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Tokyo Center



Alumni Engagement Seminar I: Making the Most of Team Teaching

On **Sunday, December 11th, from 10:00am to 3:00pm, The Embassy of the United States** in Tokyo and **NYU SPS Tokyo Center** would like to cordially invite you to the first of our "Alumni Engagement Workshops". These 1-day workshops are for teachers who have taken our 3-day workshops in Shinagawa and in Kobe, and who are interested in further exploration and deeper study of issues in English language teaching in Japan. The focus of this workshop will be **team-teaching**, and our presenter, Mr. Peter J. Collins, is a long-time teacher educator in Japan with strong expertise in the area.

Special Seminar: Making the Most of Team-Teaching

Abstract

For over 30 years now, team-teaching has been a feature of English education in Japan's junior and senior high schools. Both JTEs and ALTs, however, continue to report that they are unsure about what "team teaching" really means and how close their own planning and teaching come to meeting its goals. This series of four sessions will provide participants with a team teaching framework that clarifies JTE-ALT relationships in lesson planning, materials creation, and in-class teaching. The framework, which draws on Activity Theory, (Engeström, 1987) is concrete, yet flexible enough to accommodate a range of team-teaching situations. Participants are asked to bring one of their own textbooks (Junior 1, 2, 3, or Senior English Communication 1, 2, or 3) and a USB in order to begin applying the framework to one of their own team-taught classes.

About the Presenter

After teaching English at secondary schools in Kenya, Taiwan, and Mexico, Peter J. Collins received his MA in TEFL at the School for International Training in Vermont. He came to Japan in 1995, and in 2004 joined Tokai University's Higher Research Institute of Educational Development (RIED), which supported and advised JTEs and ALTs at junior and senior high schools around the country. He has contributed to three MEXT-approved textbooks: *Magic Hat English I and II*, *Empathy Oral Communication I and II*, and *One World English* for junior high. In 2014, Peter joined Tokai University's International Education Center, where he is currently an associate professor. His research interests include team teaching and teacher collegiality, learner autonomy and ways to extend textbook lessons communicatively.

Proposed Schedule

Session 1: (75 minutes: 10:00am – 11:15am)

Revisiting Assumptions: Pitfalls and Potential

JTEs and ALTs engaged in team teaching face a range of challenges. Some of them are based on traditional perceptions of JTE and ALT strengths and weaknesses. Others are more practical, for example textbooks designed to be solo-taught, limited ALT teaching schedules, and fundamental differences between solo-taught four-skills classes and team-taught conversation classes. This session will give us an overview of these challenges, then present Activity Theory as a framework within which to meet these challenges.

Session 2: (60 minutes: 11:30am – 12:30pm)

Unit Planning: Drawing on the Four Strands

Ideally, a unit plan takes full advantage of team-teaching while establishing and maintaining a balance of the “Four Strands” (Nation and Newton, 2009). In this session, we will examine a unit plan designed by an English Communication 1 team of JTEs and an ALT. Seeing further examples of extended textbook units will help participants sense how an Activity Theory-based framework complements the Four Strands, supporting team teachers to integrate the communication functions of Conversation and English Expressions classes with the content and language of English Communication classes.

Session 3: (90 minutes: 1:30pm – 3:00pm)

Our own team-teaching: Thinking outside the box

In this session, participants will be invited to choose an upcoming unit from one of their own textbooks (Junior 1, 2, 3, or Senior English Communication 1, 2, or 3). They will also receive a step-by-step checklist that will support them in identifying a communication goal for the unit’s reading passage and involving an ALT in students’ efforts to meet this goal. Small group discussion time will be given for participants to brainstorm ways to overcome teaching situation-specific obstacles they might face in shifting their planning, materials creation, and team-teaching practices. Finally, downloadable materials from americanenglish.state.gov and other resources will be introduced; these will help participants complete their Team Teaching Unit Plan (TT-UP!) assignment and advance their future planning and teaching.

Registration is on a first come, first-served basis. We will accept up to 50 participants. If you are interested in registering, please do so using the link below:

<https://business.form-mailer.jp/fms/8f60a66262924>

The application deadline: Wednesday, November 30th, 2016

We look forward to having you attend this seminar!!