



Press Release

Monmouth University School of Education Principals' Academy Holds Principal Evaluation Workshop

WEST LONG BRANCH October 10, 2013: The Monmouth University Principals' Academy held the first session of their fourth membership year at Monmouth University's Magill Commons. Dr. Jill Takacs, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in the Middletown Township School District facilitated the session, "New Jersey Achieve: Aligning Student Growth Objectives with Effective Assessment Practices and Common Core State Standards".

SGOs are one of the multiple measures that districts must use to evaluate teachers. According to the State of NJ DOE website, these objectives are "academic goals for groups of students that are aligned to state standards and can be tracked using objective measures". This fall, the State of New Jersey has mandated that New Jersey teacher evaluation ratings be based on: 30% Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) which are based on NJ ASK test score data; 15% SGOs, one to two measures that teachers set with the approval of their principals; and 55% classroom observations.

Dr. Takacs said that principals should create goals that are both achievable and available. She also talked about the principal's evaluation and the rating scale that would be used. It is the principal's responsibility to monitor the types of assessments that are being used by teachers. Principals should make sure that there are multiple and varied assessments that are designed to assess what students know, understand, and are able to perform.

Dr. Takacs showed a video that emphasized the importance of correctly identifying the student's weakness which she called, "teaching poolside". "It is not a bad thing to expose students to the types of questions that are on the PARCC" said Takacs, "because these questions are at a level that assesses what students know, understand and are able to do."

The Academy was created in 2010 as a forum for dialogue and an exchange of ideas and experiences. Using the university as a catalyst, the academy provides professional growth opportunities for principals and assistant principals that focus on dynamic leadership that promotes reflective practice and affects teacher and student learning. It also provides a network of support for colleagues and establishes a collaborative relationship with the university, university faculty, and its resources.

There are four workshop sessions per year. The topics for upcoming sessions are: Thursday, December 12, 2013, Time Management and Evaluation Responsibilities; Thursday, March 27, 2014, PARCC/Course Assessments; and Thursday, May 8, 2014, Social Media and Web Resources. All meetings are held 5pm-7pm in Magill Commons Club Rooms 107/108/109 (location and dates are subject to change). For more information contact: soeprincipalcademy@monmouth.edu.