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CSEP specific:

- CSEP has been awarded a new grant from the [McCormick Foundation](#) to validate the Danielson Framework for Teaching for PreK-3 teachers. Attached (see first attachment) is a synopsis of the work to develop early learning supports for the Danielson Framework for Teaching and to conduct the validation study.
- Second, CSEP has released a new web site (<http://education.illinoisstate.edu/csep/>) that captures more comprehensively the work that is occurring in the Center. This includes the release of a new national policy brief by the National Governor's Association (<http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/2013/1306LeadingForEarlySuccessPaper.pdf>) highlighting the new P-12 Principal Endorsement in Illinois as well as more information on current and past CSEP grants and affiliated work.

Illinois specific:

- This week, NCTQ released a national rankings on teacher preparation programs across the country (see <http://www.usnews.com/education/nctq>). While the rankings are generating much attention, they are also attracting criticism by several well respected educators (Diane Ravitch and Linda Darling Hammond) about the methodology used to rank the teacher education programs and the lack of alignment to current state and national initiatives for teacher preparation (see below).
 - <http://dianeravitch.net/2013/06/18/that-nctq-report-on-teacher-education-f/>
 - <http://dianeravitch.net/2013/06/18/linda-darling-hammond-on-the-nctq-report/>I call your attention to this report, to question whether the indicators and methodology for the NCTQ rankings are the best way to measure and promote teacher preparation effectiveness in Illinois aligned with the strategic priorities that the state and the education community has established for strengthening all teacher preparation programs. Two years ago, the P-20 Council Committee on Teacher and Leadership Effectiveness developed - with a committee of over 65 teacher and principal preparation faculty and practitioners - a dashboard (to be tied to the P-20 Data Longitudinal System) for measuring the effectiveness of Teacher and Leadership Preparation programs in Illinois (see first attachment). The performance indicators recommended in this dashboard were aligned to current state priorities such as EdTPA, teacher and principal performance evaluation ratings, and the new 5 Essentials Survey results and seem a better fit for aligning program outcomes to statewide priorities.
- [National Governors Association](#) (NGA) [recently announced](#) six states—Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nevada and Pennsylvania—to participate in a joint policy academy to improve early learning outcomes. Participating states will receive guidance and technical assistance from NGA staff and experts on assessments tied to student outcomes in early childhood. CSEP will be participating with Illinois' team.

Early Childhood

- **Difficult to Overcome Effects of Low Birth Weight** – A new [study](#) by the National Bureau of Economic Research finds that the effect of birth weight on cognitive development from kindergarten through schooling is significant, and that there is a limit to the effect remediation by schools or parents can have on lowering those negative effects.

K-12 Education

- **ESEA Reauthorization:** Lawmakers in Congress introduced three separate pieces of legislation to rewrite the stalled Elementary and Secondary Education Act [though](#) none of the measures has bipartisan backing. All three bills -- like the administration's waivers under No Child Left Behind -- would move away from adequate yearly progress. But the similarities largely end there. Check out a [side-by-side comparison](#) of the bills.
- **Online Dual Enrollment Courses:** Ten large public universities and postsecondary systems recently decided to partner with Coursera, a for-profit company that provides massive open online courses, in a move that can likely mean for professional development for educators and increased options for students who want to take dual credit courses.

Common Core

- CCSSO has developed [principles](#) to guide state leadership in assessment transition and to address several immediate state-federal issues in regards to implementation of assessments aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) .
- Student Achievement Partners has released [10 sample close reading lessons](#) written by teachers that including readings with teacher and student instructions, text dependent questions, student discussion activities, vocabulary and syntax tasks for challenging words and phrases, and writing-based formative assessments. These sample lessons are available on the Student Achievement Partners website [achievethecore.org](#).
- CCSSO and Learning Forward hosted a joint event to discuss the findings from their [Transforming Professional Learning to Prepare College-and Career-Ready Students: Implementing the Common Core](#) initiative. The findings from this initiative resulted in Learning Forward releasing a policy brief entitled [Seizing the Moment: State Lessons for Transforming Professional Learning](#), that includes discussion of six key policy elements to be included in legislation or regulations in order to create a comprehensive system of professional learning and offers lessons learned for state education leaders.

Teacher and Leadership Effectiveness

- **Good Leadership in Schools Can Be Trained Behavior:** A [recent editorial](#) in the Bloomington Pantagraph emphasizes the importance of school leadership highlighting the work to prepare effective instructional leaders at the University of Illinois at Chicago's Urban School Leadership program.

- **CPS Principal Development and Support.** A [recent article](#) in Education Week highlighted the continuing effort in CPS to continue to support and develop a succession of highly effective school leaders.
- This You Tube video, organized by the University Council of Professors of Education Administration, focuses on the future of peer review in higher education:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DnSWtdM2-YYal>

Higher Education

- **Policymakers' Guide to Using Early Warning Data:** Early warning systems will be helpful in alerting teachers, parents, and students that a youth is veering off the path to college- and career-readiness. According to a report by the [Data Quality Campaign](#) state policymakers can take action now to encourage the use of EWS, support the development of research-based warning indicators, ensure that early warning data are timely, and establish a culture in which stakeholders have timely access to early warning data.
- **Falling Short on 60% by 2025 Goal:** The percentage of adults who will hold a college degree in 2025 is projected to hit 48%, short of Lumina Foundation's 60% goal for degree- and certificate-holders. In response, a [new report](#) by the Lumina Foundation calls for 10 incremental targets to hit by 2016. The targets focus to some extent on black and Hispanic students, as well as working adults.
- **Value of College Education:** A [new report](#) by the Hamilton Project provides evidence that the benefits of higher education still outweigh the costs.
- **Community College Pathway to Bachelor Degree Completion:** The Illinois Education Research Council (IERC) has released a [study](#) showing that there does not appear to be a disadvantage against community college students transferring to 4-year institutions with regards to bachelor's degree completion.

Upcoming Events

- The Illinois State Board of Education Common Core Conference will be held June 27-28 in Springfield, Illinois. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.
- Registration is now open for the July 11 conference on Instructional Excellence in Early Childhood Classrooms: Lessons Learned About Effective, Scalable Supports (see attachment 3). The registration deadline is July 3.
- The RtI in Early Childhood Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 2nd in Springfield, Illinois (see last attachment)