Post-secondary SIG Meeting/Presentation: Discussing Issues of Equity and Excellence at Post-secondary Institutions

Date: October 21, 2017  
Place: Oakland Schools, MI  
SIG leader: Cynthia Macknish, EMU  
Number in attendance: 22

Institutions represented:  
- Eastern Michigan University  
- University of Detroit Mercy  
- Language Center International  
- Michigan State University  
- Henry Ford College  
- Oakland Community College  
- Michigan Language Center  
- ELS Language Centers  
- Western Michigan University  
- Oakland Community College  
- Michigan Language Center  
- Lake Michigan College

Summary of the 2017 Session:  
Members had asked to repeat the format of previous meetings/presentations, so again, we began with a quick review of selected topics in the current literature relevant to the conference theme - equity and excellence. Following up on feedback from last year, the number of topics was reduced. Small groups discussed a chosen topic/issue in more depth. Groups then shared highlights and suggested ways to stay informed and make voices heard.

Current Issues/Topics 2017:
1. Social class and teacher identity in English classes:
2. Rethinking the concept of English-only classrooms
3. Safe Spaces & Trigger Warnings vs. Academic Freedom, Free Speech & Informed Debate:
4. Enrollment & immigration:

Suggestions for Staying Informed of Issues:
- Read about issues in blogs & publications  
- Discuss issues with colleagues - live or on social media  
- Join organizations & advocate for your students  
- Let SIG leader know of anything you’d like to share with SIG members & she will disseminate

Feedback:
- Feedback on the format was all positive  
- Participants felt the discussion was useful.
Generally, members were satisfied with current levels of communication in this SIG, though one person did ask about a Facebook group, and one asked about setting up a meeting between now and the next MITESOL meeting to discuss more on point 4: *trends in enrollment and immigration and its impact on our post-secondary programs*. One person also suggested inviting topic ideas in advance.

There was some discussion about grouping the discussion tables – i.e. by topic or by institution type. Like last year, no consensus was reached.