25 Suggestions for Leading Professional Development on Formative Assessment

Other than giving a workshop on formative assessment, consider:

1. Conducting CTS Action Research (using CTS and formative assessment probes and techniques) and share results with colleagues.
2. Writing teacher cases that highlight students’ preconceptions.
3. Planning for reciprocal observations with a teaching partner.
4. Videotaping a lesson that demonstrates use of formative assessment and discuss video with colleagues.
5. Facilitating Collaborative Inquiry into Examining Student Thinking (CIEST).
6. Writing an article for an NSTA journal that features use of formative assessment.
8. Collecting articles on formative assessment to read and discuss with colleagues.
10. Giving a presentation at a local, state, or NSTA conference.
11. Leading a project that focuses on formative assessment (mini-grants, etc.).
12. Collecting data on commonly held ideas students have in your school and engage in data driven discussions.
13. Keeping a reflective log or journal on formative assessment.
14. Working with colleagues to use the CTS Probe Development process and develop a bank of probes for your district.
15. Participating in lesson study that uses formative assessment.
17. Mentoring a new teacher in using formative assessment.
18. Developing crosswalks between the probes and your district’s curriculum materials.
19. Linking formative assessments to summative assessments.
20. Developing differentiated instructional strategies with a colleague based on students’ thinking.
21. Starting a network of FACTs users to hone strategies and develop or share new ones.
22. Working collaboratively with colleagues to develop multimedia probes.
23. Using PLC’s to study the research on students’ thinking and suggest strategies for your own context.
24. Making grade level modifications to probes to share with other teachers (e.g. – go visual with younger students).
25. Applying for the Presidential Award or going for National Board Certification- both require a video and commentary on a lesson that uses formative assessment.

Other Suggestions?