

## Purpose

The Maryland UDL Implementation Network is an informal collection of educators from across the state who are actively engaged in promoting and enhancing implementation of the principles of Universal Design for Learning in their schools and districts. Participants include classroom teachers (general and special education), building-level administrators, district office leaders and resource staff, representatives of institutions of higher education, MSDE leadership, and technical assistance providers. Members come from all across the state and include professionals from large and small districts and those with well-established UDL initiatives and those who are just starting out.

The goal of the Network is to facilitate the sharing of ideas, experiences, and resources among participants. Each participant brings their own experiences as a change agent in their context to the group, sharing what they have learned and seeking the experience and wisdom of other members. Each person is both a contributor and a recipient of strategies and tools they can use in their settings. Members also provide each other with support and encouragement as they move through the stages of implementation.

## Activities

- Held an initial meeting in the fall of 2013 in which over 40 educators from around the state participated in a variety of whole group discussions, team activities, job-alike break out groups with colleagues from other systems, and informal networking conversations. Activities focused on the stages of implementation, common experiences, strategies for moving from one stage to the next, and needs assessment.
- Created a group site on UDL Connect to facilitate the sharing of resources and materials.
- Held a session focused on embedding UDL in the curriculum in the spring of 2014. Network members were encouraged to bring a colleague from their district who helps develop curriculum. Attendees heard from and engaged in rich discussion with leaders from a school district in Indiana where UDL serves as a guiding principal for all decisions. Leaders from across Maryland also shared their experiences in a panel discussion and participants had the opportunity to share experiences and resources.
- Extended to Network members the opportunity to participate in several UDL-focused events at Towson University, including a presentation by David Rose from CAST and a summer institute.
- Gathered resources from participants and shared them on the UDL Connect site.

# Plans

- Continue to expand the resources on the UDL Connect site.
- Hold additional gatherings for members to connect and share.
- Develop resources that highlight the alignments and connections between UDL and other school and district initiatives to help members communicate the importance of UDL as a framework for decision-making and planning across contexts.
- **Expand the network to include more UDL implementers from across the state!**

## JOIN US!

Go to <http://community.udlcenter.org/group/udl-in-md?>

Click “Sign Up” to create a user name and password or “Sign in” if you are already a member of the UDL Connect site.

Watch for invitations to future events.

Invites your friends and colleagues to join!