2022-2023 Montana Teacher Leader Academy
Unit 4 Course Learning Plan – Cohort 2

Date: October 14 & 15, 2022

Course Title: Leading Great Instruction

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth City, Senior Lecturer on Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Course Description: Amidst the ongoing challenges of the pandemic and multiple distractions of schools, how can you actually improve learning? What does it look like and sound like to be a teacher leader around learning, both for children and adults? In this course, we will focus on the instructional core, task as a key driver of learning, and on strategic leadership more broadly, including an exploration of meetings as a place to integrate learning, task, and strategy. You will leave the course with a combination of practical skills and tools, as well as theory and research to help you apply your learning to your context.

Course Outcomes:

- Shift your thinking: Leave with a question or idea that you want to explore more
- Shift your practice: Leave with at least one specific tool that you will apply in your practice
- Build a common understanding of:
  - The instructional core
  - The central role of task—before, during, and after the pandemic
- Develop your leadership practice in:
  - Thinking strategically, particularly as you are emerging from the pandemic
  - Designing effective meetings

Pre-Readings/Preparation:

- Read “The Instructional Core” [Chapter 1 of Instructional Rounds in Education, by City, Elmore, Fiarman, Teitel] and choose two quotes that are striking to you
- Bring two agendas: one from a meeting you have recently led/attended and one for an upcoming meeting

Course Texts/Articles:

- Recommended: Read Introduction and Chapter 1 from Strategy in Action (okay to read post-session)
- Recommended: Read Redefining Education chapter (okay to read post-session)

Content/Activities:

- Review objectives and agenda, warm up (Maitre-d)
- Stories of powerful learning
- Discuss “The Instructional Core” chapter (Save the Last Word)
- Follow-up mini-lesson on the instructional core
- Task
- Strategic leadership in and emerging from a pandemic
- Meetings
- Ask me anything—ask Liz any question you want!
- Wrap up; closing thoughts and plus-delta