



January 23, 2009

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To Whom It May Concern:

In February of 2008, Christie Ward from the Impact Institute presented "Creating a Lasting Impact" to a group of professional development lead teachers and technology lead teachers, in the El Monte City School District. The journey we began with her that day became a transformative first step in working with resistant teachers in our district. Through her own perceptiveness, Christie Ward was able to bring our leadership roles into focus so that we had a clearer vision of how we could make a greater impact on our teachers which would ultimately result in higher achievement for our students.

A common struggle in education is working with teachers who are resistant to change even when that change is necessary to the achievement of our students. Adopting Christie's research-based, proven strategies in our professional development was a first step in equipping our teacher leaders with the tools and strategies to address the very real challenges they face when working with teachers. Christie Ward's passion brought out the best in our team so that we could envision new frontiers and dialogue about how to achieve them. We have continued the work she began with us by continuing to revisit the strategies she taught us and adapting them to fit our very specific needs. Part of Ward's artistry lies in the fact that she genuinely cares about those she works with and is able to transmit a positive energy that allows her audience to grow after just one day of working with her. Her strategies are practical, easy to implement, and allow teachers to grow in their own presentation skills. Teachers can use these strategies when working with adults and children alike.

As with any training, follow-up is key to the implementation of any new initiative. Christie has continued to maintain personal contact with us and is committed to working hand in hand with us on implementation. Her warmth, intelligence and professionalism have left an indelible mark on us. We look forward to an ongoing personal and professional relationship with Christie and to continuing the journey she began with us a year ago.

Sincerely,

Rachel Carrillo Syrja
Teacher on Special Assignment
El Monte City School District

