



# The Teacher Leadership Certificate

*....for teachers who are ready to make a difference beyond their classroom*

## ***WHAT IS THE TEACHER LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE?***

The Teacher Leadership Certificate is designed to improve student learning by increasing the knowledge, skills and dispositions of teachers. Teachers who participate in the program believe that they can implement meaningful change in their school and district by focusing actions on student learning. Offered by Front Range Board of Cooperative Educational Services for Teacher Leadership (FRBOCES), with graduate credit from the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, each of the three courses focuses teachers on extending learning beyond the expertise needed for the classroom.

### **Participants in this program will enhance their ability to:**

- Organize and lead colleagues in the common purpose of improving student learning
- Plan, implement and assess various curricular approaches in response to student differences
- Use student learning data for instructional decision making
- Manage time and complex projects
- Coach and facilitate adults for collaborative work
- Design and lead staff development efforts to improve the learning of all students

*“Teacher leaders are the new pioneers in public education” ~ Mizell, 2004*



## ***PLAN FOR SUCCESS***

*Certificate holders will be prepared to succeed in formal and informal leadership capacities such as school improvement consultants, coaches, team coordinators, mentors, lead teachers, department chairs, curriculum and instruction specialists, staff developers, committee chairs, active group members and other roles that assist colleagues in applying the knowledge and skills needed to improve student learning.*

- **Make a difference**  
Add to the knowledge and skills you need to make meaningful changes to advance student learning.
- **Experience quality**  
Experience a curriculum that is meaningful to you and directly applicable to your work. Assignments are differentiated with self-assessment and goal setting as major components.
- **Advance your career**  
Acquire advantages for career opportunities; the certificate will be included on your permanent transcript.
- **Learn from experts**  
Experience quality professional development in courses led by experienced educational consultants.
- **Credit toward a degree**  
Achieve a certificate that can count towards a master's degree at UCDHSC (pending).

## ***CURRICULUM***

The curriculum consists of nine semester hours organized into eight modules. The first module is two semester hours and the others are one semester hour. They include:

### **Teacher Leadership: Theory to Reality**

- Getting Grounded in Teacher Leadership
- Moving Into Action

### **Teacher Leadership: Essential Knowledge**

- Curriculum and Assessment Designer
- Instructional Specialist
- Data Dialogue Facilitator

### **Teacher Leadership: Vital Skills**

- Staff Developer
- Collaborator and Facilitator
- Reflective Coach

*“Educators understand that they are responsible for student learning. More recently, they have come to understand that they are responsible for their own learning as well. But we usually do not move our eyes across the room--across the table and say, “I am responsible for the learning of my colleagues.”*

**Linda Lambert**

*The Teacher Leadership Certificate, coordinated by FRBOCES, is unique as it was developed collaboratively by Colorado's leading educational organizations that are committed to the need for teacher leadership in the state. The group includes:*

- Front Range Board of Cooperative Educational Services (FRBOCES)
- Colorado Education Association (CEA)
- Colorado Staff Development Council (CSDC)
- Tointon Institute for Educational Change
- University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center

*In addition, The Colorado Consortium for Data Driven Decisions (C2D3) and the Public Education & Business Coalition (PEBC) helped develop modules and are part of the teaching team.*

## WHO ARE YOUR FACILITATORS?

**Janet Alcorn, Ed.D.** is the Director of the Tointon Institute for Educational Change at the University of Northern Colorado. Prior to assuming this position, she was an elementary principal and assistant principal in Jefferson County, CO. and an elementary teacher in California.

**Linda Barker** is the Director of Teaching and Learning for the Colorado Education Association. Prior to this position she served as an elementary and middle school teacher and the Director of Professional Development for the North Dakota Education Association. Linda was selected for "Teacher of the Year" award in Montana and is a National Board Certified Teacher.

**Chris Bryan** is an educational consultant with The Center for Quality Strategic Development, Front Range BOCES and National Staff Development. She also Teaches in the IPTE teacher preparation program at the University of Colorado at Denver. Chris is a former classroom teacher, mentor, program coordinator and building and district level coach and staff developer.

**Heather Clifton** currently consults nationally in many areas related to instructional improvement and student learning. Prior to serving in this role, she worked as a principal in the Jefferson County School District and then as a Staff Development Specialist in the Adams Twelve Five Star Schools.

**Cindy Harrison** is a retired administrator from Adams Twelve Five Star Schools where she served as Director of Staff Development. Cindy is a past president of the National Staff Development Council. Cindy and Joellen Killion recently published Taking the Lead, a book about teacher leadership and coaching.

**Jan Herrera** is a teacher of Spanish for Adams Twelve Five Star Schools and is currently serving as an building and district level coach and staff developer. Jan also consults nationally on instructional strategies for teachers and is the Co-President of the Colorado Staff Development Council.

**Michelle Morris Jones** currently works as a Staff Developer for the Public Education and Business Coalition and as an adjunct professor for the University of Denver where she teaches Adolescent and Content Area Literacy. She was an elementary and middle school teacher where she focused on reading intervention, parent involvement and professional development.

**Tina Kerschen** is a retired curriculum and assessment director, content specialist, staff developer, clinical professor, and teacher. Tina serves as a team leader and trainer for the School Support Team process, program developer/trainer for the Colorado Consortium for Data-Driven Decision making, consultant for Front Range BOCES, and is a consultant in private practice.

**Rob Nickerson** is an Early Mathematics Instruction and Intervention Specialist for Jefferson County schools. He is the Co-President of the Colorado Staff Development Council and has been an elementary teacher, elementary instructional Coach and mathematics content specialist.

**Julie O'Brian** is the Director of Colorado Teaching Learning and Technology (CTLT) at the University of Colorado at Denver. She also directs The Colorado Consortium for Data-Driven Decisions (C2D3) a state-wide initiative focused on information-based educational practice. Before coming to CTLT, Julie was a state coordinator for the Education Commission of the States and a policy advisor to Governor Ray Romer.

**Suzanne Plaut Ed.D.** is the Vice President of Education for the Public Education & Business Coalition. Before coming to PEBC, Suzanne taught high school English at Colorado Academy, served as a Literacy Director at the Harbor School in Boston, and mentored masters' level students in Teacher Education at Harvard Graduate School of Education.

**Donna Sobel, Ph.D.** is an Associate Professor in the Teacher Education program at the University at Colorado at Denver & Health Sciences Center. She serves as a Site Professor in one of the university's professional development schools. Donna is a former teacher and administrator in special education for Boulder Valley School District.

**Susan Sparks** is the Executive Director of the Front Range Board of Cooperative Educational Services. A former art teacher for the St. Vrain Valley School District, she has had leadership roles in four BOCES in Colorado and consults nationally in areas related to facilitation and group dynamics.

**Debbie Welch, Ph.D.** serves as the Coordinator for the Front Range Board of Cooperative Educational Services for the Teacher Leadership Certificate. A former Language Arts teacher, she consults for international schools and was most recently the Deputy Head for Learning for International School Bangkok.

## FRBOCES TEACHER LEADERSHIP COHORT GROUP II DENVER METRO REGION

### Teacher Leadership: Theory to Reality

#### **Getting Grounded in Teacher Leadership** (two semester hours)

(Alcorn, Barker, Plaut, Sparks, Welch)

Dates TBD

#### **Moving Into Action** (one semester hour)

(Alcorn, Barker, Plaut, Sparks, Welch)

February 7 (8:30-3:30pm), 10 & 14 (8:30-3:30), 2009

### Teacher Leadership: Essential Knowledge

#### **Curriculum and Assessment** (one semester hour)

(Kerschen)

Dates TBD

#### **Instructional Specialist** (one semester hour)

(Bryan, Sobel)

Dates TBD

#### **Data Dialogue Facilitator** (one semester hour)

(O'Brian)

Dates TBD

### Teacher Leadership: Vital Skills

#### **Reflective Coach** (one semester hour)

(Harrison, Clifton, Bryan )

November 8 & 15 2008; 8:30-3:30

#### **Collaborator and Facilitator** (one semester hour)

(Sparks, Clifton)

November 15 & December 13 (8:30-3:30), 2008

#### **Staff Developer** (one semester hour)

(Herrera, Nickerson)

January 10, 2009; 8:30-3:30

January 13 & 20, 2009; 4:30-8:30

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The Teacher Leadership Certificate is designed to be completed in ten months. Most modules are offered on Saturdays. Certificates are applicable toward an MA in Curriculum and Pedagogy (pending approval).

More detail and a schedule of offerings are available on the FRBOCES website: [www.frontrangeboces.org](http://www.frontrangeboces.org)

Cohorts are forming in the Denver metro area and are available in other parts of the state. Districts may also request online modules.

Participants who do not desire the credit are able to take individual modules for the payment of the Registration Fee.

**In District Cohort**—The FRBOCES can customize the Teacher Leadership program to provide full courses or individual modules for a cohort within your district. Please call us for details.

### Registration:

\$175 for one semester hour - FRBOCES members

\$200 for one semester hour - non FRBOCES members

(includes meals, materials, instructor, etc)

Register online at [www.frontrangeboces.org](http://www.frontrangeboces.org)

**Tuition:** \$60 for one semester hour (transcripted credit)



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