Center on Innovations in Learning

For much of the last century we have not cultivated a culture of innovation—or built the district-level systems needed to sustain a cycle of continuous improvement. Now we are on the cusp of a new era of innovation and entrepreneurship in education that was almost unimaginable a decade ago.

Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education

September 2013

Dear Colleague,

Greetings from the Center on Innovations in Learning! The school year is up and running and we know that everyone is focused on student learning and innovative approaches to reaching your learning goals.

Personalized learning is one of the keys to student achievement, so we hope you had a chance to join our webinar, entitled **Keeping the Personal in Personalized Learning**, presented by CIL's senior learning specialist, Dr. Sam Redding. If you missed the live presentation, you can view the recorded version at your convenience by clicking on the hotlink. Sam has also examined personalized learning in two CIL publications. The first, a practice guide for teachers, **Through the Student's Eyes: A Perspective on Personalized Learning,** can be accessed and downloaded for free from the CIL website. He also addresses this important topic in a chapter in the soon-to-be released *Handbook on Innovations in Learning*; watch for the announcement of this volume's release in the next couple of weeks!

The U.S. Department of Education has declared October "**Connected Educator Month**," aimed at broadening and deepening educator participation in online communities and networks. Connected Educator Month will be celebrated in online events sponsored by more than 150 major education organizations, communities, and companies.

Looking for information or best practices on building a broadband network to connect every school building? Take a look at CIL's new Solution-finding Report **Broadband Networks to Connect Every School Building in a State**. The report, freely available on the CIL website, focuses on appropriation and expenditures at the state, local/county, or district level; direct private investment; establishment of any nonprofit, government agency, or cooperative to construct a network; and how the network is operating today in terms of maintenance, recurring fees, expenses, and management.

Janet Twyman, CIL director of innovation and technology, was invited to present at a symposium co-sponsored by the **Office of School Turnaround** and the **Center on School Turnaround**. Janet's PowerPoint session on "Innovation to Accelerate Turnaround" is available at **www.centeril.org** under the "What's New" heading.

The web-based school improvement system Indistar continues to keep the CIL staff on the move. After thoughtful planning by the chief academic officer for **Maine's Department of Education**, **Rachelle Tome,** and the approval of its ESEA waiver, Maine will be implementing Indistar for the first time in 15 schools. Shepherd Larry Kugler conducted a training in Augusta, Maine, for the principals and one other staff member from each school. Coaches have been trained and assigned to each school to assist in the implementation.

Meet the CIL Staff: Below is this month's featured staff person, **Robert Sullivan**, CILs web content specialist. Check out his story and some great **e-resources** to support the good work that you do.

Best,
Marilyn Murphy
Director

www.centeril.org

Meet the Staff

ROBERT SULLIVAN
Web Content Specialist

As CIL's web content specialist, Robert Sullivan contributes extensively to CIL's website, adding information about relevant articles and websites, and writing many of CIL's Solution-Finding Reports. He edits and proofreads reports and articles generated by CIL's staff and researchers, including the upcoming *Handbook on Innovations in Learning*, for which he also compiled the glossary.

Bob has been the senior editor and webmaster at Temple University's Institute for Schools and Society, since 1998. He came to Temple from Andrews Publications, where he spent 12 years editing such publications as *The Pharmaceutical Litigation Reporter*, and creating and editing such publications as *The Entertainment Litigation Reporter*. Before that he was the senior editor at Michael Glazier, Inc., where, among other things, he oversaw production of the pre-serial *United States Congressional Serial Set*, a collection of all the Congressional paperwork, previously uncollected, produced during the first four Presidential administrations.

Bob majored in creative writing at Purdue University, and got his M.A. in cinema from the University of Southern California. After graduate school, he spent the next decade in California working as the reviewer of movies for *The Los Angeles Free Press* and trying to make it as a screenwriter. On moving back East, he found out one of his film scripts had been purchased and was going into production, resulting in the sci-fi classic *Clonus*, starring Peter Graves, Keenan Wynn, and Dick Sargent. The film later became the basis for the big-budget 2005 DreamWorks production *The Island*.

Robert Sullivan

Since returning east, Bob has been a major contributor to *The St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture* and the collection *When Falls the Coliseum*. He continues writing screenplays and poems (mostly to his wife, Maureen), and he has a weekly column, *Bob Sullivan's Top Ten Everything*, on the website whenfallsthecoliseum.com.

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CIL's *e-source* database has hundreds of resources for leaders of change and is growing constantly. It can be searched by topic and keyword. Below are some selected items from the database.

Change and Innovation

The SEA of the Future: Leveraging Performance Management to Support School Improvement (pdf)

Gross, B., & Jochim, A. (Eds.)

This report discusses building a better system of support and doing more with less through improved resource alignment, with implications for SEAs, governors, legislators, philanthropists, and advocacy groups.

Personalized Learning

Abbott Preschool Program Longitudinal Effects Study: Fifth Grade Follow-Up (pdf) (2013)

Barnett, W. S. et al. (National Institute for Early Education Research)

Broad gains in skills and knowledge, as well as reduced special education placement and grade retention, paint a consistent picture of increased school success through fifth grade from high-quality Abbott pre-K.

Students with Disabilities

Universal Design for Learning: Meeting the Needs of All Students (2011)

Ralabate, P. K.

This article discusses Universal Design for Learning (UDL), concisely presenting its origins, its principles, and what it means in action, including guidelines and an educator's checklist.

Learning Environments

Is K–12 Blended Learning Disruptive? An Introduction of the Theory of Hybrids (2013)

Christensen, C. M., Horn, M. B., & Staker, H.

This paper analyzes blended learning through the lens of disruptive innovation theory to help educators anticipate and plan for the likely effects of blended learning on the classrooms of today and schools of tomorrow.

Data Use and Analytics

Data Mining for Education (pdf) (2010)

Baker, R.S.J.D. [Appearing later in McGaw, Peterson, & Baker (Eds.), International Encyclopedia of Education (3rd ed.), vol. 7, pp. 112–118.]

This prepublication article discusses the advantages of data mining over traditional educational research and classifies data mining methods: prediction, clustering, relationship mining, discovery with models, and distillation of data for human judgment.

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