Efficacy of Peer Mentoring

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Open Ended Question

What is a Learning Assistant?
Motivation for MTeach Learning Assistants (MTLA)

PBI Course:

• Training teacher leaders
• Evaluate practice from a different lens
• Appreciation of the observation instrument

Step 1/2 Courses:

• Limitation of one Master Teacher with multiple groups practice teaching
• Build connection with students further along in the MTeach program
Development of MTLA Initiative

• Match PBI students’ availability with Step 1/2 courses
• Develop practice teach feedback forms
• Informal agreement with MTLAs:
  – Be on time to class
  – Give feedback with lesson plans
  – Help with practice teaching
Practice Teach Structure

Master Teacher

MTLA (Science)

MTLA (Math)

Step 1 Teaching Group (Office)

Step 1 Teaching Group (Office)

Step 1 Teaching Group (Classroom)

Step 1 Teaching Group (Classroom)
MTeach Case Study

- Interviewed and surveyed MTeach students and graduates
- 23 students who were enrolled in a Step 1/2 course with an MTLA
- 16 students who served as MTLAs during PBI semester
Student definition of an MTLA

MTLA perspective:
- Helper
- Assist in lesson planning and practice teaching
- Guide/facilitator
- Give advice
- Peer perspective/use past experiences
- Motivator/cheerleader

Step 1/2 student perspective:
- Help Master Teacher
  - Practice teaching
  - Lesson plan feedback
  - Questioning
- Share past experiences
- Advice/pointers
- Foster MTeach community
Role of MTLA

Jason Veal
Physics/Mechatronics
Siegel High School
2nd year teacher
Role of MTLA

Zephan Daniel
Step 1 student
Open Ended Question

• How would LAs benefit your UTeach replication?
Benefits

Reid Woods
Mathematics
Stewarts Creek High School
1st year teacher
Benefits

Nikki Robertson
Step 2 student
Benefits

Kelsey Parker
Classroom Interactions/Functions and Modeling student
Benefits

MTLAs:
• Encouraged self-reflection
• Stronger community of learners
• Professional experience
• Promotes confidence

Step 1/2 Students:
• Another perspective/viewpoint
• MTLAs were approachable
• Questions answered quickly
• MTLAs helped students be less anxious
Poll

• What was the biggest challenge the MTLAs faced while mentoring?
  A. Not hurting people’s feelings while giving feedback
  B. Lack of content knowledge about the lesson
  C. Setting aside time in their schedule
Challenges

MTLAs:
- Time
- Step 1/2 student apathy
- Lack of experience
- How to give feedback

Step 1/2 Students:
- Inconsistent answers
- Off topic during practice teaches
- Rotating between different MTLAs
- Over half of the students felt their were no challenges to having an MTLA in their class
Challenges

Jacob Cook
Current PBI student and MTLA
Challenges

Matthew Newhall
Step 2 student
Challenges

Jessica Beckham
Step 2 student
Open Ended Question

• How might you envision LAs at your UTeach replication?
Moving Forward

What we learned:
• MTLAs have been vital in maintaining a student-centered community

What we will change:
• Formal training at beginning of PBI course
  • Clarify expectations of MTLAs
  • Video presentation
• MTLAs mentor the same group all semester
Questions?