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# Taking the Lead: Enhancing Student Learning and Professional Collaboration through Action Research

Meredith Lynch  
*Gardner-Webb University*

Lindsey Weycker  
*Gardner-Webb University*

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# Taking the Lead | Enhancing Student Learning and Professional Collaboration through Action Research

## Purpose of the Professional Learning Module (PLM)

- To empower teachers in leadership development and leadership roles
- To foster mutual respect and communication between adults working together
- To encourage action research as a daily classroom practice

## PLM Objectives

- Develop a **plan** of action to improve what is already happening;
- Implement the plan through **action**;
- **Observe** the effects of action in the context in which it occurs;
- **Reflect** on these effects as a basis for further planning, subsequent action through a succession of cycles.

## Alignment to Standards

### Teacher Leader Model Standards

The teacher leader is able to:

- Utilize group processes to help colleagues work collaboratively to solve problems, make decisions, and promote meaningful change
- Model effective skills in listening, presenting ideas, leading discussions, clarifying, mediating, and identifying the needs of self and others in order to advance shared goals and professional learning
- Employ facilitation skills to create trust among colleagues, develop collective wisdom, build ownership and action that supports student learning;
- Strive to create an inclusive culture where diverse perspectives are welcomed in addressing challenges

### National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

Teachers

- are committed to their students and their learning.
- know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to their students.
- are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.
- think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.
- are members of learning communities.

## Action Research Cycle of Inquiry and Other Site Resources



Source: <https://valenciacollege.edu/faculty/development/>

- Prezi on Action Research: <http://bit.ly/2IT3qNi>
- Operationalizing a Study: <http://bit.ly/2JdzkeS>

### Articles on Action Research

- Tarrant Institute for Innovative Education: <http://tie.w3.uvm.edu/blog/why-do-action-research/#.XIV3dihKjIV>
- Creative Educator: [https://www.thecreativeeducator.com/v07/articles/Embracing Action Research](https://www.thecreativeeducator.com/v07/articles/Embracing%20Action%20Research)

### Guides on Action Research

- Brown University Action Research: [https://www.brown.edu/academics/education-alliance/sites/brown.edu.academics.education-alliance/files/publications/act\\_research.pdf](https://www.brown.edu/academics/education-alliance/sites/brown.edu.academics.education-alliance/files/publications/act_research.pdf)
- Valencia College Action Research: [https://www.brown.edu/academics/education-alliance/sites/brown.edu.academics.education-alliance/files/publications/act\\_research.pdf](https://www.brown.edu/academics/education-alliance/sites/brown.edu.academics.education-alliance/files/publications/act_research.pdf)

### Assessment of PLM

To assess the PLM, go to the following google form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPZKOYFWfy4SPJV0LRMS2kX1Zt3ewz3xV5bHmscJXLXFwt6A/viewform>

## Terms of Use

The learning cycle featured in this project is based on the STAR Legacy Cycle developed by the IRIS Center (2013;<http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/>) and based on the work of Dr. John Branford and colleagues (National Research Council, 2000).

## About the Authors:

Meredith (Meri) Lynch and Lindsey Weycker are both secondary school teachers interested in supporting and enhancing adolescent learning environments through action research. They have 25+ years combined experience working in secondary school as teacher leaders. Together, they collaboratively authored companion dissertations examining the effects of an adolescent reading program in order to complete their doctoral studies in curriculum and instructional leadership in December, 2018.

Lindsey teaches English at a suburban high school in NC. She is a National Board Certified Teacher and actively leads a Professional Learning Community at her school. She also serves for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction as a grader for the End-of-Grade English exams.

Meri teaches French, Art History, and Social Studies and is the chair of the World Languages Department at her school. She is also an instructor for the SC Dept. of Education Program for Alternative Certification for Educators (PACE), a program supporting content-area experts who want to become educators.

**Keywords:** *Action Research, The Action Research Cycle, Collaboration, Teacher Leadership*

## Collaboration and Outreach

If you are an educator looking for a collaborator on an action research project, contact the PLM authors at: [lynchme07@gmail.com](mailto:lynchme07@gmail.com) or [lindseyweycker@gmail.com](mailto:lindseyweycker@gmail.com)

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