

DEVELOPING CAREER MUSIC EDUCATORS – IT’S EVERYONE’S JOB

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Ever-increasing attrition statistics cite inadequate preparation, lack of administrative support, and unsatisfactory work conditions as reasons for leaving the field of music education; this “revolving door” of vacancies causes an important question to be asked: what should our profession be doing to ensure a continued supply of committed and motivating school music teachers? The development of career music educators is central to the future of music education, and should be part of a thoughtful and proactive plan. Aspects of such a plan will be shared in this presentation through a model of music teacher development as carried out in a multi-leveled music community.

Various stakeholders (high school music teacher, university professor, school district music administrator) will explain their shared efforts in developing career music educators through their respective roles. The intersecting and symbiotic areas of 1) recruitment in the high school music program, 2) university partnerships in career and student development, and 3) administrative support and development of in-service music teachers will be detailed as they relate to planning for entrance into musical careers, district/university partner activities, and ongoing professional growth that combine to support a fulfilling and professional experience for pre- and in-service music teachers.

Multiple Areas for Strategic Planning and Action (ASPAs) will be addressed throughout this presentation. Teacher recruitment, school/university partnerships, professional development for the beginning and experienced teacher, and teacher retention are all present in this presentation of the description of a school district’s culture devoted to professional and musical growth. This coalition among three music educators with diverse roles fulfills a stated purpose of the symposium to “... engage a broader constituency of practitioners and policy makers in the conversation...” as well as address SMTE’s commitment to affect change through collaborative action.