Title: Wiggio Webinars: Professional Development in the Virtual World

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One of the primary goals of “How Do I Learn: Neuroscience Advances Inform Learning” is to engage middle school teacher teams in an innovative program of neuroscience education focused on answering the questions, How do I learn and How do I teach students about how they learn? This project equips teachers with teaching skills they can use with any subject they teach. The goal for teachers is to increase their knowledge of neuroscience research related to learning and their use of cognitive learning models, related teaching resources, and pedagogical skills. To enhance teacher knowledge and skills the team offers a Summer Institute (SI) and Professional Learning Community (PLC). Teachers are trained in the use of Wiggio, a free platform for working in groups. Staff members conduct monthly webinars on neurobiology and learning. Teachers breakout into discussion groups after the webinars to process the information and what it means for their classroom. In addition, teachers share resources with one another through Wiggio. At completion of the first year all teacher teams will share presentations on neurobiology and learning classroom use with the group via Wiggio.

The first cohort of teachers (N=15) received training in Summer 2012. A second cohort will follow suit in the Summer of 2013. To determine the impact of Wiggio participation, Cohort One teachers completed a nine question survey in February 2012. At this poster session we’ll share lessons learned from the first year of Wiggio immersion and plans for strengthening staff development potential of the Wiggio platform.

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