

TEACHING THE WORLD HOW TO TEACH THE WORLD

THE UCDS INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL

FLIPPING THE GRADUATE SCHOOL MODEL

HISTORY

UNIVERSITY CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL (WA) is a pre-K-5 school that began in 1910 as a preschool on the University of Washington campus, primarily educating children of college professors. At that time, preschool curricula were not codified, so the school's educators were required to collaborate and develop learning modules that wrapped around each individual student. This collaborative and individualized approach to education continues to be a foundation for our school's pedagogy and innovations.

"It sounded so perfect for where I am right now in my career. I am an experienced and skilled teacher, but I needed some inspiration, and I got it!"
GRADUATE STUDENT COURSE PARTICIPANT

"I signed up for this course because I went to the math course you offered over the summer and learned an incredible amount. As an IB school, I wanted to see what else I could learn about school culture and creating true inquiry within the classroom."
GRADUATE STUDENT COURSE PARTICIPANT

IDEAS

LOOKING OUTWARD: LEARNING FROM OTHER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES AND CULTURES

- ▶ We launched a series of pilot courses for educators from local schools. They were led by our current faculty and lasted eight weeks each. These credit-bearing courses helped us better understand the needs, roadblocks, and perspectives of adult learners from different types of school and cultural settings. Overall, it enriched our teaching and community connections.
- ▶ We established educational partnerships with schools and universities around the world. These partnerships contribute to deep conversations and a greater understanding around community needs, equity, and inclusion.

LOOKING INWARD: EVOLVING OUR CORE

- ▶ We created an internal committee structure that facilitated faculty and staff voice and perspective for this graduate program. Our most important foundational goal was to create a model that folds this program into the existing fabric of our current school community.
- ▶ We started actively developing our faculty into education consultants and public speakers. We are constantly learning how to instruct teachers, and we encourage those professionals to go teach the world.

IMPLEMENTATION

ADVICE

- ▶ Start small. Make "jam in the basement."
- ▶ Be unique. Leverage the unique aspects of your school, avoid trying to replicate what someone else has created.
- ▶ Collect lots of the nuggets from what you see and learn, and merge them with the things that make your school sparkle.

BIGGEST LESSONS LEARNED

- ▶ The "thing" is not the "thing." The iterative process of creating something is "the thing."
- ▶ Innovation is messy. It's OK to knock over the jar of jam—and start a new batch.
- ▶ The process you create around revising your current systems and structures is what evolves and strengthens your culture. That is the innovation.
- ▶ Be creative with how to make time and groupings for the iterative process.

WHAT NOT TO DO

- ▶ Don't buy a program.
- ▶ Don't create a program in a vacuum. Bring in all the voices around you (inside and outside of your school).
- ▶ Avoid getting caught up in "the concrete deliverable."

IMPERATIVE

Educators are leaving the field of teaching in their first five years.

We want teachers to stay in the education field for the long-term. We want teachers to be activators in their school communities, creating and evolving the learning cultures around them.

UCDS is flipping the graduate school model by creating an accredited master's degree program that is blended into our existing elementary school culture. This elevates the professional growth of the current faculty, and provides a deep and immersive learning experience for the graduate students, who are being prepared for a long career in teaching.

Yet, the graduate program is NOT the real innovation here—the process of creating the graduate program is what strengthened and evolved the school community.



RESOURCES

WEBSITE
UCDS.org

FACEBOOK
UCDSSeattle

TWITTER
@UCDS_Seattle

INSTAGRAM
UCDS_Seattle