

August 2017

Hello everyone!

I trust that you had a summer break that held moments of rest and rejuvenation!

I wanted to extend a warm welcome to the *2017-2018 Thinking Symposium*. Our time together will be here before we even think it is possible! It is absolutely amazing to me how quickly the future becomes the present and then the past!

The EOSDN team has recently met with me to outline the focus of these two days. We are taking into consideration the thoughtful feedback we received from your colleagues last year, so we can engage in learning that will be rigorous and relevant!

One participant shared with me last year as she left the second day's session, "The thinking part of the Symposium is just beginning for me!" This comment reveals the powerful opportunity that we have to come together to consider, reflect upon, and apply the strategies, concepts, and conversations that we will engage in. And as I contemplate my experiences from last year, this is the essence of the *Thinking Symposium*. We spend time together in provocation and process, only to leave to engage in refinement and revision, given our discipline(s), the age of our students, and our context.

It is in this spirit that I have prepared a brief pre-reading to activate the learning. Please take just a few minutes to read it and, as you do, identify ONE connection that you can make between what you have read and your own teaching practice. The reading will support the focus for our first session - *Beginning with the End in Sight: Defining Quality and Proficiency through Samples and Success Criteria*.

I look forward to meeting you in a few short weeks so that we can learn alongside one another!

Sandra Herbst

sandra@connect2learning.com