



## **Illinois New Teacher Collaborative January 2010 Newsletter**

### **From Chris Roegge, INTC Director**

With apologies to Thomas Paine, these are definitely times that try the souls of those dependent on state funding. Here at the University of Illinois, this was driven home again recently as plans for employee furloughs were revealed. Many of you may also be grappling with how to sustain programs with fewer resources: please remember INTC remains committed to supporting induction and mentoring for all Illinois schools with low-cost or no-cost resource materials to the extent possible. Our annual Induction & Mentoring Conference is a great venue for networking, sharing and picking up programming ideas - and a great bargain. Make it a habit to check out our web site regularly, and now find us on Facebook! As always, your comments and suggestions for how we might enhance our services are always welcome.

<http://intc.education.illinois.edu/>

### **February 23-24, 2010, INTC Induction and Mentoring Conference**

Our Fifth Annual conference Digging Deeper: Using the Induction and Mentoring Continuum for Program Advancement, will take place on February 23-24 at the Hilton Springfield. Some highlights are:

- Opportunities to network with other induction and mentoring programs
- More than 40 breakout sessions and discussion forums to choose from
- Learning about and using the newly developed induction and mentoring standards continuum
- Scheduled time for teams to plan for program improvement and to work on program evaluation and self-assessment
- Featured speakers: State Superintendent Christopher Koch, Barry Sweeney, and Mary Clement
- Low cost registration fees thanks to INTC sponsor State Farm Companies Foundation

To learn more and to register online go to:

<http://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference>

### **INTC on Facebook**

The Illinois New Teacher Collaborative can now be found on Facebook. Become a fan of INTC to receive updates on INTC happenings, share induction related updates with other INTC fans, and network with others by posting to INTC's wall. Search for "Illinois New Teacher Collaborative" to find our page on Facebook.

### **ISBE Funded Beginning Teacher Induction Programs**

- All funded programs regularly complete surveys to inform INTC reports on activities and progress to ISBE.
- In the midst of widespread budget constraints, induction and mentoring programs are challenged to continue the growth and development of their important work.

### **Fall 2009 Survey Findings**

INTC released an annual report in November 2009 which summarized findings from its spring survey of funded programs. The report is available on the INTC website at <http://intc.education.illinois.edu>.

The report documents several continuous improvement efforts of the programs since their initial funding, including:

- importance and benefits of increased networking between beginning teachers and experienced teachers
- formative assessments as an integral aspect of new teacher development
- professional development opportunities for beginning teachers (both first- and second-year)
- collaborative leadership increases across program sites
- an increased emphasis on data use in determining program effectiveness and in planning for continued program improvement

Common challenges were also mentioned by a number of funded programs, including difficulties in:

- differentiation in induction and mentoring topics for new teachers
- formative assessment, program evaluation, and data collection and use across programs
- improving or proving student achievement
- budget and funding

### **Illinois Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Beginning Teacher Induction Programs**

Funded programs and others are using the Illinois standards for induction and mentoring programs to help them gain a common understanding of exemplary programs. A new, corresponding continuum document will be presented at the

INTC Conference in February. The document will serve as a tool for programs to self-assess and create action plans for further program progress and development.

### **Conference Presentations**

In an effort to disseminate information about the importance of induction and mentoring, INTC staff members have presented or will present at the following conferences:

- Illinois Superintendents Conference
- Triple I Conference
- National Staff Development Council (NSDC) Conference
- Association of Teacher Educators (ATE)
- New Teachers Center (NTC) Symposium

### **New Event: Beginning Teacher Conference**

INTC, with the support of the State Farm Companies Foundation, will offer a one-day conference for beginning teachers on June 29th, 2010, in Champaign, Illinois. This is a no-cost, one-day conference with speakers, breakout sessions, networking opportunities and more. More information on the conference and how you can get involved is available at:

<http://intc.education.illinois.edu/page/intc-beginning-teacher-conference>