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
  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.