

Back to School Workshop: High Leverage Teaching Practices

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Presenter Bios:

FRANCESCA FORZANI

Francesca Forzani is the associate director of TeachingWorks. She has spent the past seven years collaborating with colleagues to redesign the teacher education programs at the University of Michigan and studying reform initiatives in teacher education. Her research focuses on identifying instructional practices that are essential to competent beginning instruction and on the implementation of reform in teacher education. She is particularly interested in the development of a common language for studying and teaching instructional practice and on identifying resources that support practice-focused teacher training. Before coming to Michigan, she taught high school English for four years in Greenville, Mississippi, where she was a Teach for America corps member. She also served as a teacher educator for three years in Teach for America's summer training institute and for a year in Teach First's summer institute in London, U.K. Forzani holds a BA in English from Smith College and a master's degree in public policy and a PhD in education policy from the University of Michigan.

NICOLE GARCIA

Nicole Garcia focuses on the design and implementation of practice-based approaches to the professional training of K-12 teachers. At TeachingWorks, she leads the mathematics team's development of assessments, curricular materials, and multimedia supports for mathematics teacher educators. In addition, she directs the Elementary Mathematics Laboratory, including overseeing the design and enactment of practice-based professional development for teacher candidates, practicing teachers, and teacher educators. An experienced secondary mathematics teacher, Nicole brings expertise in working with students who have not been successful in school mathematics. She taught at an award-winning Middle/Early College that is highly successful in supporting the mathematics learning of such students. In past work, Nicole directed a regional mathematics and science center, provided professional development to K-12 mathematics teachers, and facilitated state-wide education projects. Nicole earned a BS and MA in mathematics education at the University of Michigan.