PD-RAP: Professional Development for the Redesigned Advanced Placement Curriculum
Collaborating Partners

- Michigan University
- EDC Learning transforms lives.
- University of Minnesota
- UMass Boston
- CollegeBoard
- NSF
Project Background

- Redesigned AP Biology, Chemistry, and Physics curriculum and exams in 2013, 2014, and 2015 respectively
  - Emphasis on scientific inquiry and depth of understanding
- PD-RAP Project is examining the impact of professional development (F2F workshops, online courses, resources, online learning community) on AP teachers (~20,000 teachers) making this shift
- Mixed methods approach: collection of quantitative (survey) and qualitative data (case study interviews)
- This marks the first time that the College Board has shared their data with outside institutions
HGSE’s Contribution

- Online learning communities for AP teachers in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics

- **APTC** participation has the largest and most positive and direct effect on both teaching practices and students’ AP scores (Fishman et al., 2014)
Research Questions

1. How can online learning communities complement and extend professional development efforts?

2. How can online learning communities be more effective in serving participants?

3. How can online learning communities be designed for scale so that learning is personalized and participants have voice?

Knowing “what works” can help teachers responding to other impending national large-scale changes in curricula.
Why Should You Join Us?

- Customized product for your portfolio
- Autonomy – there’s space for you to develop a focus and to hone your skills
- Support
- Mentorship
Possible Project Ideas...

- Develop a participants’ guide to using the AP Teacher Community
- Analyze qualitative and/or quantitative data from the online community to determine trends
- Write a literature review about online learning communities
- Create materials to support AP Teacher Community moderators in improving their practice
- Generate a customized project based on your interests and the skills you want to hone…
Quotes from Past Student Researchers

- “I had a wonderful experience and learned a great deal that improved me as both a teacher and a researcher.”

- “I came out of this semester and this project with a concrete product that I can put in my portfolio, which is very exciting. Overall, it was a very rewarding experience and I was able to accomplish the learning objectives that I set for myself at the beginning of the semester.”

- “Working with the PD-RAP research team has been an opportunity to take part in important research that has the potential to make a huge positive impact on students and teachers across the country. I am very lucky to have had this opportunity to work with such talented and experienced individuals.”
Questions?

- Please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions…

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