Welcome to the Skillful Observation and Coaching Laboratory. Thank you for participating!

The Skillful Observation and Coaching Laboratory (SOCL) is a school-embedded professional development experience that builds instructional leadership capacity for administrators, instructional coaches, curriculum specialists, and/or anyone who is responsible for the development of teachers and teaching.

Here’s the logic… Many variables affect student success and achievement. The variable with the largest effect size is teacher efficacy. Teacher efficacy is driven by the degree to which teachers’ talents are recognized and developed at work. Over time, school leaders who can develop teachers and teaching create school cultures that attract even more talent. And the cycle continues… to the great benefit of student learning.

The SOCL seeks to build instructional leadership expertise in three domains:

1. Pattern recognition
2. Retrieval fluency
3. Coaching and feedback skills

SOCL participants observe classroom teaching in small groups, practice collecting relevant data, analyze and discuss the observation to clarify patterns of effective instruction, identify teacher talents and strengths, and provide the teacher with growth-evoking feedback and coaching.

As a part of the Developing the Artisan Teacher™ curriculum, SOCL participants will learn to recognize 23 Themes of Teacher Talent and will learn to utilize 7 Tools for Developing Teachers and Teaching. The SOCL typically spans two years with participants meeting four times per year at local schools for facilitated observations and feedback/coaching demonstrations.

These notes are supplements to “The Skillful Observation and Coaching Laboratory.” The SOCL is a job-embedded professional development experience that grows expertise in classroom observation and teacher coaching.
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A Logic Model...

6. Culture effects

5. Coaching and feedback

4. Talents and Non-talents

3. Teaching Quality

2. Leverage and effect size

1. A busy life

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