

US Educationist trains young college faculty



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Darjeeling: A US Educationist who taught 21st century learning skills to Salesian College Sonada and Siliguri faculty last October is back in seven months to teach young faculty of both campuses on Continuous Professional Development.

This time, Prof Loren Weybright is engaging young faculty who joined teaching positions in the last five years on a 3-day workshop in what he calls: Building Relationships, Developing Wise Practices, and Integrating Technology.

Some 18 faculty members participated in the practical workshop on college level teaching from 20th to 22nd May.

Divided into two groups, the participants applied ORID Conversation model in teaching. It consists of: Objective descriptions, Reflective feelings or emotions, Interpretive meaning, values, or significance; and Decisional and action.

Departmental level group meetings discussed how their respective departments may support faculty in their effort to create a more interactive environment in the classroom. After the workshop Prof. Weybright met with Department Heads, to share workshop participant discussions with them.

Commenting on the hands-on workshop Assistant Professor Vasudeva Naidu of English Department says, “You can’t teach teaching. You’ve got to have it. Though, you may improve upon it.”

Siliguri campus will have a similar 3-day workshop by Prof. Weybright from 27 to 29 May.

Dr. Weybright taught primary school students and prepared beginning teachers at the college level for 45 years in New York City and in Illinois, and retired from college teaching in 2011. His research and practice focused on developing reflective thinking among college professors and classroom teachers, and on enabling beginning teachers to promote reflection and critical thinking in their students.

Currently Dr Weybright works closely with school communities, in collaboration with other nonprofit organizations, including the Institute of Cultural Affairs, Nepal (ICA-Nepal). END

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BY CM PAUL

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