



Building State Capacity
and Productivity Center



October 2018

Dear Colleagues,

In the words of Dr. Seuss, *“Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!”* This is perhaps an accurate summary of our discussions during the past weeks as we finalize our year 7 work plan. Our planning revolved around an interest in developing an understanding of the needs of state and center colleagues in the areas of strategic communication and performance management and financial productivity. I look forward to collaborating with many of you in the upcoming year.

The BSCP Center assists the Bureau of Indian Education – BIE in developing a strategic direction.

On August 23, 2018, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) announced its Strategic Direction. The Direction is designed to improve the ability of the BIE to increase its services to American Indian students by organizing management activities, setting priorities, and ensuring efficient and effective utilization of staff and resources. Their announcement is a culmination of more than a year’s work facilitated by the Building State Capacity and Productivity Center with the West Comprehensive Center to create a plan of action to provide a culturally relevant, high-quality education that prepares students attending BIE funded schools with the knowledge, skills and behaviors needed to be successful. Strategic planning began with the BIE leadership team in March of 2017 and quickly expanded to include leaders and staff at all levels of the organization. The planning teams included leaders and participants from every aspect of education including Higher Education. Input from Tribal Leadership and community members was gathered through five tribal consultation sessions and used to finalize the Direction. The Direction was shared with several organizations including the Council for Chief State School Officers, the National Congress of American Indians, and the National Indian Education Association and their comments reflect the importance of this plan in the future of Indian Country. See the link to the press release <https://bit.ly/2lI5XmZ> .



A plan without action is just a plan, and BIE is taking action to ensure effective implementation of its Direction. Collaborative teams throughout the BIE are implementing the actions to complete the annual milestones. Unit leaders work with their teams and report monthly progress to BIE leadership, so successes can be recognized, and challenges addressed. The rollout of the Direction includes outreach to schools and communities, so meaningful collaboration and feedback takes place with schools and communities. BSCP and WCC continue to provide support to BIE on implementing the plan and using data to adjust the plan as needed. As one team member put it, “This work and plan is truly transformational.” Go to <https://www.bie.edu/StrategicDirection/index.htm> for more information on the BIE and its Strategic Direction.

“We are excited to see this collaborative work among our staff, educators, tribes and stakeholders flourish into an effective tool that will guide our future work,” said BIE Director Tony L. Dearman. “It is part of our ongoing commitment to offer the best to our students, their families and communities.”

What are the new resource collections and center spotlight on the Comprehensive Center Network portal?

The Northeast Comprehensive Center (NECC) is the spotlight center this month on the Comprehensive Center Network CCN portal. NECC is supporting multiple states to design systems and resources that will both meet the standards for evidence-based interventions and be useful for districts to address needs in their low-performing schools. Check out this resource at <http://compcenternetwork.org>. There are also three new resource collections for English Learners, Positive Change in Early Learning, and Social and Emotional aspects of Safe Schools. The portal is a rich collection of resources and projects from the twenty-three regional and content centers.

I am looking forward to learning more about the initiatives, accomplishments, and support, centers are offering to states in year 7. I believe the CCN portal will be a significant resource for centers and states to “*Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!*” and discover ways we can support each other in our work in education.

Sincerely,

Dean H. Nafziger, Ph.D.
Director, Building State Capacity & Productivity Center at Westat
210-558-4101 or deannafziger@westat.com



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 Westat, the Academic Development Institute, and the Edunomics Lab (Georgetown University).

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