

Critical Friends Groups are a nationwide professional development model **established to improve student learning and success by supporting educators reflecting on and improving their practice.** This semester, the Teaching & Creativity Center offered its first CFG where we examined each other's practice in a supportive and non-evaluative environment once a month for a 2 hour block. CFG's are led by a trained facilitator and use structured protocols to look at curriculum, student work, peer observations, and pivotal moments *so that participants can provide each other with usable and wanted feedback.*

For our December meeting, we are inviting you to join us. It will be held in the Brighton TCC (12-201) from 9:30-11:30am on Monday, December 17. This is a great opportunity to try out one meeting and see if you are interested in joining the CFG in the spring. We usually meet once a month on Fridays from 1-3 pm.

If you are interested in attending please contact Gena Merliss: emerliss@monroecc.edu

Reflections from current CFG members:

CFG gives me an opportunity to interact with colleagues outside of my discipline in a relaxed atmosphere. I gain a greater perspective and feel listened to during each session.

Karen Coffey, Visual and Performing Arts

CFG gives an opportunity to really discuss teaching with colleagues in a deep and meaningful way.

Renee Dimino, Transitional Studies

We never get enough time to talk with our colleagues about teaching, and to get the support we need to reach our full potential as teachers. That's what this group is about.

Celia Reaves, Psychology

If you would like to talk to a current CFG participant to hear about the experience:

Karen Coffey, Visual and Performing Arts, kcoffey@monroecc.edu

Renee Dimino, ESOL/Transitional Studies, rdimino@monroecc.edu

Jon Iuzzini, Director of the Teaching and Creativity Center, jiuzzini@monroecc.edu

Celia Reaves, Psychology, creaves@monroecc.edu

Ann Tippet, English/Philosophy, atippet@monroecc.edu

Joanna Tsai, Biology, jtsai@monroecc.edu

More information about the Critical Friends Group model can be found here:

<http://www.nsrffharmony.org/faq.html>