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Francesca Gandini* (fra.gandi.phd@gmail.com) and **Nina White**. *A working group kickoff event to jumpstart collaborations*. Preliminary report.

In this talk we will share our experience using an innovative new format for supporting faculty collaborations across institutions. Our organization, Association of Michigan IBLers (AMiIBL) is part of an NSF grant to support Communities for Mathematics Inquiry Teaching (comathinquiry.org). As part of this grant, we had funds to support faculty/instructor collaborations (\$500/person). However, we struggled to motivate faculty in our region to actually take advantage of these funds. On June 8th, 2021 Nina White and Christine Von Renesse ran a “working group kickoff”, which allowed interested faculty to attend without having a project in mind or a team in place. Over the half-day event, the group collectively created and refined project ideas, participants formed teams based on interests, and teams started on their projects. For seven weeks, the five groups met regularly to work on their projects. On July 27th, the groups presented interactive sessions about their projects to a wider audience and received feedback. In this session we will share some of the outcomes of this project and lessons learned from the organizational perspective. (Received August 06, 2021)