Hello Teachers:

Welcome to the Inquiry-Based Learning professional development that begins this weekend in the MarineTech Moodle site. You can join us in your slippers and bring your hot coffee to this workshop location! We have separated the content into 4 separate weeks rather than overwhelming you with it all at once. Also, everyone will have the same timeframe for the discussion groups to be able to converse together on a designated topic. In an online workshop, all of you are in the captain's seat, because you are the ones responsible for navigating (the provided readings and resources) and sharing the waterways responsibly (productive and professional discussions) in order to arrive at your final destination (understanding and applying IBL for student learning).

To guide you in your travels, Becky and Linda are including a few travel tips to help you avoid undertows and strong currents:

Tip 1 - Once you have logged in to the MarineTech Moodle site, scroll down to the section titled Inquiry-Based Learning. In the top right of this section, there is a small square. If you click the square it will hide the other sections so that you can focus only on this section. Don’t worry, the other sections haven’t disappeared for good. Click the square again (2 are shown now but either works) and all sections will appear again. By following this tip, you can avoid all of that scrolling back and forth.

Tip 2 - When opening and reading the resources provided in Moodle, you will have links to go to. When you select one of the links and have finished reading it, you can use your back button to return to the original resource provided. When you have finished with the original resource, there are 2 ways to go back to the Inquiry-Based Learning section in Moodle. You can use the back button or you can use what is called the breadcrumbs at the top left under MarineTech 2008 - SCHEV. The MT10108 link takes you back to IBL section.

Tip 3 - Read the Discussion Tips to enhance your group discussions. This is your learning community. Each of you are instrumental to the quality of the learning within your groups.

Tip 4 - Each of you are a member of a group. The groups and group members are posted in the IBL section. There will always be someone who has to start the discussion in your group. Becky and Linda will also dive in when needed. If we notice any other potential water hazards (technical, etc.), any loss of crew members (non-participation or access of resources), we will come to your rescue. We will also be your shipmates (input, ideas, questioning in each of the group discussions).

If you have any questions, please contact Becky Bowen, rebecca@ittip.us or Linda Townsend linda@ittip.us. We may be reached by phone Monday through Friday from 8:30 – 5:00, at 434-517-0717.