

## Upcoming PDs

March 12, 2016 @

Breakthrough FamilyPlex from

8:30am-11:30am

Professional Development:

- Stefanie Frank - Mindfulness & Social Emotional Development
- Kyle Leonard – Technology in the Classroom
- Brooke Thompson – Sing, Play, Motivate

May 23, 2016 @ TBD

Professional Development:

- Choose your own – facilitate and participate in mentor/mentee created PD
- More information to come – Check your email for PD Application sent on 2/23/16

# CHICAGO TEACHER

EDUCATION PIPELINE

★ ★ ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY ★ ★

## INDUCTION & MENTORING SPRING NEWSLETTER



December 5, 2015 Professional Development @  
CTEP: Strategies for Effective Coaching & Analysis of  
Student Work

## A letter from our Senior Program Manager, Maria Owens

Dear Teachers,

Here we are approaching a spring of yet another year. For some of you it has been an initial year, filled with excitement, newness and adventure. For others it has held some comfort of routine, but as always, included surprises, challenges and growth.

The profession you chose is not an easy one. Others may think otherwise, but we know they are wrong. It takes hard work and countless hours to do what you do each day. It is your responsibility to always see another way and believe that things can be better. That alone is exhausting.

You will make mistakes and you may feel disenchanted by the journey, but just know you have all the tools you need inside of you to make a difference in the lives of the students you face each day. *YOU ARE ENOUGH.*

So, be thoughtful, hopeful, methodical and reflective. Know that you are your students' best hope and what you do and say has ripples.

Thank you for the important work you do. You are inspiring to me. Know that I am your loudest and most enthusiastic cheerleader.

Maria



Christina Edwards –  
Mentee 2015

“She gives me advice and now she’s my mentor. She gives me so much insight on the classroom. To me she’s like a pro, but she’s so humble.... She’s taught me so much. I’m grateful for that. The knowledge. You can never get enough of that.”  
-C.E.

# A glimpse into the Mentee-Mentor Relationship

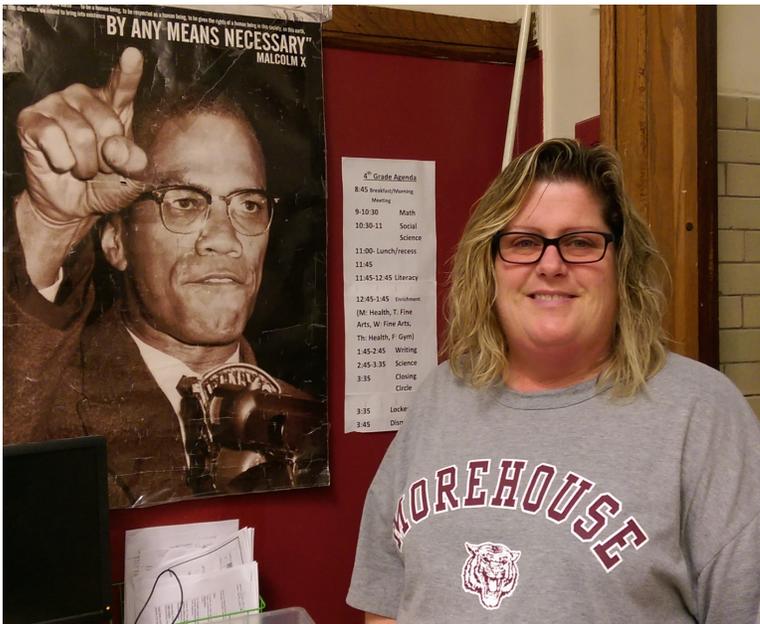
- Joanna M. Ocegueda

## Strong Bonds Last the Test of Time

I had the pleasure of meeting with Christina Edwards at her new school, Laura Ward Elementary. When I entered her room I noticed the lavender walls, grouped desks, and student work hanging from the walls. We jumped into the conversation right away. Christina is a product of Chicago Public Schools. After graduating from Clara Barton, she attended Curie High School.

Christina's mentor, Maureen Belanski, was her 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Maureen and Christina kept in touch for many years after Christina graduated from Barton Elementary School. Christina reminisced on her relationship with Mrs. Belanski back then, “She was really hard on me..I automatically

thought that I was like the smartest student. I would get a lot of praise, and you know, she still would challenge me. She really showed me that you have to challenge yourself, and even if you’re smart.” Now, as her mentor in the CTEP program, Maureen and Christina text every other day and talk 2-3 times a week. Some of Christina's final remarks on her mentor, Maureen Belanski, “She challenges me to be better. Like even now, like how she did when I was little. She does that now. She says, “Don’t overwhelm yourself, have realistic goals.”” Before I left Christina that day I asked what advice she would give herself on her first day of teaching. Her advice would be “Be consistent...lay the hammer the first day. Still be nice. Still be yourself.”



Maureen Belanski – Mentor 2015

## “By any means necessary” – Malcolm X

Soon after meeting with ChrisTina, I met with Maureen Belanski, her mentor. Maureen has been through the program before and had great success.

Maureen started teaching in her community and eventually her journey brought her to CPS, where she has taught for 21 years. She talked about how her background helped her decide to become a teacher, “Always in our family...service oriented. As adults, we look back on it and see that (always as a family) we were generous, doing things to help other people.”

Maureen’s relationship with ChrisTina has a history of support and empathy. She is available and eager to give her mentee

“Whatever she needs...classroom management, plans...whatever she needs... Anything she needs, anytime.”

- M. B.

knowledge and tips on teaching and how to get resources to help her classroom.

I asked Maureen what she has learned about herself as a mentor and she said, “I’m very reflective. Even more so than I thought I was.”

Before I left Maureen I asked her the secret to staying in CPS for so long. She said, “I like my kids, I hate my kids, I like my kids...I keep coming back. I don’t quit. I have relationships with my colleagues. We’re friends...there is a feeling here of genuine (people) and caring...” I also asked her what she thinks has worked and she said, “Starting new every day. Forgiving. And not giving up that whole, “By any means necessary” (mentality) because once you don’t keep your word, that’s even more damaging and that’s when they lose trust.”