

Letter from the Director

April / May 2017

Greetings Colleagues,

When it comes to state education agencies (SEAs), fresh ideas to increase performance and productivity are in high demand. Management strategies with evidence of success in the business world beg for adaptation for a state agency.

Strategic planning, for example, moved easily from business to government over the past couple decades, bringing with it a well-hewed methodology. In fact, nearly every SEA has a strategic plan.

Performance management, a standard mode of operation in many business sectors, is an attractive possibility for import to state agencies. In fact, many state agencies have attempted to fuse a performance mindset, as well as a sprinkling of methods, into an environment traditionally unaccustomed to short-cycle scrutiny of results and nimble correction in course to enhance them.

The Building State Capacity and Productivity (BSCP) Center, in 2015, wed strategic planning and performance management and applied their dynamic hybrid methodology especially to SEAs in *Strategic Performance Management: Organizing People and Their Work in the SEA of the Future*. <http://bit.ly/1MUjiib> Authors Sam Redding and Allison Layland then hit the road, using the procedural guide as a map for technical assistance projects in Arkansas, <http://bit.ly/2oRuBmW> Virgin Islands, <http://bit.ly/2oxr2PK> and Kansas. In all three SEAs the Commissioners and their leadership teams gave clarity to a dramatically new strategic direction. Arkansas and the Virgin Islands built a performance management system to carry it out, while Kansas is still in the process of building their system. In all three cases, the BSCP Center consultants worked hand-in-hand with their Regional Center colleagues at FLICC, SC3, and C3.



Redding and Layland Working with the Kansas Team on SPM

One good idea then spawned others, and in 2016, the BSCP Center and the Center on School Turnaround gathered a dozen states and a half-dozen Regional Centers into a Guiding Coalition <http://bit.ly/2pLqhEw> to study how strategic performance management (SPM) might be utilized in a system of support for school improvement and turnaround. The group met in Maryland in November, continued to meet virtually each and month, and in March, Layland and Redding released *CASTING A STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE NET: INTERLACED DATA AND RESPONSIVE SUPPORTS*. <http://bit.ly/2nQaPGA> Again, a sound concept in one context was moved, with tailoring, to another.



Guiding Coalition Meeting in Maryland

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.

As the BSCP Center's onsite technical assistance in the first three states is winding down, the Center is considering where it might take SPM next. As the BSCP Center Director I invite and encourage you to contact Dr. Sam Redding sredding@adi.org or Dr. Allison Layland alayland@ets.org if you have questions or are interested in this work.

Announcing a new Financial Transparency requirement webinar on May 31, 2017

On May 31, 2017, BSCP Center partner, Edunomics Lab at Georgetown University will host a webinar that outlines ways in which states might inventory existing financial data to meet the ESSA financial transparency requirement. Dr. Roza of the Edunomics Lab will also share potential action steps that states may take to prepare for the requirement. The webinar will conclude with time for questions, and resources for further learning will be shared. To participate, please register using this link:

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

Please contact me at any time to learn more about our work at the BSCP Center or to discuss ideas of collaboration with you. Enjoy your spring and all the changes it brings.

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 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 Ednomics Lab (Georgetown University).

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