

Dear Educators,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to introduce myself to you; I have been in the classroom for 18 years as a math and science teacher and this classroom experience is central to my identity as a school leader and as an instructional coach.

I began my teaching career in the DC and Maryland public school systems; where I honed my teaching craft by seeking to understand what makes math and science accessible and exciting to a wide variety of learners. I then received an invitation to join High Tech High in 2006 and have served as both a math and science teacher as well as a project-based instructional coach for schools around the the country and the world looking to improve the integration of PBL, math and science curriculum for their students. During this time I gained professional recognition for my ability to cultivate school cultural practices that took students out of the classroom and into their own communities; these community learning experiences asked students to work with community members to address needs that they found pressing. These memorable projects included: creating an air pressure carnival for kindergartners, producing a physics coloring book for sixth grades, publishing a field guide to the local flora and fauna, constructing obelisks with simple machines, and launching a student run bread baking company that relied on chemistry and knowledge of family ancestry.

I love the work I do with students; but what I have found to be the most impactful is being able to share these integrated math and science curriculum opportunities and practices with other teachers. As an ambassador for a program called, High Tech High On the Road, I have worked with teachers in Africa, Israel, China, Australia, Chile and Spain who are all attempting to change the paradigm of education in their schools or districts to a PBL/STEAM philosophy. In my trainings, I offer opportunities for teachers to think about their passions and how they can incorporate them into their classrooms. I coach teachers and administrators in project design, execution, management and most importantly, exhibitions of students work. In each training I invite participants to actively engage with the work as their students would; and just as I would my K-12 students, I meet participants “where they are” so they can find success in a way that is personalized to them. When I am not, “on the road” I also formally mentor new teachers through High Tech High’s Teacher Center. Mentors are responsible for instructional coaching, curriculum and project design as well as general support and guidance as teachers enter the profession.

My joy in supporting teachers stems from my passion to ensure teachers are equipped to prepare students for an ever changing world. Cultivating a passion for PBL curriculum in both teachers and students ensures the world will change for the better. It would be an honor to share my work and coach within the UPENN community. I am eager to take on this new opportunity.

With gratitude,
Marc Shulman