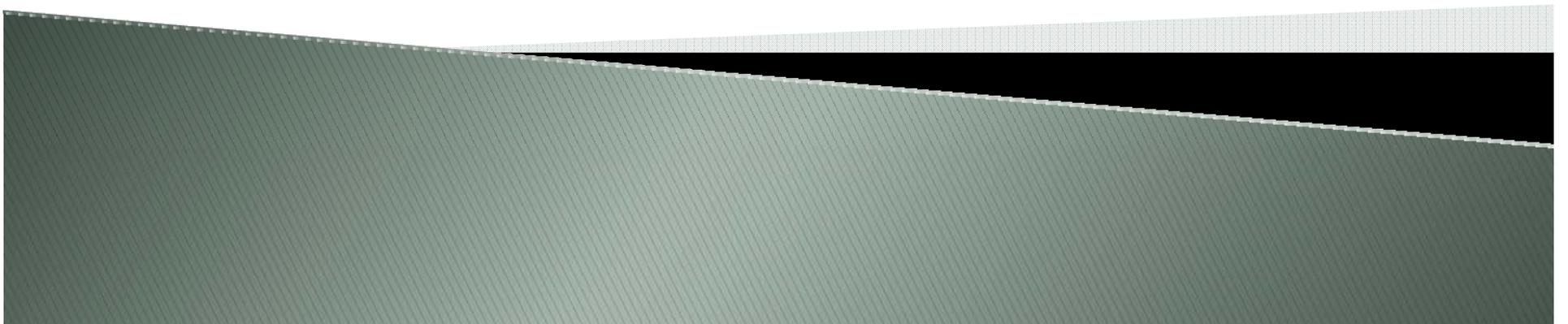


Professional Learning Communities

Arlee Mentorship Cadre
Deanne Smith
Arlee, MT

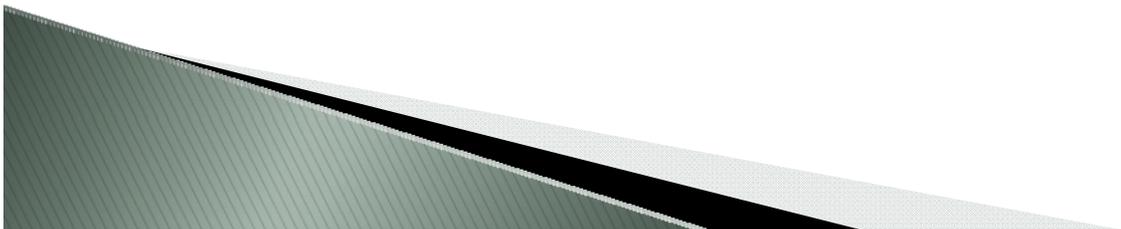


Introduction

- ▶ About myself and Arlee
- ▶ Professional Learning Community as defined by Wikipedia

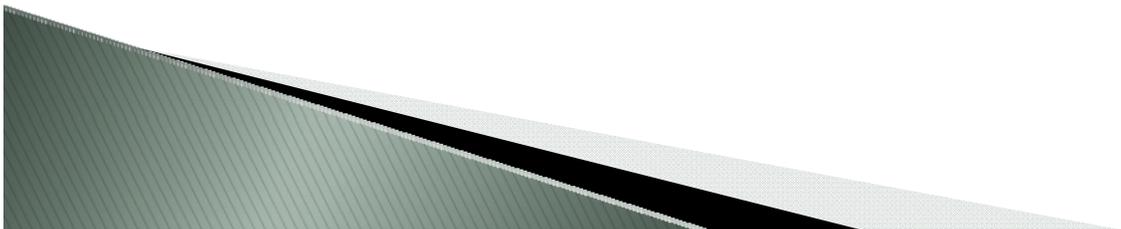
A professional learning community (PLC) is an extended learning opportunity to foster collaborative learning among colleagues within a particular work environment or field. It is often used in schools as a way to organize teachers into working groups.

- ▶ Reading



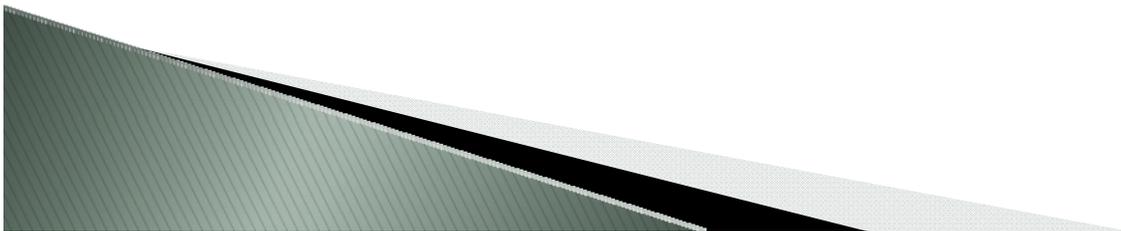
Structure

- ▶ Monthly after school meeting
- ▶ Monthly individual classroom observations and planning time with instructional coach
- ▶ 3-day summer institute
- ▶ Stipends paid for group meeting time
- ▶ Option to receive college credit



Arlee Mentorship Cadre Focus

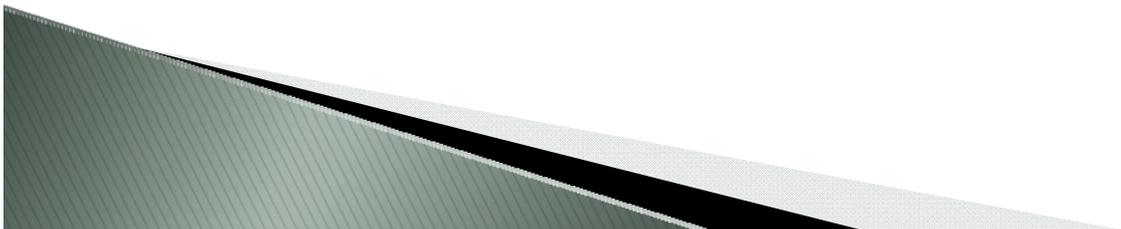
- ▶ 2008–2009
 - Initial implementation – opportunity to share and create a more cohesive literacy program
- ▶ 2009–2010
 - Develop a system on how to best collaborate on learning experience planning, lesson design, and instructional delivery along with protocols for giving each other feedback on plans.
- ▶ 2010–2011
 - Effective balanced formative assessment practices



Arlee Mentorship Cadre Objectives

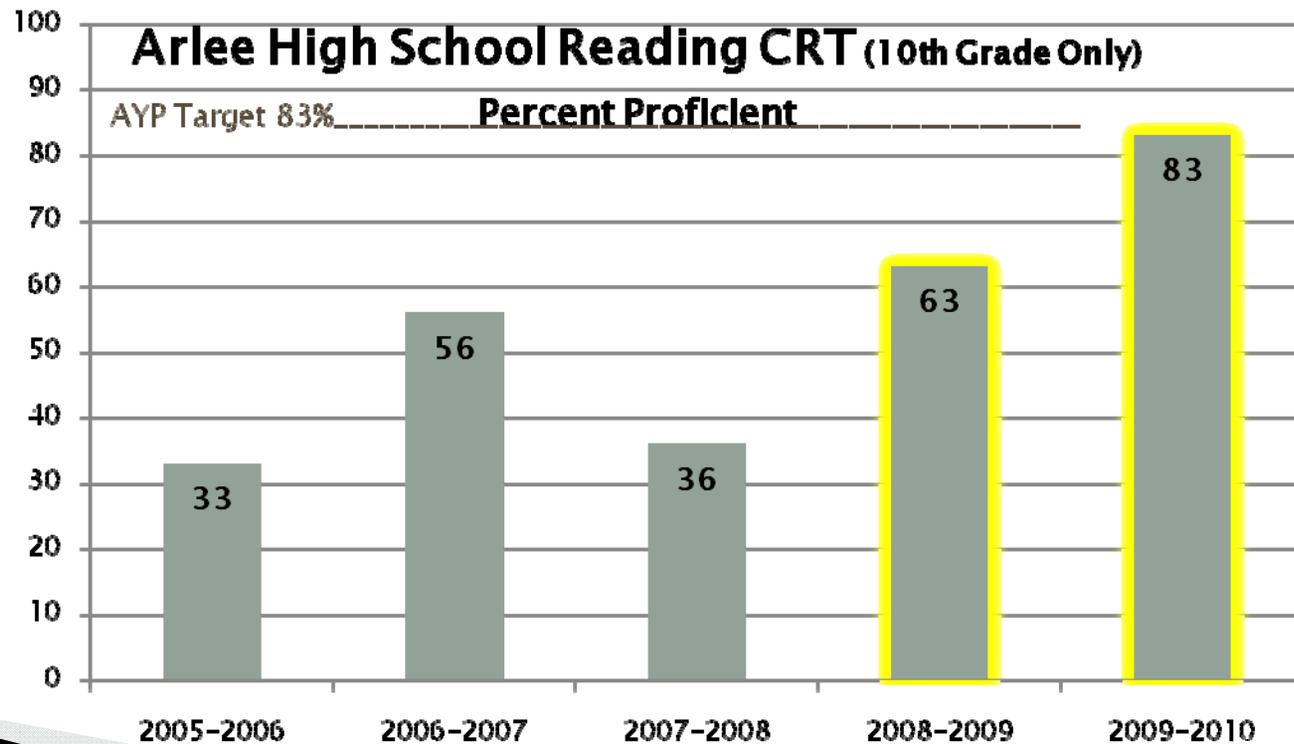
Teachers will:

- ▶ Create a culturally relevant, standards-based curriculum unit utilizing a wide variety of texts including literature, informational and primary source documents.
- ▶ Design well-scaffolded lessons that embed critical literacy practices across the content areas.
- ▶ Develop a sequence of formative and summative assessment techniques that will promote ownership and move student learning forward.
- ▶ Work collaboratively to plan lessons, observe classroom instruction via video, and offer each other constructive feedback through instructional dialogue sessions.
- ▶ Share lesson results and analyze student work to adapt instruction and improve teaching and learning.
- ▶ Participate in a professional book club via the Arlee School blog to synthesize and communicate understanding of balanced assessment.



Data on the Arlee Mentorship Cadre

- ▶ Increase in the number of participating teachers
- ▶ Montana CRT Native American Reading Scores



Positive self-reflection surveys

Reflection on Mentorship Cadre...

“Peer and self assessment is impacting student learning because the students are finding their own mistakes and making improvements instead of the teacher doing all the work. They are learning a lot about their strengths and weaknesses.”

“It is fun to discover really great practices that engage and motivate students. I have a good grasp of incorporating them into the planning of my culturally relevant units.”

“I am working on posting long term learning targets and linking daily targets to them. I often have students write and rate themselves on progress toward meeting learning targets.”

I use formative assessment actively with students so they get the sense that they are being “tested” on new skills. They enjoy showing what they have learned and are getting better with self-assessment when given a rubric.”

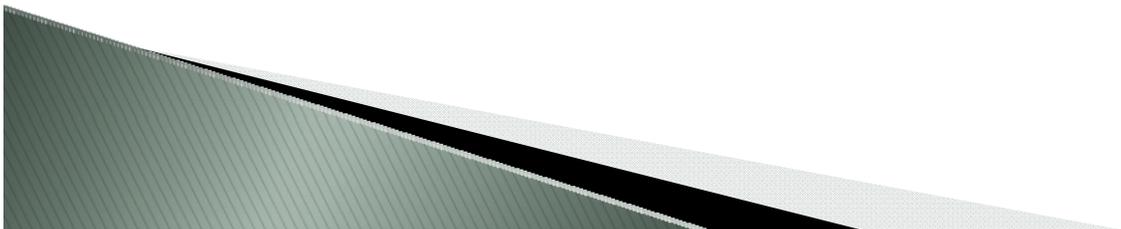
I have developed multiple units of study that incorporate Native American culture and ideas. Including a variety of assessment projects that further engage students and give them opportunities to grow.”

“Now that I better understand formative assessment, I have been trying everyday to find ways to check for student understanding and then to change my instruction to meet their needs. I have been working on questioning techniques and using descriptive feedback to help students improve their work.”



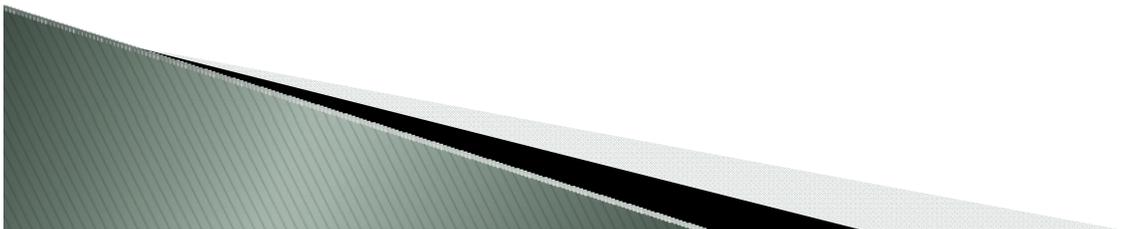
Guidelines for Success

- ▶ Pay stipends for meeting time
- ▶ Offer class for college credit
- ▶ Invite teachers from local private indigenous language school to participate
- ▶ Find the right consultant/instructional coach
- ▶ Develop culturally relevant units
- ▶ Develop instructional practices that engage students in critical literacy



Cadre Artifacts

- ▶ Videos
- ▶ Blogs – Book Titles
- ▶ Schedule
- ▶ **Sample Units**
 - Fools Crow
 - Wind from Enemy Sky



Closing

- ▶ If time, discuss the strengths and challenges of professional development in other programs
- ▶ Questions on cards to answer with email addresses

