

Educators 4 Excellence

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Memo to Deans of Education

To: Distinguished Deans of Education in California
From: Educators 4 Excellence, Los Angeles
Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2013
Re: Future Forward: What Teachers Need to Teach in 2020

To: Distinguished Deans of Education in California

On Thursday, May 16th, Educators 4 Excellence: Los Angeles convened teachers from diverse schools for a conversation with Dean Michael Spagna of California State University at Northridge, Dean Shane Martin of Loyola Marymount University, and Dean Karen Gallagher of University of Southern California. The goal of our conversation was to discuss what teachers will need in order to be prepared to teach in an age of technology-enabled instruction, Common Core Standards and project-based learning.

During our event, we conducted polling and three brainstorm sessions with teachers. The insights shared at our event have been synthesized in this memo. It is our hope that the feedback from these teachers will shape how our graduate schools think about the near and distant future of teacher preparation.

Future Forward: Teaching in 2020

Polling: Who was in the room?

- 68% of teachers with 6 or more years of experience, 30% with 15+ years of experience
- 77% middle and high school teachers
- 86% felt aware of education trends and innovations

Polling: What is the most IMPORTANT reason to train teachers to be ready for Common Core? 46% said to help students think deeply about problem solving.

Brainstorm Session Data: The Common Core Teacher Three Big Skills Teachers Will Need to be Common Core Ready in 2020

- Teachers will need the skills and training to teach students how to unpack dense language in all content areas.

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- Teachers will need the skills and training to teach students how to analyze different types of documents (i.e. fiction, nonfiction, technical manuals, step by step instructions, recipes, multi-media documents).
- Teachers will need the skills and training to use inquiry-based questioning to teach students how to think critically and make inferences, especially using evidence to support their thinking.

Brainstorm Session Data: The Common Core Student Three Big Skills Students Will Need to be Common Core Ready in 2020

- Students will need to be able to analyze and synthesize information in all content areas using multi-media sources.
- Students will need to be able to problem-solve.
- Students will need to be able to use evidence to develop a well-thought out, well-structured argument that also addresses the counter-argument.

Polling: What is the most IMPORTANT reason to train teachers to be project-based teachers? 50% said to help students connect their learning to their lives and community.

Brainstorm Session Data: The Project-Based Teacher Three Big Skills Teachers Will Need to be Project-based Teachers in 2020

- Teachers will need to develop standards-based projects and rubrics for assessing mastery of standards.
- Teachers will need to be facilitators who build scaffolds and gradually move away from micro-management of student learning.
- Teachers will need to create objective-driven lesson plans that have scaffolds of support and are embedded within the projects.

Brainstorm Session Data: The Project-Based Student Three Big Skills Students Will Need to be Project-based Learners in 2020

- Students will need to build a solid foundation in content, basic skills, critical thinking, and problem solving.
- Students will need to question, critically think, collaborate and co-create with peers.
- Students will need a solid foundation in technology literacy to learn in an environment that represents technological needs of the work force.

Polling: What is the most IMPORTANT reason to train teachers to be technology-empowered? 50% said to give students more ownership of learning.

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Brainstorm Session Data: The Technology-Empowered Teacher Three Big Skills Teachers Will Need to be Technology-Empowered in 2020

- Teachers will need to know how to use technology to differentiate content for students.
- Teachers will need to know how to use technology to access PD resources, both in order to grow as professionals and to model lifelong learning for their students.
- Teachers will need to know how to make appropriate technology choices to fit the needs of their students and the content.
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Brainstorm Session Data: The Technology-Empowered Student Three Big Skills Students Will Need to be Technology-Empowered in 2020

- Students will need to know how to be critical and informed consumers and creators of technology and media.
- Students will need to know how to utilize technology to work collaboratively with others.
- Students will need to know how to utilize technology to express their life experiences and relationship to their community and society.

Polling: What is the most important way graduate schools can prepare teachers to teach in 2020? 70% said by training teachers using these new approaches.

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