



System Updates December 16, 2014

A few quick resources (one with a tight response time) for you to be aware of.

PD Opportunity – This is available through ACTE, funded by the Gate’s foundation, and parallels many of our own PD efforts over the past several years. The following is a description from the CTE List Serve:

CORE Community is Coming to Illinois

Through a \$500,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a new web-based professional development tool/course has been unveiled. The CORE Community is an online community and courseware designed to help teachers collaborate and implement the Common Core State Standards in CTE courses. ACTE is seeking 500 professionals to pilot this new tool. The launch date is February 15, 2015, and the pilot states are: Illinois, Oklahoma, Georgia, Utah, Ohio and Missouri. The CORE Process is to Collaborate, Orient, Relate and Enhance.

You may sign up for updates on the project at ctecore.org. Answers to frequently asked questions can be found at: <https://corecommunity.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>.

ACTE is asking for 75 participants from each state. This tool is designed specifically for CTE teachers.

Employment Skill Article - This one uberskill will always keep you employed – it is a powerful testimony to the importance of Problem Based Learning and the need for critical thinking skills. Note the careers they cite.

http://finance.yahoo.com/news/this-one-uberskill-will-always-keep-you-employed-172655122.html;_ylt=AOLEVigcRo9UFDcAnroPxQt.;_ylu=X3oDMTByMG04Z2o2BHNIYwNzcgRwb3MDMQRjb2xvA2JmMQR2dGikAw--

Is homework making a positive difference in student achievement? (Hint more is not better) Thought provoking questions pertaining to homework and test score impact. Does your homework have a purpose beyond busy work? TREES has and will continue to hold workshops on flipped classrooms and effective assessment techniques. <http://news.yahoo.com/kids-us-lot-pointless-homework-171002167.html>

Spring Professional Development offerings will begin in early February. We will send out flyers in early January.

Thanks for all you do for students and on behalf of Iris, Neal, and myself – have a peaceful and rest-filled Holiday Season.

Brian