Tracy Richter

Reflection 1.3

**1.3 Instructional Partner**

Candidates model, share, and promote effective principles of teaching and learning as collaborative partners with other educators. Candidates acknowledge the importance of participating in curriculum development, of engaging in school improvement processes, and of offering professional development to other educators as it relates to library and information use.

**Artifacts**

1. [ISTC 789 LiveBinder Professional Development](../Internships/Westowne%20Elementary/Tech_PD_LiveBinders.docx)

2. [EDUC 761 Research Proposal Paper](../../Fall%202013/EDUC%20761/EDUC761_Final_WikiPD_Research%20Paper.docx)

3. [ISTC 601 Action Plan to Support Common Core State Standards](file:///E:\Assignment6_ActionPlan_McHugh_Richardson_Richter.docx)

**Relevance**

The school library media specialist has many roles, but one vital role is an instructional partner. It is incredibly important for the media specialist to get involved in all aspects of the school community, especially by partnering with other educators. Not only can other members of the school learn from the library media specialist, but the school library media specialist can learn from them as well, in order to improve the school in a variety of ways.

One way to become an instructional partner, is to provide professional development to other educators in the school. I was able to design and implement a professional development lesson to the teachers at my elementary school placement. Some teachers showed interest in learning about a web 2.0 tool that could be used as a way to organize information. I immediately thought of LiveBinders as a great tool to introduce to them and to help them apply it to their teaching. I gave each teacher a brief hand-out explaining what LiveBinders was, what some of its strengths and weaknesses were, and how it could be useful to them. Although, only a handful of teachers showed up for this voluntary session, it enabled me to give more one-on-one instruction and assist them as they started creating their first LiveBinder. They were very excited about this tool and were eager to start incorporating their resources into their LiveBinder. I had such success with this professional development, that I will be sure to include professional development opportunities at my future school. Whether it is a weekly or a monthly session, I want to be sure to provide the teachers at my future school with the opportunity to learn more about the technology tools that are out there, and how they can use them effectively.

In EDUC 761, I elected to conduct in-depth research about the effects of wiki-based professional development on technology towards teachers’ attitudes. Through my extensive research, I discovered that a wiki is an excellent tool to provide teachers with the professional development they need about technology in an accessible, customizable, and collaborative way. I gained a myriad of knowledge about this topic and how beneficial the effects of a wiki professional development can be with teachers. Therefore, I am well versed in how and why a wiki-based professional development should be implemented, and in my future school I will definitely be well-prepared to promote, support, and lead this type of technology professional development for my school community. I believe that with this kind of professional development, teachers will not only learn about the technology they can use, and how to use them effectively, but actually apply what they have learned into their instruction.

A media specialist can also become an instructional partner by developing action plans to improve their school or to support the curriculum. In my ISTC 601 course, I was able to team up with other graduate students in my class to develop an action plan on how a school library media specialist can support the Common Core State Standards. The plans that we created focused on various aspects that a school librarian could take a part in and support these new standards, such as administrative practices, faculty and staff professional development, instructional effectiveness and accountability, as well as other important areas. In addition to the action plans, we determined strategies that a school librarian could use to implement the action, how to measure the action’s effectiveness, and a timeline of when it should be completed. I will use this plan in the future to give me ideas of how I can get involved and support the standards, but also as a way to self-assess myself to see if I am completing these actions and if I am preforming them effectively. All of these artifacts support the importance of a library media specialist as an instructional partner and how I can continue to effectively take on this role, in my future profession.