

P-BL_{3.0}

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING CONFERENCE 3.0 2nd October 2012 • Regis College, Weston, MA
Hands-On • Work with Peers • Create P-BL Concepts for Your Classroom • Meet Experienced P-BL Teachers + Students

NOW ALIGNED WITH THE BUCK INSTITUTE, AMERICA'S FOREMOST CHAMPION OF PROJECT-BASED LEARNING see www.bie.org

The Need

Project-based learning (P-BL) is increasingly recognized as one of public education's more effective delivery strategies. Cited as an essential practice for teaching 21st century skills, it has been shown to be **highly effective in increasing student engagement, is rigorous and relevant, relates school to the outside world, integrates subjects, and improves teachers' satisfaction with their work.**

Research shows that students learning through projects score higher in standardized testing than those taught with traditional approaches.

P-BL is a fundamental component in the shift of the role of the teacher from "sage on the stage" to "guide on the side." It is, however, a challenge to deploy, as educational traditions, standardized testing and content-based standards, and a scarcity of professional development programs often trump the initiative required to develop and launch P-BL in the classroom.

WORK IN TEAMS GUIDED BY EXPERIENCED P-BL TEACHERS + STUDENTS

The Conference

The intent of this conference is to more fully familiarize teachers with P-BL through hands-on experiences that will raise their understanding of its daily practice. We hope to make it easier for teachers to boost P-BL into the mainstream of classroom delivery in New England.

Participants will work collaboratively to develop P-BL concepts that align with curriculum goals and available resources.

Keynote Speaker



Dr Linda Nathan will share how project-based learning is employed at Boston Arts Academy. She is the founding headmaster of the Boston Arts Academy, the city's public high school for the visual and performing arts, and was a

driving force behind the creation of Fenway High School. Dr Nathan is cofounder and of the Center for Collaborative Education, a nonprofit education reform organization, and sits on the board of the Coalition of Essential Schools. She has written a widely-praised book about teaching and leadership in urban schools, *The Hardest Questions Aren't on the Test*.

Summary Speaker



Erin McKissick, a student presenter at our 2010 P-BL Conference and now in college, will share the impact that P-BL has made on her success as a student.

Get University Credit!!

As an option, conference participants can earn one credit from Bridgewater State University, for a conference-only special cost of \$100. The course will follow the conference proceedings through virtual learning with adjunct professors Sue Skeiber and Joanne MacDonald.

Who Should Attend?

Teachers, administrators, school committee members. Anyone interested in engaged education, and willing to work with peers to create a new consciousness about classroom delivery.



Highlights

Participants will:

- Learn how educational research sanctions P-BL for its effectiveness and appropriateness, including standardized testing
- Understand the alignment of P-BL with the Massachusetts Dept of Education's 21st Century Skills initiative which recommends problem solving, collaboration, interdisciplinary themes, and engaging soft skills as critical aspects of learning
- Meet teachers who have successfully used P-BL in their classrooms
- Talk to students who have learned through P-BL
- Create P-BL lesson plans with peers in small groups, guided by the experienced P-BL educators
- Become part of internet-based P-BL sharing network, continuing the dialogue and support initiated in the conference
- Make new professional friends, committed to integrating this powerful learning in daily practice



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Date and Place

2nd October 2012

Upper Student Union Lounge, Alumnae Hall
Regis College, Weston, MA

(Building #3 on the Regis College map)

Go to our website www.franklocker.com

- Click on the **Regis College Map** tab in the lower left

Learn

- How experienced teachers have launched P-BL in their elementary, middle and high school classrooms
- From experienced students who have learned through P-BL
- How to launch a district-wide P-BL initiative
- What research says about the effectiveness of P-BL



Conference Day Schedule

- 8:30 Registration, coffee and breakfast snacks
- 9:00 Conference starts
Keynote Address: Dr Linda Nathan
- 9:30 Presentations from **experienced P-BL students**
- 12:00 Lunch with **student panel discussion**
- 1:00 Afternoon focus groups to create P-BL concepts for your classrooms
Experienced P-BL teachers will guide participants and answer questions about P-BL
Focus group on launching P-BL district-wide
- 3:00 **Summary Address: Erin McKissick**, college student, speaking on the impact of P-BL on her learning
- 3:30 Adjourn
- After Continued dialogue through a web-based chat room
Optional continuation course with Bridgewater State University

LEARN HOW OTHERS HAVE LED P-BL

Registration + Fees

- Registration is possible by e-mail, fax, and phone
- \$125 per participant
- Conference fee includes lunch, coffee and breakfast snacks, plus a P-BL planning materials packet
- Payment by check or purchase order
- Conference limited to 100 participants
- Bridgewater State University credit \$100

For Registration Forms:

- Email Denise at dw@franklocker.com, or
- Go to our website www.franklocker.com, click on the:
 - Conference Registration** tab in the lower left
 - University Credit Registration** tab in the lower left

Conference Organizer

Frank Locker Educational Planning consults to school districts from a base in the greater Boston area. See www.franklocker.com



ALIGN P-BL CONCEPTS WITH YOUR CURRICULUM

What's New This Year?

- Three focus groups where our expert educators work with conference attendees to create P-BL concepts for elementary, middle, and high school curriculums
- "How-to" planning books for purchase from the Buck Institute
- University credit through Bridgewater State University
- District-wide implementation planning

This Could Happen to You

One conference participant wrote:
"Our sixth grade team attended last year's project-based learning conference and loved it! In fact, we did a highly successful interdisciplinary project this year around the topic of microfinance in African and Asian countries. The sixth graders created completely technological presentations which were outstanding."

