



April 2007 Newsletter Update

Highlights of Upcoming Events!

June 22-23, July 20-21, Sept. 28-29, Nov. 2-3
Cognitive Coaching

July 8-13
Camp Plug and Play 1.0 The Creative Technology Camp for Beginners

July 8-13: Camp Plug and Play 2.0
Technology Camp for the Creative Teacher

July 15-19 and October 25-17
SEI Train the Trainers I and II

July 18-20 and October 1-2
Thinking Maps

Teaching English while Teaching Content

This year there are about 135,000 English Language Learners (ELLs) attending Arizona schools in grades K-12. The challenge teachers face is in equipping these ELLs with a good working knowledge of the language, while continuing to cover the full academic content of grade level curriculum.

Meeting these varied objectives simultaneously can sound like a tall order, but Structured English Immersion specialist Amy Ditton says they are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Ditton bases her work on the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP), developed by Dr. Jana Echevarria and Dr. Deborah Short. SIOP uses current knowledge and effective, research-based practices to provide high quality instruction for ELLs.

“These strategies are designed to be good for all kids,” Ditton says, and “add to everyone’s learning opportunities.”

In addition to training in her district, as well as for the Arizona K-12 Center, Ditton is in her fourth year as Teacher on Assignment for English Language Learners (ELL) at William T. Machan School in the Creighton School District in Phoenix.

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There over 40 different languages spoken in Arizona’s schools. When visiting these schools you might hear Spanish, Navajo, Vietnamese, Russian, Cambodian, French, German, Apache, Mandarin, Cantonese, Sudanese, Korean, Yugoslavian, and Arabic.

The Arizona State Board of Education requires that all teachers, supervisors, principals, and superintendents who hold a certificate in Arizona to have an SEI, ESL, or Bilingual Endorsement. The SEI training is designed to equip educators with instructional techniques, ways to incorporate the State Board approved ELL Proficiency Standards into instruction as well as ways to monitor

ELL student academic progress. The Arizona K-12 Center is an approved provider of this training and will be offering a Train • the • Trainers series this summer. Featured in this training are the authors of SIOP. To register for this great SEI learning opportunity, visit azk12.org



EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Structured English Immersion

Train the Trainer Institutes I & II

- Dates** July 15-19, October 25-27, 2007
- Location** Westward Look Resort 245 E. Ina, Tucson
- Times** 8:00am-4:00pm
- Cost** \$800, \$3500 for a team of 5
- Deadline** 4/27/2007

The Structured English Immersion (SEI) endorsement is a requirement for all persons holding an Arizona teaching, supervisory, and administrative certificate. To meet this requirement, the Arizona K-12 Center is offering SEI Train-the-Trainer Institutes. The curriculum includes the SIOP (Structured Instruction Observation Protocol) Model. Featured in the instruction are its authors, Dr. Jana Echevarria and Dr. Deborah Short, to aid in your mastery of this model. The curriculum also includes all six of the areas mandated in the state curricular framework (ELL Proficiency Standards Objectives; Data Analysis and

Application Objectives; Formal and Informal Assessment Objectives; SEI Foundations Objectives; Learning Experiences; SEI Strategies Objectives; and Parent/Home/School Scaffolding Objectives).

Achieving the Full Endorsement requires 45 hours of instruction. To increase the effectiveness of your learning, the Arizona K-12 Center’s Institutes are divided into two segments. Upon completion, you will become a member of the online learning community, and be prepared to train teachers within your school and district.

Notes: Price includes all training (7 days) and materials; continental breakfast, lunch, and 2 breaks per day; private room accommodations at the Westward Look Resort for 4 nights (July 15-18). Check-in is 4pm on the 15th. The October segment of this training will take place at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix. Participants will be responsible for arranging their own hotel accommodations.



Teaching English while Teaching Content

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National Board The challenge at Machan.

70% of Machan’s students are ELLs who are predominantly Spanish speakers. So Ditton’s insights are in great demand. She works specifically with four teachers who are collegial coaches, whose role is to model effective strategies for other teachers throughout the school. Her focus is collaborating with them on planning and adapting teaching methods to meet the needs of all students in the classroom.

“Our attitude is, there is no reason why every student shouldn’t be learning,” says Ditton.

It’s not just the schools with high ELL populations that face challenges in this area of English immersion. Michelle Giltner is the ELL Resource Teacher for Towne Meadows Elementary & Houston Elementary schools in Gilbert. The two schools have only 41 ELL students between them. But when fewer kids need help, it can be easier to overlook them.

“Just because the numbers are lower doesn’t mean the need is lesser,” Giltner says.

In addition to Spanish speakers, these two schools teach kids from Russia, Moldova, Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines, Eretria, Ethiopia and Iran. Several of them have been adopted by American parents but don’t yet speak English.

Giltner explains that teachers today have more responsibility to make headway with ELL students, rather than simply sending them to an English as a Second Language classroom.

“Teachers are hungry to find out what to do,” says Giltner. They want to know: “How am I going to draw them (ELL students) in and still take care of my other 29 children?”

Talk is good

One simple solution is to encourage more class interaction. The more class members speak out loud, the more opportunities kids have to expand their English. Of course, every class situation is different and requires specialized tactics. Giltner finds great satisfaction in helping teachers develop these.

She says: “When you’re teaching English to people and they’re actually using it, it’s a success story, I have immediate gratification here. Each successful step the student takes is a thrill.”

In addition, the English Language Learners teach her as well. “I’ve watched a Korean, a Russian and a Hispanic, all three playing, speaking their own language and they were all as happy as larks together,” Giltner says.

Every student deserves access to rich learning environments. Teachers in Arizona are committed to providing meaningful learning opportunities by engaging all learners. As Amy Ditton puts it: “We’re holding high expectations for our students, and we’ll do anything we can to help them reach those expectations.”

About the Arizona K-12 Center

The Arizona K-12 Center is your resource for professional development and leadership training. Through conferences, summer institutes, day workshops, book studies and round-table discussions, the Arizona K-12 Center supports educators in achieving their best. Whether you are just launching your teaching practice or are an experienced educator seeking continued growth, we offer opportunities to excel. Learn the most current skills and approaches, keep abreast of recent advances in education, and find direction toward becoming teacher leaders. We understand that your time and financial resources are at a premium. For this reason, we design every program to provide maximum value. For detailed information, please visit www.azk12.org.



Who Are We?

A staff of experienced educators.

The Arizona K-12 Center staff consists primarily of former educators. From kindergarten through high school, we have worked in some of the most culturally diverse and educationally challenging environments in Arizona. This gives us an intimate understanding of the challenges today’s educators face. We’ve been there ourselves, and are committed to helping make the teaching experience as successful and satisfying as possible.

Executive Director:	Kathy Wiebke
Associate Director, Operations	Josie Arredondo
Associate Director, Policy & New Programs	Penny Kotterman
Professional Development Coordinator	Cheryl Bokowski
Master Teacher Coordinator	Andrea Boorman
Project Director, Master Teacher/NBC	Taryl Hargens
Project Director, SEI	Cathy Hill
Project Director, Mentoring/Induction	Judy Rea
Administrative Assistant	Cyndy Rodgers
Director of Technology	Michael Walker

did you know?

WE’VE MOVED

Did you know the Arizona K-12 Center recently moved? We are now located at 99 East Virginia, Suite 100 in Phoenix. Our new phone number is 602.443.6444. When you are in the neighborhood, stop by and visit us!