# Resident Teacher Program

∞ NCATE

∞ Philosophical beliefs about learning

∞ Curiosities

# Big learnings

- ❧ Expectations
- ❧ Energy
- ❧ Reflections
- ❧ Fear/ Concerns
- ❧ Content
- ❧ Tensions

# Expectations

- ❧ I hope to learn more about the perception of individuals entering this profession as it relates to urban education and assumptions that tend to emerge through experience and/or lack of experience in working with urban students. – Faculty
- ❧ My expectations for participating in the CF/RIC Innovation Lab are to experience a classroom environment with some students that may need some extra pushing to succeed academically. - Student
- ❧ By participating in this clinical experience I hope to learn approaches to learning and teaching that may appeal to students that may not be interested in learning – Student
- ❧ I hope to learn how to change my own practice, see what is happening at one high school and really have a space to think about transforming teacher education. –Faculty



# Energy

- ❧ Being able to interact with a real principal and do consistent observations in a different learning environment than I've been a part of in the past has been an excellent way for me to reflect on how I want to conduct myself in the classroom when I get into student teaching and beyond. – Student
- ❧ Even having only visited District C once, I am already extremely excited for the experiences awaiting myself and my classmates this semester. I am overwhelmingly grateful to have the opportunity to collaborate with the faculty and staff in the 2013 pilot year of the *Innovation Lab*. –Student

# Reflections

- ☞ During the last few weeks...I feel like I've been seeing layers peeled back week after week...The first week was rather calm and, not bland but...safe? Anyways, every week since I've been seeing new things that I didn't notice on the first day...more interactions, more things being revealed. Last week, I was stared down on the bus by students sitting on the sidewalk, we've had to jostle by crowds in the halls...I don't mind being stared down by students or being surrounded by crowds of students yelling in Spanish to each other. - Student
- ☞ As we were looking around the main lobby...there was a sign with C. High Loves You. I don't know about the rest of you, but I can't remember my school ever declaring that it loved me and that made me pause and wonder. Do the students and teachers have a nearly ideal [rapport] with each other, or is this a way of buoying up the students who are not performing as well as the state tells them they have to? That they are safe and cared for here in [their] home town? Today is probably going to answer this question or at least partially answer it, and I look forward to doing the first walk-through and helping the staff collect the data they need to be at their best. – Student

# Fear/ Concern

- ❧ I fear that I will be in over my head or somehow unprepared for what is to come. What I am most nervous about is more personal than educational; I am nervous that this experience will somehow prove to me that I am not cut out to be a high school teacher. It has been a nagging fear in the back of my mind since I was accepted into the ED Program. – Student
- ❧ I am always concerned with the perception of my faculty as it connects to the change in the culture and climate of the learning community. – Faculty

# Content

- ❧ Overall I now understand that reading is an active process and students must be equipped with the appropriate strategies to help them during the process. - Student
- ❧ So...I started thinking about how I view teachers and how sometimes I think people unfairly view them...They are expected to be on at all times...I think that mentality can isolate them and when looking at small portions of their work... one tends to inflate it and use it to represent the teacher as a whole. I'm starting to realize that that isn't the way to go. I watched a teacher who used her knowledge of that she gained throughout the semester to best solve a classroom management problem. She knew enough about the child to know how best to handle that. Now it's not fair to expect that teacher to have known that the first day of class. That's something she has to build to. What I'm liking about these observations is that we get to see that growth. .. I'm more interested in these observations now as an opportunity to go through this journey with the teachers. - Student

# Tensions

- ∞ I partly agree. I feel like there is one thing we miss out in the way we run the class right now and that is a solid framing device. We get some good class time on the bus but I for one can never grasp it as solidly as if I were learning it in a classroom. All the rushing scenery and the loud humming of the bus do nothing to help concentration. I feel like the theory is a great way to guide us through our learning. It's like giving a man with poor vision glasses when he's driving home. The ride will just be much smoother. I feel like we get a lot out of what we have and honestly I prefer the field work at CF over a classroom any day. Sometimes though I wonder what that added amount of theory to guide us would do? Think of the ways it could make things better.- Student
- ∞ Ideally I think the best case senario would be what we're doing now plus maybe a one hour a week course that has theory to supplement our field work. That being said I wouldn't give up the class we have because I think this is a very rewarding experience.- Student

# Our Questions

- ❧ How do we define success?
- ❧ How do we make this sustainable?
- ❧ What happens as we bring in the next cohort/ class?