

Intercultural Development Inventory Assessment & Workshops

Professional development training for TESL NS members

TESL NS is excited to offer a unique professional development opportunity for TESL NS members to become more engaged in the field of intercultural communication and to enhance their instructional competencies. A certified Intercultural Development Inventory trainer will be working with groups of teachers and ESL administrators to help strengthen their understanding of how they are currently engaging in intercultural practices in their institutions. The group debrief sessions after the on-line assessment will be tailored to the needs of our members. Having a better understanding of our own intercultural competence will greatly improve our planning and ways that we, as instructors and TESL professionals, can help students navigate communication challenges in and out of the classroom.

Cultural communication dynamics in the classroom and at work are complex. Have you ever stopped and wondered, after something unsettling occurred in the classroom or lunchroom, whether there was a personality conflict or perhaps something 'cultural' had occurred? If, as a team of instructors and administrators, we share knowledge and a shared vocabulary about what could be happening when misunderstandings arise, then we can better cope with communication challenges while helping learners strengthen their own intercultural competencies. This knowledge and understanding is widely recognized as a need in classrooms as well as for future recruitment and retention in the workplace. In addition, it enhances understanding between colleagues, particularly when it comes to misunderstandings and/or conflict.

Each workshop has three components:

(1) To begin, each participant completes the IDI assessment online which takes about 40 minutes and which TESL NS will pay for. This highly reliable and valid assessment is user friendly; it must be completed on a computer before the course.

(2) Following the online assessment, the IDI trainer will provide a group debriefing session based on the results of the assessment. The session will also provide an overview of the intercultural developmental continuum and connects the group profile with the shared goals of the group. *Please note that individual debriefing sessions are not included in the TESL NS workshop and TESL NS is not paying for individual debriefings.*

(3) After the debriefing session, the workshop will work on follow-up activities and practical classroom strategies to begin building intercultural communication competencies based on the groups' needs.

Benefits for TESL Nova Scotia Members:

- An overall understanding of the intercultural sensitivity continuum and an ability to begin to recognize where each participant is and where students may be on that continuum

- A more in-depth self awareness of your own intercultural knowledge, skills, values and attitudes which impact your interaction in the classroom and in the workplace
- Some strategies and suggestions for activities to 'meet students where they are' so you can begin to better incorporate the teaching of cultural elements into your communication classes
- Concrete professional development that you can add to your portfolio and an interest sparked that will motivate you to learn more, read more and offer more in your classrooms and institutions

Details and registration:

- Workshops will be offered three times during the winter-spring of 2010.
 - Saturday March 6 at SMU TESL Centre, 9:00 – 4:00; light lunch included
 - Saturday April 17 at Acadia 9:00 – 4:00, light lunch included
 - Saturday June 5 at CLLC, Halifax, 9:00 – 4:00, light lunch included
- IDI assessment must be completed by participants during the week before the workshop they sign up for. Details will be emailed to those who sign up.
- Participants need to be willing to complete the computer IDI assessment and to attend the full Saturday session in order to benefit from the training and receive a TESL NS Certificate at the end.
- Each TESL NS member can pre-register for only one of these workshops
- If you register for one session but don't attend, or register and complete the computer assessment but don't attend the Saturday workshop, you can't register for another session unless space opens up.
- You can register for any one of the workshops well beforehand; in fact, this is a good idea in order to secure your place.
- Workshops are limited to 15 participants, first registered first accepted
- The IDI assessment and Saturday group workshops are paid for by TESL NS and are restricted to TESL NS members only. Participants must be members at the time of registering for the workshop, and registration for a workshop will close when it is full.
- Check the TESL NS website to see if a workshop is full. Refresh your browser page to get the most up-to-date information on the website: www.teslins.ca

To register or ask a question, please email Ellen at ellen.pilon@gmail.com

