

Letter from the Director

May 2017

Dear Colleagues,

The National Comprehensive Center Network Year 6 Joint Center Planning Meeting: *Ongoing and Emerging Opportunities and Actions to meet State Education Agencies' (SEAs) Priority Needs* will be held on June 5-7, 2017 at the Westat Conference Center in Rockville, Maryland. I am pleased that all Content and Regional Centers and representatives from the Department of Education will be in attendance bringing the registration total to over 70. The meeting purpose is to provide time for Regional and Content Centers to coordinate Year 6 technical assistance planning, focused on ongoing and new Tier 3 initiatives to support SEA priorities identified through Center annual management plans and data collection activities.

I have been working with the South Central and Central Regional Centers, and the Policy Study Associates, Inc. in developing an informative and interactive agenda. A special thanks to those individual for their collaboration and for creating a meeting agenda that will be of value to our work. I look forward to seeing many of you at this meeting in June.

Upcoming Opportunities-Strategic Communication

Soon to be released is the Strategic Communications Toolbox which provides SEAs a framework and tools for planning and implementing solid communication strategies. The toolbox provides guidance for moving beyond traditional agency communication approaches which tend to be piecemeal and external facing to build a centralized approach across divisions and stakeholder, resulting in clear, aligned, proactive, and effective communication tied to the SEA vision/mission/goals and strategies. A series of webinars will be conducted to provide SEAs and RCCs an opportunity to learn more about the six modules in the Toolbox and to engage in a discussion with author, Dr. Zavadsky and webinar participants.

Modules include

- Leading Process Development and Oversight
- Planning Messaging Around SEA Vision/Mission/Goals
- Crafting Key Messages
- Creating Internal Communication Processes
- Creating External Communication Processes
- Implementation and Refinement

The release of the Communication Toolbox and corresponding webinars will be announced soon.

Upcoming Opportunities-State Education Agency (SEA) of the Future

We are in the final production stages of highlighting topics from the podcasts, Opportunities and Challenges in a New Policy Environment: A conversation with State Chiefs. As you may remember several state chiefs were interviewed. We have now taken their comments and organized them into three topic areas; Creating Accountability Systems Under ESSA, Stakeholder Engagement Under ESSA, and Strategic Communication Under ESSA. The accountability topic is posted at <http://www.bscpcenter.org/interviews/> with the other two topics coming soon.

Upcoming Opportunities-Financial Transparency

Dr. Roza will host a webinar that outlines ways in which states might inventory existing financial data to meet the ESSA financial transparency requirement and steps that states may take to prepare for the requirement. To participate in the May 31 webinar, please register using this link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2051633004645231362>

Video clips from the Equity Implications of Financial Transparency panel will soon be available on the BSCP Center website. This panel was part of a face to face meeting to support State Education Agencies (SEA) and Local Education Agencies (LEA) in the financial transparency requirements. The video clips topics include; Per-Pupil Expenditure Data and Advocacy Groups, Per-Pupil Expenditures: Technical Challenges and Historical Perspective, Equity in Financial Transparency: a State Perspective, and Using Student-Based Allocation to Improve Equity. Watch our website for the posting of these timely video clips.

Upcoming Opportunities-Strategic Performance Management

I would like to remind you of the BSCP Center and the Center on School Turnaround collaboration to study how strategic performance management (SPM) might be utilized in a system of support for school improvement and turnaround. We gathered a dozen states and a half-dozen Regional Centers into a Guiding Coalition <http://bit.ly/2pLqhEw> for this study. The group met virtually and as a result of these conversations Allison Layland and Sam Redding released *CASTING A STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE NET: Interlaced Data and Responsive Supports*. <http://bit.ly/2nQaPGA>.

Next on the drawing board is a procedural manual for applying SPM to a specific divisions or strand of work within the SEA. Redding and Layland anticipate a June release for this technical assistance guide, followed by a revised edition of the original SPM publication.

This concludes a brief update on some of our major initiatives at the BSCP Center. I always look forward to hearing your comments and thoughts on our work in building the capacity of states.

Sincerely,



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Building State Capacity and Productivity Center

The Building State Capacity and Productivity Center (BSCP Center) focuses work on helping state

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education agencies (SEAs) throughout the country, as they adapt to constrained fiscal resources and increased demands for greater productivity. As State Departments of Education are facing a daunting challenge of improving student performance with diminishing financial resources, the BSCP Center provides technical assistance to SEAs that builds their capacity to support local educational agencies (LEAs or districts) and schools, and to the other 21 regional comprehensive centers and national content centers that serve them, by providing high quality information, tools, and implementation support. The partners in the BSCP Center are Edvance Research, Inc., the Academic Development Institute, and the Edunomics Lab (Georgetown University).



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