



South Dakota Education Service Agency Region 7 Newsletter

Serving school districts in the Black Hills area and southwestern South Dakota

November, 2005

Assessment Workshops

“Teacher as Assessor: Aligning Assessment to Instruction” is a multi-session, train-the-trainer program for teacher teams. Topics include characteristics of effective classroom assessment, strengths and weaknesses of different assessment tools, examining student work, and assessment for learning vs. assessment of learning. Participating teams will develop a plan to teach colleagues what they have learned.

ESA 7 sessions are scheduled in Rapid City on the following dates: January 12 & 13; February 9; March 14; April 12; and June 5. The training is free to ESA 7 teacher teams; materials will cost approximately \$150/team.

For more information, contact Pam Lange at plange@tie.net.

AIMS II: Mathematics Curriculum Support

Standards-based mathematics programs reflect a new approach to mathematics instruction. These programs emphasize less memorization of isolated facts and algorithms and more conceptual understanding/mathematical problem solving.

Through a Title II D grant, ESA 7 schools may participate in a comprehensive professional development program focused on the review, selection and implementation of standards-based mathematics programs at the school or district level. Districts who choose to participate will form cross-grade teams. An AIMS II orientation session for school teams is scheduled for November 4 in Rapid City. For more information, contact Marcia Torgrude at mtorgrude@tie.net.

Special Education Teacher Academy

What: Special Education Teacher Academy
For Whom: Special Education teachers with three or fewer years of experience
When: Tuesday, December 6, 2005 – 8 AM - 4 PM
Where: TIE Office, Rapid City, SD

The Academy will include a one-day institute and a follow-up mentoring program. Travel stipends will be available to participants and substitute teacher reimbursement will be made to school districts that approve attendance for their teachers.

Within the Mentoring Program portion of the Academy, novice special education teachers will be paired with an experienced special education teacher from ESA 7. The novice teacher will meet with the mentor ten times between December 1, 2005 and May 31, 2006 and observe two different classroom experiences. Novice teachers will be paid a stipend for their participation.

While the Mentoring Program is designed to be a follow up to the Institute, individuals are not required to participate in both, and may choose only one. Teachers who successfully complete both the institute and mentoring portion of the Special Education Academy will be eligible to receive one graduate credit from the University of Sioux Falls (pending) at a reduced rate.

More information and registration for the Institute and Mentoring Program are available at the Enrich website at www.enrich.tie.net.

Project Enrich will also be taking applications for experienced special education mentors. Mentors will be required to participate in a mentor orientation session via DDN, meet with their novice teacher ten times between December 1, 2005 and May 31, 2006, and arrange two classroom observations. Mentors must have a recommendation from their supervisor and will receive a stipend for their work. More information and mentor applications are also available on the Enrich website at www.enrich.tie.net.

The Systems Change Conference is scheduled for November 6-8 at the Ramkota Inn & Convention Center in Rapid City, SD. Featured speakers include Steve Van Bockern, co-author of *Reclaiming Youth at Risk*; Dawna Markova, editor of *Random Acts of Kindness* and a protégé of Peter Senge; and Mervlyn Kitashima, one of the participants on the 40-year *Kauai Longitudinal Study on Resilience*.

Breakout sessions presented by educational leaders provide lessons on a wide array of systems changes occurring schools and other organization.

Register at www.wywtemschange.midwestmaple.org or contact Londa Richter, Conference Coordinator at lrichter@tie.net.

SD READS is in its sixth and final year as one of South Dakota's reading initiatives supporting strategic reading and writing. The program has made it possible for K-5th grade, special education, and Title teachers to gain a deeper understanding of literacy and instructional practices that motivate students to become engaged, life-long learners. Literacy coaches are working with teachers in the following ESA 7 schools for the 2005-06 school year:

Amy Huether	Shannon County, Kadoka
Barb Ice	New Underwood, Edgemont, Hot Springs, Elk Mountain
Barb Rowenhorst	Douglas, Haakon
Mary Cooper	Lead-Deadwood, Meade District, Newell
Sue McGrath	Belle Fourche, Spearfish

TIE Membership Workshops designed for ESA 7 include the following: Peer Coaching for Educators; Putting the Administrative Handheld to Optimal Use; and Walkthrough Observations Using GoObserve. For workshop dates, times, and locations, see www.tie.net/membership/workshop.

ESA 7 Contacts:

Executive Director: Randy Morris rmorris@bhssc.tie.net

Program Director: Sandra Gaspar sgaspar@tie.net

Education Specialist – Belle Fourche, Lead-Deadwood, Newell, Spearfish: Pam Lange plange@tie.net

Education Specialist – Custer, Edgemont, Elk Mountain, Hill City, Hot Springs, Oelrichs: Debbie O'Doan dodoan@tie.net

Education Specialist – Douglas, Rapid City: June Preszler jpreszler@tie.net

Education Specialist – New Underwood, Wall: Julie Mathiesen jmathiesen@tie.net

Education Specialist – Haakon, Meade: Micky Wienk mwienk@tie.net

Education Specialist – Shannon County: Sandra Gaspar sgaspar@tie.net

The next ESA Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2006 at the TIE Office in Rapid City from 9 AM – 1 PM.

www.sdesa7.org

ESA 7 is an affiliate of Black Hills Special Services Cooperative.