

OSHA investigates practices at KU-CRL; citations pending

Don Deshler

Director, Center for Research on Learning

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has filed a report critical of several staff development practices at the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning. Topping the list was a concern that members of the International Training Network are at risk of shoulder injury (the extreme case being shoulder separation) resulting from carrying an excessive number of overhead transparencies in their briefcases when traveling to and from training sessions.

OSHA charged that several Strategic Instruction Model trainers have filed complaints with the agency concerning chronic shoulder pain they suffered in conjunction with SIM training sessions. Upon investigation, OSHA determined that the most probable cause was the fact that each of these trainers, in an attempt to maintain the integrity of the Strategic Instruction Model and to thoroughly cover the material, were insistent on carrying *every* transparency from the training packet with them to their training sessions.

The second OSHA charge against KU-CRL related to the potential health hazards faced by teachers going through SIM staff development sessions. OSHA indicated that several of these teachers have complained about severe headaches after SIM training sessions. OSHA investigations of these complaints have led to the apparent cause of the headaches—excessive eyestrain over an extended period of time caused from looking at overhead projections nonstop (sometime three continuous hours of transparency viewing during SIM training sessions!).

OSHA officials refused to comment on the nature of charges that ultimately may be filed against KU-CRL, but Center Director Don Deshler voiced grave concern about this investigation and has issued the following statement:

“Based on the investigation by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration against the KU-CRL regarding some of its staff development practices, the Center is immediately requesting that all members of the SIM training network exercise extreme caution when selecting overhead transparencies to be used in a training session. Under only the most unusual circumstances should a SIM trainer ever consider using all of the overheads in a KU-CRL ►

Calendar

November 7-8, 1997
Northeast Regional
Update Conference,
Boston, MA

January 6-10, 1998
SIM Learning
Strategies Workshop
for Preservice
Educators

February 20-21, 1998
Far West and
Midwest Regional
Update Conference
Las Vegas, NV

March 5-7, 1998
Southeast Regional
Update Conference
Charleston, SC

May 26-30, 1998
Pedagogies for
Academic Diversity in
Secondary Schools
Workshop
for Preservice
Educators

July 9-11
National SIM
Trainers' Conference
Kansas City, MO

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Calendar

July 21-25, 1998
Strategic Instruction Model
(SIM) Workshop Level I

July 21-25, 1998
Strategic Instruction Model
(SIM) Workshop Level II

July 21-25, 1998
Strategic Instruction Model
(SIM) Workshop
Content Enhancement

July 21-25, 1998
Workshop for Potential SIM
Content Enhancement Trainers

Aug. 3-7, 1998
Workshop for Potential SIM
Learning Strategy Trainers

Training Packet. It is imperative that the practice of using only a selected number of overhead transparencies should begin immediately.

"We are deeply concerned about the physical well being of the both the SIM trainer and his/her audience.

"By all members of the SIM Network agreeing to use only key overhead transparencies, it is hoped that the KU-CRL can avoid any further investigations by OSHA into the possible harmful effects of using too many overhead transparencies on the mind and spirit of the teacher as well (OSHA officials have indicated that an investigation into these areas is possible).

"From this date forward, all SIM Training Packages distributed by the KU-CRL will carry a warning label that reads:
WARNING: Making, carrying, or using overhead transparencies for every item in this training packet poses a significant physical and mental health hazard to you and your audience—use sparingly and very

judiciously!!"

The above little piece of fiction is presented to remind us all that effective teaching of various learning strategies or content enhancement routines occurs when our sessions are driven by the needs of our audience and not a compulsion to "get through" every overhead transparency in the training packet. It is so important to allow ample time for audience **participation, reflection, and practice** during each session. When we are driven to cover every overhead transparency, we generally do so at the expense of participation, reflection, and practice. That cost is too high and one that we do not want to incur as trainers.

Remember, as staff at the KU-CRL puts the training packets together, we try to anticipate every possible overhead you may need as a SIM trainer. We provide these to you to save you the time in making them for your training. *Just because they are in a packet, we do not mean to imply that they should all be used. Remember, to do so may be harmful to your well being and the well being of your audience*

And you never know, OSHA could be watching! **CRL**

Far West, Midwest regions schedule joint conference in Las Vegas

The Far West and the Midwest Regions will meet jointly this year in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Strategic Instruction Model update meeting will begin with registration at noon Friday, February 20, 1998. The conference will conclude Saturday, February 21, by 4 p.m.

The Bally Hotel in Las Vegas will be the site for the meeting. The hotel has set aside a block of 30 rooms (10 for arrival on Thursday and 20 for arrival on Friday) for conference participants. The cost for each room (single or double) is \$115 per night.

Make your reservations early by phoning the Bally Hotel at (800) 833-3308. Request a reservation for the

University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning-Western Region Meeting. BUNKS is the code word.

Registration for the conference is \$90 and includes materials, beverages, a social, a continental breakfast, and a luncheon. All trainers are invited to attend.

Registration forms will be sent automatically to all trainers in the Far West and Midwest regions. Forms will be sent to others upon request.

Contact Janet Roth for registration forms. Janet may be reached by phone at (785) 864-4780, by e-mail at jroth@quest.sped.ukans.edu, or by U.S. mail at the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning, 3061 Dole, Lawrence, KS 66045. **CRL**

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Future Content Enhancement trainers consider pilot workshop successful

Wonderful! Incredible! Great! Fantastic! That's how a group of future Content Enhancement trainers described the week of July 14-18. The group met in Orlando, Florida, for the pilot Content Enhancement Potential Trainers Workshop taught by Jerri Neduchal, Connie Gentle, and Jim Knight.

The future trainers reported that the following topics highlighted what they characterized as a very beneficial week:

- Ways to work with adult learners
- Ways to prepare Content Enhancement training plans
- How the Content Enhancement routines fit together with the big picture
- Ways to select critical information so that participants are not overwhelmed
- Partnership learning
- Simple enhancers

In addition to the vast amount of learning that took place, the participants basked in an ocean of fun

with Jerri and Connie planning such special events as Tacky Tourist Day.

Participants included a number of seasoned Strategic Instruction Model trainers as well as teachers who were becoming trainers for the first time.

Those attending were Donna Brown of Georgia; Linda Partipilo, Brenda Fleckenstein, Jill Floyd, Cathy Freytag, Becky Johnson, Janet Rioux, Cindy Natzke, Dominic Eckhoff, Cathy Stephens, Katherine Turley, and Janet Overstreet, all of Florida; and Felicia Viscome of New York.

The next Content Enhancement Trainers' Workshop will be conducted July 21-25, 1998, at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

The Center for Research on Learning extends a bouquet of thanks to Connie and Jerri for their tremendous effort in preparing and executing this first workshop to train Content Enhancement trainers. **CRL**

KU-CRL planning 1998 conference, special anniversary celebration

The 1998 National SIM Trainers' Conference promises to be a special event you won't want to miss.

The conference will kick off our celebration of the 20th anniversary of the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning. To make the event even more special, we will move the conference to the heart of Kansas City: The Plaza.

The Plaza offers numerous benefits for conference participants, including easy access to Kansas City International Airport and a wide variety of shopping and restaurant experiences.

The conference will be July 9-11, 1998, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 4445 Main Street in Kansas City, Missouri. Reservations may be made by calling (800) 2-CROWNE (227-6963). Room rates will be \$92 a night, single or double, plus 12.1% room tax.

For those interested in extending the celebration as well as the learning opportunities, we plan to offer a preconference session at the hotel July 8. The session will address issues related to partnership learning.

In addition to these special events, the conference will feature the exciting speakers and informative sessions that always make the conference a special experience for SIM Trainers.

Make plans now to attend.

Look for more information about the conference and preconference in future issues of *Stratenotes*. **CRL**

20th Anniversary Celebration

The University of Kansas
Center for Research on Learning
July 9-11, 1998
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Kansas City, Missouri

Potential trainers

More potential trainers joined our group with the 1997 class in Florida. Judy O'Malley, Debbie Cooke, Patty Graner, and Jim Knight trained the following people in July:

- Donna Kite
- Elizabeth McCabe
- Deborah Mouw
- Iris Neil
- Melody Ness
- Nima Pewitt

We have received word of the death of Janet Johnson, a faculty member at Northern Kentucky University.

Janet received her Strategic Instruction Model training from Keith Lenz and Fran Clark.

"She was a strong advocate of the strategies at her institution and in her part of the state," Fran said. "She was widely respected in the state."

More information about 1998 sessions

All of the workshops described on these pages will be offered at the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning in Lawrence, Kansas.

The training fees listed for each workshop cover the cost of materials provided with the training. Participants will be responsible for their own transportation, housing, and meals.

Applications or registration forms for training are available from Janet Roth, Training Coordinator, KU-CRL, 3061 Dole Center, Lawrence, KS 66045, (785) 864-4780.

SIM Training Opportunities

SIM Learning Strategies Workshop for Preservice Educators

January 6-10, 1998

(Tuesday-Saturday)

Fee: \$510

This workshop is designed for college/university faculty involved in teacher education programs. The purpose of this workshop is to enable preservice educators to provide empirically validated interventions from the Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) to prospective teachers. This instruction is characterized by explicit and intensive instruction for students with mild disabilities and other students considered to be at risk for school failure. This workshop will focus on exploring strategies from the SIM Learning Strategies Curriculum.

(Faculty interested in the routines in the Content Enhancement Series should attend the Pedagogies for Diversity in Secondary Schools Workshop for Preservice Educators.) Participants will explore several learning strategies and will be provided with sample syllabi, books, and teaching resources so that learning strategies instruction can be infused into existing courses or new courses can be constructed. Information related to meeting additional SIM Learning Strategies Trainer certification requirements for inservice training will be provided. Registration is due by December 5, 1997.

Pedagogies for Academic Diversity in Secondary Schools Workshop for Preservice Educators

May 26-30, 1998

(Tuesday-Saturday)

Fee: \$510

This workshop is designed for college/university faculty involved in teacher education programs preparing teachers primarily responsible for large group content-area instruction in the general

education middle- and high-school settings. This workshop will enable faculty to prepare teachers to implement a variety of empirically validated teaching routines from the SIM Content Enhancement Series.

Content will emphasize inclusive course planning and the implementation of a variety of explicit teaching routines designed to ensure content area mastery of critical ideas and concepts.

Participants will explore several routines in depth and will be provided with sample syllabi, books, and teaching resources so that Content Enhancement Routines can be infused into existing courses or new courses can be constructed. Information related to meeting additional SIM Content Enhancement Trainer certification requirements for inservice training will be provided. The workshop is conducted by a team of university faculty from five diverse universities. Teams of individuals from the same institution are encouraged to apply. Applications are due by February 15, 1998.

Strategic Instruction Model Workshop Level I

July 21-25, 1998

(Tuesday-Saturday)

Fee: \$395

Teachers who have had no training in SIM or perhaps have been trained in only one or two strategies will benefit from this week. During the five days of training, teachers will become familiar with the Overview of Content Enhancement and will become prepared to implement one Content Enhancement Routine and the following strategies: SLANT, Paraphrasing, Sentence Writing, Word Identification, Self Advocacy, and FIRST-Letter Mnemonics. Registration is due by May 8, 1998. ►

Strategic Instruction Model Workshop Level II

July 21-25, 1998

(Tuesday-Saturday)

Fee: \$395

This workshop will provide training for classroom teachers who already have been trained in SIM procedures and have taught some of the strategies. At this advanced session, participants may choose to enroll in the Writing Strategies (Sentence Writing, Error Monitoring, Paragraph Writing, Theme Writing), Reading Strategies (Paraphrasing, Dissect, Visual Imagery, Self-Questioning), other strategies (Vocabulary, Memory, Assignment Completion), the Content Enhancement Routines, or a combination of several routines and strategies. Teachers will make their selections and submit these with their completed registration form and payment for the workshop. Registration is due by May 8, 1998.

Strategic Instruction Model Workshop Content Enhancement

July 21-25, 1998

(Tuesday-Saturday)

Fee: \$395

This workshop is designed to provide an opportunity for teachers to learn new methods to teach large amounts of content to academically diverse classes in "learner friendly" ways. In this hands-on workshop, participants will plan how to use the Content Enhancement Routines developed at the Center for Research on Learning to enhance the ways they present content and improve students' ability to organize, understand, and remember critical information. Participants will learn all the routines from the Content Enhancement series (Concept Mastery, Anchoring, and Comparison; Lesson, Unit, and Course Organizers; Survey, Clarifying, and Quality Assignment) and then invent ways to implement the routines in their courses. Registration is due by May 8, 1998.

Workshop for Potential SIM Content Enhancement Trainers

July 21-25, 1998

(Tuesday-Saturday)

Fee: \$510


Participants in this workshop will be selected through an application process. Individuals who have previously been trained in and have successfully implemented a variety of Content Enhancement Routines will be trained to begin the process of becoming a Content Enhancement Trainer. To become a certified SIM Content Enhancement Trainer, individuals will be expected to meet additional training requirements after completing the workshop. Applications will be accepted from individuals who have administrator support and can submit a portfolio of teaching devices showing implementation of a variety of teaching routines throughout a course. Routines are not taught during the workshop; the focus is on the training process. Applications should be postmarked by April 10, 1998.

Workshop for Potential SIM Learning Strategy Trainers

Aug. 3-7, 1998

(Monday-Friday)

Fee: \$510

Participants in this workshop will be selected through an application process. Individuals who have been trained in the Learning Strategies Curriculum and have implemented a variety of learning strategies will be trained to be potential trainers. Teachers need to have implemented at least four strategies; supervisors and coordinators must have implemented at least two strategies with at least one student. Strategies are not taught at the workshop. The focus is on the training process. To become a certified trainer, a set of requirements must be met after the week of training. Applications should be postmarked by April 10, 1998. 

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