**From:** National Equity Project
**To:** Schaaf, Libby
**Subject:** Instructional Coaching: Beyond Best Practices
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 12:59:41 PM

"I believe it's almost impossible to change alone..."

## *Blog Excerpt:* Instructional Coaching: Beyond Best Practices

Instructional coaching doesn't necessarily support teachers to be more successful with their most struggling students. Just as great teaching requires more than content knowledge, instructional coaching for equity requires more than pedagogical expertise. To support a teacher to learn and grow, we need to really know and understand them.

***What is this teacher excited about? What do they care about? What motivates them? How are they thinking about their work? What are their beliefs and assumptions about their role as teacher?***

As their coach, we have to take the time to build a trusting relationship where we know the real answers to these questions. Many teachers are assigned an instructional coach and view it as a punitive measure. By taking the time to observe, assess, and validate their experience and expertise, we show that we are authentically invested in their

success.

Engaging a teacher in this reflection does more than set the stage for a positive coaching relationship – it demonstrates a new kind of relationship that is possible between teacher and student – which can translate into powerful new relationships in the teacher's classroom. Building trusting relationships with the teachers we coach also helps us to productively challenge our teachers to examine their own biases and mental models.

*Read the full post at http://blog.nationalequityproject.org/instructional-coaching-beyond-best-practices/. Learn these skills and more at our upcoming seminar:*

## Instructional Coaching for Equity

**March 7, 2014 | Oakland, CA**
**$400/participant | 6 CEUs**

http://nationalequityproject.org/events/instructional-coaching

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> *"The balance between the theory and hands-on practice and modeling from the facilitators was fantastic."*

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http://nationalequityproject.org/events/coaching-for-equity-2014

> *"I now have tools and pedagogy to strengthen and focus my work with principals individually and in groups, and tools for facilitating difficult equity-based discussions on my team."*

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