Learning and the MASA Learning Labs Supporting Leaders in Experiential Learning

March 2022: Dr. Sean Doherty and Dr. Sarah Riss

Introductions: Handshake Partners

- Great every person in the room sharing your name and position
- Share one thing your district is doing in the area of experiential learning.

Norms

- demonstrate respect for one another, our mutual learning, and individual contributions.
- > actively participate, contribute, and take risks.
- demonstrate collegial relationships with one another. Having collegial dialogue/discussion allows for the group to push one another's thinking in a respectful manner.
- > meeting will be purposeful, organized, and include adequate time for processing.
- ➤ listen with the intent to understand. Share the air space.
- ➤ accept non-closure.



Learning Labs

A Bit of History

How They Emerged in MASA What is a learning lab?

The ability of a group of people to do remarkable things hinges on how well those people can pull together as a team.

How the 1st MASA Learning Lab Works

Defining Experiential Learning – What does it mean for your learners?

Continuous Improvement Through Experiential Learning What has happened so far?

Laclede County C-5, Joel E. Barber School

Knox County
School District





What did we experience?



What did we learn?

Problem of Practice

- Defining a Collective Understanding
- Thinking Partners vs.
 Problem Solvers
- Inquiry / Advocacy
- What data are you using?

Problem of Practice

A problem of practice is an area that educators identify as a focus on the instructional core, is directly observable is actionable and connects to a broader strategy of improvement.

The educators should assemble a network to:

- Ask relevant questions concerning the problem of practice
- Develop objectives about mending the problem of practice

Questions to Consider:

What kinds of experiential learning opportunities are student provided?

What will students be able to do as a result of these experiences?

Develop a Theory of Action

A theory of action can be thought of as a storyline that makes a vision and a strategy concrete. The theory of action provides a map that carries the vision through the organization. To apply the theory of action in a larger context, taking action is the next step after shaping and identifying the problem of practice.





model for the learning lab

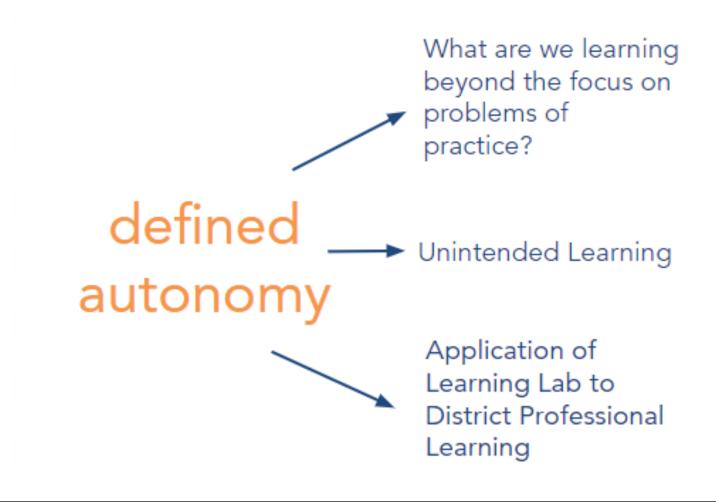
Facilitator

- School Tour (What do you see?
 / What do you make of it?
- Examining the Problem of Practice
- Group Processing
- Sample Agenda of Learning Lab / Resources

Group Processing Questions

- What did you see?
- What do you make of it?
- What questions do you have as they relate to experiential learning?
- What wonderings do you have that lead to growth?

Lastly, host processes and share reflections.





Four Pillars
Dr. Freeman
Hrabowski,
University of
Maryland

High expectations – curiosity fostered

Create a strong sense of community among the students

It takes researchers to produce researchers – kids work with experts on important work

Faculty are involved with the students

Four Pillars = Empowered & Successful Students!

Overview of Experiential Learning



Philosophy

Learning occurs when carefully chosen experiences are supported by reflection, critical analysis, and synthesis.

Comes from the work of John Dewey and David Kolb

What is Experiential Learning?

Learning by doing

Observing and interacting with the real world

Reflecting deeply on what has been done

Developing 21st century skills

Seen as a process and not an outcome

21st Century Skills

We want to teach these skills and give students a chance to use them

Easily done in experiential learning

Dr. Tony Wagner – Harvard Graduate School of Education

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Collaboration and Leadership
- Agility and Adaptability
- Initiative and Entrepreneurialism
- Effective Oral and Written Communication
- Accessing and Analyzing Information
- Curiosity and Imagination

A Process, Not an Outcome The Simplest
Experiential
Learning
Cycle
DO

DO IT.



Now What?

What will I do differently next time?

What?

What happened? What were the results?



So What?

What do these results imply? How did I influence the outcome?



compiled by Andrea Corney www.edbatista.com/2007/10/experiential.html

Major Areas of Experiential Learning:

What are your examples?

Internships

 Also includes employment, shadowing, and mentoring

Service Learning

Also includes community outreach

Travel

School or personal

Sample Internships

Washington University Microbiology and Physics Lab

The Sierra Club— Grass Roots Organizing

South Broadway Art Project

Walter Ambrose Family Center – pre- school assistant Teaching internships – math and English for middle school

Llywelyn's -Restaurant Entrepreneurship

Pro-Rehab Physical Therapy

Pepsi – Sales and Marketing

WGHS Office Administration and WGSD Accounting

Web Design

Shaw Nature Reserve – Environmental Ecology

Broadcasting

Historical Society -Archivist Others from your district!

Role of the Administration

- Provide necessary resources
- Publicly support and acknowledge major donors
- Publicly support innovative practices
- Publicly support experiential learning!
 - Attend events
 - Students and staff report at BOE meeting
 - Honor the work of the students and staff
 - Consider acting as a mentor/advisor

What's Next for Learning Labs

Schedule Next Visits

Facilitators come from the group

Share what we are doing and learning

