

December, 2005

To: Network for the National Initiative: New Directions for Student Support
(online at: <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/ndannouncement.htm>)

Re: Next Steps and a brief update on this rapidly escalating initiative

NEXT STEPS

Below are four strategic next steps being pursued and a request for your thoughts.

(1) *Contacting and making presentations to key decision makers.* Information, reports, tools, and more are being sent and presentations are being made by core group members to legislators, superintendents, principals, boards, at association meetings, etc.

Is there anyone you want us to contact and is there anything special you want us to send them (e.g., concept papers, frequently asked questions, documents such as those appended at the end of this email)?

Please provide names and contact info and what you think we should send them.

(2) *Leadership Institutes.* Institute agenda focuses on how teams can work with key stakeholders to:

- < clarify why New Directions for Student Support are an imperative
- < frame the full continuum of comprehensive and integrated interventions
- < build the infrastructure to develop new directions for learning supports
- < move forward with essential systemic changes

(See <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/upcomingevents.htm#leadership>

Do you think a Leadership Institute would help move the initiative forward in your state or district? YES NO

If yes, contact ltaylor@ucla.edu to discuss this further.

(3) *Direct work with districts.* This is strategic work with those ready to move forward in new directions.

If you are associated with a district that is ready to move forward and want to explore ways we might be able to help, contact ltaylor@ucla.edu

(4) *Work with core groups and workgroups.* If you have agreed to be a core group or workgroup member, please indicate any next steps you think are priorities for moving in new directions for student support in your state. Also indicate any additional products you think are needed to support the work.

BRIEF UPDATE

For ongoing updates about the initiative, see
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/currentstatus.htm>

Statewide Summits

A statewide Summit was held in Harrisburg, PA, November 14. The interest in the initiative was reflected in the fact that the Summit was oversubscribed. The next statewide summit is set for New Jersey (in Princeton) on January 30, 2006. Again the interest is extensive and the Summit is certain to be oversubscribed.

Leadership Institutes.

The input we have received makes it clear that the next phase in states that have held statewide summits is to expand leadership capacity building and networking. Therefore, in August, we began conducting Leadership Institutes for New Directions for Student Support. The first was in

Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota; the second was in September in Dallas, Texas. While the original intent was to work specifically with teams from schools and education agencies in each state, we have agreed to open the Leadership Institutes to individuals and teams from other states who are ready to move in New Directions for Student Support. We are now determining future interest. Let us know your thoughts about this. Remember, there is no cost for attendance (other than personal travel costs).

Legislation

California legislation has been forwarded to the appropriation committee. See [http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/ab171\(1-20-05\).pdf](http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/ab171(1-20-05).pdf)

Developing Additional Resources to Advance New Directions

The Tool Kit of resources for the Initiative continues to expand (online and in hardcopy) <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/toolkit.htm>

Recently added:

>>“Example of a Formal Proposal for Moving in New Directions” (e.g., proposal to a Superintendent, Student Support Director, Principal, Board, etc. about Integrating a Comprehensive Approach for Addressing Barriers to Learning into School Improvement Planning)

>>“Infrastructure for Learning Supports at District, Regional, and State Offices”

As you can tell, things are moving along a good clip. As always, we value your input on how to maximize the initiative’s impact, including info on upcoming events where there could be an opportunity to engage decision makers in exploring New Directions.

We look forward to hearing from you and to continuing to work with you in the best interests of young people, their families, and their schools.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Adelman and Linda Taylor

APPENDIX

Some Useful Strategies: Steps in Creating Readiness and Building Capacity

(1) **Focus on School Improvement Planning Guides** – to ensure that school improvement planning guides fully incorporate learning supports to address barriers to student learning and development. From the responses to our Center’s recent policy reports on this matter, it seems clear many leaders in the field are ready to tune in to this need. The two documents focused specifically on incorporating new directions thinking into school improvement planning have been circulated widely (including through the “Support for School Improvement e-Newsletter” sent out by the Council for Chief State School Officers – CCSSO to approx. 1600 folks working on school improvement issues).

We hope you have had a chance to review the reports. If not, you can access them as follows:

>*School Improvement Planning: What's Missing?*
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/whatsmissing.htm>

>Addressing What's Missing in School Improvement Planning: Expanding Standards and Accountability to Encompass an Enabling or Learning Supports Component
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/enabling/standards.pdf>

You can use the Executive Summary and Abstract or the whole document and refer them to the web to download the complete document or we can send you copies to share with others. Alternatively, let us know who you want us to send them to. Remember to tell folks that our federally funded Center provides, *at no cost*, strategic support for enhancing learning supports to address barriers to student learning and development. This includes resource materials and leadership training. Encourage them to contact ltaylor@ucla.edu

(2) Focus on the need for a Unifying Framework. The frustration with so many separate initiatives is growing. As you know, we have focused on this in a recent report.

>Another Initiative? Where Does it Fit? A Unifying Framework and an Integrated Infrastructure for Schools to Address Barriers to Learning and Promote Healthy Development
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/infrastructure/anotherinitiative-exec.pdf>

Here, too, you can play a role in getting these into the hands of decision makers and other key stakeholders. Let us know if you need copies to share with others or if you want us to send it directly to someone. And, again, remember to encourage folks to contact us..

(3) Corwin Publications on New Directions into the Hands of Leaders. Finally, we note that the two books published in July by Corwin Press in support of the New Directions Initiative are being sent to a sample of leaders who could play a key role in moving the Initiative forward. If there is someone to whom you think it would be valuable to send copies of the books, please let us know. If you aren't familiar with these two resources, see

>>>*The School Leader's Guide to Student Learning Supports: New Directions for Addressing Barriers to Learning* – <http://www.corwinpress.com/book.aspx?pid=11343>

>>>*The Implementation Guide to Student Learning Supports: New Directions for Addressing Barriers to Learning* – <http://www.corwinpress.com/book.aspx?pid=11371>

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