

Letter from the Director

July/ August 2016

Dear Colleagues,

Another summer is quickly passing by for all of us. The current emphasis of the BSCP Center is on bringing closure to our Year 4 work and planning for Year 5. Our Year 5 work will be anchored around supporting states in their planning and implementation process in response to the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). Specifically, our focus will be on: 1) Supporting the SEA of the Future as states shift to more cross-divisional systemic approaches; 2) Promoting Performance Management to help states plan, organize, and implement toward that shift; 3) Meeting Communication Challenges; and 4) Establishing Financial Transparency. In this letter we will discuss our Annual Joint Planning Meeting.

Content Centers and Regional Centers Plan for ESSA Implementation. The leadership of the Comprehensive Center network believe that with the passage of ESSA, our centers have a significant responsibility to help states meet their implementation challenges in this next year. To that end, Center Directors and Department of Education staff have been developing a robust response intended to assist states in multiple ways. Most recently seven Content Centers and the South Central and South Regional Centers co-hosted a Joint Annual Planning meeting. The meeting's purpose was to assist with the preparation of the upcoming year's (Year 5) plans through joint examination of SEA needs and deliberation about how to collaborate effectively and productively to meet those needs. This successful collaboration, with attendance from the Department of Education (DOE), seven Content Centers, and 13 Regional Comprehensive Centers, was the result of participants engaging in two days of discussion of SEA needs under ESSA, and planning how Centers can be responsive to SEAs by providing and sharing ideas, materials, and tools to build state capacity.



“We would like to thank the BSCP Center, and the Central and South Central Comprehensive Centers for organizing a thoughtful and productive Year Five planning meeting and for extending the invitation to Department staff. It was great to observe the engagement among centers and the format allowed for full participation. We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to engage with you about the work you have been doing, including your strategies for increasing collaboration and communication between RCCs and CCs. We appreciate your level of enthusiasm for your work and we look forward to a productive Year 5”.

Michael Quiroz July 22, 2016 *News from the Department of Education*

The participation of DOE staff was a critical aspect in contributing to the success of the meeting. In addition to their substantive help, the South Central and Central Regional Centers also did an amazing job of assisting us with the meeting logistics using their expertise in making the meeting run smoothly and efficiently.

Kudos to all meeting participants

We have captured a few comments from the meeting participants and will pass them along.

Bersheril Bailey, Great Lakes Comprehensive Center The Joint Center Planning Meeting was one of the most beneficial convening I have attended. Having the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Content Centers as well as other Regional Comprehensive Centers during the time we are preparing our Year 5 technical assistance plans was invaluable. The meeting provided opportunities for content and comprehensive centers to communicate, collaborate, and align our work.

Everett Barnes, Northeast Comprehensive Center Like others who attended I thought the meeting was very high energy and the discussions were engaging and substantive. I believe the Regional Comprehensive Centers and the Content Centers have come a long way over the past four years in demonstrating examples of collaboration. I feel that we still may be looking too narrowly at collaboration as a “single function.” There is a need to continue to dialogue about the reciprocal support roles that both sets of entities have with one another.

Carol Cohen, Mid-Atlantic Comprehensive Center Thanks for a great meeting. It was really helpful to learn about what the Content Centers are planning for Year 5 and think about areas for collaboration. It was also great to see and interact with so many of my Comprehensive Center network colleagues!

Lori Connors-Tadros, Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes CEELo found it extremely valuable to have senior staff at the Joint Annual Planning Meeting where we learned a lot about the work of our colleagues and with them identified critical policy issues to support states in ensuring equitable access to high quality education from preschool through post-secondary education. The dynamic discussions among the Content and Regional Centers resulted in clear goals to support states in developing their ESSA state plan and leveraged the unparalleled resources and expertise among SEAs, regional center staff and content center experts.

A summary of the opinions is that our center network is well equipped and motivated to assist states with the key elements of ESSA, and we will continue to enhance our capabilities.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer. Remember your ideas and comments are always helpful and valued. Feel free to contact me at any time as I always appreciate hearing from you.

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 Edonomics Lab (Georgetown University).

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