

Letter from the Director

October 2014

Dear Colleagues,

As the new program year for the BSCP Center unfolds we are actively moving forward on our work with you. In this October letter I will highlight some of the focus areas for the BSCP Center in Year 3 of the program.

Chief Performance Officers Meet in San Antonio

The BSCP Center held its first in-person meeting of the Chief Performance Officers (CPO) group, with several Regional Comprehensive Center (RCC) leaders who chose to attend. The meeting was structured as a collaborative learning opportunity for CPOs to discuss their experiences in leading SEA performance management efforts and to share ideas on how to address some of their most immediate challenges. Based on participant feedback, the meeting was described as being a helpful resource for new information and for creating a support network for the unique and important CPO role. The agenda included discussions and presentations on:

- Differences and similarities between each CPO's role.
- Challenges and approaches to developing quality performance metrics and indicators.
- Strategies to enhance and support the CPO role.
- Understanding and addressing data privacy challenges.
- Examining methodological challenges with using longitudinal data to create policy.
- Identifying ways to support the CPO network.

During follow-up, many participants requested that we engage in a similar convening at least annually to provide support to this unique but complex position and work. Not only did the meeting provide a wealth of useful information, but also the opportunity to build an on-going professional relationships between CPOs and their RCC leaders.

BSCP Advisory Board Membership Announced

I am pleased to let you know the BSCP Center Advisory Board search is complete. We have assembled an outstanding group of highly qualified individuals from across the country, representing a broad spectrum of backgrounds and experiences. Currently we are formulating plans to convene the Advisory Board before the end of the year. I enthusiastically welcome the following members who accepted the invitation to serve on the BSCP Advisory Board: Phyllis Hudecki, Executive Director, Oklahoma Business & Education Coalition (OBEC); Beth Howard Brown, Director Southeast Regional Center; Lucille Davy, Senior Advisor, James B. Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership; Matt Gandel, President, Education Strategy Group; Richard Laine, Director, Education Division, National Governors Association; Ryan Wise, Deputy

Director, Iowa Department of Education; and Gary Van Landingham, Director, Results First, Pew Center on the State Government.

Exploring Options for Integrating BSCP Center Initiatives in IndiSEA™

The BSCP Center is currently working with states to assist them in strengthening their systems of support with a project called *Managing Performance in the System of Support* using the BSCP Center's web-based tool, IndiSEA. Under the direction of Tom Kerins from the BSCP Center, the following states are participating in this work.

- Virginia Department of Education took the lead this past year using the IndiSEA web-based tool to strengthen its system of support and is now well into the work for a second year.
- Mississippi Department of Education initiated implementation of IndiSEA™ last year and is continuing the process by assessing high-priority indicators and formulating improvement plans.
- Minnesota Department of Education is planning to begin work on the Managing Performance in the System of Support later in the year.
- Several other states are at various stages in developing strategic plans and are expressing interest in using the IndiSEA process to develop strategic plan goals.

This emerging interest is a tremendous opportunity for the BSCP Center to expand the potential benefit of IndiSEA. Also, we are currently developing a set of state indicators for special needs populations aligned to the U.S. Office of Special Education Program's Results Driven Accountability requirements, which promote a more balanced approach to supporting program effectiveness in special education. We plan a late fall release of these indicators. BSCP is also in conversation with the Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) to develop a set of rubric-based indicators on managing and providing effective early learning programs. Additional indicators will be developed based on what we learn through the communications and talent management benchmarking projects.

Thank you for your interest and involvement in the work of the BSCP Center. Your continued collaboration and support is appreciated. We will continue to keep you informed by postings on our website, notifying you of new publication releases, and continuing the monthly Letter from the Director and the regular calls with RCC liaisons and directors.

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 Edunomics Lab (Georgetown University).

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