



# THE PLI INQUIRER

*Professional Learning  
International's monthly  
newsletter*

## Welcome to the February 2025 edition of our monthly newsletter!

You might notice a fresh look this month. We've heard from so many educators who value these updates, and we're always looking to improve. Please send us your feedback because we want to make sure this newsletter remains a valuable resource for you.

With 2025 well underway, our course offerings are expanding—and filling up fast. From hands-on workshops in stunning locations to free online Masterclasses, there are plenty of opportunities to connect, learn, and grow in the months ahead.

Whether you're refining your question design, exploring immersive in-person learning, or ready to take the next step in your professional journey through the CBCI Trainer Certification Institute, we have something to support and inspire you.

Plus, don't miss our latest online courses, Collaborative membership insights, and a brand-new Learning Lounge video.

We look forward to learning with you.

Warmest regards,  
From the PLI team.



### An update from Rachel

As we step further into 2025, I'm excited by the growing number of teachers embracing Concept-Based Inquiry and the incredible work educators like you are doing to deepen student learning.

This year, we're continuing to expand opportunities to learn together, from hands-on workshops in beautiful locations to free online masterclasses and in-depth professional learning programs. We have some very large, very exciting projects on the go, especially in the mathematics space, and I can't wait to share them with you.

I hope you find something in this newsletter that inspires and supports you, and I am looking forward to learning alongside you in the months ahead!

— Rachel





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# Upcoming workshops



## Introduction to Concept-Based Inquiry

If you're a teacher or school leader who wants to unlock the power of a Concept-Based Inquiry Approach, this intensive workshop is an excellent step. You'll come away with practical strategies that will reshape the way you design learning units.

Rachel will be leading two of these workshops in the coming months - one in each hemisphere!

### ITALY: March 17-18

See 'Course Highlight' on the next page.

📍 H-Farm International School, Venice

€ €750 (€700 for groups of 5+)

[Register now](#)



### NEW ZEALAND: July 17-18

📍 Hadlow Preparatory School, Masterton

💰 \$500NZD (earlybird \$450NZD until June 20)

[Register now](#)



## Refer a friend

**Are you thinking of a colleague who would love this workshop?** Share this newsletter and encourage them to join our global community of forward-thinking educators. Transforming education starts with you.



## WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHT

# Inquiry in Venice

**A two-day workshop that will transform teaching and learning in your classroom.**

This March, join Rachel French at H-FARM International School for a workshop that will change the way you teach.

Concept-Based Inquiry is about developing deep understanding by helping students recognize patterns, connect ideas across subjects, and develop critical thinking skills that last a lifetime.

In this workshop, you'll:






- Debunk common myths about inquiry-based teaching
- Discover strategies to guide students toward deeper thinking
- Experience hands-on activities you can use immediately in your classroom
- Learn from case studies of schools successfully using this approach

This isn't just theory—Rachel will provide practical, classroom-tested methods to engage students in meaningful learning.

### An Exceptional Setting for Learning

The workshop takes place at H-FARM International School, an innovative, future-focused campus just outside Venice. H-FARM is renowned for blending cutting-edge education with real-world application, making it the perfect setting to explore new ways of thinking about learning.

### Event Details

-  March 17–18, 2025
-  H-FARM International School, Venice, Italy
-  €750 per person | €700 group rate (5+ attendees)
-  Includes a copy of *Concept-Based Inquiry in Action*
-  Morning tea and lunch provided

This is an opportunity to reimagine teaching, connect with like-minded educators, and experience the magic of learning in Venice.

Limited spaces available—register now!



[Register now](#)





# Upcoming online courses

Whether it's the first step of your journey into Concept-Based Inquiry or you're looking for advanced frameworks, we've got a course for you.

## Foundations of Concept-Based Literacy & Language

Learn how to apply Concept-Based Inquiry principles to your literacy or world languages units, leverage student agency, and guide your students to develop transferable understandings.

Facilitated by Tiffanee Brown, this 6-week course **begins on March 10, 2025.**

Registrations close on March 5th, 2025.

[Register now](#)

## Concept-Based Inquiry in Action [Korean]

Discover the power of a concept-based inquiry approach!

This introductory CBI course for K-12 educators is packed with practical strategies that will transform the way you think about unit design.

Facilitated by Grace Shin, this 8-week course **begins on June 19, 2025** (all sessions conducted in Korean).

Registrations close on **June 11.**

[Register now](#)

## Grow our community

**Know a colleague who's passionate about innovative teaching?** Share this link to our online courses with your network and invite them to join our global community of forward-thinking educators.





# Join the CBCI Institute

## 2025 could be your year for a leadership leap.

Are you ready to lead transformative change in education?

The **Erickson & Lanning Concept-Based Curriculum and Instruction (CBCI) Trainer Certification Institute** is a **12-month online program** designed for experienced educators, curriculum leaders, and instructional coaches who want to deepen their expertise and guide others in Concept-Based teaching.

This intensive program goes beyond theory, equipping you with practical skills to design engaging, transferable learning experiences and support fellow educators in implementing Concept-Based approaches. As a certified CBCI Trainer, you'll be able to lead workshops, mentor teachers, and drive meaningful change in schools worldwide.

The Institute offers a rigorous and highly collaborative learning experience. You'll engage with advanced content, refine your ability to facilitate Concept-Based learning and join a global network of education professionals. With a limited number of spaces available, the program ensures a high level of interaction and personalized support.

Applications for the 2025 cohort are open now, and the course begins on **August 16th, 2025**.

If you're passionate about advancing education and ready to take the next step in your professional journey, apply today.

[Apply now](#)



## Get Collaborative

Enroll in the CBCI Trainer Certification Institute before the end of May, and you'll receive membership to the **CBI Collaborative** - the only Professional Learning Membership of its kind. The **CBI Collaborative** is your opportunity for ongoing professional learning, practical support, individual feedback that is specific to your context, and access to a community of thought partners who will challenge your thinking, offer support, and celebrate your wins with you.

[Learn more](#)



# Masterclasses

## A look ahead at our upcoming free 60-minute Masterclasses.

### TRANSFORM YOUR GUIDING QUESTION DESIGN February 24th, 2025, 07:00 PM UTC

Drawing insights from her analysis of over 500 guiding questions, Rachel French has pinpointed three common patterns that hinder deep conceptual understanding and limit the potential of Concept-Based Inquiry.

This engaging Masterclass will reveal these patterns and empower you with the skills to design and evaluate guiding questions that ignite deeper thinking and create richer learning experiences.

You'll also come away with a ten-tip checklist to help you evaluate and refine your guiding questions.

[Register now](#)



MONTHLY MASTERCLASS

## TRANSFORM YOUR GUIDING QUESTION DESIGN

FEBRUARY 24TH, 2025 07:00 PM UTC

HOSTED BY RACHEL FRENCH

A free 60-minute Masterclass designed for educators eager to enhance their guiding questions – and avoid the mistake 70% of teachers make.



## Missed a Masterclass? Hit replay.

Sometimes life gets in the way. But if you miss a Masterclass (or simply want to watch it again), you can. Each Masterclass is available to watch for 7 days after the live session.

By the way, if you join our Collaborative membership, all Masterclass videos are available forever, alongside a host of other resources.

[Explore the CBI Collaborative](#)





# The Learning Lounge

The Learning Lounge is a suite of video discussions with some of the most innovative minds in education. Each month, we discuss new ideas, share best practices, and explore the latest thinking.

Spark your interest and challenge your thinking—a new episode is released every month.



## Episode 15: Leading change in curriculum design.

In this episode, Rachel French is joined by Dr. Marie-Theres Whitehead, Lauren Zeigler, and Kathryn Templeman to discuss leading curriculum change through a Concept-Based Inquiry approach.

They explore how this framework enhances curriculum development, fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, and supports meaningful student learning.

[Watch it now](#)

