



Illinois New Teacher Collaborative March 2010 Newsletter

*The Illinois New Teacher Collaborative is grateful for the continuing support of the College of Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the home of INTC; the Illinois State Board of Education; the State Farm Companies Foundation; and the many INTC partnering entities.

If you have questions or would prefer to receive no further mailings from this list, please contact Nancy Johnson nljohnsn@illinois.edu

From Chris Roegge, INTC Director

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to put on the February 23-24 INTC induction and mentoring conference and to all the participants. It is heartening to see such commitment, energy, and enthusiasm in the face of difficult times.

The INTC Executive Board met and engaged in a rich discussion on Tuesday, February 23. Among other things, the board:

- * re-affirmed INTC's responsibility to provide a safe environment where diverse stakeholders can convene and work toward the common goal of furthering new teacher induction and mentoring in Illinois;
- * recommended that the goals of INTC be regularly reviewed and amended, as necessary;
- * re-emphasized the importance of INTC support to induction and mentoring activities during a time of fiscal uncertainty;
- * suggested that INTC convene a group of new teachers to advise the Executive Board.

A combined Executive Board/Partnership Board meeting will be on Wednesday, May 26, in Champaign.

INTC Conference a Success

On February 23-24, nearly 350 educators and policymakers from diverse contexts (urban, suburban, and rural) and all parts of the state attended the event, "Digging Deeper: Using the Induction and Mentoring Continuum for Program Advancement." The Illinois Induction Program Continuum, which debuted at the conference, was the organizing content for two days of activities. Through the continuum criteria and levels of performance descriptors, induction and mentoring programs were able to self-assess and identify steps for

growth and improvement. Districts and teams used the continuum to examine their own programs and plan for new endeavors. During the February 22 pre-conference, around 150 representatives of ISBE funded programs received an introduction to the continuum and were enthusiastic about using the new document with their own stakeholders.

Other conference highlights included an evening reception with program exhibits and vendor displays, breakouts on "Critical Issues" related to induction and mentoring, and sessions for those who play the same role within their school setting as well as other sessions for sharing among programs with similar demographics. Participants lauded the designated time to work with team members and plan for future improvements. INTC credits the success of the conference to its sponsors and the many volunteer planners and facilitators.

Conference Archive

The 2010 INTC Conference archive of materials, sessions, and activities is available on the INTC website at: <http://intc.education.illinois.edu/page/intc-2010-conference-archive>.

Data Brief #1: ISBE Funded Beginning Teacher Induction Programs

INTC has produced its first data brief, based on its fall survey of funded programs. It is available at: <http://intc.education.illinois.edu/resource/rod/isbe-data-brief-1>.

Key findings from the data brief include:

- * The expansion from 39 to 66 programs allows the programs to reach 35% more first-year teachers and 67% more second-year teachers.

- * The expansion also allows for greater geographic coverage of induction and mentoring programs. The districts' demographics (e.g. student race and income; teacher salary and years of experience) show great diversity and, as a whole, run close to the state average.

- * Retention data show that first-year teachers who participate in induction and mentoring programs were half as likely to leave their districts as were teachers who did not participate.

"Y2: Beyond Survival," Beginning Teacher Conference, June 29, 2010, Champaign

The Task Force working on the conference has met two times with new or beginning teachers taking a prominent role in creating a conference that new teachers will find beneficial.

This conference will bring together beginning teachers, those teachers who will have just completed their first year of teaching in Illinois, to reflect on and share the past year's teaching experience, to critique teacher education and recommend ways to improve it, and to network with other beginning teachers from around the state.

INTC is soliciting conference content ideas from new teachers through a survey at: <http://intc.education.illinois.edu/page/btc-survey>. If you know first-year teachers or have contacts with people who do, please forward this survey to them.