Making Connections to Educational Research Opportunities - Response

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Context

- To paraphrase Ben Levin: Beliefs and politics trump research ... but interest in research is growing. However, recognize that education is a value-laden activity.
- The media increasingly, although not always accurately, use/cite research.
- Consumers increasingly research issues that matter to them (e.g., on the Internet).
Context

- Manitoba
  - small population
  - limited financial resources generally
  - even more limited money for research
  + relationships (minimal degrees of separation)
  + willingness to collaborate
  + common issues
  + educated consumers of research
Context

**U.S. - No Child Left Behind Act** -

“scientifically-based research” and the “gold standard” of randomized, controlled trials

**Vs**

Accumulated data from less rigorous sources
Uses of Research Information (not mutually exclusive)

- Description - what does X look like?
- Broad efficacy (evaluation and decision making) - does this policy or program deliver the results we wanted?
- Narrow efficacy - does this method work for this student?
- Comparison - which is better?
Types of Research Designs

- randomized, controlled trials
- comparison (carefully matched) group studies
  - quasi-experimental models (William Trochim)
  - pre-test : post-test
  - various qualitative research designs
  - various single-subject designs
Research Partnership Issues

- Identification - (Joan and Deb)
- Time frame
  - your own (university tenure, personal interest) vs. your partner’s (government, funder, school, student)
- Resources
- Intent (knowledge generation, policy or program change, instructional effect)
Research Opportunities

- Joan and Debra’s suggestions
  - The departments of Education (class size and composition issues, student outcome rubrics, applications for ICT, transition to post-secondary)
  - Manitoba Educational Research Network
  - NGOs (e.g., Dale Kendel of ACL-Mb)
  - Joan and Deb’s example of a division project & check out divisional plans
Research Opportunities

- Special attention to schools
  - constitute learning communities
  - check out school plans - priorities, outcomes, evaluation and reporting
  - action research
  - single subject design

- Evaluate. Evaluate. Evaluate.
Research Issues - Canada

- Pan-Canadian Education Research Agenda 2003 (CESC - StatsCan & CMEC)
  - transitions
  - learning outcomes
  - teacher education
  - diversity and equity
  - special-needs programming
  - citizenship and social cohesion
  - technology
Research Issues - Manitoba

- Improving educational outcomes
  - for Aboriginal students
  - for students with special needs
  - in ESL and diverse cultural contexts

- Planning processes and effectiveness

- Transitions to post-secondary and work

- Curriculum implementation
Research Issues - You

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