



• **The Why, What, and How of Taking a Brain-Based Approach to Student-Centered, Proficiency-Based Learning** •

WORKshops Designed by Bill Rich

Purpose/Audience: *Designed for middle and high school educators (individuals and/or teams) ready to learn by doing. Throughout the WORKshop series, participants will use their learning to practice and refine the fundamental skills of designing, orchestrating, and reporting student-centered, proficiency-based learning in our middle and high schools.*

Overview of Series:

This popular WORKshop series has run for years in Montpelier, and now, due to popular demand, we're heading south to Killington. Each WORKshop will begin with compelling activities and findings about the remarkable adolescent brain, followed by guided application devoted to participants accessing resources, ideas, and each other to draft and refine products they'll use back in their settings with their learners. Throughout the series, we strive to model what we teach. One of the greatest compliments we've received came from a participant who wrote, "Your medium is your message." Come learn how to take a brain-based approach to student-centered, proficiency-based learning...by experiencing it.

WORKshop 1: The Fundamentals of Brain-Based Learning Design (October 4)

We'll begin with a compelling series of activities that engage participants in the fascinating world of the adolescent brain. With this common frame in place, we'll study models of learning scales, performance-based assessments, and blended learning environment and, ultimately, dig in and design where it makes most sense for you and your learners.

WORKshop 2: Designing & Using Learning Scales that Create Competence (November 14)

What is a learning scale? How is it different than a rubric? What are the smartest ways for teachers and students use them? We will refine our understanding of the design features of learning scales and why they matter so much to students and teachers in a proficiency-based system committed to making learning more personally meaningful. Participants will also draft and refine learning scales to use in their setting.

WORKshop 3: Keeping It Real: The Promise and Perils of Performance Assessment (March 7)

We'll study a range of examples that show the opportunities and challenges of designing and orchestrating assessments that ask students to use their learning to perform in the world. Participants will draft / refine a performance-based assessment for their learners.

WORKshop 4: Pulling it All Together: Just How Great Can Learning Get? (May 11)

For this final WORKshop we'll be joined by students and their educators who will show and describe how great learning gets when we use brain-based principles of learning design to create increasingly student-centered, proficiency-based classrooms and school systems. We'll bring to bear all we've learned during this WORKshop series to imagine, describe, and tune a vision of just how great learning will be for you and your learners next year.

Dates: October 4, November 14, March 7, May 11

Place: Killington Mountain Lodge ~ Killington, VT

Cost: \$190/workshop or \$650 for all four

Time: 8:30-3:30 (lunch included)

