



COACHING THROUGH THE PLC PROCESS

The SWUC Office of Education's branding, Education by Design, signals that Adventist education should not be left to chance; it must be planned, implemented, and evaluated with intention. A Continuous School Improvement (CSI) Plan has been developed to align with this branding. Three goals comprise the CSI Plan—Continuous School Improvement Planning, Academic Excellence, and Leadership—based on the identified gaps between data analysis and our vision for learning.

Several processes have been put in place to support the goals:

- Professional learning that builds the collective capacity of staff to support a culture of change,
- Professional learning communities to cultivate collaborative cultures, and
- Internal and external assessments of programs and processes as part of data analysis for continuous school improvement. (All supported by resources on <https://www.southwesternadventisteducation.com/>.)

These efforts are not fully sustainable, though, without continuous coaching. Jim Knight (2018), writing about the significance of coaching, says, “Instructional coaches partner with teachers to analyze current reality, set goals, identify and explain teaching strategies to meet goals, and provide support until the goals are met” (p. 3). In the same vein, Harvard researcher Atul Gawande has written, “Coaching done well may be the most effective intervention designed for human performance” (quoted in Knight, 2018, p. 2).

Thus, as of fall 2022, a SWUC educational coach will be in place to further assist the conferences with the attainment of goals through the PLC process. Please stay tuned for updates.

Reference

Knight, J. (2018). *The impact cycle: What instructional coaches should do to foster powerful improvements in teaching*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin.