

Listserv Email: April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Illinois News

- The **University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research (UChicago CCSR)** has recently announced that physical copies of their reports are now available for purchase on Amazon. Reports that will be released in the future can be found on the [UChicago CCSR website](#), where you can also find digital copies of all reports.

PreK-3

- The **National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)** recently released an article in their new publication titled, *Principal*, that looked at the critical role of principals and P-3 reform efforts. To access the new publication and the article, [click here](#).
- The **Illinois Resource Center** in coordination with **ISBE** and **Loyola University–School of Law** hosted a symposium titled, *Early Childhood Education for the Future: The Creative Use of Public-Private Partnerships to Provide Cost-effective, High Quality School Readiness Programs* for Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents on **Friday, March 15**. Materials to each of the presentations are now linked on the [website](#)

K-12

- An article from *Education Week* entitled, [More Teachers Group Students by Ability](#), discusses a study of federal teacher data that found more teachers are again "sorting" or "grouping" students by ability, a practice that was once discouraged. To read the article and access the study, [click here](#).
- A report was recently released from **America Achieves** entitled, [Middle Class or Middle of the Pack: What Can We Learn When Benchmarking U.S. Schools Against the World's Best?](#) This report highlights the research behind the middle class schools in the U.S. when compared to those of other countries- drawing attention to how far behind our country is lagging. To read the report, [click here](#).
- The following opinion piece, **Fast Forward: What Education Could Be in 2043**, by Bill Jackson, founder and CEO of GreatSchools, presents a vision of what education could look like in the next thirty years as a result of greater parent engagement. To read the piece, [click here](#).

Teacher Effectiveness

- Attached to this email you will find the Teacher Education Bulletin 13-2: **Update on ISBE Educator Licensure Initiatives**. This bulletin gives an overview of the current changes to Teacher Education Rules and Standards in Illinois. It also offers links to additional in-depth information if needed. See the attachment titled, Teacher Ed Bulletin 4 13.

- From *The Washington Post* comes an article entitled, [Bill Gates: A Fairer Way to Evaluate Teachers](#). This article discusses the "window of opportunity" in public education to build systems that promote and develop good teachers and eventually better results for students. To read the article, [click here](#).

#### Common Core

- From the *National Journal Education Experts Blog* comes an article entitled, [Common Core Standards Are Useless Without Action](#). This article focuses the discussion on the Common Core State Standards and a recent report from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. This report argues that the standards cannot create change on their own. To read the article and access the report, [click here](#).
- A recent policy brief entitled, [Toward a "Common Definition of English Learner": A Brief Defining Policy and Technical Issues and Opportunities for State Assessment Consortia](#), focused on the difficult task of defining what is an English Learner. To read the policy brief, [click here](#).
- An article from *Education Week* entitled, [Common Science Standards Make Formal Debut](#), discusses the recently released Next Generation Science Standards. This set of standards aim at offering a larger focus not only on foundational knowledge in the subject, but also encouraging students to apply what they have learned "through scientific inquiry" and the "engineering-design process" to further their understanding. To read the article, [click here](#).

#### Higher Education

- The **Illinois Network of Childcare Resource and Referral Agencies (INCRRA)** is looking for a higher education institution to provide consultation and data analysis for two statewide research projects. To learn more about this research opportunity and view the research RFP, [click here](#). Proposals are due by **4:00 pm on April 19th, 2013**.

#### Webinars & Events

- An upcoming webinar that may be of interest entitled, [School Climate: Why It Matters, How It's Measured, and What We Can Do About It](#), will be on **April 24th from 10:30am - 12:00pm Pacific Time (1:30pm to 3:00pm Eastern Time)**. The webinar will discuss the results of the California Comprehensive Center at WestEd study; the measurement and reporting of school climate in California; and how practitioners view school engagement in the improvement of school climate. To learn more about the webinar and register, [click here](#). You can send advance questions to [eventquestion@wested.org](mailto:eventquestion@wested.org).
- On **June 13th and 14th** at **I Hotel & Conference Center in Champaign, Illinois** the **Illinois Education Research Council** will be holding the **Eleventh Focus on Illinois**

**Education Research Symposium.** Attached to this email you will find the registration materials in two PDF documents. Registration **deadline is May 24th**. To read more about the symposium and register, see attached PDF documents entitled Registration Materials and Registration Form.

- An upcoming webinar that may also be of interest to you will be held on **Tuesday, April 16th at 4:00pm (EST)**. This webinar, [\*\*Building a Profession: Helping Principals Become the Lever of Change \(Part Three\)\*\*](#), will highlight the success of superintendent Teri Brecheen's school district in Oklahoma, providing feedback and conversation on how to create a state-wide initiative for change. To read more about this webinar and register, [click here](#).