

Listserv Email: June 14, 2011

Illinois Recipient of Gates' Funded Virtual Network Grant: Funded by the Gates Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation, Illinois will join Colorado, New York, North Carolina, and Massachusetts in the development of an open-source technology system that would give teachers on-the-spot access to everything from lesson plans to student progress reports. More information about the initiative can be found at:

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/teacherbeat/2011/05/common-standards_supports_for.html

New Illinois P-20 Council Website: The P-20 Council has unveiled its new web site at www.p20council.illinois.gov. Also included on the web site are minutes, agendas, and documents from the Council's committee work, including that of the Teacher and Leadership Effectiveness Committee.

National News:

- **Standing on the Shoulders of Giants Report:** The National Center of Education and the Economy Report released its U.S. DOE commissioned analysis of what leading countries are doing right in education reform (see attached). The web cast event, which includes responses from Secretary Duncan as well as other education experts can be found at: <http://www.tvworldwide.com/events/NCEE/110524/>. The report has already stirred much debate on whether or not we are moving in the right direction in the U.S. in terms of education reform.
- **i3 Grant Reviewers Needed:** The U.S. Department of Education has issued its call for reviewers for the i3 grant competition. More information on the grant competition and qualifications to serve as a reviewer can be found at: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/2011/call-for-peer-reviewers.html>
- **White House Rural Council:** President Obama created a new White House Rural Council to work across government, including education agencies, to strengthen rural communities and promote economic growth. More information on the Council can be found at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/06/09/obama-administration-establishes-white-house-rural-council-strengthen-ru>

Leadership Publications:

- **NCSL Strong Leaders, Strong Schools Report:** The National Conference of State Legislatures has published its report outlining what new school leadership laws and regulations were passed by states during the 2010 legislative session. The report can be accessed at: <http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?TabId=23105>
- **School Turnaround Report:** This report by researchers at University of Virginia (UVA) outlines indicators for predicting success with school turnaround efforts. The report can be accessed at: http://www.darden.virginia.edu/web/uploadedFiles/Darden/Darden_Curry_PLE/UVA_School_Turnaround/Leading_Indicators_of_School_Turnarounds.pdf