

**Supporting Beginning Music Teachers ASPA**  
**NAfME Conference Work Meeting Notes**  
**Friday, March 23, 2018**  
**10:30am–12:00pm**  
**Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel**

*Goal: Review existing projects and determine new projects/topics leading toward SMTE Symposium 2019.*

*Review: September 2017 Projects (as submitted to SMTE Executive Committee & ASPA Coordinator)*

**Existing Project Updates**

**Mentor Chairperson Support Program** – Erin Zaffini ([ezaffini@keene.edu](mailto:ezaffini@keene.edu)), Project Leader

- Some progress since fall 2017; much is in a “holding pattern” until funding secured.
- Budget submitted to national officers in late 2017; awaiting word from NAfME (Executive Director Mike Blakeslee) on outside funding to compensate session leaders.

**Social Media** – Brian Weidener, Project Leader

- Our “Beginning Music Teachers” Facebook group is over 500 members (up from 334 at time of 2017 Symposium).
- Continued efforts to expand/“sharing” by ASPA members to promote the page.

**Publications**

- Practitioner article on mentoring (8 ASPA authors) will be refined and submitted by the end of 2017–18 academic year (target: *Music Educators Journal*)
- Policy article based on 2017 Symposium session/research is being crafted, submitted this year (target: *Arts Education Policy Review*)
  - *Exemplary Music Educator Association Mentoring Programs: From the Inside Out* – Jennifer Green, Jill Wilson, & Bryan Koerner

**New/Continued Development of Existing Projects**

**Social Media** – Brian Weidner ([brianweidner2019@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:brianweidner2019@u.northwestern.edu)), Project Leader

- Continued refinement/engagement in social media presence
- Promote “success story” video posts by beginning teachers
  - Intended to balance the concern/fear-type posts with positive, small-scale (not “humble bragging”) posts
  - 60 seconds; recorded in office/classroom on computer or phone
  - Start by reaching out to those in the group sharing positive stories in posts/comments
- Possible “book club”-type discussions
  - Topics such as growth mindset, leadership, etc.
  - Facilitate with written posts, videoconferences facilitated by ASPA members

### **Virtual Music Teacher Support Groups**

- Provide community-based support for each end of the mentorship spectrum (see below).
- Frequency of group meetings TBD
- Led by ASPA member(s)
- Each meeting may include topic(s) as “springboard” for discussion
- Possible “break out” sessions within virtual meetings to focus on variety of topics (facilitated through *Zoom* videoconferencing software)
- Create separate webpages (as branches of our own ASPA page) dedicated to each group; hopeful link on main NAFME website

### Beginning Teachers Virtual Community – Lisa Martin ([martlis@bgsu.edu](mailto:martlis@bgsu.edu)), Project Leader

- Facilitate discussion among novice teachers
- Serve as support group/safe space for sharing entry-year issues/concerns/successes with a cohort of like-experienced professionals

### Mentor Teacher Virtual Community – Ryan Meeks ([ryan.meeks@ou.edu](mailto:ryan.meeks@ou.edu)), Project Leader

- Facilitate discussion among mentor/veteran teachers
- Share ideas for mentoring; provide outlet for mentors to discuss issues and best practices
- Communicate with state SMTE presidents, ASTA, ACDA, etc. to advertise/disseminate information to mentors and mentorship programs (formal or informal)
- Topics may fuel those selected for Mentor Chairperson Support Program (i.e., highlight what mentors need assistance with)
- Hoping to organize late-spring/summer, advertise, and offer first meetings in August/September 2018

### **Mentorship Preparation in the Undergraduate Curriculum** – Bryan Koerner

([bryan.koerner@ou.edu](mailto:bryan.koerner@ou.edu)), Project Leader

- Examine existing practices
  - Self-study of current ASPA members of their own MTE programs to determine how students are prepared to seek out and welcome mentorship after graduation
- “Findings” will determine exact direction of project
  - May include beginning stages to developing a framework/model for undergraduate programs

*\*Note: Each Project Leader is responsible for organizing and holding virtual meetings with project members to ensure continued dialogue and progress. In addition, we will have a full ASPA meeting (virtual) sometime during fall 2018 to discuss projects and ASPA direction leading toward 2019 SMTE Symposium.*