What We Need

Teachers know lifelong learning. We understand the value of continuing our own learning to meet the needs of our students. Sometimes professional development is provided but it’s someone else’s idea of what we should learn. It might happen after school when we’re exhausted.

We find our own resources when we can. Some of us do a lot of work to prepare our lessons, analyze our students’ performance, design effective activities, facilitate good discussions, etc. It’d be great if there was a way to link our effort to opportunities for credit and recognition.

Wouldn’t it be great to be able to have clever, fun, experienced colleagues and access to experts in the field when we’re trying to improve our instruction and prepare for our classes? There are some great workshops, but they are few and far between, and when they’re over, they’re gone. What would it look like to work with people who know the realities of the classroom and bring insights about math, technology, and innovative instruction?

A New Imagination of Professional Community

Imagine a professional environment in which teachers are working together with students and other teachers on days and times of their own choosing, around powerful ideas and best practices. Imagine a context in which one earns credit for the learning work one does. Imagine communities of practice in which it’s easy to move from gathering resources for our own classes to collaborating with other teachers to doing research and even earning an advanced degree.

This is the world of the Math Forum and Drexel University’s School of Education. Here you can find value and be valued.