UW System Teacher Quality Initiative

Student Teaching Assessment of Content Knowledge—STACK

*Funded through US Department of Education FIPSE grant and UWSA PK–16 Grant*
Today’s Goal:

Showcase a UW System Teacher Quality Initiative that:

- Incorporates the Common Core State Standards and
- Promotes K–12 student learning by improving teacher effectiveness
Common Core State Standards...

...Clarify K–12 Learning Outcomes/Standards...Create a Common Language

...Mandate Alignment of Assessments with Standards
What is driving our work?

A National Call to Action

…the bar must be raised for successful teacher preparation programs because we ask much more of teachers today than even a decade ago.

U.S. Secretary of Education
Arne Duncan, 2009
Challenges from Professional Organizations

Provide evidence that the teachers prepared at member institutions will have a positive effect on their students’ learning.

American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (2010)
What is driving our work?

General criticism of current assessment practices

- Lack of consensus on what to evaluate
- Untrained supervisors
- Evaluations omit connection between teaching and student learning
- Assessments yield information of limited use
What is driving our work?

A shared belief that...

...Wisconsin’s educators must be the leaders of reform.

...Efforts to improve accountability must serve to enhance continuous improvement of educational practices and advance student learning, PK–16.

UWS Teacher Quality Initiative Conference Quality Matters, 2006
Where have these driving forces led us?

To the creation of STACK; a student-teaching assessment system that is:

- Grounded in content standards,
- Collaboratively designed, and
- Has the potential to transform teacher preparation practices, as recognized by the substantial funding from DOE/FIPSE
Pre-Observation Conference

- Student teacher identifies content standard
  
  **Example:** *Solve linear equations and inequalities in one variable, including equations with coefficients represented by letters* (CCSS Algebra Standard)

Observation of Classroom Teaching Event

Post-Observation Conference
Common Core State Standard: ALGEBRA

**Standard:** Solve linear equations and inequalities in one variable, including equations with coefficients represented by letters

**Content Accuracy:** This dimension is concerned with the accuracy of the student-teacher’s *content knowledge*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Does not apply to lesson</th>
<th>Relevant but not observed</th>
<th>Vocabulary and notation consistently used incorrectly throughout the observation.</th>
<th>Some mistakes in the vocabulary and notation used during the observed lesson.</th>
<th>Vocabulary and notation used correctly.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary &amp; Notation</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td></td>
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Circle ONE
Outcome of STACK:
Improve K–12 student learning in *mathematics* and *science* through increased teacher effectiveness.
How does STACK address previous limitations?

Consensus is achieved through the use of Common Core State Standards

Evaluators trained on instruments, resulting in more reliable results

STACK is part of dynamic system—includes multiple forms of assessment, overtime AND PK–12 student learning artifacts

Resulting data can be used to inform program practices
What’s next for STACK?

- Complete pilot phase (Spring 2011)

- Document improvements in teacher preparation programs based on assessment tool use (Spring 2011)

- Revise assessment tool to reflect CCSS (Fall 2011)

- Expand into additional content areas (Fall 2011)

- Strengthen use of K–12 student learning artifacts in STACK system (Fall 2011)
Preferred Future:

We have the opportunity to establish a vibrant vision for educator preparation, one that leverages the best of what has worked in the past, combined with what educators need now and in the future, in order to prepare all students for the future they deserve.

American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and the Partnership for 21st Century Skills
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