

CTI Pilots Summer Program with Arts & Science Council

A Teacher-Camper's Perspective

"Summer Camp for Big Nerds"



*Beth Brang, CTI Fellow
English Teacher
W. A. Hough High School*

When I started CTI over a year ago, it was because Jeff Joyce, a veteran teacher, had the passion first year teachers have. Now I have the CTI bug and can't get enough of it, and practically drooled over the idea of CTI Summer Camp because I'm such a big nerd now.

The camp took place June 18-22, focusing on *Media, Digital, and Artistic Literacy*. We began each day discussing and analyzing the day before and sharing ideas. Faculty speakers (WCNC-TV's Stuart Watson, Davidson College's Ann Fox, UNC Charlotte's Dan Grano, and Adara Blake, Lyndsay Burch and Jeff Joyce) gave presentations on Investigative Reporting, Something about Art and Staring, How Visual Images Persuade, Communication & Improvisation, and Political Socialization & How Media Influences Us. They challenged and inspired us with new information to use in curriculum units we created.

CTI partnered with the Arts & Science Council's summer camp program, so we were able to engage with hundreds of students from kindergarten to middle school to gain inspiration for our units. Teacher campers were also able to go out to lunch to discuss the day's events. I know what you're thinking, "Teachers aren't allowed to go out to lunch! It's a job requirement to stuff our food in our faces in less than three minutes while standing." Normally, I would agree with you, but it is true and it was AWESOME! Following lunch most days, we worked on our units. The summer session was perfect for busy teachers who want to be challenged and want to make creative units for their students. I feel lucky to say that I was one of the first CTI Summer Session nerds.



Teacher-Campers created new curriculum in CTI summer camp.

CTI Camp: A Teacher-Led Initiative



*Jeff Joyce, CTI Steering Committee
Social Studies Chair
W.A. Hough High School*

CTI has been in our blood for some time now. CTI teachers and partners have been working on making and perfecting the Institute since 2005. CTI's Steering Committee also recognized a need to expand the program to teachers who cannot take seminars during the regular school year. The logical conclusion was to have some kind of summer seminar process. Since I was already working with the Arts & Science Council on a camp project, I suggested piloting a CTI summer seminar for 10 teachers that was a little different from the traditional.

I identified speakers for each day to touch on the camp's general topic (media and digital and artistic literacy) and recruited teachers who wanted to create curriculum units for their students with a related focus. People jumped at the opportunity. I think it speaks volumes about the allure of our Institute. It went really well and we hope it will be the starting point for conversations about other projects we can conduct as a teacher-led professional development program.

**EXPLODING
CANONS**

Save the Date!
**Exploding Canons:
Sustainability**
Tuesday, Oct. 16

CTI website. New Look. Same Location.

www.charlotteteachers.org

CTI is currently redesigning our website. Now viewers can share feedback on CTI curriculum units and more. Take a look and engage in conversation!

Kudos to CTI's Yale National Fellows

Six CTI Fellows are National Fellows in the Yale National Initiative's Summer Intensive Session July 8-20 at Yale University: Tiffany DiMatteo (Myers Park High), Nicole Fraser (Davidson Elementary), Matthew Kelly (Independence High), Beth Lasure (Mallard Creek High), Jashonai Payne (Clear Creek Elementary) and Deb Semmler (East Mecklenburg High). National University Advisory Council Member Ann Fox (Davidson College), CTI Seminar Leader Heather Smith (UNC Charlotte), and CTI Director Scott Gartlan attended July 8-13. Read about their experiences in the August *CTI Insights*.