Part-Time Data Collector

Context

The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) at the University of Delaware (UD) currently has an outstanding opportunity for a Part-Time Data Collector. This is a one to two day per week position on site and at our partner schools.

The part-time data collector will contribute to the successful data collection of a research grant from the James S. McDonnell Foundation—Understanding How Elementary Teachers Take Up Discussion Practices to Promote Disciplinary Learning and Equity. The data collector will help collect, upload, and organize data for all research activities. This is a grant-funded position with an hourly contract through the major data collection window of the school year: April 30, 2024.

The study focuses on the work of elementary teachers, who learn to orchestrate talk both within and across mathematics, science, and literacy. While research has identified discipline-specific discussion moves in each of these content areas, little is understood about how elementary teachers make sense of, coordinate, or experience contradictions in their development of discussion practices across content areas. Further, little is understood about how elementary teachers attend to inequities for children in the context of disciplinary discussions. Understanding how teachers learn to enact classroom discussions – across disciplines – that attend to deep disciplinary ways of knowing and to the power dynamics that exist in discussions is essential for developing robust theories about teachers’ learning and development and designing supportive learning environments.

We are entering the third year of school-based data collection activities, during which we enact and study teacher learning as a multi-sited phenomenon distributed across activity systems: job-embedded Learning Labs (developed by Elham Kazemi), teacher workgroup meetings, and classrooms of participating teachers. We co-design Learning Labs with local school- and district-level educators to focus on core instructional practices related to facilitating discussions across English language arts, mathematics, and science.

The research team includes: Dr. Lynsey Gibbons (University of Delaware), Dr. Eve Manz (Boston University), Dr. Annie Wilhelm (Washington State University), and Dr. Sarah Kavanagh (University of Pennsylvania).

Major Responsibilities

The position is based onsite at UD and at our local partner schools. The data collector’s duties will include frequent school-based data collection activities.

Specifically, the data collector will be responsible for:

**Data Collection and Management**

- Conduct data collection efforts on agreed upon days (1-2 per week) as outlined by the Project Manager
- Participate in onsite data collection (e.g., observations, teacher debriefs, and professional learning days).
• Follow guidelines for data management, and ensure all data collection and management protocols are followed.
• Manage secure technology platforms for data transcription, import/export, and storage.
• Set-up, operate, and maintain audio and video recording equipment before, during, and after data collection activities.

The wages for this position are supported by a research grant from the McDonnell Foundation. Specific hours and days will be identified in collaboration with the Project Manager

Qualifications

● A Bachelor’s Degree in Education or a related field
● Knowledge of and experience working with schools and school districts
● Ability to take fast-paced notes on a computer
● Familiarity with Microsoft Office and online server access and management
● Strong oral and written communication skills
● Ability to complete fingerprinting and background checks prior to employment (UD will provide directions and reimbursement)

Other preferred attributes to be considered during the application process include:
● Teaching experience
● Attention to detail
● Experience managing data collection and analysis

Application Instructions

Please submit the following:
● A one-page cover letter that briefly summarizes qualifications and experience, interest in the project, and career / research goals
● Resume (CV)
● Name and contact information for three references

This position pays at a rate of $25/hour. Send additional queries about the position to Dr. Steve Smith at smithsa@udel.edu.

Review of candidates will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. The desired position start date is September 2023.