

CENTER CONNECTIONS

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

Volume 1 No 8

October 2005

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last Chance for Registration:

Arts and Sciences Colloquium, September 30

There is still time to register for ACI's Arts and Sciences Colloquium. The colloquium will be held this coming Friday, September 30, 2005, at the Doubletree Hotel, at 1909 Spring Road, Oak Brook, IL – near the Oakbrook Center Mall. ACI's *Center for Success* is sponsoring this day-long event, which will explore how arts and sciences and teacher education faculty can collaborate to better prepare teacher candidates for high-need schools. The day begins at 8:00 am, with registration, and concludes at 3:00 pm. Registrations will be accepted until the morning of September 29, 2005. Participating colleges who send teams of at least three faculty members, including two arts and sciences representatives, will be awarded grants of \$1,000 for faculty professional development. If your institution has not yet registered for this exciting event, and you would like to know more, please contact Lidia Han for a registration form at (312) 263-2391, ext. 38, or send an email to ghan@acifund.org. For directions to the Doubletree from your location, contact the hotel directly at 1-800-222-TREE or (630) 472-6000. *See attachment for Arts and Science Colloquium agenda.*

**ACI receives \$3.75 million TQE-R Grant
To launch *Diversity at the Blackboard***

More than \$3.75 million in federal grant dollars will support efforts to recruit a more diverse pool of teachers ready to serve Illinois' low-income students, thanks to a new three-year grant awarded to the Associated Colleges of Illinois' *Center for Success in High-Need Schools* by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE). The USDOE Teacher Quality Enhancement-Recruitment grant will fund ACI's *Diversity at the Blackboard* program, an initiative to recruit, prepare, place and retain a new generation of teachers for high-need schools and to provide Illinois with a teacher corps that more nearly matches the demographics of our student population.

***Diversity at the Blackboard (DATB)* includes strategies specifically designed to:** 1) increase minority and male enrollment in teacher education programs by 10% each year for three years; 2) prepare 425 new diverse and highly-qualified teachers for high-need schools; 3) support *DATB* teacher candidates with \$2.5 million in scholarships, including \$1.25 million provided by the TQE-R grant and \$1.25 million matched by member colleges and universities; 4) provide effective incentives that ensure that teachers

recruited and prepared through the *DATB* initiative make ongoing commitments to high-need schools.

Aurora University, North Central College, North Park University, Trinity Christian College and University of St. Francis will serve as the lead partners in ACI's

***Diversity at the Blackboard* initiative.** Lead partners will receive up to \$75,000 per year for three years, including up to \$40,000 in scholarship dollars (to be matched by the institutions), as well as funding toward: 1) developing pre-teach curricula that help recruit minority and male students to teaching careers; 2) establishing *College Success Network* services to support success among minority and low-income students; 3) building partnerships with community colleges aimed at effectively transitioning minority students from community college-based teacher education programs to teacher education programs on member campuses. North Park University and Trinity Christian College will receive additional funding to support new *Curriculum Transformation Initiatives*.

All other ACI members may apply for TQE-R funding to implement the *DATB* initiative, with application procedures expected to be announced by late October 2005.

Proposals will be accepted for: 1) up to \$10,000 in scholarship dollars (to be matched); 2) \$10,000 to establish pre-teach curricula; 3) \$10,000 to establish *College Success Network* programs; 4) \$10,000 to build community college partnerships; 5) \$40,000 to launch new sites for *Inner-City Practicum*.

ACI's Center for Success in High-Need Schools also will be funded to develop strategies designed to recruit men and minorities to high-need teaching.

These strategies include: 1) creating a teacher career path program for high school students; 2) launching a public education campaign aimed at recruiting prospective teachers from high-need communities; 3) establishing a *Teacher-Ambassador Corps*, which calls on graduates of ACI's *Transition to Teaching Partnerships* to reach out to friends, neighbors, colleagues and family to recruit new teacher-candidates; and 4) conducting outreach efforts to high-need schools.

The TQE-R grant brings the Center's total federal funding to \$13.4 million over five years, including funding for *Transition to Teaching Partnerships*, ACI's *I-SPED* model for special education certification, and previous TQE funding that established ACI's *Center for Success in High-Need Schools* and supports our *Curriculum Transformation Initiatives* and related projects. For more information about *Diversity at the Blackboard*, please contact Cindy Yang at 312-263-2391, ext. 26.

Center Education Council introduces community leaders to ACI's Center for Success in High-Need Schools

The Education Council of ACI's Center for Success in High-Need Schools met for the first time on September 21, 2005. This group of prominent business, education, community and state education leaders will act as an advisory and networking mechanism to the *Center*. By helping the *Center* respond to the larger public interest, the

Council can raise visibility, build credibility and support fundraising for *Center* programs and initiatives. The Council will meet three times each year – in the fall, winter and spring.

At its first meeting, the Council heard a series of presentations from *Center* staff, designed to provide them with an overview of *Center* activities, including partner projects, marketing/communications, budget and evaluation. An open discussion followed, during which Council members expressed the need to develop a common language that both academia and business can understand, describing the *Center's* work and the broader field of educational improvement. Council Member and ACI Trustee Jesse Price, Community Affairs Manager for Caterpillar, commented that businesspersons and educators tend to “talk *past* one another,” which he said makes the wants and needs of both entities difficult to accomplish. One Council initiative may be to find ways to help business and education be more effective partners.

***Success in High-Need Schools* premieres online November 15 Web site to follow by year's end**

With the deadline for submission of articles scheduled for September 30, 2005, the first issue of *Success in High-Need Schools*, the Journal of the Center for Success in High-Need Schools is on track for publication on November 15, 2005. The premier issue will showcase the full range of *Center* activities, with articles expected to address: **Lake Forest College's** pre-service induction program, which takes students through a week-long “cultural competence” experience prior to student teaching in high-need schools; **North Central College's** science intensive workshops for teachers; ACI's *Inner-City Practicum*, which provides teacher education students with hands-on experience in high-need classrooms; ACI's *I-SPED* model, developed by **Saint Xavier University**, which integrates practical experience and pedagogy to prepare special education teachers; **Quincy University and University of St. Francis'** use of professional development schools in teacher preparation; and the Illinois Education Research Council's Teacher Quality Index, which combines teacher quality characteristics into a standardized index that is used as an indicator of average teacher quality in schools. The journal also will include practitioner case studies and columns by *Center* partners and experts in the field.

ACI has contracted with Palantir.Net, in Evanston, IL, to develop and post the journal site, as well as to begin developing the *Center's* comprehensive site, which is expected to launch before year's end. To advance *Center* communications, the journal site will include current and past issues of *Center Connections*, as well as brief descriptions of *Center* projects, with links to partner sites, as appropriate. *Center* staff will be in touch with partners to gather appropriate information and links by October 15, 2005.

The Center is building a comprehensive database of journal subscribers representing dozens of interest constituencies in the field. *Center* partners are asked to

assist in the development of this database by suggesting appropriate subscribers. Subscriber forms are provided as an attachment to this issue of *Center Connections*. Please complete these forms and submit them by email to centerconnections@acifund.org or fax to Lidia Han at 312-263-3424.

September Center Partners Meeting

The September 16 Center for Success Partners meeting featured Gail Bush, director of the School Library Media program at Dominican University, and Paul K. Whitsitt, director of the CPS Department of Libraries and Information Services (DLIS). They emphasized the great need for qualified and trained librarians to be placed in the nearly 100 positions open throughout the Chicago Public Schools system. Library/media science is one of today's fastest changing school careers. Dedicated and qualified individuals, they said, are needed to fill the many vacancies.

Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science is partnering with Chicago Public Schools and ACI's Center for Success in High-Need Schools to prepare certified teachers as school librarians. A 40% tuition discount is available for students in Dominican's fully-accredited program. Candidates completing the coursework will earn the Illinois Type 10 Special K-12 Library Information Specialist Certificate.

Sue Rasher, director of OER Associates LLC, presented a summary of the Year 1 evaluation of ACI's Teacher Quality Enhancement Partnership Grant, as well as an overview of the Year 2 plan to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the Center's progress towards meeting its key objectives. Rasher described the development process for ACI's Web-Based Database and Reporting System, which is an organized, efficient mechanism for gathering and recording information needed for the evaluation of ACI programs. This "data warehouse" will assist in preparation of all reports required by the U.S. Department of Education, as well as reports for the *Center's* collaborating partners. All data entered by a member college will be available for use for that college's own formative and summative evaluations. Members of the TQE Implementation Team reviewed the test version of the system and made suggestions for making it more user-friendly. OER currently is implementing those suggestions and soon will begin site visits to the eight campuses participating in the TQE Partnership grant.

ACI's Center for Success TQE-R Diversity at the Blackboard grant was introduced to the group, including objectives, funding allocations, and opportunities to participate. For more information about *Diversity at the Blackboard*, please contact Cindy Yang at 312-263-2391, ext. 26.

Next Center Partners Meeting: October 21, 2005

11:00 am – 3:00 pm
3rd floor conference room
One N. Franklin, Chicago, IL.

Evaluator site visits will promote effective data collection

The Center's eight TQE Partnership campuses will be visited by Center evaluators, OER Associates LLC, from October 7 to 27, 2005. When TQE site visits are complete, OER will schedule visits with all campuses participating in the TQE-R *Diversity at the Blackboard* initiative.

OER will visit each campus, train campus staff, and help campuses develop a plan/system for data entry for ACI's Web-Based Database and Reporting System, designed to gather and manage data that document ACI's progress toward meeting TQE objectives. OER will provide technical manuals, e-mail contacts and phone numbers for technical assistance. Each college will have an OER Site Visitor who will serve as a key, single-point-of-contact assistant throughout the year. Within the next six months, ACI's Web-Based Database and Reporting System will expand to include data collection for all of the *Center's* programs and initiatives. For additional information, contact: Sue Rasher, Director, OER Associates LLC, suerasher@oerassociates.com.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

ACI's *Mentor Online* to be featured at The Illinois Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (IACTE) Conference

Mary Selke, Lewis University, and ACI staff members Jan Fitzsimmons, Chris Johnston and Lidia Han will conduct an informational session at the IACTE Fall Conference on October 14, 2005. The session entitled "Innovations in Beginning Teacher Assistance: ACI's *Mentor Online*" will show the methodology of creating an online network of support for beginning teachers. The IACTE presentation is scheduled for 11:30 am – 12: 15 pm, and will be held at **Olivet Nazarene University** in Bourbonnais, IL.

ALTERNATIVE AND ACCELERATED CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

In response to 100 openings in Chicago Public School libraries, Dominican University has developed School Librarians for Chicago

School Librarians for Chicago (SLC) places certified teachers into open librarian positions in CPS, while candidates attend graduate level classes in the American

Library Association-accredited Library and Media Science Program at Dominican University. A partnership among Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Chicago Public Schools' Department of Libraries and Information Services and Department of Human Resources, and ACI's *Center for Success in High-Need Schools*, SLC held information sessions for candidates on September 8 and September 14. By mid-to-late November, the program hopes to recruit 15 participants, who will enroll at Dominican University in the spring 2006 semester. Both CPS and ACI's *Center* will provide professional development to SLC candidates, and candidates will receive a significant tuition discount for the program. For more information about SLC, contact gslis@dom.edu or call 708-524-6845.

PILOT AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Four awards were made in the August round of Pilot and Demonstration Project grants. **Lewis University** received two grants: one to create a model to develop community college partnerships as a strategy to increase Hispanic student enrollment in teacher education; the other for faculty professional development in teaching Hispanic students effectively. **Dominican University** received a *Center* grant in support of its School Librarians for Chicago Program. **McKendree College** was awarded a grant to develop an interactive, computer-based tutoring program for students and teachers in high-need schools.

All *Center* partners are encouraged to develop pilot and demonstration grant proposals of up to \$10,000. Proposed projects must 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 and to obtain the grant RFP and an application, contact Jan Fitzsimmons at jan.fitzsimmons@acifund.org.**

CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES

McKendree College: Metro-East Teleconferencing & Teaching Enhancement Project (MTTEP)

Overview: McKendree College is developing an interactive teleconferencing network (MTTEP), which links 25 classrooms in various high-need school districts in the Metro-East St. Louis area to McKendree College. During the first year, participating school districts include Brooklyn School District 188, Cahokia School District 187, and Granite City School District 9.

Goals and Objectives: MTTEP's goals and objectives include developing a collaborative model between classroom teachers and McKendree College Teacher Education Faculty. In this model, classroom teachers and education faculty members

team together to prepare teacher candidates through video conferencing. Classroom teachers will be asked to participate in pre-arranged desktop video conferencing four to five times per year and to attend meetings/planning sessions to discuss candidate progress and collaborate with faculty. During content area methods courses, teacher candidates virtually observe participating high-need classrooms via interactive teleconferencing. In addition to the collaboration between classroom teachers and education faculty, selected arts and sciences faculty members and partnering community college faculty members consult via web cameras. The goal of this project is to increase the number of preservice candidates who teach effectively in high-need schools.

Contact Information: For more information about McKendree College's Metro-East Teleconferencing and Teaching Enhancement Project, please contact program coordinator Julie Meyer at jatonsing-meyer@mckendree.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 30

Center Arts and Sciences Colloquium: The Role of Arts and Sciences in Teacher Preparation – Doubletree Hotel, Oakbrook
Registration – 8:00 am
Program – 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

ACI's *Teacher Induction Academy*, 3:30 pm – 8:30 pm, **Lewis University's Oak Brook Campus**, Oak Brook, IL. Contact Lidia Han at (312) 263-2391, ext. 38, or lhhan@acifund.org for more information.

All *Success in High-Need Schools* Online Journal articles due for publication in Issue 1

October 1

US Department of Education Fiscal Year End

October 13:

State Farm Conference: *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 14:

IACTE Fall Conference, 8:00 am – 1:30 pm: *Innovations in Beginning Teaching Assistance: ACI's Mentor Online*, **Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL**, 11:30 am – 12:15 pm.

- 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**, Chicago, 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, ext. 38, or Lidia.han@acifund.org for more information or to register.
- November 15** Online journal launches: *Success in High-Need Schools*, Issue 1
- Deadline for Center Pilot and Demonstration Grant Proposals, emailed to centerconnections@acifund.org**
- November 18:** ACI's *Center for Success Partnership Meeting*, **One N. Franklin, 3rd floor conference room**, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
- November 19:** CPS *Student Teaching Summit* at **North Park University**. Contact Demeka Redic, new Student-Teaching Initiative coordinator, at ddwilson2@cps.k12.il.us for more information. Colleges who have additional questions should call Lidia Han at (312) 263-2391, ext. 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.
- Nov. 29 – Dec. 2:** TQE Directors Conference in Washington, D.C.
- December 15:** Deadline to submit articles for Issue 2 of *Success in High-Need Schools*. The theme of Issue 2 is "Alternative and Accelerated Certification Programs.
- December 16:** ACI's *Center for Success Partnership Meeting*, **One N. Franklin, 3rd floor conference room**, Chicago, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.
- February 15** Center website posting of online journal: *Success in High-Need Schools*, Issue 2
- April 27, 2006:** Annual *Center for Success* Symposium, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm