

January 2011 INTC Newsletter



Message from the Director

Over the holiday break I had the privilege of spending a week in Haiti, building homes for those displaced by the 2010 earthquake. It was a life-altering experience that defies concise description. We overuse the term “awesome,” but the resiliency of the Haitian people faced with such abject poverty and destruction is simply awesome.

We are faced with many challenges in 2011, from merely daunting to seemingly insurmountable. It is my hope that we too will be resilient; sustained by the strength of our commitment to improving the lot of new teachers and their students.

ISBE Funded Programs

In 2010-11, the ISBE-Funded Beginning Teacher Induction Programs serve 1,109 first-year teachers and 985 second-year teachers (a 50% decrease from last year). They have 1,312 active mentors (a 47% decrease from last year). This drop is due in part to a 25% reduction in the number of funded programs with 15 deciding not to seek continuation funding this year. Additionally, the average program is serving 10% fewer beginning teachers than last year.

While funding challenges across the state have forced many funded programs to modify their services and supports for beginning teachers, a strong conviction across the state for the importance of quality induction remains. Programs continue to do their best with what they have. The ISBE funded programs persevere in their efforts to improve mentor selection and accountability procedures despite the economic hurdles they have encountered. INTC will provide ongoing and increased online opportunities each month for program leaders to collaborate and network despite limited funds for travel and substitutes.

INTC Research Update

The funded programs completed the fall 2010 CDE (Common Data Elements) reporting form, and INTC staff has begun tallying results on program, beginning teacher, and mentor demographics, and impact of funding reductions on program activities. For the latter, despite having fewer new teachers, districts are paying more (43% of programs); programs are seeking funding from alternate sources (23%); and most programs still have to curtail their activities. The majority of programs held fewer mentor trainings and novice teacher events, cut or reduced substitute reimbursement, and bought fewer resources.

On January 10, INTC launched an online survey for all Illinois school districts which do not receive state funds for induction. Within two days, 20% of districts had completed the survey, and with strong backing from ISBE, we hope to hear from the majority of districts by the end of February. The results from this survey should provide an important overview of what supports new teachers receive across the state.

INTC Annual Induction and Mentoring Conference

“Continuing the Continuum” March 1-2, 2011, Hilton Springfield

Registration for the Sixth Annual INTC Induction and Mentoring Conference continues. 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. Richard Ingersoll, University of Pennsylvania, and Karen Peterson, Governors State University will be the keynote speakers. Conference registration ends January 31. For conference information and registration, visit <http://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference>.

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

Planning meetings for the 2nd Annual INTC Beginning Teacher Conference will be set soon. If you are interested in participating in the planning of this successful event, contact Jeff Kohmstedt (jkohm@illinois.edu) for more information.

INTC Online Updates

Downloadable versions of the *Illinois Induction Program Standards* and the *Illinois Induction Program Continuum* plus related resources and training opportunities are now easily accessible through the main menu of INTC's website (<http://intc.education.illinois.edu>)

The Induction Advocacy Toolkit including research-based talking points and the “Support Illinois Induction” one-page flier is now available at <http://intc.education.illinois.edu/category/tag/advocacy-toolkit>

Illinois Induction Program Continuum (IIPC)

Register now for a *Continuous Program Improvement: Using the Illinois Induction Program Continuum* winter workshop scheduled in your area. Registration is free. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

* Northern Illinois – Westmont IFT Office on Tuesday, January 25

* Southern Illinois – Carterville CEC/IEA Office on Wednesday, February 9

Go to http://intc.education.illinois.edu/continuum/2011ISBE_WorkshopInvite_Winter for more information and to register.

Service Learning for New Teachers

The Service Learning Project is moving forward with plans to offer professional development workshops this spring and a “boot camp” this summer. If you would like to get involved in the planning of these opportunities, contact Hilarie Welsh (welsh2@illinois.edu).