



Dear PDI Participant,

Whether you have attended a single St. Louis Graduates 2011-2012 Professional Development Institute session, or the complete series we hope that you have found some of the information valuable to your professional practice.

On May 10, we will focus our session on “moving theory into practice.” We will consider our greatest current professional challenges and we will ask ourselves the question, “**Which immediate steps can I implement this summer or in the upcoming school year to support the student transition to post-secondary education?**” We will discuss the answer in terms of actual student issues we are facing in our professional roles. We will then use the form on page two to design a realistic personal action plan to be implemented.

At the May 10 session, we will have “experts” with us as we plan, and we will work in Learning Circles with colleagues interested in a similar theme.

It is our hope that you will bring your “greatest challenge” and gain strategies, ideas and support from our “experts” and our peers that will help you to make an even greater difference in the life of the students you serve.

Preparing for the session is easy:

- On March 1, bring the completed form from the last page (that is, page 3) to the session. (If you are unable to attend, please send via e-mail by March 12 to [pdi@stlouisgraduates.org](mailto:pdi@stlouisgraduates.org).)
- On April 12, choose your “Learning Circle” according to the topics selected and learn who our guest “experts” will be on May 10.
- On May 10, be ready to hear short presentations from our “experts” on topics related to each Learning Circle theme. Then, work with your Learning Circle as you develop your individualized Action Plan, a sample of which may be found on the back of this note (See page 2. **Note: DO NOT complete this Action Plan now. It will be a part of our May 10 PDI activities. Please rest-assured that the actual form will be larger, to allow space to write!**)

PDI Facilitators,  
Kris Lewis



Paul Mack

<b>St. Louis Graduates PDI Action Planning Template (Use brief phrases, on attached paper you may include more detailed notes.)</b>			
<b>The Challenge-</b> Describe the problem, concern, issue, or thing that you hope to change or improve.			
<b>The Goal-</b> Describe the desired end-state.			
<b>New Idea to Try-</b> Think about something you have learned and not yet implemented that you want to try.			
<b>Easiest Steps to Take-</b> List the simplest steps you can take to get started.			
<b>New Resources Identified-</b> What can you learn from the “expert” or from your Learning Circle colleagues? From other information sources you are aware of?			
<b>Additional Resources to Seek-</b> What can you learn through research? Who else do you want to talk to?			
<b>Strategy/Step/Action (WHAT &amp; HOW)</b>	<b>Target Date (WHEN)</b>	<b>Person Responsible (WHO)</b>	<b>Expected Impact (WHY)</b>



Potential Learning Circles	High Level of Interest for Action Plan	Some Interest for Action Plan	No Interest for Action Plan
<b>Improving Practice: Application Process</b> Actions to Engage Students in Submitting Applications Reflecting Their Assets			
<b>Improving Practice: Financial Match</b> Actions to Increase Student Financial Literacy or Access to Funding			
<b>Improving Practice: Family Engagement Strategies</b> Actions to Help Families Actively Support the Transition to College			
<b>Improving Practice: Student &amp; Family Engagement Strategies</b> Actions to Increase Cross-Cultural Awareness in Counseling			
<b>Improving Practice: Transitioning to Two-Year Institutions</b> Actions to Help Students Understand and Access Needed Resources			
<b>Improving Practice: Transitioning to Four-Year Institutions</b> Actions to Help First Generation Students Make a Successful Transition			
<b>Improving Practice: Building Social and Emotional Skills</b> Actions to Support Students Experiencing Serious Challenges			
<b>Improving Practice: Building Academic, Social and Emotional Skills</b> Actions to Support Students with Special Education Needs (IEP)			
<b>Other Topic You Are Considering, Not Listed Above:</b>			