

*EdCamps are more than just an idea or a theory. They're part of an international movement, replicated in 42 states and dozens of countries worldwide. Thousands of blogs have been posted documenting both the EdCamp experience and concrete changes that teachers have made as a result of attending an EdCamp. An analysis of these reflections show that EdCamps not only adhere to the tenets of effective adult learning, but also prove highly motivating. EdCamps are also supported by the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** (see www.edcamps.org).

Through the course, leaders will learn principles of effective professional development: mainly, how adults need time to learn from others and try out new strategies, and the necessity of having an opportunity to discuss the pressing issues of the here and now. Research shows that learners need physical communities of practice, and extended discussion and experimentation as they work through new strategies and modes of instruction. Further, these communities must be local, face-to-face and flexible, allowing learners to respond to the most recent trends and areas of concern.