



The principle goal of education is to create men who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done – men who are creative, inventive and discoverers.

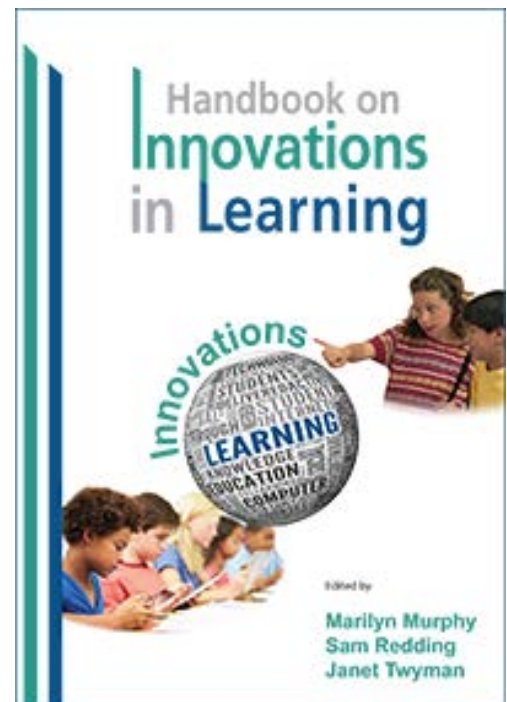
Jean Piaget

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Dear Colleague,

Again, it is my pleasure to share the continued work of the Center on Innovations in Learning (CIL) with you.

We are proud to announce a new publication. The ***Handbook on Innovations in Learning*** focuses on innovations—both methodological and technological—in teaching and learning that promise to surpass standard practice in achieving learning outcomes for students. The chapters in this *Handbook* consider best practice from the perspective of topics emerging as priorities in education. Topics covered include personalized learning, online learning, implementation, instruction for students with disabilities and for English language learners, games in education, career and technical education, the use of data and data analytics to improve learning outcomes, and local and state approaches to building a network of leaders of innovative practices. The whole book—as well as individual chapters—is available for free download at www.centeril.org; a hardcopy text will soon be published by Information Age, Inc. While you are at our website, check out its new design and features. If you have any suggestions of topics you would like us to feature, please let us know.



CIL's **League of Innovators Design Team** had its first meeting to lay the groundwork for the the league's activities. The league will be a community of practice for its members and will assist CIL in staying apprised of the needs of the field regarding innovations in learning. The design team

consists of **Sheika Edmonds**, Massachusetts Department of Education; **Cheryl Harris**, Texas and Southeast Comprehensive Centers (CC); **Andy Kelly**, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington; **Tammy McGraw**, Virginia Department of Education; **Tracy Tucker**, Arkansas Department of Education; **Rachel Trimble**, Midwest CC; and **Carolyn Vincent**, Northeast CC.

The expertise of the Center on Innovations in Learning in technology was well represented at the Association for Behavior Analysis International's Education Conference in Chicago. **Janet Twyman**, CIL's director of innovation and technology, organized the conference and served as its master of ceremonies. A noted expert in the field of innovative, effective instructional practices, Janet's paper, "The Intersection of Behavior, Education, and Technology," explored the merging of behavioral analysis with digital education to advance both teaching and learning. In addition to Janet's contributions to the conference, several authors of chapters in CIL's recently released ***Handbook on Innovations in Learning*** also made presentations. **Joe Layng** delivered a keynote address on teaching "complexity and enquiry" and a paper at a breakout session on establishing motivation in learning. **Ryan Baker** presented a keynote paper entitled "Educational Data Mining to Study Problem Behaviors in Online Learning." **Ronnie Detrich** contributed a poster titled "Evidence or Infomercial: The Necessity of Evaluating Technological Innovations."

Indistar News

Indistar shepherd Stephanie Benedict spoke on the use of Indistar as the basis for state-level monitoring and evaluating of school turnaround supports at a recent SEDL conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. The conference was organized by **Beth Howard-Brown**, program director of the Southeast CC, and **Robin Jarvis**, program director at SEDL. They were also joined by **Carlos McCauley** from the U.S. Department of Education, and SEA officials from Mississippi, Alabama, North Carolina, Texas, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Save the Date: The annual **INDISTAR conference** will be held **March 23-25th** in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This annual event includes representatives of Indistar state users and their regional comprehensive centers' representatives.

Innovation News

The U.S. Department of Education announced results for the fourth round of the **Investing in Innovation (i3) competition**, which will award the 25 highest rated applications more than \$135 million to expand innovative practices designed to improve student achievement. These 25 potential grantees selected from 618 applications and representing 13 states and the District of Columbia, must secure matching funds by Dec. 11, 2013, in order to receive federal funding. More information about the 2013 highest rated applications can be found at <http://www.data.gov/education>.

The **No Child Held Back Consortium** announced the first No Child Held Back Education Innovation Grant has been awarded to the **Williston School District in Williston, North Dakota**. The No Child Held Back Education Innovation Grant is a \$5 million grant that awards \$10,000 to 10 schools per state. The grant provides schools the tools that they need to bring innovative and enriching education programs to students.

This month's featured CIL staff member is **Allison Crean Davis**, coordinator for evaluation. As you can see from her profile below, she brings a wealth of experience and acumen to *our* efforts to support *your* work.

e-sources

For our monthly spotlighted e-sources this month, we are responding to your requests for information on the Common Core State Standards by focusing on a sampling of recent additions to the [CIL database](#) of vetted, annotated resources readily available on the web. Of course, the database, ever growing, includes resources on a spectrum of innovations in education.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Murphy
Director

www.centeril.org

Meet the Staff

Allison Crean Davis

Coordinator for Evaluation



As the coordinator for evaluation, Dr. Davis helps CIL understand the impact of its work in supporting educators to select, implement, and scale up innovative practices. She finds the value of evaluation is in its pragmatic application to improve and sustain processes and program outcomes. She is excited to explore how innovative practices in the education sector are, can, and perhaps should be evaluated.

Allison has a diverse background as a consultant, researcher, evaluator, and practitioner in education and child/developmental psychology. She brings vast experience working with educators, policymakers, and funders at the national, state, district, and local school levels and across the continuum of pre-K to postsecondary institutions. Her work has provided her the privilege of working with educators practicing in inner-cities, on rural farmlands, on Indian reservations, and in the Caribbean Islands.

Prior to her work as a consultant, Allison was the program director for research for the North Central Regional Educational Laboratory's Center for Data Systems and Development. Allison has

also worked as an administrator and counselor for the City Colleges of Chicago, has taught in special education programs for emotionally disturbed youths, and has extensive experience providing psychological diagnostic assessment and treatment services to children and families. Before this, Allison worked in corporate settings as a buyer for a nationally distributed retail catalog and as a participant in the executive training program for Macy's Northeast.

Allison is bilingual (English/Spanish), achieving this through study abroad in Colombia, South America, during her undergraduate years. She earned her Ph.D. in psychology from the Institute of Psychology, Illinois Institute of Technology, and a B.A. in both psychology and Spanish from Lafayette College. She is a lifelong runner and former competitive rower and coach. Allison is a mother/stepmother of four children and resides in Kennebunk, Maine.



Some e-sources on the Common Core

CCSS Instructional Practice Guides (2013)

Student Achievement Partners

This webpage provides downloadable practice guides designed to "provide specific guidance for what the CCSS for ELA/Literacy and mathematics look like in planning and practice."

Common Core State Standards: Implementation Tools and Resources (2013)

Council of Chief State School Officers

CCSSO developed this list of tools and resources "to point states to promising practices and tools to support Common Core State Standards implementation."

Exceptional Preparation for the Common Core (2013)

LearnZillion

This website offers a learning platform that combines video lessons, assessments, and progress reporting--"thousands of resources to explain the standards and equip students for success."

Fulfilling the Promise of the Common Core State Standards: Moving from Adoption to Implementation to Sustainability (2012) (pdf)

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

This report illuminates activities educators and policymakers at all levels can undertake to successfully implement the Common Core State Standards.

Getting Your School Tech Ready for Common Core Assessments (2013)

Schaffhauser, D.

This article describes what some districts already know about transitioning to online assessments that reflect the learning goals of the Common Core State Standards.

New Common Core Content and Practical Resources (2013)

Khan Academy

This website is dedicated to the Common Core State Standards. It states, "We've launched thousands of new peer-reviewed practice problems that rigorously cover the new US Common Core State Standards and can be used in your classroom today."

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