**What is EdCamp?**

**EdCamp** is a form of unconference designed specifically for teachers and their needs. What makes **EdCamp** an unconference? Unlike traditional conferences which have schedules set months in advance by the people running the conference, **Edcamp** has an agenda that's created by the participants at the start of the event.

Travis Lappe from Harrisburg had the first EdCamp in Harrisburg last fall, the second one was held in Rapid City. He generously offered to facilitate this professional development opportunity again in Brookings. EdCamp South Dakota was held in Brookings on March 28 at Camelot. The Brookings School District, SDEA, BEA, SDSU, and SNEA were responsible for bringing EdCamp to Brookings.

The EdCamp Foundation had informed us from their experience around the world to expect about half of the participants that signup.

Our EdCamp registration had approximately 170 educators. We were then expecting about 85. We were ecstatic when close to 130 participants arrived at 8:30 that morning. We had the largest turnout of the 3 EdCamps in SD. Participants came as far as Oklahoma, Minnesota, and Nebraska. We had preK-20 in attendance, including administrators, SDSU professors, student teachers, SDSU practicum students, educators from all sized districts, and a teacher from a colony school.

To say the least EdCamp was a success with participants wanting to know when the next one was going to take place. The comments ranged from good to awesome. They continued to state that the experience was amazing and the day was spent having some of the best professional development they had had in years. One professor from SDSU stated to me that he was hoping something like this could happen for the professors on campus. My favorite session was listening to first year teachers describing their first year to student teachers. I felt we should have all heard this conversation as veteran educators.

Sponsorships beyond the ones mentioned previously were The Brookings Chamber, LifeTouch, EdCamp Foundation, HyVee, Squirrels, EMC Publishing, Piktochart, TechSmith, Makey Makey, Padarmour, Voki, Boom Writer, Cromville, Kahoot, Remind, Splashtop, Eductopia, Squishy Circuits, Zaption, and BirdBrain Edu.

BEA and the Brookings School District have been asked to host another EdCamp about the approximate time next year.

**Districts Represented**

Aberdeen Catholic Robert Frost

Alcester-Hudson SDSU Students

Baltic Sioux Falls

Bridgewater-Emery Sioux Valley

Brandon Valley South Dakota Innovation Lab

Brookings South Dakota State University

Corsica Tri Valley

De Smet Viborg

Deubrook Watertown

DSU Oklahoma

Edina Nebraska

Elkton

ESA 3

Estelline

Florence

Freeman

Harrisburg

Howard

Madison Central

Mitchell School District

Montrose