

Letter from the Director



June, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

The BSCP Center experienced another productive and exciting month. Our work with the U.S. Virgin Islands and Arkansas to implement Strategic Performance Management resulted in aligned and efficient organizations with a full report of their processes and successes on the BSCP Center website. We have completed our podcasts with several state chiefs regarding how they are framing their upcoming plans for ESSA. These are posted on our website, and interviews with states in strategic communications are almost complete. I am delighted to share updates on this work with you.

What does strategic performance management look like in the U.S Virgin Islands?

The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) is one of four entities the BSCP Center is assisting to design a strategic performance management system allowing these states to move beyond basic strategic planning to establish a clear and coherent system to support agency mission, vision, and goals. VIDE Commissioner of Education, Dr. Sharon Ann McCollum and selected leaders representing VIDE, both districts, and schools met for three days each month beginning in January 2016 to formulate their strategic direction including a vision statement, mission, values, goals, strategies, and milestones. This is now the foundation for the agency's bold move into performance management as a way to improve the quality and responsiveness of education for all children throughout the territory.



“Now our new performance system will optimize our personnel’s effectiveness and place individuals in positions that will align with our goals and their skill sets.”

Dr. Sharon Ann McCollum

One important outcome VIDE identified from the process is an anticipated significant reduction in redundancy of personnel and services. Employees will not work in silos, and any disconnections within the agency will be reduced due to the detailed examination made of customary practices. The strategic performance management plan will provide VIDE a clear, tangible document and process that will effectively communicate clear direction and commitment to all stakeholders. To read a full report regarding the VIDE work, *Virgin Islands Education Strikes New Course of Action*, go to <http://www.bscpcenter.org/resources/SPM/VirginIslandsStrikesNewCourse.pdf>

Sam Redding and Allison Layland on behalf of the BSCP Center led this demanding process for the VIDE team with expert assistance from the Florida and the Islands Comprehensive Center (FLICC) consultants, Sue Travilla and April Munroe-Phillips, and FLICC director Alice Lindsay. My kudos and thanks go to this diligent team for making this a meaningful and productive experience for the VIDE. (As a reminder, I provided a description of the Arkansas accomplishments in establishing their strategic performance management system in my last letter to you.)

Conversations with State Chiefs series addressing opportunities and challenges presented by the Every Child Success Act (ESSA) are now posted: *Opportunities and*

Challenges in a New Policy Environment: A Conversation with State Chiefs, is a podcast series done in cooperation with the Education Commission of the States (ECS). Sam Redding and I accompanied Alan Morgan, former State Chief in New Mexico, as he interviewed state education leaders' throughout the country on how they are thinking about this period of change. Some changes are brought about naturally with programs ending or beginning, while other change is heavily influenced by the passage of Every Child Success Act (ESSA). This series is one resource the BSCP Center developed to capture and share insights on how education leaders are taking advantage of the flexibility opportunities available to them with the passage of ESSA. State Chiefs who graciously accepted the invitation to share their insights in the podcast series interviews include:

- Pedro Rivera, Secretary of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education
- June Atkinson, State Superintendent of Instruction, North Carolina Department of Education
- Joy Hofmeister, State Superintendent of Instruction, Oklahoma Department of Education
- Johnny Key, Commissioner of Education, Arkansas Department of Education
- Ryan Wise, Director, Iowa Department of Education
- Jeremy Anderson, President of the Education Commission of the States

Interviews are now posted on the BSCP website at, <http://www.bscpcenter.org/interviews/>. The Education Commission of the States has emphasized its alliance with the BSCP Center by focusing on this podcast series in "vlogs" in multiple editions of ECS's daily EdBeats, and by sharing the videos through the ECS National Policy Forum App. Also, the podcast series will be noted within the ECS plenary sessions slated for the last week of June in Washington, DC. You are welcome to use this resource in any way it may benefit your organizations. I hope you find this series to be an interesting and a useful set of interviews.

Plans for the Joint Annual Planning Meeting are underway: I have been meeting with the seven Content Centers to finalize the agenda for the July 20-22, 2016 Annual Joint Content and Comprehensive Center planning meeting, to be held in Oklahoma City. This will be a timely opportunity for Regional Centers to have all 7 Content Centers and the Department of Education leaders available as Regional Centers finalize year 5 annual plans and look for ways to support states in meeting ESSA guidelines.

I am hopeful your summer is going well with time for some relaxation with family and friends. If you have any comments for the BSCP Center, please know that I am always open to visiting with you.

Sincerely,



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