

Dan Isbell, Molly Weaver

Title: “Been There, Done That”: IMTE Member Reflections on Major Career Transitions

Description: Most professional educators experience multiple job changes and career transitions. In this interactive professional development session, IMTE colloquium attendees are asked to reflect on a series of questions that address two major career transitions - from being a successful elementary or secondary instrumental music teacher to becoming a college-level music teacher educator, and from being a junior-level faculty member to becoming a senior-level faculty leader or administrator. Questions will highlight retrospective narratives collected in advance of the symposium and associated with transition timing (when the decision to transition was made; what the personal motives or sources of influence were) as well as transition effects (changes in actual work responsibility, opportunity, challenge and reward; changes in perceptions of professional efficacy and impact; emotional hurdles experienced such as sense of loss or regret). Small-group (early-, mid- and later-career IMTE members) discussions and reports will be framed in terms of recent scholarship on faculty professional growth that emphasizes the importance of learning, agency, relationships and commitments [Faculty Careers and Work Lives: A Professional Growth Perspective. O’Meara, K., Terosky, A., & Neumann, A. (eds.). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008.]