

Center on Innovations in Learning

Change leaders can create a culture of innovation in which the goal of continuously improving instructional practice is clear, innovation is encouraged, trust is assured, and results are rewarded.

January–February 2013

Greetings from the Center on Innovations in Learning (CIL)!

Our team at Temple University and our partner the Academic Development Institute (ADI) is immersed in the new work and excited about the prospects and potential of this new Center.

We kicked off the new year with an **Opening Retreat** on January 10th and 11th. Staff met for two blessedly mild days of planning and organization at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The two days were filled with opportunities for staff to become familiar with the Center's goals and their CIL colleagues. The newly assembled team engaged in discussions on the work of the new Center and the best way to provide the most value to our State and RCC clients and the students they serve. Innovations in Learning is a broad but exciting topic and we are energized by the promise and the potential of CIL.

The management team consisting of **Marilyn Murphy, Director**, Temple University, **Janet Twyman, Assistant Director of Innovation and Technology**, University of Massachusetts, and **Sam Redding, Senior Learning Specialist**, ADI, were joined by Temple team members **Celia Feinstein**, Co-Executive Director, Institute on Disabilities, **Stephen Page**, Editor, **Robert Sullivan**, Web Content Specialist and **Chris Sadjian-Peacock**, Communications Coordinator. The ADI team includes **Pam Sheley**, Publication Coordinator and **Mark Williams**, Senior Leadership Strategist. Several CIL Scientific Consultants participated, including **Allison Crean Davis**, Evaluator, Education Specialists, **Larry Kugler** and **Maureen Mirabito**, and Temple University Professors **Catherine Schifter** and **Michael Smith**.

Also this month, **Larry Kugler**, CIL, was on-site in New Hampshire with **Deborah Connell**, New Hampshire SEA, **Karen Laba**, adviser for NH, and **Joe Trunk**, Northeast Comprehensive Center, assisting with the implementation of **Indistar** in their SINI (Schools in Need of Improvement) and SIG (Schools Improvement Grant) schools. The state is using Indistar to implement their New Hampshire Steps to Success process. Indistar is presently operating in 26 states and over 6,000 schools.

In the upcoming weeks and months, CIL will announce the publication of a new volume, **Handbook on Innovations in Learning**, which will provide a framework for CIL's work with contributions from experts on this emerging topic. The *Handbook* will also include a chapter on indicators of innovative practice for states, districts, and schools. Also look for news on the upcoming **Annual Indistar Summit** which will be held April 9th and 10th in Richmond, Virginia.

It's good to be back in touch with old friends and to reach out to those who are new to the Center world. In the coming months this letter will include suggested resources and topics Spotlighted for your use in the good work you do. Let us know if there is something of interest you would like us to review for possible dissemination. Meanwhile, we are developing our new web site at www.centeril.org so continue to visit us there.

Best,
Marilyn Murphy
Director