

# Winter Meeting Wrap-Up

Sarah Childers, Indiana

The 13th Annual NSRF Winter Meeting was held January 14–17th, 2009, in Houston, Texas, and was attended by 300 people, including facilitators and critical friends.

For three-and-a-half days, teachers, administrators and educational leaders worked together on the issues that matter most to them. Many sought to improve their coaching skills and to learn more protocols. Others needed the vital feedback of peers on difficult dilemmas. Some were just getting started and needed to build strong foundations for bringing CFGs into their workplaces. Opportunities to meet all these needs and more were offered this past January in Houston.

Our post-event evaluations showed high levels of attendee satisfaction with the Winter Meeting experience. In fact, when asked if they agreed with the statement “Overall, I would rate this meeting as outstanding,” 93 percent of respondents answered “Agree” or “Strongly Agree,” resulting in an average score of 4.7 out of 5. When asked if they agreed with the statement “My home group became a place for professional interactions that embody the characteristics of a CFG,” 90 percent of respondents answered “Agree” or “Strongly Agree.” That question had our highest average score of any question, 4.8 out of 5.

The NSRF National Center and Winter Meeting planning team want to thank everyone who helped to make the 13th Annual NSRF Winter Meeting such a huge success. The participants, facilitators, critical friends, students and planning team all made this event happen. In particular, our gratitude goes out to colleagues in the Texas Centers of Activity: Houston A+ Challenge, Houston Independent School District and San Antonio. We hope to see you all next year! ■



Sarah Childers can be reached at [schilders@nsrfharmony.org](mailto:schilders@nsrfharmony.org)

## Contents

Winter Meeting Wrap-Up Sarah Childers, Indiana	2
<i>Coaching Whole School Change: Lessons in Practice from a Small High School</i> Book Review by Peggy Silva, New Hampshire	3
Protocols in Practice: Racial Microaggressions Text-Based Discussion Wendy Brannen, New York, and Kim Feicke, Oregon	4
Forming Learning Communities is Just the Beginning...and Can Be a Dead End Debbie Bambino, Pennsylvania	5
NSRF's Living History: An Interview with Brandon Cosby Greg Peters, California	6
Center of Activity Report: New Center Established in New York William Pollock, New Jersey, and Deven Horne, New York	7
Students at the Center: The Reason for the National School Reform Faculty - Students Michaelann Kelley, Mary Matthews and Paul Cross, Texas	8

*Connections* is a journal of the National School Reform Faculty, a division of Harmony Education Center. Published three times per year, it provides a forum for CFG Coaches and other reflective educators to share their practice.

Editorial Board: Debbie Bambino, Sarah Childers and Greg Peters

If you have any feedback or are interested in contributing to *Connections*, contact us at 812.330.2702 or [dbambino@earthlink.net](mailto:dbambino@earthlink.net).

The mission of the National School Reform Faculty is to foster educational and social equity by empowering all people involved with schools to work collaboratively in reflective democratic communities that create and support powerful learning experiences for everyone. - Adopted June 2001