

CENTER CONNECTIONS

An E-Letter from ACI's Center for Success in High Need Schools

*Volume 1 No 6
August 2005*

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Center Education Council seeks nominations

Do you know someone whose insight and expertise could help guide ACI's *Center for Success in High-Need Schools* and bring the community perspective to our efforts to close the achievement gap in high-need schools? *Center* staff are meeting with education leaders across the state to raise awareness of the *Center's* mission and work and to identify nominees for the *Center Education Council*. The Council will act as an advisory body and networking mechanism; help build partnerships with business, government, philanthropic and high-need school communities; boost visibility and credibility; and support fund raising for *Center* programs and initiatives.

Center Director Jan Fitzsimmons and COO Cindy Yang already have met with Arne Duncan, CEO of Chicago Public Schools; Randy Dunn of the State Board of Education; and Elliot Regenstein of the Governor's Office. In addition, Jan Fitzsimmons represented the *Center* at ACI's first Leadership Breakfast for Trustees, on July 13, in Chicago. Hosted by ACI Chairman Jim Wiley, the breakfast was attended by 13 ACI Trustees and six ACI-member Presidents.

The *Center Education Council's* inaugural meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2005. *Center* partners are asked to contact Jan Fitzsimmons (312-263-2391 Ext 34), or Cindy Yang (312-263-2391 Ext 26) to discuss potential nominees. You also may submit names and qualifications of nominees to centerconnections@acifund.org.

Where and how does the AAT fit in? July 13th Center Partnership Meeting explores community college Partnerships

The July 13 *Center Partnership Meeting* focused on partnerships between ACI members and their local community colleges, with particular emphasis on the Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) degree now under development. Thirty deans and chairs of education at ACI institutions, faculty members, and school and community college partners heard Carol Lanning, interim vice president of Policies and Programs at the Illinois Community College Board, and Cynde Kuck, Illinois Independent Higher Education Chair of the AAT Early Childhood Committee, explain the development of this standards-based community college program and its implications for articulation with four-year institutions.

The AAT grew out of the P-16 movement, in 2002. Currently, AAT standards-based programs have been approved in secondary mathematics and science and are under development in early childhood and special education. Engaging community college faculty in working with standards

and competencies is expected to help develop a common language across sectors and provide quality assurance.

Lanning and Kuck highlighted the importance of cooperation between community colleges and four-year institutions to increase the diversity and quality of the teacher pool. They believe the AAT is one way to accomplish these objectives. As Lanning explained, more than 60% of teacher candidates will take at least one course at a community college during their college years, and it is critically important that teacher-educators at both the community colleges and four-year institutions work together to ensure a high quality content knowledge for every teacher, in every course. Kuck believes that the AAT movement provides independent higher education with an opportunity to demonstrate its unique ability to contribute to Illinois teacher education priorities.

Ray Salazar and Myrtis Brown of the Chicago Public Schools' Student Teaching Initiative presented plans for the November CPS Student Teaching Summit, funded by a \$10,000 Pilot and Demonstration Project grant from ACI's Center for Success in High-Need Schools. Salazar and Brown explained the history behind the Student Teaching Summit, which seeks to become a national model for transforming the student teaching experience. Already, the summit has helped increase the number of student teachers placed at CPS and the number of teachers hired by the district. The Fall Summit, which seeks to develop a statewide model for student teacher orientation, will provide special benefits for ACI institutions and their teacher-candidates, as well as for the *Center for Success in High-Need Schools*.

The Center Partnership Meeting included sessions focused on Curriculum Transformation Initiatives, development of the Center online journal *Success in High Need Schools*, planning for the September 30 Arts and Sciences Collaboration Colloquium, and Recruitment, Retention and Enrichment Initiatives.

The next Center Partnerships meeting will be held Wednesday, August 24th from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (One N. Franklin, 3rd floor conference room). The agenda will focus on business and corporate partnerships and feature a guest panel of business people who are active in education. Partners in all *Center* programs are asked to mark this date on their calendars and to be sure to invite their business, schools and community partners. Contact centerconnections@acifund.org to RSVP or to suggest business representatives who should be invited.

Center Journal premier November 15

***Success in High-Need Schools*, the online Journal of the Center for Success in High-Need Schools, will premier November 15, 2005.** The first issue will include a series of articles on *Center* programs, projects and results to date. Editor-in-Chief Jerry Berberet will issue invitations to *Center* partners to submit articles. The second issue, scheduled for publication in February 2006 will focus on the role of arts and sciences in teacher education and profile

collaborations between teacher educators and arts and science faculty members seeking to improve pre-service curricula, and induction and retention programs for high-need schools.

***Success in High Need Schools* will document and disseminate model programs and best practices emerging from the work of ACI's Center, provide a vehicle for publishing action-research of Center partners, and serve as a forum for assessing progress in improving teaching and learning in high need schools.** *Success in High Need Schools* will participate in the national dialogue regarding teaching in high-need schools by featuring work of national experts and commentators, as well as by linking online readers with chats and blogs to be housed on the *Center* web site.

***Success in High-Need Schools* seeks editorial board members, issue editors and juries for reviewing manuscripts.** To volunteer to serve or to nominate others, please complete and submit the attached survey to Jerry Berberet at centerconnections@acifund.org.

Arts and Sciences Colloquium scheduled for September 30

All ACI-member education faculty members and their partnering arts and sciences faculty members are urged to set aside September 30 to attend a dynamic colloquium that will explore the role arts and sciences faculty play in preparing high-quality teachers. Faculty may participate in round table discussions and attend workshops featuring best practice-based collaborative projects. For more information, to suggest a project or collaboration to be showcased at the colloquium or to RSVP, contact centerconnections@acifund.org.

***Center Connections* will publish monthly on the 25th**

Beginning with this August 2005 issue, *Center Connections* will be distributed on or about the 25th of each month. The new deadline for submission of announcements, calendar entries, and *Curriculum Transformation Initiative* features will be the 18th of each month. To submit for the September issue of *Center Connections* (release date: August 25), please email by August 18th to centerconnections@acifund.org.

Best wishes, Heather!

July 27 marked Heather Anderson's final day as the Center Assistant. Heather has accepted a teaching position at Simmons Middle School in East Aurora School District 131. Congratulations, Heather; thank you for all of your hard work and our very best wishes. The search for a new Center Assistant is underway, and we look forward to seeing Heather at Induction Academy events in her new capacity as classroom educator. In the meantime, you can continue to contact the Center via centerconnections@acifund.org, or Center Director Jan Fitzsimmons via jan.fitzsimmons@acifund.org.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Teacher Induction Academy planned for high-need schools in central Illinois

Plans to replicate the *ACI Teacher Induction Academy in Central Illinois* are underway in partnership with East St. Louis, Belleville, Cahokia, Madison and Monroe schools and the St. Clare regional support office. New teacher orientation programs will be held on August 4-5 and August 26-27 in Belleville, Illinois. *Induction Academy* conferences will be held on September 17, October 15 and November 19, 2005, and on January 21, 2006. Support for second year teachers, as well as new teachers, will be introduced beginning with the October 15 conference. **McKendree College's** Stan Burcham is serving as the ACI member liaison for the Central Illinois *Induction Academy*. For more information, contact him at spburcham@mckendree.edu.

ALTERNATIVE AND ACCELERATED CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

Illinois Special Education Collaborative (I-SPED)

Plans are underway to expand the **St. Xavier I-SPED model to other locations and to establish I-SPED as a leading forum** for developing model programs, disseminating best practices' dissemination and designing strategies to meet Illinois' critical shortage of special education teachers in Illinois. At the August 24 Center Partnership Meeting, Candace Baker, facilitator of the I-SPED program at **St. Xavier University**, will lead a breakout session to discuss ways to expand I-SPED networking, to provide induction and mentoring support for new special education teachers, and to initiate research to document the effectiveness of innovative special education program models. Center partners are invited to share best practices in special education and strategies for integrating theory and practice under the new multicategorical certification system. To suggest topics that should be addressed, email centerconnections@acifund.org.

PILOT AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Center project proposals due August 15

Proposals for *Pilot and Demonstration Projects* are invited from ACI member teacher education and arts and sciences faculty, and teachers and administrators from high-need schools partnering in ACI's *Curriculum Transformation Initiatives*. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available from ACI's *Center for Success in High-Need Schools*, which will support partners working together to develop innovative and replicable curricular models, pedagogies, and program practices designed to improve teacher education and quality for high need schools. The results of these projects will be presented and disseminated statewide through appropriate forums, workshops, and publications. Proposals should state clearly the problem the project will address, the project's objectives, a timetable for project implementation, anticipated project outcomes, proposed dissemination of project models and results, and a plan for project evaluation. Proposals are due August 15. To request a copy of the RFP, contact centerconnections@acifund.org.

CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES

North Central College's Jr/Sr Scholars Pipeline to Urban Teaching

The Junior/Senior Scholars: Pipeline to Urban Teaching is an effort to create a teacher preparation model with multiple entry points that will allow pre-service teachers to gain knowledge, skills, and experiences working in high-need schools. It consists of integrated experiences, on campus and in the field, over the time a student is enrolled at **North Central College**. Early in their college career, candidates will be required to participate in ongoing experiences with teachers and students in high-need schools to increase the probability that these candidates will elect to teach in high-need schools.

To accomplish these goals, North Central College's Department of Education has partnered with teachers and administrators from Johnson Elementary School and North Lawndale College Preparatory High School, which are part of City of Chicago school district 299; and Oak Park Elementary School, Cowherd Middle School, and East Aurora High School, which are part of Aurora East school district 131. Through this partnership, North Central hopes to better articulate and develop complementary experiences to support pre-service teachers as they gain the knowledge, skills, experiences and dispositions to teach successfully in high-need schools.

Beginning in Fall 2005, admitted freshman may select to be part of the Urban Education Learning Community. These 20 students will engage in planned experiences (including speakers, movie discussions, field trips, etc.) throughout their first term at North Central. An initial on-campus experience for this learning community is enrollment in two linked courses,

EDN 100: Introduction to Education and PSY 100: Psychology: Science of Behavior, which emphasize course concepts, activities and assignments related to teaching in high-need schools.

A second entry point, designed for pre-service teachers who do not select to be part of the learning community, is through the EDN 100 course. Through the field experience component of this course, pre-service teachers participate in the Junior Senior Scholars Program. This program, in its 16th year, provides tutoring for K-12 students in high-needs schools. For more information, visit <http://www.noctrl.edu/x3827.xml>.

A meeting has been scheduled for August 2, 2005, with school partners, arts and science faculty, the program's regional coordinators, and education department faculty to discuss ways to involve pre-service teachers in learning to teach in high-needs schools as well to share information about North Central's teacher preparation program. The goal is to generate ideas that will point the way to future projects, courses, and experiences for pre-service teachers. For more information about North Central College's Pipeline to Urban Teaching, please visit <http://www.noctrl.edu/x11325.xml> or contact program coordinator Becky Clemente at rclemente@noctrl.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 1-5:** **Lake Forest College:** LFC's Summer Academy. Contact Dawn Abt-Perkins at abtperkins@lfc.edu for more information.
- August 2:** **North Central College** Pipeline to Urban Teaching discussion and planning meeting. Contact Becky Clemente at rclemente@noctrl.edu for more information.
- August 8-12:** **North Central College:** *A Teacher-Friendly, Student-Friendly Approach to K-8 Science Teaching*, a professional development workshop for high-need school teachers, coordinated by professors John Zenchak, biology, and Mary Jean Lynch, psychology. For more information and to register, contact John Zenchak at jjzenchak@noctrl.edu.
- August 9-11:** **McKendree College:** *ETS Pathwise Framework for Teaching Observation System* workshop at Pearson Hall, 8:00 am – 3:30 pm. Contact Julie Tonsing-Meyer at jatonsing-meyer@mckendree.edu for more information.
- August 15:** Deadline to submit proposals for *Center Pilot and Demonstration Projects*. For more information email or call Jan Fitzsimmons, Center director (jan.fitzsimmons@acifund.org, or 312-263-2391 Ext. 34).

- August 16:** **McKendree College:** *ETS Pathwise Framework for School Leaders* workshop at Pearsons Hall, 8:00 – 3:30. Contact Julie Tonsing-Meyer at jatonsing-meyer@mckendree.edu for more information.
- August 24:** ACI's *Center for Success Partnership Meeting*, 9:00 am-2:30 pm; theme: *Business Partnerships to Improve Teaching in High Need Schools* (One N. Franklin, 3rd floor conference room - Chicago)
- September 16:** ACI's *Center for Success Partnership Meeting*
- September 30:** ACI's *Center for Success Arts & Science Collaboration Colloquium* (location to be announced). For an invitation or more information contact Jan Fitzsimmons at (312) 263-2391 x 34 or jan.fitzsimmons@acifund.org.
- September 30:** ACI's *Teacher Induction Academy: The Amazing Profession: Journeys in Teaching*, **Lewis University**, Oakbrook Campus, 3:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Contact centerconnections@acifund.org for more information.
- October 21:** ACI's *Center for Success Partnership Meeting*
- November 4:** ACI's *Teacher Induction Academy: The Amazing Profession: Journeys in Teaching*, **Lewis University**, Oakbrook Campus, 3:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Contact centerconnections@acifund.org for more information.
- November 18:** ACI's *Center for Success Partnership Meeting*
- November 19:** *CPS Student Teaching Summit* at **North Park University**. Contact Ray Salazar at rsalazar@cps.k12.il.us for more information.
- December 16:** ACI's *Center for Success Partnership Meeting*