

### OTHER RELATED WORKSHOPS

In addition to the workshops described above SPDU can provide many other sessions that sustain the learning community in schools:

**Creating Safe Schools** – Build understanding about how to create an environment in which mutual respect and valuing one another is honored.

**Supporting Classroom Learning** – Explore ways educators can create positive and successful learning environments for all students.

**Making Meaning of School<sup>PLUS</sup>** – Examine understandings about developing and sustaining a School<sup>PLUS</sup> culture.

**Learning Together in Multi-level Classrooms** – Investigate the keys to success in multi-graded settings.

TO BOOK A WORKSHOP WITH SPDU:

Call: (306) 373-1660 or 1-800-667-7762

Fax: (306) 374-1122

Email: [spdu@stf.sk.ca](mailto:spdu@stf.sk.ca)



## COMING TOGETHER: Building the Learning Community through Staff Development

*The power of effective staff development rests in the ability to help people identify where they are going, how to improve the journey, and whether they have arrived. It is a process for communication, building rapport, and developing a shared vision among the school community.*

SPDU was established in 1987 with an overall mandate “to increase the effectiveness of inservice education in the province”. Over the past 17 years, SPDU has established itself as a credible partner within the province and nationally as a result of the successful processes we utilize for both the development and delivery of programs, resources, and services. *Coming Together* has been designed to support staff members with developing a truly collaborative professional community. This interactive workshop series draws on the research of Art Costa, Richard DuFour, Linda Lambert, Robert Garmston, Peter Senge, and Bruce Wellman and invites staffs to consider a variety of topics and issues as they work together in a collaborative learning community. Each of these workshops require a minimum of 2.5 hours and can be expanded or adapted to respond to the unique needs of a particular school and community.

#### **SCHOOLS AS COLLABORATIVE LEARNING COMMUNITIES**

This workshop provides an overview of professional learning communities and invites participants to consider how they might shape the culture of their school and community to support teaching and learning. Through activities and discussion, participants consider the norms, values, processes, and procedures that are at the heart of a collaborative learning community.

#### **SHARED MISSION, VISION, VALUES, AND GOALS**

Using an appreciative inquiry process, participants will identify the strengths of individual staff members and the school as a collective entity. This workshop will help schools develop mission and vision statements, and decide on shared values and goals by creating new statements or modifying existing ones. This workshop can also support schools as they develop an action plan to support student learning.



#### **COMMUNICATING IN COMMUNITY**

The keystones of collaboration are relationships and communication. In this workshop participants will examine and practice the skills of positive communication as building blocks for managing conflict and supporting learning-focused dialogue and discussion.

#### **POWERFUL DESIGNS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

As our understandings about effective professional development have evolved, so too have the models which support it. In this workshop, participants will explore a variety of models that can be used to support teacher and student learning through job-embedded practices such as peer mentoring, cadres, case studies, examining student work, journaling, study groups, and conversational protocols.

#### **WORKING WITH DATA**

Collaborative learning communities use data to identify areas of strength, areas for growth, and to assess progress toward goals. Participants will work in groups to examine the roles and purposes of different data sources and how those data sources can be used to make decisions about a wide range of teaching, learning and school improvement situations.

#### **PROFESSIONAL INQUIRY AND REFLECTIVE PRACTICE**

Staff in a learning community consistently question their practices, seek out new methods of teaching and learning, reflect on those methods and refine them through classroom-based research. This workshop will provide information on the process of action research including how to write research questions, identify sources of data and strategies for collection, and discuss methods for reporting. These processes can be used for developing professional growth plans as well as school improvement plans.