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Ted Coleman TSSA Spring 2012

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TSSA One-Page REPORT

Name, Department, and Email address:

Ted Coleman, PhD, RHE, CHES

Department of Health Science and Human Ecology

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Name and Date of conference attended:

On Course National Conference; Long Beach, CA; 27-28 April 2012

Teaching Skill(s) Studied:

Essential Teaching Skills vs. Technological Expertise as a Basic for Teaching and Learning

Impact on Current Teaching (How was this info applied)?

This was my first time to attend the On Course National Conference; I was pleased and impressed with the timing, scheduling (1.5 days total), and quality of the presentations; the conference was enjoyable and well organized. One of my primary objectives was observe essential preparation, participant engagement, and effective teaching skills; another was to discuss effective teaching with selected presenter(s), to address in particular (1) what they think constitutes effective teaching, and (2) how they view the use of various educational technologies as beneficial or detrimental of the processes of effective teaching and learning.

Most of the presenters were at least pleasant and entertaining. One, while she had a general outline in mind and was good at speaking before a fairly large group, appeared to be making it up as she went along. One in particular was outstanding; he used a video in his presentation, but the way he set it up, processed the information, and engaged participants (open-ended questions, extending and paraphrasing responses, etc.) provided a very positive model of effective teaching, to the point that the video itself was almost moot. He was kind enough to visit with me that day and the next as we considered the fundamentals of effective teaching: thorough preparation and planning, effective lesson design (including clear objectives), positive climate, good listening, effective questioning, even responses, etc.

It was heartening and encouraging to spend time with higher education professionals who demonstrated an active interest in effective teaching and learning. The entire conference was built around concepts organized and promoted by Skip Downing, and although there was a definite slant toward using his "On Course" materials, the conference itself was worthwhile and uplifting. Thanks once again for the opportunity to participate.

Date Submitted:

08 May 2012

