

CENTER CONNECTIONS

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

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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS FLASH!

\$1 million in new scholarships for ACI member colleges New federal grant will promote diverse teacher corps

As we rushed to press with *Center Connections*, ACI learned we have been awarded a \$3.75 million, three-year grant from USDOE's **Teacher Quality Enhancement-Recruitment Program**. The grant will launch ACI's *Diversity at the Blackboard*, a comprehensive effort to build a new corps of teachers who more closely match the diversity of Illinois' K-12 student population. Nearly one-third of the new federal dollars – about \$1 million – will be available as scholarships for aspiring teachers, including male and minority applicants, attending ACI member institutions. For more details, please attend the September 16, 2005 *Center for Success Partnership Meeting*.

State School Superintendent Randy Dunn to Speak at September 30 Arts and Sciences Colloquium: *The Role of Arts and Sciences in Teacher Preparation*

ACI's Center for Success in High-Need Schools will hold a day-long colloquium on collaboration between arts and sciences and teacher education faculty in preparing teachers for high-need schools, on Friday, September 30, 2005 at the Doubletree Hotel Chicago-Oak Brook in Oakbrook, IL. The colloquium will explore curriculum transformation and professional development strategies to strengthen discipline content, pedagogical knowledge, and cultural competence in teacher preparation.

Superintendent Dunn will be the colloquium luncheon speaker (12:30 pm). He will provide the state's perspective on the role of the arts and sciences in teacher preparation and why collaborating with teacher education programs is important in closing the achievement gap in high-need schools.

Faculty from ACI colleges and universities across the state will share model programs and successful practices and discuss methods of effective collaboration. Breakout sessions will address the role of professional development schools, portfolio evaluation and faculty professional development in preparing future teachers for high-need schools. Other presentations will explore results and lessons learned from *Center-funded arts and sciences/teacher education faculty summer research and curriculum development projects* at **Aurora University, Concordia University, and McKendree College**. A panel of arts and sciences and teacher education deans will discuss the

importance of faculty roles in preparing teachers to help close the achievement gap, give examples of successful collaboration, and identify the benefits and pitfalls of collaboration.

All ACI member colleges and universities are invited to send teams of up to five faculty and administrators to the colloquium. The day will begin with continental breakfast at 8:30 am, include lunch and adjourn at 3:00 pm. Members should email names, titles and departments of team members to Lidia Han, *Center Program Officer* lhhan@acifund.org by Thursday, September 22, 2005.

Center Education Council Premiere Meeting

The initial meeting of ACI's Center Education Council is scheduled for September 21, 2005 from 12:00-2:00 pm, at One N. Franklin, 3rd floor conference room, Chicago, IL. The *Council* is composed of representatives of the business, education and philanthropic communities, who will advise, provide support, and network with educational constituencies across Illinois on behalf of the *Center*. **Paul Pribbenow**, President of **Rockford College** and ACI Executive Committee member, chairs the *Center Education Council*. President Pribbenow is uniquely qualified for the position because of his belief in the importance of civic engagement to private liberal arts colleges. In addition to President Pribbenow, the *Center Education Council* includes:

Nicholas S. Amatangelo,* retired President and CEO, *Bowne & Co., Inc.*

Donaldo R. Batiste, deputy Superintendent, *Waukegan School District #60*

Sherry Eagle, former Superintendent, *West Aurora School District #29*

Clifton Fenton,* retired Manager of Investment Banking Division, *John Nuveen & Company*

Joan M. Klaus,* Vice President, *Bank One*

Brian T. Mauntel,* Senior Vice President, Business Banking Group, *Fifth Third Bank*

Jeffrey D. Mays, President, *IBRT*

Max McGee, Superintendent, *Wilmette School District #39*

John J. Pappas,* retired President, *AT&T*

Kathy Payne, Public Affairs Manager, *State Farm Insurance*

Jesse W. Price,* community affairs manager, *Caterpillar Decatur*

Pamela R. Randall, Deputy Chief Officer of High School Programs, *Chicago Public Schools*

Christina V. Rother,* Vice President, Education, State & Local Sales, *CDW-G*

Toni S. Smith,* retired Senior Director, *Spencer Stuart*

James S. Whitehead,* Partner, *Sidley Austin*

Mark Williams, Division Administrator, *Illinois State Board of Education*

* ACI Business Trustee

Center for Success Partnership Meeting features State Farm's Kathy Payne and Caterpillar's Jesse Price

Two of Illinois' most thoughtful and experienced advocates of partnerships between education and business addressed ACI's Center for Success Partnership meeting on August 24, 2005. From their vantage points as community affairs managers at State Farm and Caterpillar, respectively, Kathy Payne and Jesse Price spoke of the need for educators and businesspersons alike to think outside their respective "silos" in order to understand each other's culture. A willingness to identify measurable outcomes and the capacity to move from analysis to action are critical to educator efforts to partner successfully with business people. The benefits from such partnerships include improved curricula, business financial support for educational reforms, and community support for education, including the passage of school referenda.

State Farm's SLATE program (State Farm Learning and Teacher Exchange) is one example of the significant benefits possible through business partnerships. SLATE enables substitute-certified State Farm employees to volunteer as teaching subs at 54 schools in the Bloomington area. BY making qualified subs available, State Farm enables classroom teachers to pursue professional development activities. Payne reported that both teachers and State Farm volunteers are energized by the experience. Price noted that a similar benefit could be realized by placing teachers in internships with businesses. Both Payne and Price will be continuing voices in the *Center's* development, while serving on the *Center Education Council*, which will hold its first meeting on September 21, 2005.

In the afternoon, groups divided into breakout sessions to explore three issues.

Sessions were held to complete planning for the *Center's* Arts and Sciences Colloquium (September 30), to discuss new alternative and accelerated certification cohort program sites, and to discuss support programs for new special education teachers through ACI's Illinois Special Education (I-SPED) collaborative. *The next Center meeting will be September 16, 2005, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm, 6th floor conference room, at 20 N. Wacker, in Chicago.*

Success in High-Need Schools will launch in November

Success in High-Need Schools, the online journal of the Center for Success in High-Need Schools, will premier in November 2005. The first issue will include a series of articles on the spectrum of *Center* programs, projects and results to date. Editor-in-Chief Jerry Berberet has recruited ACI member teacher educators and arts and sciences faculty, as well as practitioners from partner school districts, to write for the premier issue. Calls have been issued for manuscripts for the journal's second issue on the theme of alternative and accelerated certification programs. Issue Two will be posted in February 2006. Author guidelines and deadlines are available by contacting centerconnections@acifund.org.

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. The journal 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's 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 contact Jerry Berberet at centerconnections@acifund.org.

A Teacher-Friendly, Student-Friendly Approach to K-8 Science Teaching

A week-long summer workshop at North Central College helped K-8 teachers develop and practice science activities based on the scientific inquiry approach. Coordinated by North Central College professors John Zenchak, biology, and Mary Jean Lynch, psychology, the August 8-12, 2005 workshop addressed the critical need to improve the scientific literacy of elementary and middle school teachers so that they can make science more accessible to students of different genders, ethnic/cultural backgrounds, socioeconomic levels, and ability levels.

Participating teachers gave rave reviews to the workshop. One teacher commented, "The days went quickly! I'm looking forward to trying all the ideas I've gotten. This has changed the way I'll teach science." Another participant remarked that it was "truly amazing...a meaningful and inspirational experience." Participants received a small stipend, which they could keep or use to help pay for two semester hours of graduate tuition or 6 CEUs.

As a follow-up to this workshop, Zenchak and Lynch will visit each participant's classroom to provide individual support and mentoring. In addition, they will collect lesson plans that demonstrate the impact of the integrated workshop approach. The lesson plans will be collated and disseminated to beginning teachers through the Associated Colleges of Illinois' *Teacher Induction Academy*.

New Center Program Officer and Associate Positions Filled

August 8, 2005 marked the first day of work for our new Center Program Officer, Lidia Han. Han is a former classroom teacher who taught kindergarten and third grade at a high-need school in Elgin prior to joining ACI's *Center for Success in High-Need Schools*. She is an alumna of North Central College and is currently completing her master's degree there. In her capacity as program officer, Han will be charged with the Center's program, grantmaking and administrative components. She will have primary responsibility for managing the *Teacher Induction Academy* and *Mentor Online*.

Akila Ruffin is the newest member of ACI's Center for Success. Her first day of work as *Center Associate* was August 29, 2005. Ruffin is a recent graduate of Purdue University. She has extensive experience working in office environments that required her skills to ensure efficient functioning of those organizations. In her capacity as associate, Ruffin will be responsible for providing administrative and clerical support to the *Center's* leadership team.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

The Amazing Profession: Journeys in Teaching *Teacher Induction Academy* launches new year of programs

ACI's *Teacher Induction Academy* launches its 2005-6 year this fall. In addition to a full schedule of activities for the Metro Chicago area, plans to replicate *TIA* are underway in Central Illinois. The Metro East *Teacher Induction Academy* will offer support and professional development opportunities for teachers in their first four years of teaching. **McKendree College's** Stan Burcham is serving as the ACI member liaison for the Metro East area. The first Metro East session will be held on September 17, 2005. For additional information regarding the time and location of the *Academy*, please contact Stan Burcham at spburcham@mckendree.edu.

The first Chicago Metro session will take place on September 30, 2005, from 3:30 – 8:30 pm, at Lewis University's Oak Brook campus, 2122 N. York Road. The session will begin with "Table Talk," an opportunity for mentoring from experienced teachers who are currently seeking advanced degrees in educational leadership. The program offers topical tracks geared to participants' number of years in teaching:

- 1st year – "How to Connect with Students in Poverty," Dr. Phil Hunsberger of the Metro East Consortium Child Advocacy (MECCA), and "Positive Behavior Supports," Dr. Candace Baker, **Saint Xavier University**
- 2nd year – Assessment, Dr. Rebecca Clemente, **North Central College**
- 3rd year – Differentiated Instruction, Kathy Berry, Strategic Learning Initiatives
- 4th year (NEW) – Technology, Donna Goodwyn, **Elmhurst College**

To receive a registration form for the Metro Chicago session, please contact Lidia Han at (312) 263-2391, ext. 38 or Lidia.han@acifund.org.

A new series of professional development opportunities will be offered to current and aspiring principals beginning with the November 4, 2005 Chicago Metro *Teacher Induction Academy*. The new educational leadership strand is designed to build an understanding of how to support and retain beginning teachers. ACI's *Center* is looking for faculty who are interested in facilitating year-round sessions for principals. Please contact Jan Fitzsimmons for additional information at jan.fitzsimmons@acifund.org or (312) 263-2391 x 34.

Mentor Online Expands

Five new topics will be added to ACI's *Mentor Online* in the coming weeks: Arts (art, music, theater and dance), Bilingual Education, Physical Education, Social Studies and Special Education. ACI's *Mentor Online* is a convenient electronic discussion board staffed by faculty from ACI member institutions and experienced practitioners. It is available to teachers state-wide and they can register and log on to the forums any time of day or night. Currently *Mentor Online* offers five discussion boards: Classroom Management, Technology, Mathematics, Science and Reading/Literacy. To access ACI's *Mentor Online*, log onto www.aciteachers.org. Interested in becoming a mentor or moderator? Please contact Mary Selke at selkema@lewisu.edu. The first Mentor/Moderator meeting will be on September 23, 2005 at **Lewis University**, from 4:30 – 6:00 pm.

ALTERNATIVE AND ACCELERATED CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

Troops to Teachers recruits candidates for ACI's *Transition to Teaching Partnerships*

ACI's Director of Alternative and Accelerated Certification Programs Chris Johnston attended the State Board of Education's annual awards luncheon (August 4, 2005, Oak Lawn, IL) to participate in a panel discussion of alt cert programs that will allow military personnel to become teachers and administrators in high-need schools. The award's program, which honored 29 veterans for five years of teaching service, also convened a panel of state administrators and representatives of higher education, who explored teacher certification opportunities for veterans. Veterans who enroll in ACI's *Transition to Teaching Partnership* have access to the special supports of CPS' Golden Teachers Workshops and ACI's *Teacher Induction Academy* sessions.

Transition to Teaching: Grads Give Back

Graduates from the 2005 class of the *Chicago Transition to Teaching Partnership* (Concordia University, Elmhurst College, and Saint Xavier University), an alternative certification program in secondary math/science, returned to mentor the new cohort of interns as they prepared to enter classrooms as teachers in Chicago Public Schools this fall. The graduates shared lessons learned from their first year of teaching experience in order to help the new interns make a smooth transition into their classrooms. All 23 graduates teach either math or science in a CPS high school.

Interns Secure Positions

The interns in the McKendree College secondary math/science *Transition to Teaching Partnership* have secured teaching positions for the fall. The ten interns will be teaching on provisional teaching certificates in East St. Louis high schools as they complete their course work toward initial state certification.

School Librarians for Chicago

A new partnership among Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Chicago Public Schools and ACI's Center for Success in High-Need Schools launched this month. School Librarians for Chicago (SCL) will place certified teachers into open librarian positions in CPS while they participate in graduate level classes in the ALA-accredited Library and Media Science program at **Dominican University**. During the program, both CPS and ACI's Center will provide professional development and mentoring. Students receive a significant tuition discount for this program. For more information about this program contact gslis@dom.edu or 708-524-6845 Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

Illinois Special Education Collaborative (I-SPED)

The Illinois Special Education Collaborative (I-SPED) is seeking academic program partners for 2006. Through this model, your institution can obtain monetary and academic advisory support to start an accelerated and experiential special education certification program, in collaboration with your local school district. If you are interested please contact Chris Johnston at 312-263-2391 ext. 21.

PILOT AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

The summer round of Center activity project proposals has concluded. Awards will be announced in the October *Center Connections*. All college faculty and school partner personnel are encouraged to develop proposals that address the issues of recruitment, preparation, and retention of teachers in high-need schools. The next deadline for proposals for grants up to \$10,000 is November 15. For more information or to obtain an application, contact Jan Fitzsimmons at jan.fitzsimmons@acifund.org.

CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES

Collaborative Academy for Teacher Training established at Quincy University

The Collaborative Academy for Teacher Training (CATT) represents Quincy University's efforts to implement systemic change to better prepare teacher candidates to succeed in high-needs schools. A planning committee of approximately 60 people representing all of the stakeholders in this project met in June to establish goals, clarify and align the vision of the project with that of the university, and to begin to

address questions concerning plans for implementation.

A steering committee was selected to serve as the decision-making body for the execution of the grant. Composed of university faculty, community college faculty, K-12 teachers and administrators, parents, teacher candidates, and business partners, the group meets monthly to evaluate progress towards goals, address new issues, and review assessment data. Planning committee members were assigned to subcommittees, which worked throughout the summer to establish assessment tools, plan technology integration or develop courses. Results of these subcommittees' work were shared with all members of the planning committee in August.

Current plans call for four sophomore education classes to be taught in K-12 school settings starting with the second semester of the 2005-2006 school year. Primary, intermediate and high school sites have been selected. Direct interaction with students will be an integral part of the coursework and will include observation, mentoring, and small group instruction. University faculty members will share the course syllabi and objectives with the K-12 teaching staff, and they will collaborate to ensure that teacher candidates have opportunities to observe and practice the concepts being studied in a real-world setting. Clinical observations also will be tied to courses offered in the school settings.

Two junior level methods courses also will be piloted during the coming school year. Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Methods will be taught in K-12 settings, with opportunities for teacher candidates to have frequent teaching experience in classrooms at these sites. All courses being taught in the coming school year will incorporate reflection as an important tool for evaluation, with classroom teachers invited to participate in reflective discussions with teacher candidates.

Long-range plans include expanding to other sites. As additional education courses are added, new K-12 schools will be involved. Parochial schools, rural settings, schools with high numbers of English as Second Language Learners, and inner-city schools in East St. Louis are being considered.

Collaboration among all participating groups, as well as provision of authentic experiences for teacher candidates are the underlying tenets of the CATT initiative. Quincy University looks forward to implementing of the first phase of this plan in spring 2006.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 16: ACI's Center for Success Partnership Meeting, 20 N. Wacker, 6th floor conference room, Chicago, IL at 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

- September 17:** ACI's *Teacher Induction Academy: The Amazing Profession: Journeys in Teaching*, Metro East. For more details, please contact Dr. Stan Burcham at spburcham@mckendree.edu.
- September 21:** *Center Education Council Meeting*, **One N. Franklin, 3rd floor conference room, Chicago, IL**, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- September 23:** *Mentor Online Training Meeting for Mentors and Moderators*, **Lewis University**, Oak Brook Campus, 4:30 – 6:00 pm
- September 30:** ACI's *Center for Success Colloquium: The Role of Arts and Sciences in Teacher Preparation*, **The Doubletree Hotel Chicago-Oak Brook**, Oak Brook, IL, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm. For more information contact Jan Fitzsimmons at (312) 263-2391, ext 34 or jan.fitzsimmons@acifund.org. ACI member campus teams need to register by Thursday, September 22, with Lidia Han at lhsan@acifund.org.
- September 30:** ACI's *Teacher Induction Academy: The Amazing Profession: Journeys in Teaching*, **Lewis University**, Oak Brook Campus, 3:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Contact Lidia Han at (312) 263-2391 x 38 or Lidia.han@acifund.org for more information or to register.
- October 13:** State Farm Event, *Economic Impact of Education: Preparing our Future Workforce* featuring Kati Haycock of The Education Trust and Roberts Jones, former president of the National Alliance of Business, **Bloomington, IL**, 8:30 – 11:00 am. Please RSVP to Joni Ladew (joni.ladew.ICW4@statefarm.com) before October 1, 2005.
- October 15:** ACI's *Teacher Induction Academy: The Amazing Profession: Journeys in Teaching*, Metro East. For more details, please contact Dr. Stan Burcham at spburcham@mckendree.edu.
- October 21:** ACI's *Center for Success Partnership Meeting*, **One N. Franklin, 3rd floor conference room**, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
- November 4:** ACI's *Teacher Induction Academy: The Amazing Profession: Journeys in Teaching*, **Lewis University**, Oak Brook Campus, 3:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Contact Lidia Han at (312) 263-2391 x 38 or Lidia.han@acifund.org for more information or to register.
- November 15** ACI's *Center Pilot and Demonstration grant proposals due*, emailed to centerconnections@acifund.org.
- November 18:** ACI's *Center for Success Partnership Meeting*, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Location TBA

- November 19:** CPS *Student Teaching Summit* at **North Park University**. Contact Dameka Redic, new Student-Teaching Initiative coordinator at dredic@cps.k12.il.us for more information. Colleges who have additional questions should call Lidia Han at (312) 263-2391 x 38.
- November 19:** ACI's *Teacher Induction Academy: The Amazing Profession: Journeys in Teaching*, Metro East. For more details, please contact Dr. Stan Burcham at spburcham@mckendree.edu.
- December 16:** ACI's *Center for Success Partnership Meeting*, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Location TBA