

Fellowship Purpose: What is your genuine professional goal/problem of practice? Why is it important to address that goal/problem of practice?

As an early primary teacher, I consider the promotion of students' social and emotional skills to be an important part of my job. Recently, I have been noticing that the students are segregating themselves by race anytime they have the choice to do so. Racially, my classroom is a diverse place; Approximately half of my students identify as BIPOC. However, on playground duty last week, my 26 students played with students of other races only 2 times! This made me realize that even though I am creating structures in my classroom for students to interact with everyone in the class, it is not sticking when the structure isn't there. I want to look carefully at how I am building community in my classroom to change this pattern.

Growth and Learning: Innovation Circles are a different way to learn and implement change in your classroom. What strengths/assets will you bring to the Circle you intend to join?

Over the past two years, I sat through so many lecture-style professional development sessions about community building and diversity, equity, and inclusion. I can honestly say that I have not taken much from them. I want to select a higher quality learning experience that includes time for discussion and reflection with peers. I love learning when I have opportunities to digest it through discussion with others and reflection. This is one of the ways I learn best. This is one reason why I want to be part of the innovation circles. The other reason is that I love the idea of getting to design something with the support of my colleagues in the Circle who will also be able to help me through the challenging times. Sometimes I get overwhelmed when I get stuck and I think that the Circle will help me prioritize and keep going.

I went back and forth about which Circle would be best – the Equity or the Social Emotional Learning Circle. I think both would work, but I think that because my goal is about community building, I chose the SEL circle, but will need to do my work with an equity lens.

Innovation Learning Plan: What is your plan to address your problem of practice?

I do not yet know what innovation I will create to meet my goal of building community, but I hope to interrogate my own practices and get ideas in two different ways: through an on-line course and from deep reading of a book, both of which will happen this summer.

Paving a Path for All to Thrive is a online course offered by the Institute for Social and Emotional Learning. Their multiple-session workshop is billed to be experiential, reflective, and collaborative. I think this approach to my learning will really work for me. I also think that the content of the course is

perfectly aligned to my goal of interrogating how I build community in my classroom. I hope to walk away with practices I can use to build community and consider restorative practices in my classroom.

In addition, I hope to read the book *We are Crew: A Teamwork Approach to School Culture*. I understand this book is all about how to build community in the classroom. Since I expect to have quite a bit of time at home this summer, I thought that this extra resource could really help me interrogate my practices and get ideas.

Budget Narrative: Provide a brief narrative showing evidence of thoughtful planning and research supporting your specific itinerary.

Pricing for the online workshop, “Paving a Path for All”, was found on the organization’s website. The course will cost \$395 for six, two-hour session in July. I would also like to purchase the book *We are Crew: A Teamwork Approach to School Culture*, Amazon.com, for \$28.

I have some ideas for implementing my learning but hope to finalize these plans after participating in the Circle. Some preliminary materials I am considering are: a classroom set of books, *Paving a Path for All* teachers guide and giveaways for an after-school event I intend to host following my experience. I estimate needing approximately \$400 for these implementation materials.

The total amount I am requesting from Fund for Teachers is \$823.00.