

November 2010 INTC Newsletter

Message from the Director

By now you have probably heard and/or read about the Advance Illinois/National Council on Teacher Quality study that is highly critical of teacher education in Illinois colleges and universities. Lost in all the heat is the important point that, although preservice teacher education is vitally important, its program graduates are still *novice* teachers. Regardless of the quality of their preservice preparation, they need effective induction and mentoring to jumpstart them toward being fully effective teachers. Our hope is that someday the transition from candidate to novice to seasoned/expert teacher will be seamless and fully supported by all our induction and mentoring partners.

We urge you to consider how you can advocate for furthering induction and mentoring efforts locally and statewide. Thanks to financial support from the Joyce Foundation, Tracy Kremer (Senior Manager of Communications, New Teacher Center) coordinated a collaborative initiative to create a one-page advocacy document encouraging statewide support for new teacher induction and mentoring (<http://intc.education.illinois.edu/resource/rod/support-illinois-induction>). This initiative involved a number of induction and mentoring partners and leaders from across the state. We hope you will distribute this flier or use portions of its content to increase awareness and support for induction in Illinois.

Executive Board and Partnership Board November Meeting Recap

The INTC Executive and Partnership Boards (EB/PB) met jointly on November 3rd at the I Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign, Illinois. At the meeting, participants heard reports from INTC Work Groups and research reports from Marjorie Wechsler of SRI International and Patricia Brady of INTC. Additionally, induction and mentoring stakeholders participated in strategic plan activities aimed at reconnecting INTC's statewide efforts with those present. INTC staff will take the ideas raised at the EB/PB meeting and incorporate them into its mission to coordinate services and resources through its statewide partnerships.

ISBE Funded Programs

Funded programs have had budgets approved for FY11. INTC will continue to offer support and services for all funded programs, including the 15 that were unable to apply for FY11 funds due to the impact of reduced funding.

The fall Professional Learning and Networking (PLaN) meetings were held in October and November at five locations. Tracy Kremer, mentioned above, presented a workshop on communication and advocacy. An online toolbox for effective induction program advocacy will be coming soon to the INTC website (<http://intc.education.illinois.edu>).

INTC Research Update

FY11 funded programs are currently completing the Fall 2010 CDE reporting form. After the CDEs are received, INTC will compile the data and will publish the results on its website.

INTC Annual Induction and Mentoring Conference “Continuing the Continuum” March 1-2, 2011

Registration for the Sixth Annual INTC Induction and Mentoring Conference is now open. The conference, titled “Continuing the Continuum”, will dig deeper into the use of the Illinois Induction Program Continuum (IIPC) in new teacher induction and mentoring programs. Early bird registration rates end January 15th. For conference information and registration, visit <http://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference>.

2011 INTC Beginning Teacher Conference “Y2: Moving Beyond Survival”

Building on the successes of this year’s event, preliminary planning for the 2011 Beginning Teacher Conference has begun. The *Y2: Moving Beyond Survival* conference will take place on June 28th at the I Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign, Illinois. INTC has secured meeting space and a room block for conference participants, and we look forward to hosting this new cadre of Illinois teachers in this one-day event.

Regional Professional Development Workshops

INTC hosted fall Regional Professional Development Workshops on differentiated instruction at three locations (Edwards, Lisle, and Centralia) in September and October. These workshops, offered at no cost, were attended by new teachers and those who work with them. Teachers from Litchfield Middle School presented in Edwards and Centralia, and a recently retired teacher from Chicago Public School District #299 presented in Lisle.

Illinois Induction Program Continuum (IIPC)

Four Continuous Program Improvement workshops will be held in January and February. The workshops focus on program self assessment, data analysis, and use of the continuum to set goals and create action plans. The workshop facilitators have formed a professional learning cadre and have met online to discuss their work and provide support for the trainings. These free-of-charge sessions will be held throughout the state. Other workshops can be scheduled for local program sites. For more information, contact Mary Elin Barnish (mbarnish@illinois.edu).

Service Learning for New Teachers

The Service Learning Task Force members surveyed new teachers (from 1 – 4 years of experience in the classroom) to gauge their use and familiarity of service learning in their classrooms. The task force also researched useful service learning resources and began planning for professional development opportunities on service learning in the spring. Those interested in participating in the task force or in the professional development workshops should contact Hilarie Welsh (welsh2@illinois.edu).