Maryland Online Professional Development

Purpose of Mentor Forums
- To create a collaborative community of practice for mentors
- To provide a venue for developing mentor skills and understanding of adult learning

Mentors participate in a professional learning community that supports their practice and their use of mentoring tools, protocols, and formative assessment. Mentor Forums provide a supportive environment where mentors share issues and dilemmas of practice and get tailored support. They can apply new skills and processes to their own, real-life mentoring context and then reflect upon those experiences with others engaged in the same role.

The Mentor Forums comprise follow-up to the summer professional development, as well as other activities including problem posing/problem solving, video analysis of new teacher practice, examination of formative assessment tools, and practice using coaching language and giving feedback.

Year 1 Mentors - Online Mentor Forum – Fall 2012

Coaching and Observation
In this 90-minute online mentor forum, the processes and tools necessary for collecting in-class teaching and learning data through the lens of professional teaching standards; processes for collaboratively analyzing and using instructional data to improve new teacher instructional practice will be the focus. Through a variety of small group activities and whole group discussions mentors will have additional opportunities to observe teacher practice, collect data, and determine how to provide feedback.

Dates: TBD - between Nov 27 –Dec 7
Times offered: 2 [3 dependent on group size]

Year 2+ Mentors - Online Mentor Forum – Fall 2012

Coaching in Complex Situations
In this 90-minute online mentor forum, mentors will select an individual case study focused on a recent complex coaching situation – a situation that posed a particular professional challenge. The challenge may range from stretching yourself pedagogically to know how to support a new teacher’s instruction, or learning how to accurate assess a new teacher’s professional needs and support him/her in ways that accelerate professional growth, or some other complexity. Through a variety of small group activities and whole group discussions
mentors will practice skills to sharpen awareness and use of various mentoring options and stances.

Dates: TBD - between Nov 27 –Dec 7  
Times offered: 2 [3 dependent on group size]

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### Induction Coordinators - Online Forum – Fall 2012

*Topic - TBD*

Dates: TBD - between Nov 27 –Dec 7  
Times offered: 1

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### Logistics

Prior to each webinar/online learning event, the New Teacher Center’s Online Professional Development team will coordinate with each coordinator how their mentors will participate. The options include:

- Individually participating on his/her own computer.
- A school site hosting a group of mentors with a basic room set up includes a computer with projector, speakers, and a conference phone or duet microphone/speaker or the equivalent.

All participants *logging in as individuals* are required to participate in a Blackboard Collaborate Orientation session prior to each actual webinar. The Orientation lasts approximately 45 minutes.

Dates: TBD – between Nov 7 – Nov 15  
Times offered: 2

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### Information Needed from Coordinators

- Date and Times for Year 1 forum
- Date and Times for Year 2 forum
- Date and time for Coordinator forum
- Date and times for Orientation