



Colorado Critical Friends Group

Working Together to Improve Student Learning

Summer 2009 Training

The vision behind Colorado Critical Friends Group is quite simple: Schools that are learning communities work best for all students, particularly when educators work closely together to focus on student work and achievement as well as on equitable schools. To accomplish this vision, Colorado Critical Friends Group aims to create coaches who can build the capacity of educators to raise student achievement and address the issues of equity within schools. We invite you to join us.

ANNOUNCING FOUR WORKSHOPS

NEW COACHES SEMINAR JUNE 15-19

For five days, educators join a critical friends group (CFG) to learn tools for developing collaborative cultures that focus on equity, protocols to closely examine student work and teacher practice, and processes to engage with colleagues in inquiry about their work. At the end of the week, they will be able to coach colleagues in a critical friends group. Participants who work with other models of collaborative communities will learn strategies and processes that will deepen their collaborative work in order to foster educational and social equity for all.

Cost: \$650 (payments are non-refundable); After May 31, \$700

Location & Time: Grant Humphreys Mansion, registration 8:00-8:30 on day 1, 8:30 – 4:00 daily.

Credit: CU-Denver credit will be offered.

THROUGH THE LENS OF EQUITY: EQUITY IN PRACTICE JUNE 15-17

In this workshop, educators will increase their capacity to take action for equity and inclusiveness. We will study ideas and focus on processes that are essential to the development of allyship—working with partners across socio-cultural differences (e.g.: religion, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, socio-economic class, ability) to end structural inequality and oppression that impacts our students' possibilities. Building on collaborative processes and approaches of CFG's, we will

- learn models and frameworks to analyze and understand the dynamics of difference
- explore our own personal perspectives and professional realities and their impact upon becoming an effective ally
- examine what we mean by allyship: what being an ally looks like as we

move through the developmental process of becoming more interculturally proficient

- develop facilitation and collaborative skills crucial to making allyship a practice in our personal and professional lives
- work together to expand ideas for taking action as allies with colleagues, students and their families in our schools.

Facilitators for this seminar are a multi-ethnic, multicultural team with extensive experience in navigating the challenges and opportunities inherent in building alliances to take action for educational equity. We remain in progress and look forward to learning with and from participants.

This is a 3 day seminar with 2 optional follow up sessions through the year.

Cost: \$400 (payments are non-refundable); After May 31, \$450

Location & Time: Grant Humphreys Mansion, registration 8:00-8:30 on day 1, 8:30 – 4:00 daily

Credit: CU-Denver credit will be offered

FACILITATIVE LEADERSHIP SEMINAR JUNE 17-19

School leaders will explore three essential components of facilitative leadership. First, they will develop the capacity to use different tools to create a collaborative school culture. Second, participants will gain an understanding of how facilitative leadership inspires change by redefining relationships among all members of a school community. Third, school leaders will deepen their moral commitment to addressing issues of equity and achievement for all students. We will create a network of leaders to support each other as they deal with the challenges of implementing this new style of leadership. During the seminar, participants will engage with other

school leaders as the facilitators model the practices of facilitative leadership.

One day of follow up in the Fall.

Cost: \$400 (payments are non-refundable); After May 31, \$450

Location & Time: Grant Humphreys Mansion, registration 8:00-8:30 on day 1, 8:30 – 4:00 daily

Credit: CU-Denver credit will be offered

Facilitators: Scott Murphy & Dave Schmid

ADVANCED FACILITATIVE LEADERSHIP SEMINAR OCTOBER 22-25

In a beautiful Colorado Rocky Mountain setting, school leaders will collaborate with each other in applying the essential components of facilitative leadership to the work of improving your schools. Our group will draw from the core tenets of culture, change, facilitation, and moral commitment as a way to ground ourselves in the challenges of this style of leadership. As a network of school leaders, we will use the lens of facilitative leadership to deeply explore your own school and then design actionable steps toward creating a school culture that is not only committed to student achievement, but also the essential factors of trust, equity, community, and collaboration. We will be staying and working together at Eagle Rock High School in Estes Park, where we will incorporate the school, the local environment and the extended time to truly collaborate in achieving a powerful vision for your leadership and your own school.

Cost: \$425 – includes seminar, materials, lodging and most meals (payments are non-refundable); After Sept. 20, \$475

Location & Time: Eagle Rock High School, Estes Park; Begins Thurs., Oct. 22 at 6:00 pm; Finishes Sun., Oct. 25, noon.

Facilitators: Scott Murphy & Dave Schmid, support from ERS staff