

LATTICE Testimonials

from interviews for the LATTICE DVD, Spring 2005

Amzat Assani, Benin

Yes. If I would summarize LATTICE experience, I think it's the whole world and the United States brought together in a single space, like classroom size or a bit more larger. That in itself is very important because it's an experience, I don't know how to describe it.

Judy Huynh, USA

LATTICE is the highlight of the month. Every month that I go to LATTICE, I look forward to it the whole time just because of all the ideas that I will have and the people that I'll talk to and the conversation is so rich and so wonderful. And I come back and share all that with my students and I just think it makes me a better person. And my students gain from it.

Eric Wilmot, Ghana

So, LATTICE is, to me, a group that brings together all these different perspectives. We discuss our different perspectives and come to understand different policies, different structures and the different educational systems that come out. That's not the only case. We also look at the other international issues and begin to understand each other better. For instance, I can give you a few examples. For instance, after the September 11th bombing, I came to understand the Islamic religion better through LATTICE, through some of the sessions that we had with LATTICE. Even though I have stayed with Muslims, I had not really taken particular care to know about their religion until I got some of this information from LATTICE. I would say that LATTICE exists not as a group but as a family.

Jack Schwille, USA

To me LATTICE is a variety of what we call teacher study groups. There's been a lot of indications and evidence over the last twenty years that teacher study groups are a powerful way for teachers to learn, powerful means of professional development. We've done some research on this in the College in areas of mathematics education. We're now getting a lot of research or indications from Japan that what we call Japanese lesson study which is another sort of teacher study group, teachers' action research group, has been a very influential means of improvement in Japanese teaching. So I thought we should try a study group that was

- focused on these issues of knowledge about other countries and international understanding and
- added international students to the mix and see if that was a viable way to improve the professional development opportunities for teachers. I think we found that it is.

Betty Murakami-Ramalho, Brazil

WHAT IS LATTICE? LATTICE is about a group of people that is not afraid to learn about themselves. It doesn't matter if they're international or local. They're there to

learn about things that they do but they don't know they do. and they learn that by seeing others doing different things and they question themselves. They're not afraid of change.

Jean Frentz, USA

LATTICE is a personal experience that changes the way you look at people and the world.

James Toby, Trinidad/USA

To me what LATTICE is, LATTICE is a window to the world, a window in which you can go at your own pace so that you can see as much as you want, when you want it and to an extent how much is shown to you.

Margaret Holtschlag, USA

It is an incredible learning experience. It truly is. And it is a learning experience that has so many different ripples to it. I get to go to LATTICE and simply learn about different topics. I get to connect with different people. I get to take whatever I learn at LATTICE and translate that into something that I do with my students the next day, the next week, throughout the next year. It is really a deep learning experience.

John Metzler, USA

At the heart of LATTICE is the opportunity to interact at an individual level around issues which are of very deep personal as well as of professional concern to myself. LATTICE has provided me personally with an outlet to share this with others. And hopefully to share this in a way that is nonobtrusive and where I can sort of take off my professorial gown and be a colleague with both the students and with the teachers.

Niu, Rui, China

I think LATTICE is a wonderful community. Inside, we can learn from people. We share our experiences. And just like I said, we learn how to cooperate with other people and to build up, to promote this teacher community.

Guyen Witteveen, USA

Probably many of the speakers will say the same thing. At its essence, I think, LATTICE is a learning community, that's the best phrase. Trust is created and once that trust is there the small group discussions and the shared discussions beginning with the essence, the essential, the quintessential LATTICE exercise which is introducing yourself, telling the story behind your name, and people asking you questions about your name. Maybe they've heard of it or they've never heard of it, and so it generates into a discussion... just your name which you think is very straight forward. From that one act you realize that things which you thought were straight forward actually have a lot of things connected to them that you just take for granted. LATTICE, a nice image for LATTICE, is on the letterhead. It's actually a LATTICE, strips of wood that are crisscrossing. They all start from different places and they go to different places and yet there are points where they intersect. And at that meeting point is where the strength is. So that's one element, the intersection idea. But the

other idea is the space that's in between. Just as important as the commonalities are the things that are different and having that distance that separates you. I think the image was very well chosen, very apropos. It works out very nicely.

The other thing connected to that, is that (and other people have probably said the same thing in other words) but it's not so much about knowledge, coming away after a session saying, "Oh I learned a new fact," although that's there, but it's really, over time, as the relationships develop and deepen and you learn more about people.

You're really developing attitudes. So after say a two year cycle, if you come there's a kind of a learning curve and as you speak out more and become more actively involved, you begin developing these attitudes of respect and listening skills and some of these basic things that we know are important but until you've seen it in front of your own eyes it doesn't have the same meaning and power.

Mark Shaheen, USA

LATTICE is kind of like the original tribe that left the south and went around the world and it's our opportunity to come back to where we all started and see if we can recognize each other, see if we can get back to or understand each other.....from where we started.

Kurnia Yahya, Malaysia

The essence of LATTICE for me is the openness, the warmth and the sense of, I don't know, for me who's come from so far away from the other side of the world, who's used to a big family, who grew up in a very diverse culture and I lived for six years in England, but still there are times when LATTICE amazes me in a positive way. It's like every LATTICE session I learn something new because, not just about the things people talk about and the way people relate to things but also the sense of safety. I can say anything and nobody will say, "That's dumb. That's stupid. Or Enh, that's not important. " So I feel valued there and I think, I've heard this from many people, they feel valued in LATTICE.