

OEL VPL Advanced COP Training

The University of Florida Certified Communities of Practice Facilitator program offers an in-depth experience that provides early learning professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively facilitate communities of practice as a strategy for job-embedded professional development. Although communities of practice derive from the simple idea that educators who share similar passions and concerns can come together regularly to improve professional practice, that doesn't mean they are easy to facilitate.

The UF Communities of Practice program develops skilled facilitators who promote the values of reflective practice, collaboration, shared leadership, effective pedagogy, democracy, and equity in opportunity and achievement. The Communities of Practice facilitator assists groups of educators as they identify, clarify and publicly state student-learning goals. A critical aspect of this work includes helping group members create a safe space to think about and design better teaching practices, look closely at educator and student work, and identify school-wide issues that affect child outcomes.

The UF Communities of Practice Facilitator program provides:

- Skilled facilitators with the tools to effectively implement and sustain communities of practice as a job-embedded professional development strategy.
- UF professional development specialists, who design and facilitate training sessions and provide ongoing, blended and customized follow-up support.
- Practical application of adult learning principles within a collaborative structure that supports and enhances the work of educators and improves teaching and student learning.
- A comprehensive set of online resources and collaborative tools and processes.
- A common set of collaborative practices that enhance communication and promote substantive collaboration.