

A Reflective Note of Appreciation to the 2007 Constructivist Conference

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Editor's Note: These comments were written by Art Logan, a sophomore at St. Lawrence University, upon completion of the week-long Constructivist Design Conference sponsored by the Learning Centered Collaborative at the Grand Island (NY) Holiday Inn in July 2007. Over 250 teachers, school administrators, students, and parents attended the conference to work on school-related projects using constructivist strategies. Art was assigned the task of interviewing conference facilitators and participants to complete a research paper for a course at the University on how to develop student ownership in a learner centered classroom. At the close of the conference, he was asked to share his reflections on the week at a debriefing session with approximately 60 conference staff facilitators. The comments below are what he read to the facilitators who had helped to create the community of learners at the conference:

Dear Constructivist Conference,

Although I may have lost my job by coming to this conference, the knowledge and experience I have gained will enable me to carry on in a way that my mind's eye has never been able to see before. Today, for the first time as a young adult, I feel loved and connected to something greater than me.

The 2007 Constructivist Conference has been both cosmic and mystifying. Judging by the sequence of events during this week – how things simply fell together with a little faith and determination – I can see that my efforts are worthy, thus satisfying. I take this time to thank everyone who has given me an audience, for they have showered me with love and affection – the kind of stuff I could feel.

I give thanks to those who have aided me through my classroom assignment. I want to specifically thank all the people with whom I have worked

this week for what I see as the marriage of practical learning with institutional design. Please know that you are truly appreciated.

I love all you all for the way I see and the direction I feel you are moving education in our society. Each of you earned a place in my memory bank, and you are etched into my mind's eye forever. Peace!

Sincerely,

Arthur L. Logan