

# The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual West Virginia Great Teachers Seminar

AUGUST 2-3, 2021

## Final Report



*Compiled by*

*David Wohl*

## DATE AND FORMAT

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual West Virginia Great Teachers Seminar (WVGTS) was conducted August 2-3, 2021. This was the second year in a row that the seminar was held virtually because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The WVGTS continues to be financially supported by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (WVHEPC -- <http://www.wvhepc.edu/>) with additional support from the West Virginia Community & Technical College System (WVCTCS -- <https://www.wvctcs.org/>) and *without* commercial or outside business vendors or interests.

## SEMINAR LEADERS

The current WVGTS Staff remains one of the most experienced and veteran GTS leadership groups in North America.

The seminar was led by **Dr. David Wohl** (*Professor and Dean Emeritus, Winthrop University and formerly at WV State U*) and facilitated by **Mark Goldstein** (*formerly at WVNCC*), **Cat Hayes** (*formerly at WVSOM*), **David Wohl** (*College of* and **Barbara Ladner** (*WV State U*) and **Steve Smith** (*former director of the North Carolina GTS and longtime understudy to David Gottshall, founder of the Great Teacher Movement.*)

## SEMINAR PURPOSE

- To celebrate good teaching.
- To challenge educators to venture beyond the limits of their own specializations and environments in search of transferable ideas and the universals of teaching.
- To promote a spirit of introspection and self-appraisal by providing a relaxed setting and straightforward process whereby participants can seriously review and contemplate their attitudes, methods and behaviors as teachers.
- To practice rational analysis of instructional problems and to develop realistic and creative approaches to their solutions.
- To stimulate the exchange of information and ideas by building an expanding state-wide network of communication among teachers in higher education.

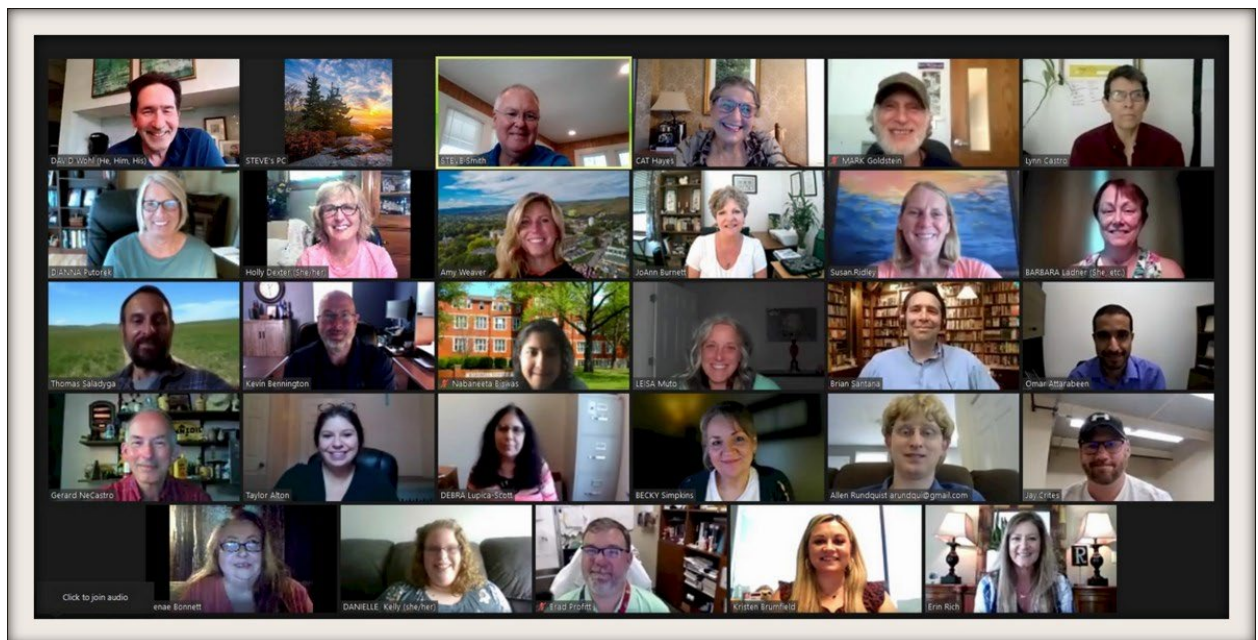
## THE TWO PRIMARY GOALS OF THE SEMINAR

1. Model effective practices in online instruction through our “converted” seminar format
2. Provide a space that will become FULL of useable ideas right out of the box! Things you can use by Monday.... Wednesday at the latest.

## DEMOGRAPHICS & OTHER RELEVANT DATA

Twenty-four (24) faculty members representing sixteen colleges/universities participated in the Seminar. The range of experience included first year faculty to those with over 30 years of experience. Disciplines from all areas of higher education were represented including: Accounting, Business, Finance, Automotive Technology, Business Technology, Creative Arts Therapy, Economics, Education, Entrepreneurship, Environmental Science, Criminal Justice, Mathematics/Math Education, Geography, Graphic Design, Medicine, Legal Studies, Nursing, Pharmacy, Theatre, and Physical Therapy.

The following educational institutions were represented at the seminar: Concord U, Marshall U, Fairmont State U, Pierpont CTC, WVU Parkersburg, New River CTC, West Liberty U, WV State U, Potomac State, Shepherd U, Eastern WV CTC, Blue Ridge CTC, Mountwest CTC, Bridge Valley CTC, WV Northern CTC.



## SCHEDULE AND ACTIVITIES

The seminar launched Monday morning with an overview of the entire seminar process including participant and leadership expectations. Seminar staff reviewed the mechanisms in place for seminar communications and support in the event participants had any questions or needed help during the event itself. All pre-seminar materials requested of participants were submitted through the WVGTS domain via [submissions@wvgts.com](mailto:submissions@wvgts.com) to ensure a secure and accessible method of collecting participant work product.

## **DAY ONE – MONDAY, AUGUST 2nd**

### **General Session ONE – 9:00 AM**

- (Introduction /Seminar Review, Sorting)

### **General Session TWO – 10:00 AM**

- Introduction to Small Groups Session 1 - (Innovation Paper Processing)

*Participants logged out of the main Zoom session and logged into their pre-assigned small group virtual meetings.*

- Seminar participants shared their pre-prepared “tricks of the trade

### **General Session THREE – 11:30 AM**

- Tricks of the Trade - Seminar participants shared their pre-prepared “tricks of the trade”

### **General Session FOUR – 2:00 PM**

- Advice to Teachers on Their First Day of Class
- Student Motivators
- Selection of Small Group Topics for Tomorrow

### **OPTIONAL: 4:30 PM – Virtual Happy Half Hour!**

This virtual social event was hosted by Mark Goldstein. Session was well attended and produced many, positive networking connections among participants.

## **DAY TWO – TUESDAY, AUGUST 3rd**

### **General Session FIVE – Zoom – 9:00 PM**

- Problem Paper Processing

Participants logged out of the main Zoom session and logged their choice of concurrent virtual topic meetings:

9:15-10 (45 minutes)

- Session A1 – TOPIC: **Group Work** Facilitator: Mark Goldstein
- Session B1 – TOPIC: **Teacher Self-Care** Facilitator: Cat Hayes

10-10:05 – BREAK

10:05-10:50 AM (45 minutes)

- Session A2 – TOPIC: **Diversity & Inclusion** Facilitator: Barbara Ladner
- Session B2 – TOPIC: **Student Engagement** Facilitator: Steve Smith

10:50-10:55 – BREAK

- 10:55-11:35 AM (45 minutes)
- Session A3 -TOPIC: *Technology Tools* Facilitator: Mark Goldstein
- Session B3- TOPIC: *Student Accountability* Facilitator: Cat Hayes

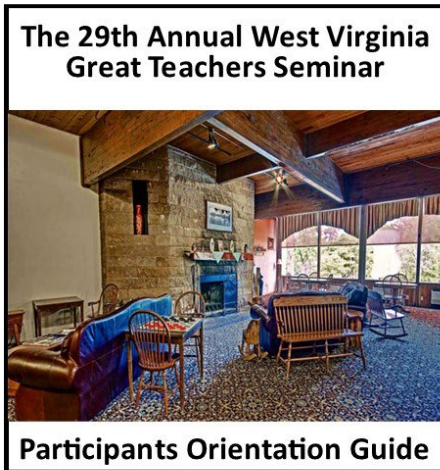
**General Session SIX** – Zoom 1:00 PM

- Round-Robin: Advice You Wish You Had Gotten in Your First Year of Teaching
- Final Exam:

This final segment of our seminar included closing remarks by the seminar leadership in addition to participants engaging in the WVGTS final exam. This process included participants being placed back into their original small grouping to complete the final exam question: “Working with a small group of your peers, by whatever means, help us understand the nature of the Great Teacher”. Seminar closure consisted of each original, small group making presentations on the nature of “The Great Teacher”—all of which were profound representations of the art and spirit of teaching. The final closing “circle” gave each person an opportunity to express what he or she was taking home from the seminar!

### **WVGTS Participant Document & Guide Index**

Guides and preparation documents, and summaries were made available to all participants at various points during the seminar on the website:



#### **COMMENTS FROM 2021 SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS:**

Evaluation forms were emailed to all participants immediately following the conclusion of the seminar.

The survey and the results are included at the end of this report. Here are the narrative comments made by participants:

- *Well-done. It was refreshing and encouraging to hear other professors have similar struggles and victories!!!!!!!!!!!!*
- *Thank you!*
- *Great student-centered conference even though it was about the "great" teacher.*
- *Thank you so much for providing a wonderful resource.*
- *Thanks so much for a much-needed boost for the start of the Fall semester!*

- *Impressive website and organization and excellent execution - extremely well done!*
- *Thank you for an uplifting and beneficial experience!! :)*
- *It was a lovely experience and a I learned a great deal! I loved the small group activities!*
- *Obviously, this is a tremendous experience. I wish that every faculty member could experience it.*
- *If you end up doing this online again, you might make lunch breaks a little shorter.*
- *I did really like the short sessions with the short breaks. Longer breaks would lower our energy. I like the idea of doing the two truths and a lie before the social (half) hour.*
- *On the final exam, maybe ask for something that is not a list. Maybe get it down to one thing, though the groups would need to explain how they got to that one thing.*
- *Overall well thought out seminar David, Mark, Barb, Cat, and Steve were all amazing! Great Job!*  
*Again, thank you so much!*
- *Facilitators timed the sessions well and kept things moving. It was great when they shared their experience.*
- *The conference left me feeling energized and reflective. It went well beyond my expectations. I really thought the atmosphere, while online, was relaxed and conducive to learning and sharing. It was also a thoughtful and important aspect that teachers with diverse backgrounds and across disciplines in the state were able to meet and work together. It was surprising how much we had in common. There are certainly many "great teachers" out there. I would highly recommend this to others*

# WV GTS Participant Survey 2021

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Start of Block: Default Question Block

## Q29 BASIC INFORMATION

- Your name (1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Your email address (2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Your cell phone # (one that you'll have access to during the seminar) (3)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 

Q36 Have you attended a Great Teachers Seminar previously? (Are you a repeat offender!?)

- Yes (1)
  - No (2)
- 

Q1 Choose the best answer, given your experience in teaching online: Before the pandemic,

- I had taught classes that were completely online (fully online with no face-to-face or seat time) (1)
  - I had taught classes that have combined an online experience with face-to-face class time and reduced seat time (Blended) (2)
  - I had taught face to face classes that have combined an online teaching experience with no reduced seat time (Web Enhanced). (Ex: use of LMS such as Blackboard) (3)
  - I had not taught online or incorporated use of an LMS in any of my classes. (4)
-



Q34 Most (if not all) of us have taught online this past year - many for the first time. Do you expect to continue to teach online in the fall?

- Yes; all of my courses (1)
  - Yes; some of my courses (2)
  - No (3)
- 

Q12 How long have you been a college instructor?

- One to three years (1)
  - Four to six years (2)
  - Seven to fourteen years (3)
  - Fifteen years and over (4)
- 

Q31 I teach at:

- A 4-year university (4)
  - A community/technical college (5)
- 

Q32 I teach primarily

- Associate degree students (1)
  - Baccalaureate degree students (2)
  - Graduate students (3)
-

Q14 My teaching discipline is in the following area:

- Physical or Natural Sciences (1)
  - Social Sciences (2)
  - Humanities (3)
  - Visual and Performing Arts (4)
  - Business/Economics (5)
  - Professional or Technical Studies (6)
  - Health Sciences (7)
- 

Q2 How would you describe your experience with Zoom?

- I've never used it (1)
  - I started using it when the pandemic began, but I'm certainly no expert (2)
  - I've served as host for a few Zoom meetings and have used breakout rooms (3)
  - I'm familiar with and have used a lot of the Zoom "bells and whistles" (backgrounds, spotlighting, share screen, etc.) (4)
- 

Q11 Answers to the next few questions will help introduce you to other participants and will be used during the seminar to sort individuals using common characteristics and attributes. All information gathered is confidential and will not be used beyond the scope of the seminar.

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Q38 Where were you born?

City (1) \_\_\_\_\_

State (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Country (3) \_\_\_\_\_

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Q33 If you were born outside the state of West Virginia, do you still consider yourself WV born and bred?

Yes (1)

No (2)

n/a (3)

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Q26 What is your current residence?

City (4) \_\_\_\_\_

State (5) \_\_\_\_\_

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Q10 How long have you been teaching in higher education? (In years)

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Q23 What is your primary teaching discipline?

\_\_\_\_\_

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Q32 What is your favorite (or "go to") app that you use for teaching?

\_\_\_\_\_

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Q26 When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

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Q27 Favorite beverage during quarantine?

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Page Break

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Q39 What is the name of teacher (K-12, College, Grad School - just pick ONE!) you had that influenced you the most?

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JS

Q21 YOUR Birth Month and Year

	Month	Year
Please Select: (1)	▼ January (1 ... December (12)	▼ 1900 (1 ... 2049 (150)

Q35 TWO TRUTHS AND ONE LIE: In the three spaces below, list two truths about yourself and one lie. (Other participants will be asked to guess which of the three is untrue. This is a “game;” the things you list should all three be somewhat specific and believable. During the seminar, we'll send these out and determine the "best liar!"

Ex: 1. To earn money in college, I was a clown for kid's birthday parties 2. I once sang karaoke with actor John Lithgow 3. I have a birthmark on my leg that looks like the state of Ohio

Truth # 1: (4) \_\_\_\_\_

Truth # 2 (5) \_\_\_\_\_

The Lie: (6) \_\_\_\_\_

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Q37 Two Truths and a Lie Tiebreaker: In the spaces below, list 5 famous people; 4 of whom you have either met or been in the same room with:

Person # 1 (True) (1) \_\_\_\_\_

Person # 2 (True) (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Person # 3 (True) (3) \_\_\_\_\_

Person # 4 (True) (4) \_\_\_\_\_

Person # 5 (The Lie!) (5) \_\_\_\_\_

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Q20 Thank you for completing the survey. Click the arrow below to submit.

End of Block: Default Question Block

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**2021 WEST VIRGINIA GREAT TEACHERS SEMINAR – EVALUATION RESULTS**

<b>Survey Respondant #</b>	<b>CTC or UNIV/COLL?</b>	<b>STUDENTS TAUGHT</b>	<b>DISCIPLINE</b>	<b>YEARS TEACHING</b>
<b>1</b>	Univ/Col l	Graduate Students	PT	6
<b>2</b>	Univ/Col l	Graduate Students	Pharmacy	7
<b>3</b>	CTC	Freshman/Sophomores	Automotive Tech	2
<b>4</b>	CTC	Freshman/Sophomores	English	10
<b>5</b>	Univ/Col l	Graduate Students	Art Therapy and Counseling	Since 2018 at WLU/ Adjunct since 2014
<b>6</b>	CTC	Freshman/Sophomores	Finance	4
<b>7</b>	Univ/Col l	Junior/Seniors	Economics	4
<b>8</b>	CTC	Junior/Seniors	Business	2
<b>9</b>	CTC	Freshman/Sophomores	Nursing	0.5
<b>10</b>	Univ/Col l	Freshman/Sophomores	Accounting	18
<b>11</b>	CTC	Freshman/Sophomores	Education	1
<b>12</b>	Univ/Col l	Freshman/Sophomores	English	8
<b>13</b>	Univ/Col l	Freshman/Sophomores	English	24
<b>14</b>	Univ/Col l	Freshman/Sophomores	Student Support	30
<b>15</b>	Univ/Col l	Junior/Seniors	Advertising/Graphic Design	15
<b>16</b>	Univ/Col l	Freshman/Sophomores	English	13
<b>17</b>	CTC	Freshman/Sophomores	Legal Studies	2
<b>18</b>	Univ/Col l	Freshman/Sophomores	Business	7
<b>19</b>	CTC	Freshman/Sophomores	English	20+

**TO WHAT EXTENT WERE EACH OF THE SEMINAR'S OBJECTIVES MET? (Not met at all: 1; Fully met: 5)**

Survey Respondant #	To celebrate good teaching	To challenge educators to venture beyond the limits of their own specializations and environments in search of transferable ideas and the universals of teaching.	To promote an attitude of introspection and self-appraisal by providing a straight-forward process whereby participants can seriously view and contemplate their attitudes, methods, and behaviors as teachers.	To practice rational analysis of instructional problems and to develop realistic and creative approaches to their solutions.	To stimulate the exchange of information and ideas by building and expanding a statewide network of communication among teachers in higher education.
1	5	5	5	5	5
2	5	5	5	4	5
3	5	5	5	5	5
4	5	5	5	5	5
5	5	5	5	5	5
6	5	5	5	5	5
7	5	4	5	4	5
8	5	5	5	5	5
9	5	5	5	5	5
10	5	5	5	5	5
11	5	5	5	5	5
12	5	5	5	5	5
13	5	5	5	5	5
14	5	5	5	5	5
15	5	5	5	5	5
16	5	5	5	5	5
17	5	5	5	5	5
18	5	4	5	5	5
19	5	4	4	3	4



	<b>LOGISTICS (Too much: 1; Not enough: 5)</b>		
<b>Survey Respondant #</b>	<b>Advance information</b>	<b>Seminar Length</b>	<b>Free Time</b>
1	4	3	3
2	3	3	3
3	3	3	3
4	3	3	3
5	3	3	3
6	2	3	3
7	3	3	3
8	3	3	3
9	3	3	3
10	3	3	3
11	2	2	3
12	3	3	3
13	3	3	3
14	3	3	3
15	3	3	3
16	3	3	3
17	3	3	3
18	3	3	3
19	4	3	3

Survey Respondant #	General comments on how to improve the seminar
1	nothing
2	Have social events before 5 pm, if possible. Otherwise, many of us will miss it due to other commitments.
3	Great facilitators!
4	
5	Great seminar. I really appreciate the different perspectives, from teachers teaching different courses, and varying experiences, and sharing resources and problem-solving for the class room. Thank you.
6	
7	
8	Although there was a time limit it would have been nice to attend all of the General Sessions.
9	<p>That's a hard question! Maybe have links/pic to show a very basic idea of how the most popular apps appear?</p> <p>In your pre-seminar stuff, we were to do a tech check. Some of the Adobe info is not up to date. Some of the Adobe has been eliminated.</p> <p>The survey mentions the seminar being 2.5 days. It has not been updated to the current 2 days.</p>
10	N/A
11	
12	Perhaps, teachers could share sample documents for each paper that was an innovation, problem, tricks or the trade, as it would be helpful to see more of what each teacher was discussing and see examples on how to implement those ideas in my own classroom more.
13	I included a couple things below.
14	
15	Amazing Seminar!
16	I am unsure how it could be improved. I was surprised at how well it seemed to go, especially with the interactions and communications between large and small groups in the Zoom environment.
17	
18	More time for the participants to talk. This is probably better in the face- to-face meeting.
19	No "sorting" games, at least not if it is a virtual seminar.

Survey Respondant #	Favorite Session	Best New Idea	Should the seminar next year be conducted online or face-to-face (if possible)?	Colleagues you would recommend for future seminars:	Other Comments
1	the lighting rounds	To use more apps	yep	several, those I work with here at MUSOPT	Well done. It was refreshing and encouraging to hear other professors have similar struggles and victories!!!!!!!!!!!!
2	Sessions where we have a minute each to present a quick idea or a quick solution.	Study guides from which few questions appear in the exam.	Face-to-face, if possible.	Chris Booth, Marshall University School of Pharmacy.	Thank you!
3	Apps in the classroom	Apps that can be used	face to face		
4	innovation	gathering and using student input	online	not sure who has already participated	Great student-centered conference even though it was about the "great" teacher.
5	Whats App, I learned a lot about different resources available for zoom and online teaching	Empty bowl metaphor	Whatever the circumstance dictate. Online was great.	Yes, I would recommend the seminar to colleagues.	Thank you so much for providing a wonderful resource.
6	Using Small Groups	A type of "gallery" exercise for small groups	Face-to-face	Billy Stone, Dana Karan	Thanks so much for a much needed boost for the start of the Fall semester!
7	The final general session.	Humanizing the classroom	I vote for F2F and I would love to attend it. If it was this much fun online, I only wonder how awesome it would be in person.	I would encourage most of my department colleagues to attend.	
8	Innovation part	Start a story and let each student add to it.	Face-to-face is always best although depending on finances online helps a great deal.	Dr. Martina E. Bachlechner mbachlechner@pierpont.edu	Impressive website and organization and excellent execution - extremely well done!
9	Lightning rounds where I get to hear from all others. Thank you for enforcing the time limit.	multiple apps	face to face But maybe have Zoom-in as an option?		
10	Break-out groups to discuss an innovation	Recording feedback (instead of writing)	Face-to-face	Danielle Kelly	Thank you for an uplifting and beneficial experience!! :)
11	Putting "U" in the classroom	scavenger hunts, gallery walk, softchalk, interactive whiteboard, etc.	Face to face		

Survey Respondant #	Favorite Session	Best New Idea	Should the seminar next year be conducted online or face-to-face (if possible)?	Colleagues you would recommend for future seminars:	Other Comments
12	Information on putting the "U" in the classroom.	Nearpod and Kahoot for the classroom	Online due to the new delta variant.	Shoshannah Diehl and Sabrina Jones	It was a lovely experience and a I learned a great deal! I loved the small group activities!
13	Tricks of the Trade	Brian's idea about students creating their own objectives for the class and then following up on them a couple ties during the course.	Face-to-face, but only if you are really really sure that it will be safe.	Amanda Tennant (English, WLU). Brian Fitzpatrick (Political Science, WLU). Martin White (Criminal Justice, WLU).	---Obviously, this is a tremendous experience. I wish that every faculty member could experience it. ---If you end up doing this online again, you might make lunch breaks a little shorter.
14					
15	Smaller Break out rooms. The What's App Seminar	Just some of the tips and tricks that teachers use. Wealth of Info here.	Face to Face if possible. However I liked the online.	Jamey Biggs	Overall well thought out seminar David, Mark, Barb, Cat, and Steve were all amazing! Great Job!
16	The collaborative session at the end (defining great teachers) as it brought teachers together in a relaxed, yet productive environment.	Use surveys and the "ice breakers" to help build inroads of communication with students.	I think either would work. I was impressed at how well it did seem to work online; however, North Bend seems the tradition and may also meet some other dynamics I have not considered (not having attended the conference in it's face-to-face venue).	Dr. Lan Wang-Hiles	The conference left me feeling energized and reflective. It went well beyond my expectations. I really thought the atmosphere, while online, was relaxed and conducive to learning and sharing. It was also a thoughtful and important aspect that teachers with diverse backgrounds and across disciplines in the state were able to meet and work together. It was surprising how much we had in common. There are certainly many "great teachers" out there. I would highly recommend this to others.
17	The first day of small group was my favorite session.	I particularly found the session on Apps to be helpful.	I found online to be quite effective.	I believe any colleague newer to the profession would benefit greatly from the seminar.	

18	The individual groups on Tuesday.	The best new idea that I plan to use: Integrate meme usage into my online course to create some fun!	face to face		
19	The small group sessions. More specific details were provided.	Various apps to use in online teaching.	face-to-face		Facilitators timed the sessions well and kept things moving. It was great when they shared their experience.