

Today's Presentation

Program: Can a New Understanding of the History of Science Lead to a New Future in Education?

Speaker: Dr. Chris Edwards, Advanced Placement teacher, Fishers High School **Attendance:**

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Guests: Jim Mutter, Hyun Joon Kim, Adam Jahn, Alex Smith, Matt Brennan, John Langdon

Introduced by: Jeff Rasley

Scribe: Dick Garrett

Editor: Ed Nitka

Chris has taught in Indiana's public schools for fifteen years and currently directs a Sciencetech Foundation grant dedicated to a new way of educating teachers of science. Today's talk will help our club members understand how Chris is using these grant funds. This is his third time to address the Sciencetech Club.

Here is the take away from this talk:

Use experts to teach the teachers the appropriate content material for the intended class and then let the teachers decide how and when to teach the material.

The current practice would require the teacher either to write their own text or to sort through the available books and pick the one that best meets their needs. This new approach is empowering to a teacher because it allows them to determine sequence, depth and content for their course. This approach to teaching seems only appropriate for courses like science where a considerable amount of time is spent in one subject area, like earth sciences for example. It would not be appropriate for a fourth-grade teacher where much of the subject material is only lightly touched.

Chris began his talk with a brief history of the evolution of science and its separation from the humanities to become a separate line of study. This approach demands evidence to support the basic ideas of the particular science. He gave more history, including the importance of such things as the first ever German-founded PhD programs in the sciences and their importance in the then evolving field of science teaching.

What was most important to most of the Sciencetech club members is the fact that his approach to teaching teachers of science courses seems to be gaining traction. The first summer program at the University of Indianapolis had only eight science teachers and four professors. The 2017 summer program will be held June 12-16 at Fishers High School. They are planning for seventy-two science teachers and the expertise of sixteen faculty members. The actual program will be funded by the State of Indiana. Each participating teacher will receive a stipend of \$400. This is how our Sciencetech funds are used. They are now connected to both the University of Indianapolis and Ball State for support in the implementation of this program. He also stressed the point that this is a low overhead program

Chris is to be commended for his leadership and creative thinking in the creation of these new ideas.



Dr. Chris Edwards