

**Title of Session:** ProActive Educators

**Moderator:** BJ Berquist

**Title of File:** 20041119proactive

**Date:** November 19, 2004

Room: Tapped In Reception

**JenniferDG** joined the room.

**BjB:** Hello again, Jennifer

**BjB:** can I help you with something?

**BjB:** Ok, Jennifer. We'll call this session officially to order

**JenniferDG:** Ok is just you and I

**BjB:** what attracted you to the proactive discussion, Jennifer?

**BjB:** . o O ( looks like it for now )

**BjB:** . o O ( you are allowed to fib, Jennifer )

**JenniferDG:** I am starting my own classroom in the spring and am wanting to see exactly how to use this. I was on the Language Arts forum and got interested and wanted to learn more.

**JenniferDG:** I don't know if this is the right session for this but I thought it might

**BjB:** cool, Jennifer.

**BjB:** let me give you a little background on the proactive ed group, Jennifer

**JenniferDG:** OK

**BjB:** It was started to encourage teachers to become proactive in their own professional development

**JenniferDG:** how does it do that?

**BjB:** what the group would like to see is finding out how we can get local school districts or intermediate units to recognize a variety of pd opportunities...

**BjB:** including participation in the Tapped In events

**JenniferDG:** Well having college students coming out using this and continuing should help that

**JenniferDG:** I have worked in an Elementary school in Texas for 8 years and had never heard about it until my last semester of college

**BjB:** nods to Jennifer. But what about when the teacher is no longer in college and still has to get so many continuing ed/pd credits per year to maintain their certification.

**JenniferDG:** can they use this?

**BjB:** do you feel that participation in the TI events is worth that?

**JenniferDG:** I would much rather continue professional development in the comfort of my own home

**JenniferDG:** I think there would have to be more participation to get more information

**BjB:** agrees! So would a lot of teachers. What we have to do is somehow document the value of participation in a series of calendar events or group events...

**BjB:** and get school administrators to agree to offer the credits

**JenniferDG:** Yes. Couldn't they use their transcripts

**JenniferDG:** Getting admin to do that would be harder

**JenniferDG:** they want to plan what their teachers go to.

**BjB:** I think it would have to be more than just transcripts. That wouldn't reflect much learning....but, if a teacher could write a reflective piece on their participation, that might work.

**JenniferDG:** You would have to get them to have someone from their district provide the sessions so that they get to decide what is going on

**JenniferDG:** Yes They would have to show that they learned something from the sessions

**BjB** nods. You've experienced the events. You know that the calendar offers lots of events that occur once a month...

**BjB:** that is way more pd than the usual district can provide

**BjB** . o O ( usually a district will have inservice days a couple times a year...with no feedback on what takes place or what is learned )

**JenniferDG:** Yes it is. The calendar doesn't give much description and I don't think people go and read the descriptions

**BjB** nods. I try not to make the descriptions too long, for that reason

**JenniferDG:** That is right and they get no feedback if you go to a conference except a certificate that is blank that you fill in

**BjB:** but if you participate in a TI event or in a group, you can go to the group room and chat with the group members...learn what worked and what didn't.

**JenniferDG:** I am new to this whole program. Is there a place people can request PD

**BjB:** what did you have in mind, Jennifer?

**JenniferDG:** That would be a good idea If you could get people to come back later and talk about what they have implemented

**JenniferDG:** Not me--just in general

**BjB:** that goes on already, Jennifer. What grades do you hope to teach?

**JenniferDG:** there are many that I want to do already

**JenniferDG:** I will be teaching 4th grade in the spring

**BjB:** then you might want to join the K-3+ Resources group. Sue Roseman leads that group twice a month...

**JenniferDG:** Ok I will do that THANKS

**BjB:** and has a group room where she stores resources. The group members can use the threaded discussion board to communicate asynch

**JenniferDG:** There is one on the 23ed right

**BjB:** Nuts About Nature (right about K-3)

**JenniferDG:** I am making a list and am planning to continue using the sessions. I enjoy getting ideas from others

**BjB:** is a wonderful science discussion on how to teach kids about nature. The leader, Bill Hilton Jr. has just started an environmental group

**BjB:** the name of the K-3 group if you want to join is K TO 3 RESOURCE ROOM

**BjB** . o O ( click on search and then click on groups )

**JenniferDG:** Ok Thanks

**BjB:** another resource is the archived transcripts at [www.tappedin.org/transcripts](http://www.tappedin.org/transcripts)

**JenniferDG:** is that all of the transcripts like we are emailed

**BjB:** sort of. Those are edited scripts of the past calendar events

**JenniferDG:** Ok sp can catch ones that I miss

**BjB** . o O ( they're not as much fun as being in the real time chat, but yes, they let you read ones you missed )

**JenniferDG**: Yes I am sure it is more fun to interact

**BjB**: Tapped In has over 21,000 members...let me show you the demographics page

**BjB**: click on the tapped in tab at the top of your screen

**BjB**: then click on people

**BjB**: and look at tapped in demographics

**BjB**: if everyone was proactive about getting their school to recognize participation in TI...

**BjB**: we'd have a lot more control over our own learning

**JenniferDG**: You are exactly right. Schools talk about being learning communities but a lot of the teachers have stopped learning so it really isn't a learning community

**BjB** nods sadly.

**JenniferDG**: So we just need more people to get the word out in their schools.

**JenniferDG**: I will have to tell my teacher friends about this.

**BjB**: yep! Another option is for a school to create a group room here

**BjB**: and provide their own pd programs.

**JenniferDG**: That would be a good idea. Also teachers could start a group for their grade level and they could have their own sessions about things they have to work on etc

**BjB**: excellent thinking, Jennifer!

**BjB**: and you can do it in your jammies

**JenniferDG**: EXACTLY

**BjB** smiles. Now...there is a proactive group here...would you like to join that group?

**JenniferDG**: Sure

**BjB** . o O ( then you can post suggestions that you or your colleagues come up with to the discussion board )

**BjB**: go to search and then groups

**BjB**: enter proactive

**BjB**: when you get the match, click on the group name to see the group ID page.

**BjB**: at the top of the page is a place to join the group

**BjB**: something else we're hoping to encourage is for schools to give pd or community service credit for people who volunteer to do helpdesk in Tapped In

**JenniferDG**: That would be a good idea

**BjB**: all it would take is one hour a week...and we offer mentors to those who volunteer

**JenniferDG**: That would be fun. I will have to keep that in mind after I graduate and get settled in my classroom.

**BjB** understands. Now all we have to do is come up with a couple more hours in the day

**JenniferDG**: Yes that would be very helpful

**JenniferDG**: Thanks so much for chatting with me! I enjoyed this very much and will be seeing you again soon!

**BjB**: Nice talking with you, Jennifer.

**BjB**: thanks for joining the discussion