

## History of Florida Online Reading Professional Development

**It all started...** in February 2002; FOR-PD received initial funding to create Florida's *first* large-scale online reading professional development project to help preK-12 teachers improve their knowledge about scientifically-based reading research and instruction. FOR-PD was developed collaboratively by literacy and technology experts, school districts, the Florida Department of Education (FL DOE), professional organizations, and educators. Since its creation, FOR-PD's mission has been to offer a comprehensive, intensive, current, interactive, effective, and efficient multimedia professional development project in reading. See below for a detailed history of the FOR-PD project.

### 2002-2003 – Phase I

- FOR-PD Co-Principal Investigators: Dr. Vicky Zygouris-Coe & Dr. Donna Baumbach
- FL Department of Education (DOE) Project Manager: Ruth Gumm-Sherron
- Nine-member Executive Advisory Board and 45-member General Advisory Board provided oversight
- 12 FOR-PD staff members:
  - Included two program assistants, two program coordinators, webmaster, graphic designer, help desk supervisor, administrative assistant, one graduate student, and a consultant.
- Piloted in September 2002 with five Florida school districts
- 2,045 participants completed (72% completion rate):
  - 134 sections from January –August 2003
  - 34 districts collaborated
  - 4 universities involved (UCF, UWF, FIU, and FGCU)
- 48 facilitators completed the 8-lesson Facilitator Training Course
- 139 sections were facilitated (January 16, 2003 – November 21, 2003)
- Facilitator Support and Professional Development:
  - Facilitator Newsletter (FFF)
  - Facilitator Manual created to support and guide facilitators
  - Facilitator Forum is a 24/7 discussion board for facilitators
  - Monthly chats on literacy topics
- Website was developed and launched April 2002:
  - Frequently Asked Questions and Answers; and Reading-Related Resources were developed and made available
- Help desk support:
  - Evening hours and weekend hours to offer support via phone and Instant Messenger
- Lead Evaluator: Dr. Debbie Hahs-Vaughn
  - Started evaluations with surveys to participants, facilitators, and non-completers
  - Analyzed data from registration process, help desk logs, and literacy logs
  - Facilitated focus groups

### 2003-2004 –Phase II

- The first full year of implementation (September 2003 – July 2004)
- FL Department of Education (DOE) Project Managers: Ruth Gumm-Sherron & Mary-Laura Openshaw
- FOR-PD Co-Principal Investigators: Dr. Vicky Zygouris-Coe & Dr. Donna Baumbach (half a year for Donna Baumbach)
- Eight-member Executive Advisory Board provided oversight

- 14 FOR-PD staff members:
  - Included two program coordinators, graphic designer/database manager, webmaster, facilitator program assistant, Help Desk coordinator, remote server technician, office manager, assistant office manager, and four graduate assistants
- 2, 913 participants completed the course (62% completion rate):
  - 252 sections offered
  - 65 districts collaborated
  - 5 universities participated (UCF, UWF, FGCU, UNF, and FIU)
- 303 facilitators completed the 8-lesson Facilitator Training Course
- Facilitator Support and Professional Development:
  - Facilitator Newsletter (FFF)
  - Updates to the Facilitator Manual
  - Model discussion postings available for facilitators
- Promotional items were created:
  - Highlighters and pens
  - Classroom posters
  - Notepads
- Technical Support:
  - Troubleshooting sections added on topics such as Adobe Acrobat, Pop-up blockers, and printing PDFs
- Help desk support:
  - Help desk hours increased to include Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
  - Developed a graph on technology support
- Website changes:
  - ABCs for successful FOR-PD participation and facilitation were developed
  - “Reading Reminders” available
  - Added state and national information on reading
  - Interviews with Florida’s literacy leaders
- Lead Evaluator: Dr. Debbie Hahs-Vaughn. Dr. Nancy Lewis took over in 2004.
  - Surveyed facilitators and non-completers
  - Analyzed data from registration process, pre-tests and post-tests of reading knowledge, participant end-of-course evaluations, help desk logs, and literacy logs, and FCAT scores
  - Added interviews with district personnel, non-completers, and participants
- Course updates:
  - Revisions and improvements were made to course content
  - PDF files added to course for easy printing
  - Interactive review games added
  - Added new websites and resources to course
  - Integrated information on differentiated instruction into content

### **2004-2005 –Phase III**

- FL Department of Education (DOE) Project Managers: Ruth Gumm-Sherron & Mary-Laura Openshaw
- FOR-PD Principal Investigator: Dr. Vicky Zygouris-Coe
- FOR-PD receives national attention - named in U.S. Secretary's National Technology Plan as a model project for the preparation of qualified teachers
- FOR-PD added to the Alternative Certification State Department requirements
- FOR-PD added to the REESOL State Department requirements
- FL DOE Project Manager: Mary-Laura Openshaw & Dr. Evan Lefsky

- Executive Advisory Board provided feedback
- 12 FOR-PD staff members (including full-time and part-time positions):
  - Full-time: two Program Coordinators, Quality Assurance Specialist, Office Manager, Data Management Specialist, and a Help Desk Manager
  - Part-time: Director, Webmaster, Program assistant, and graduate assistants
- 3,771 participants completed the course (74.1% completion rate):
  - 75 collaborating districts
  - 6 participating universities (UCF, UWF, FGCU, UNF, UF, and FIU)
- Facilitator Training Course title changed to Facilitator Training and Certification Course (FTCC). Revisions included:
  - Practice using facilitator tools (i.e. grade book)
  - Improved tutorials
  - Discussion samples added
- 34 facilitators completed the 8-lesson Facilitator Training & Certification Course
- 291 sections were facilitated
- 111 facilitators were assigned to the 291 sections FOR-PD offered
- Facilitator Support and Professional Development:
  - Facilitator Newsletter (FFF)
  - Facilitator discussion board
  - Book Club/Book Reviews
  - Facilitator chat sessions (2 required per semester)
  - Two facilitator meetings for policy updates and announcements
  - Focus groups with outside evaluators for facilitator feedback
- Facilitator Leadership Board started December 2005 with 5 members from different areas of the state and with various backgrounds
  - Advised FOR-PD staff about facilitator issues
  - Assisted with on-going professional development for facilitators
- Quality Assurance Checks (QAC) started:
  - Checking both participants and facilitators for quality of involvement
  - Three checks per section each semester
- Literacy newsletters started in September 2004
  - Created to share current news in literacy and provide literacy resources
  - Available through website or sent to personal email
  - Also informed recipients about upcoming conferences and celebrations
- Technical Support:
  - Tutorials added for Acrobat, Chats, Course Mail, saving HTMLs, and QuickTime and RealPlayer installations
- Promotional items:
  - Five Finger Rule bookmark created
  - Instructional literacy posters developed and distributed to FOR-PD graduates
- Help desk support:
  - Help Desk hours adjusted
  - Help Desk email created
  - Full-time help desk position added
- Lead Evaluator: Dr. Nancy Lewis
  - Overall focus of the evaluation was to investigate the fidelity of FOR-PD and the impact of FOR-PD on classroom instruction
  - Bonnie Swan began assisting with evaluation
  - Analyzing surveys to participants, facilitators, and non-completers

- Analysis of data from registration process, pre-tests and post-tests of reading knowledge, participant end-of-course evaluations, help desk logs, literacy logs, and FCAT scores
- Added interviews with district personnel, non-completers, and participants
- Focus groups with facilitators
- Course updates:
  - Case studies added to the lessons
  - Guiding questions added
  - Course calendar
  - Reflections added to Literacy Logs
  - Revised quiz questions
  - Open Enrollment registration streamlined

#### **2005-2006 –Phase IV**

- FOR-PD added as a requirement for Content Area Reading Professional Development (CAR-PD)
- FOR-PD started offering courses to Community Colleges (Educator Preparation Institutes—EPIs)
- FL Department of Education (DOE) Project Managers: Mary-Laura Openshaw & Dr. Evan Lefsky
- FOR-PD Principal Investigator: Dr. Vicky Zygouris-Coe
- FOR-PD Interim Director (August 2006-December 2006): Dr. Vicky Zygouris-Coe
- FOR-PD Director (December 2006-June 2007): Catherine Glass
- 15 FOR-PD staff members (including full-time and part-time positions):
  - Full-time: Project Director, two Program Coordinators, Office Manager, Data Management Specialist, Webmaster, Quality Assurance Specialist and a Help Desk Manager
  - Part-time: Help Desk Assistant, Technical Assistant, and 5 graduate assistants
- 3,826 participants completed the course (78.2% completion rate):
  - 294 sections ran
  - 33 districts collaborated
  - 7 participating universities (UCF, UWF, FGCU, UNF, UF, FAU, and FIU)
  - 7 participating community colleges (BRCC, CFCC, GCCC, NFCC, PHCC, PJC, SFCC, and MCC)
- 131 facilitators facilitated 295 sections of FOR-PD
- 97 facilitators completed the 7-lesson Facilitator Training and Certification Course
- Facilitator Support and Professional Development:
  - Monthly facilitator newsletter (FFF)
  - Facilitator discussion board
  - Facilitator chat sessions (2/semester)
  - Training manual accessible online in PDF format
- Quality Assurance Checks (QAC):
  - Checking both participants and facilitators for quality of involvement
  - Three checks per section each semester
- Technical Support:
  - Real-time chat sessions added in the evenings
- Help-desk support:
  - Real-time chat added to the FOR-PD site for technical support
- Website changes:

- E-store opened through website with nine instructional posters available for free to teachers and administrators
- Lead Evaluator: Dr. Bonnie Swan
  - Overall focus of the evaluation was measuring the impact of FOR-PD on participants' knowledge of scientifically-based reading research and the frequency the reading strategies from the course are used in classroom implementation.
  - Surveyed participants, facilitators, and non-completers
  - Analysis of registration data, pre-tests and post-tests of reading knowledge, participant end-of-course evaluations, help-desk logs, literacy logs, and FCAT scores
  - Interviewed district personnel, participants, facilitators, and EPI representatives
  - Focus groups with facilitators and EPI representatives
  - Secondary content-area teacher classroom observations
  - Focused on upgrading/redesign of systems and data management
- Course updates:
  - Added navigational tools for easier browsing
  - Drop downs on every page to improve navigation
  - Useful tips were added to lessons
  - Literacy logs changed to digital form for online submissions
  - "Second chance" opportunities created for participants lacking only a few lessons to complete the course
  - Increased course enrollment size per section for better cost effectiveness
  - Video introductions added for each lesson along with additional videos on course content
  - Secondary content-area teacher examples added to the Literacy Logs
  - Developed participant expectations document

### **2006-2007 –Phase V**

- FOR-PD domain name changed to <http://forpd.ucf.edu>
- Advisory Board Review
- Establishment of new Advisory Board
- Establishment of Technology Executive Advisory Board (members: Dr. Futch, Dr. Hirumi, Tarr)
- FL Department of Education (DOE) Project Manager: Dr. Evan Lefsky
- FOR-PD Principal Investigator: Dr. Vicky Zygouris-Coe
- FOR-PD Interim Director (June 2007-present): Dr. Vicky Zygouris-Coe
- 13 FOR-PD staff members (including full-time and part-time positions):
  - Full-time: Project Director, two Program Coordinators, Office Manager, Data Management Specialist, and a Help Desk Manager
  - Part-time: Quality Assurance Specialist, 6 graduate assistants
- To date over 31,000 educators have enrolled in FOR-PD:
  - course offered through 67 Florida school-districts
  - 5 universities and 6 community colleges participated
- 115 facilitators completed the 7-lesson Facilitator Training and Certification Course
- 324 Sections were facilitated
- Facilitator Support and Professional Development
  - Facilitator newsletter remodeled (FFF) and new sections added
  - 4-week Professional Development course created (50 completed)
- Quality Assurance Checks (QAC):
  - Streamlined for less participant contact

- Technical Support:
  - Real-time chat sessions added in the evenings
- Evening Help desk support is available Mondays through Fridays 6 pm – 10 pm and on Saturdays 10 am – 3 pm.
- Website changes:
  - New website design created
- Lead Evaluator: Dr. Bonnie Swan
  - Overall focus of the evaluation was on measuring the impact of FOR-PD on participants' knowledge of scientifically-based reading research and whether and how much they used FOR-PD strategies in their practice with concern for teachers grouped by content area, grade level, experience, and whether participants are pre- or in-service teachers.
  - Analysis of course components, updates instructional design, and FOR-PD databases.
  - Surveys conducted were: classroom implementation, participant end-of-course, facilitator end-of-course , and the non-completer survey
  - Analyzed registration data, achievement data from pre-tests and post-tests of reading knowledge, help-desk database, QAC database, e-store database, literacy logs, and K-12 student reading achievement
  - Secondary content classroom observations
  - New course quizzes and TREKKA
  - Interviews with secondary content teachers, EPI representatives, facilitators, and district-level contacts
- Course updates:
  - Content revisions for lessons and quizzes
  - Content moved into WebCT for copyright protection
  - Added a 12-week course option
  - Grade book changed for easier grading
  - Glossary linked throughout the course
  - Biweekly emails sent out to participants

#### **2007-2008 –Phase VI**

- FL Department of Education (DOE) Project Managers: Dr. Evan Lefsky (through July 2007) and Barbara Elzie
- FOR-PD Principal Investigator: Dr. Vicky Zygouris-Coe
- FOR-PD Interim Director (June 2007-present): Vicky Zygouris-Coe
- New website design launched October 2007
- Lead Evaluator: Dr. Bonnie Swan