

August, 2005

To: Network for the National Initiative: New Directions for Student Support

online at: <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/summit2002/ndannouncement.htm>

We are extremely pleased to report that the momentum for new directions is continuing to grow at an exponential rate. Here is a brief update:

**(1) Efforts to Fully Integrate Student/Learning Supports into School Improvement Planning Guides.** We are hearing that the two reports related to school improvement planning and standards for learning supports have been a useful stimulus across the country. If you still haven't had a chance to review the reports, 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>

Feel free to put these into the hands of decision makers and other key stakeholders. 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 design, readiness, and capacity building assistance, resource materials, and leadership training. Encourage them to contact us.

## **(2) Corwin Press Books on New Directions**

The first feedback from the Initiative network and others on the just published books prepared by the Center's Co-Directors indicates they will be useful additional aids for moving in new directions for student support. For a look at the content of these works, 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>

## **(3) Next Statewide Summit**

Scheduled for Pennsylvania in November. We are in the process of determining which other states want to pursue Summits this year. If you have thoughts about this, let us know.

**(4) Leadership Institutes.** As we noted in July, 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, we have begun conducting Leadership Institutes for New Directions for Student Support.

The first was on Tuesday, August 16th in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota

The second is schedule for Monday, September 19 in Dallas Texas.

While the original intent was to work specifically with teams from schools and education agencies in those two states, 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. The Minnesota Institute brought together 60 leaders (including folks from Florida and Utah).

We are now determining which other states are interested. Let us know your thoughts about this. Remember, there is no cost to attend (other than personal travel costs). The 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

#### **(5) Developing Additional Resources to Advance New Directions**

We have been receiving recommendations about special resources we should develop as aids for those trying to move in new directions. Two suggestions are:

- >a model for a proposal to submit to a district superintendent, student supports director, the school board, or a principal
- >a brief outline of first steps

We would like to know if either of these seems like something you would find useful and/or if there is something else you would recommend we produce.

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

### **Our Requests for Feedback**

- >Anyone to whom you want us to send materials about the school improvement planning for student/learning supports? (Name and contact info please)

- >Suggestions about which states for next statewide Summits:

- >Suggestions about next Leadership Institutes:

- >Suggestions about additional resources the Center should produce to advance new directions:

>>>a model for a proposal to submit to a district superintendent, student supports director, the school board, or a principal      Yes    Not really needed

>>>a brief outline of first steps      Yes    Not really needed

>>>other (specify)