

# blueprint for innovation

Twenty-eight teachers, primarily from San Jose's east side school districts, attended the FAME 2015 Summer Institute. Now in its sixth year, the KCI's Faculty Academy for Mathematics Excellence (FAME) Program provides math teachers (grades 6–10) with new strategies and technology tools to help them implement Common Core State Standards in their classrooms.



This is the second year that the KCI has partnered with the East Side Alliance, which represents East Side Union High School and its feeder districts, to recruit cohorts of teachers for FAME. This year's FAME cohort included teachers from the Alum Rock, Berryessa, Franklin-McKinley, Evergreen, Oak Grove and East Side Union high school districts. A key focus of the East Side Alliance is to close the achievement gap and ensure that all students are college- and career-ready. FAME gives teachers the unique opportunity to collaborate and break down barriers between middle and high school math curricula, supported by a top notch team of math instructors, pictured above.

Built on the new Common Core State Standards, FAME's activity-based curriculum helps deepen teachers' math content knowledge as they learn effective strategies that

## FAME 2015 Supports Common Core State Standards

make math education more engaging and relevant for students. A key activity is for participants to take on a design challenge that is rich in exercising math skills.

In this year's design challenge, Ramp It Up, FAME participants designed an Americans With Disabilities (ADA)-compliant building site that included five buildings. The site and each building was required to be wheelchair accessible. Participants were given a set of site parameters, as well as project requirements, which included a blueprint featuring accessible ramps, an elevation drawing, and mathematical proof that the ramps met ADA requirements. Throughout the design challenge, teachers

became students while developing a better understanding of how students feel when presented with a similar problem to solve. They also had the opportunity to learn how a math-based design challenge can be implemented in their classrooms.

FAME participants complete the two-week summer institute with a high level of satisfaction. One teacher wrote, "FAME is awesome! I wish I'd have had this training before starting teaching. It has made me feel much more secure teaching math, and it got me more excited about math. I appreciated the multiple modes of representation, expression and engagement. I now know that everyone should be teaching math like this."

# KCI Welcomes New Professional Learning Network Director

Self-described ed-tech guerrilla Kyle Brumbaugh, has been chosen as the director of the new KCI Professional Learning Network. With more than 25 years of experience as a K-12 teacher and administrator, he has deep expertise in technical infrastructure and educational technology.

Under Brumbaugh's leadership, the KCI will grow its new Professional Learning Network, an initiative to greatly expand its statewide role in helping K-12 educators and administrators provide superior learning environments for students. The network will offer ongoing skill enhancement in educational technology and STEM education to California educators. By leveraging at least 15 community colleges and other educational agencies as affiliate partners, the network is expected to have the capability to train 35,000 educators annually with the potential to impact 1.5 million K-12 students by the fifth year of operation.

Throughout his career, Brumbaugh has been an ed-tech innovator. He created the first-of-its-kind technology arts department, which served more than 300 Capuchino High School students daily. He also developed the first course in global communications, which has been used as an instructional model at other schools and districts. In 2004, he developed the Digital Bridge Program, which provided home Internet access to all 9th grade students who received free and

reduced lunch at Capuchino. In 2006, he became one of Google's first certified teachers. A CUE lead learner, he has provided professional development programs coast to coast and is a popular speaker at a variety of ed-tech conferences, including ISTE, CUE, MacWorld, Lead3, CLHS and others.

Previously, he served as educational technology director at Presentation High School in San Jose, director of technology and district technology coordinator at San Mateo Union High School District in San Mateo, administrative vice principal at Woodside High School in Woodside, and teacher at Capuchino High School in San Bruno. He holds a bachelor's degree in history and teaching credential from San Francisco State University, master's degree from Saint Mary's College and technical certifications from Cisco and CompTIA.

We invite you to visit the KCI and introduce yourself to Kyle ([brumbaughk@fhda.edu](mailto:brumbaughk@fhda.edu)). The KCI team is excited to have him join us as we move forward with the Professional Learning Network.



## Microsoft/KCI Innovation Award Celebrates 15 Years

Mark your calendars now for the KCI's 15-year anniversary celebration. Scheduled for early March 2016 at the Microsoft corporate conference center in Mountain View, the celebration will coincide with the presentation of the Microsoft/KCI Innovation Award. Over the last decade, the KCI has celebrated innovative educators who through their work and ed-tech projects are changing the face of education in their schools and districts. The KCI is fortunate that Microsoft will again sponsor this professional award. Previous corporate sponsors of the award include Intel and Rambus.

Educators from across the Bay Area are invited to submit innovative teacher-student collaborative projects that fully integrated technology. Awards, which include cash prizes, are based on the number of students and educators that a project serves, the project's potential significance to Silicon Valley, and the project's creativity and ease of use. Applications for the Innovation Award will be available in December. For more information about the Microsoft/KCI Innovation Award event, e-mail Gay Krause at [krausegay@fhda.edu](mailto:krausegay@fhda.edu).



# KCI Doubles Teachers' Satisfaction with Technology Integration

In 2012, the KCI launched an effort to provide tailored professional learning classes and programs to districts and schools as part of a services initiative. As of Summer 2015, the KCI has doubled the number of intensive five-day programs that we conduct for K-12 schools and districts.

The KCI worked with five districts to provide Mini MERIT programs during Summer 2014. This summer, we conducted 11 Mini MERITs or other five-day intensive programs, which have benefitted 223 teachers from 11 different districts or schools. For all of the KCI's services engagements, we have reached nearly 400 K-12 teachers.

Like the MERIT program, the Mini MERIT curriculum focuses on developing teachers' confidence and skills to teach collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving and creativity. The intensive curriculum is supported by tech tools and apps that increase teacher and student productivity and student engagement. Both programs fully support Common Core and feature



instructors who are experienced, technology-using classroom teachers. Funded by a school or district, each Mini MERIT is tailored to meet a district's particular needs and goals for its teachers.

The KCI routinely surveys program participants to continually improve its program offerings. When asked if the program increased teachers' confidence to use technology in the classroom, 86 percent of Mini MERIT participants agreed. When asked if the program helped them learn how to teach with technology, 88 percent responded affirmatively. Teachers were also asked about their satisfaction level and if Mini MERIT prepared them to integrate a variety of educational technologies into their learning environment to enhance student engagement.

An impressive 91 percent responded that they were satisfied or very satisfied.

"I really enjoyed the opportunity to learn about so many wonderful tools to use in the classroom," says one Mini MERIT participant. "I appreciated the time to work on a project that I can take to my classroom. I'm excited and think my students will be, too."

In addition to Mini MERITs, school districts are increasingly hiring the KCI to provide training that supports strategic professional development needs. With the economy rebounding from the recession, funding is more readily available to for districts to afford Common Core training. To learn more about KCI tailored programs, e-mail Liane Freeman at [freemanliane@fhda.edu](mailto:freemanliane@fhda.edu).



# MERIT 2015 Rocks the Dome

The MERIT 2015 cohort kicked off with an exuberant start July 6 with a session that introduced its 49 participants to social-emotional learning exercises. Developed by KCI Program Director Roni Habib, the exercises illustrated the value of creating learning environments that reinforce mindfulness and emotional intelligence for students. The provocative exercises were followed by a design-thinking presentation that was co-facilitated by MERIT alumna Corinne Takara, who has completed expert-level design-thinking training at the Stanford d.school. A wildly popular concept, design-thinking techniques are used by visionary Silicon Valley companies for optimum product conceptualization and development. MERIT participants learned first-hand how design thinking establishes empathy—a key trait of emotional intelligence.



The Making Education Relevant & Interactive through Technology (MERIT) Program helps K–12 teachers transform their practice by integrating technology into their course content so that students are creators and producers of projects and content, no longer passive consumers of information. With Habib at the helm, the intensive two-week summer institute featured a deep bench of outstanding instructors who themselves are MERIT graduates.

This year's cohort included teachers from throughout the Bay Area and beyond, including five teachers from R.N. Podar School in Mumbai, India. Their global perspective injected great excitement into the program, as did the great Indian food they

shared with us. The local, regional and international relationships built during the summer institute result in dynamic, cross-cultural projects. You can bet that a number of Bay Area students will be collaborating on projects with students in Mumbai this academic year.

Our MERIT participants concluded the two-week session with a high level of confidence and achievement. When asked if MERIT showed them how to facilitate and inspire student learning and creativity, 98 percent of the 49 respondents answered affirmatively. Participants were deeply appreciative of the experience, and one participant wrote, “BEST 2 WEEKS. I was excited to come each day to learn and be inspired by such fabulous teachers. I’m thrilled that I have started to build my PLN. My mind was racing with ideas each day and night. I’ll tell anyone and everyone who will listen about the awesome MERIT program.”

The KCI invites teachers, administrators and instructional support staff to apply for the MERIT 2016 cohort. Applications will be available in December. The deadline to submit your complete application is Jan. 19, 2016. For more information, e-mail Steve McGriff at [mcgriffsteven@fhda.edu](mailto:mcgriffsteven@fhda.edu).





## MERIT Teachers on the Move: Lisa DeLapo

For many, the KCI's Making Education Relevant & Interactive through Technology (MERIT) Program is a transformative experience. In fact, on day one of the cohort's meetings, KCI Professor-in-Residence Steve McGriff, Ph.D., tells participants that they will be transformed. Often, the group stares back expressionless, since transformation not only is a big word, it's a big concept. But MERIT is a big-concept program that focuses on teacher growth and transformation.

After networking with a MERIT graduate at an educational event, Lisa DeLapo applied for and was accepted to MERIT 2013. Since then, her career trajectory has accelerated—transformed, really—in just a few short years. DeLapo started her teaching career in 2005 as a first-grade instructional assistant at a small private school. Later, she became the integration coach for the Lafayette School District, and more recently, she was promoted to interim assistant director of technology for that district.

"Before MERIT, I was shy and felt like I was in a silo," DeLapo says. "Other teachers didn't share my love of student-centered, tech-infused teaching. When I attended MERIT, I was challenged to present in front of other adults—something I was very nervous about doing."

*"My MERIT training directly gave me the skills and confidence to pursue roles that enable me to effect change and do great things with students."*

Today, she proudly tells colleagues that she found her voice as a direct result of her MERIT experience. Since completing the intensive two-week summertime MERIT academy, she has presented at local, state and national conferences and events. The first teacher to guide her students through a popular demo slam at a Google Summit, DeLapo says that she's become even more student-centered and project-based in her instruction.

She's also created a number of active learning environments for Lafayette students, including the Digital Divas program and a student-run technology club. More importantly, the impact she's had on students has been profound. "Two students who were told by teachers that they were 'unteachable' are my biggest successes," she says. "Today, one of those 'unteachable' students attends UCLA and was selected by cloud-computing giant Salesforce as the company's first high school intern. The other student recently completed an internship with Girls Who Code at Pixar Animation Studios."

Beyond her work for the Lafayette School District, DeLapo has been recognized by her peers. In 2013, East Bay CUE nominated her as its Outstanding Emerging Teacher of the Year, and she has become a Google Certified Teacher and Microsoft Innovative Educator. In addition, she is the assistant director of MERIT 2015 and a lead instructor for Mini MERIT programs.

While the networking, training and presenting have transformed her teaching style, it's students who continue to be at the core of her professional efforts. "Today, I'm working with middle-school students who are enrolled in leadership courses, giving them options to speak and present at ed-tech conferences, and giving them a voice that will guide their futures," she says. "My MERIT training directly gave me the skills and confidence to pursue roles that enable me to effect change and do great things with students."



# KCI Fall Classes Now Open for Registration

The KCI offers FastTech classes—short (6 to 12 hours), convenient, hands-on classes taught by exceptional instructors in a state-of-the-art setting for learning. In just a few hours, you will gain skills that you can use now, in school, your career, and your personal life.

For more KCI classes, go to [krauseinnovationcenter.org/classes](http://krauseinnovationcenter.org/classes)

## Upcoming Fall Classes:

- ▶ **Up and Running with Social Media**  
Saturdays 10/17 & 10/24  
9 am–3 pm
- ▶ **Multimedia in the Classroom**  
Saturday 11/14  
9 am–3 pm
- ▶ **iPads in Education**  
Saturday 12/5  
9 am–3 pm

## ✈ Register Online for KCI Classes

A variety of online and on-campus classes are offered each quarter. For best course selection register early since classes fill quickly. It's easy to register! Visit [krauseinnovationcenter.org/classes](http://krauseinnovationcenter.org/classes) to view and register for available FASTtech and Community Ed classes.



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