

# *The Bay Area Teacher Development Collaborative*

## **Registration for the Department Chairs Program**

The role of the department chair is often one of the most complex in a school. The chair must negotiate the responsibilities of leadership within the department as a teaching colleague while at the same time work with the administrative team in addressing the larger issues of the entire school. The goal of the Bay Area Teacher Development Collaborative's Department Chairs Program is to provide the opportunity for exploring the multilayered challenges of this unique position and to support its participants in becoming more effective and satisfied in their work.

The BATDC Department Chair program was launched last year to address the lack of professional development and leadership support for high school department chairs. The group of 18 participants (from four schools) supported each other around challenges, learned new skills and processes, and established a strong learning community. The success of that experience has led BATDC to institutionalize this program as an ongoing space for new learning, support, and professional relationship-building. Beyond supporting department chairs in their work, the DCP explores educational leadership and what it means to lead as a teacher. Please see other side of this sheet for more details.

Last year's group felt it was extremely beneficial to send all of its department chairs to maximize the impact and effectiveness of participation. Please consider doing so if you can.

Cost: \$1500 for first participant, \$500 each for additional participants  
(For non-members of the BATDC, the cost is an additional \$200 per participant)

Please register the following people from \_\_\_\_\_ School in the Department Chairs Program:

Name	Position	Email Address
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		

Please use the back for registering additional participants

Please make payment to The Bay Area Teacher Development Collaborative  
35 Keyes Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94129

The central questions we will explore are:

1. How can I, as a key leader, help the department work together together as a professional community?
2. How can I help the department contribute to the development of the school as a whole?
3. How can I understand better my special role and responsibilities as a department chair and develop the skills I need to serve in this capacity?

### *Program Structure*

The structure of the program will involve four meetings (two full day, two half day) throughout the 2007-2008 academic year.

1. Sept/Oct: full day meeting
2. Nov/Dec: half day meeting
3. January: full day meeting
4. Mar/April: half day meeting

There will also be an optional beginning-of-year planning/support meeting on August 20 (5-7pm) to help chairs get ready to start the year with their departments. There will also be opportunities for visiting colleagues at other schools over the course of the year.

Each meeting will include group learning and discussion time around a specific topic as well as reflection about and support for the participants' own practice, situation, and challenges. Guest speakers will be invited for several of the meetings.

A few words from this year's group:

*"I have been amazed at how much I have learned from all the department chairs. I've never had an opportunity to share/learn from these groups before. The connections, the advice, the overlap of our problems/desires, and the support were invaluable."*

*"Overall, I'm just more comfortable wearing my department chair hat and being "in charge." Being confident in my role and knowing that I have a support group allows me to more clearly define my role in relation to my colleagues. The job seems less overwhelming."*

Additional participants:

Name	Position	Email Address
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5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_