

Tac Titooqan Article
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The Lapwai School District has a clear and shared focus on improving teaching, learning, and student achievement. The school and district-level leadership teams in Lapwai share a common language and vision solely focused on improved instruction, with a research-based approach to building teacher capacity and effectiveness. Our concentration on instruction has included building policies and system-level strategies that deepen student learning and remove barriers to change. A critical component to this improvement process includes working with regional experts and consultants. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to two of these dedicated partners.

Francene Watson, Clinical Assistant Professor of Education, Washington State University:

Francene Watson is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Education at Washington State University and teaches in the secondary pre-service teacher education and Cultural Studies and Social Thought in Education programs. Francene also works collaboratively with educators in the College of Education's *Clearinghouse on Native Teaching & Learning* furthering initiatives related to the state's Sovereignty Curriculum (*Since Time Immemorial*) and teacher formation. Drawing from experience as a former high school English and Humanities teacher, Francene's teaching, community engagement, and research is tethered to sustainability and environmental education from a place-based learning framework. Pre-service and in-service professional development themes center on the critical need to establish culturally responsive, socially just, and enlivened learning spaces in our schools. Using participatory and community-based action research models, project foci connect food, water (namely the Snake and Columbia Rivers) and community, bringing these intersections into a K-12 curricular platform such as interdisciplinary, garden-based learning.

Ryan Dent, Regional Math Specialist, Lewis-Clark State College:

With a clear passion for developing deep understanding, reasoning, problem-solving and productive mindsets in mathematics, Ryan has facilitated trainings at the local, regional and national levels on many instructional and mathematical topics. Having years of other experiences as an Elementary School Principal, Middle School Assistant Principal, Middle School Math Coach, Middle School Math Teacher, and Special Education Teacher, enables wonderful opportunities to collaboratively support Lapwai's students, teachers and administrators. Ryan is well aware of the opportunities that culturally diverse students bring to the field of mathematics, and is eager to work with our administrators, teachers and students to promote high levels of student engagement and to help us continue to grow in what it means to develop a community of mathematical thinkers. We currently have planned at least 8 days throughout this school year for Ryan to work with our teachers on establishing deep learning opportunities for our students. We're looking forward to having an ongoing and lasting relationship with the Idaho Regional Mathematics Center and seeing Ryan on campus regularly and collaboratively working with our teachers.