Dear Colleague,

Spring greetings from the Center on Innovations in Learning (CIL)!

We are happy to announce that we are populating our CIL website with valuable resources to enhance your knowledge of innovations that improve learning and teaching. Current, vetted publications and tools on topics such as personalized learning, data use and analytics, and change and innovation are available for free download from a searchable database, which also retrieves a brief summary of a publication's content for your convenience. We will continuously add resources, and other enhancements, to the site in the upcoming months, so continue to visit www.centeril.org

The Annual Indistar Summit will be held April 9–10 in Richmond, Virginia. Over 22 state teams and their accompanying regional comprehensive centers are registered for this energizing event. The state teams will provide panel discussions on their evolving work using Indistar for their school improvement process, with plenty of time for discussion, cross-state interaction, and reflection. Full resources will be posted at www.centeril.org

Recent center activity included a facilitated training by Lois Myran, CIL, on February 7th in Topeka, Kansas, for 20 Kansas Department of Education personnel, collectively called the “KSDE Integrated Innovation Teams,” or “KIIT.” KSDE participants included Norma Cregan, Sandra Guidry, and Pat Hill. The goals of the day included increasing participants’ understanding of the logistics and processes of Kansa-Star, the Kansas version of Indistar, a review of the state administrative dashboard, and a clarification of the responsibilities of KIIT when supporting and monitoring school work. KIIT members will be assigned to assist several Focus and Priority Schools.

Larry Kugler, CIL, conducted an Indistar training for the Office of the State Superintendent of Education of the District of Columbia (OSSE) on March 26th. This D.C. training was provided for the district’s eleven Focus Schools. Previously, trainings were conducted for key personnel in the School Improvement Grant and Priority Schools in D.C.’s public and charter system. Dr. Khalid Randolph, Director, Innovation and Improvement (I & I) for OSSE welcomed representatives from seven schools and established the goals for the day with great enthusiasm and commitment. In addition, Dr. Ted Thompson, Director, Office of School Turnaround for OSSE, made welcoming remarks and emphasized the importance of this initiative from the district’s perspective. Antoine Vinson led the OSSE staff and did an excellent job organizing the training. Dr. Randolph’s entire I & I staff worked directly with the school participants throughout the training and provided outstanding support, which contributed to a successful introduction to Indistar.

Finally, please take a few moments to read our new feature, “Meet the CIL Staff,” below. In the upcoming months, we will profile individuals on our CIL team so that you can become familiar with not only our work but also the valuable expertise we have ready and willing to respond to your inquiries.

Best,

Marilyn Murphy

Director, Center on Innovations in Learning

www.centeril.org
Meet the CIL Staff

JANET S. TWYMAN Ph.D., BCBA
CIL Director of Innovation and Technology

As CIL’s Director of Innovation and Technology, Dr. Twyman will help identify emerging promising practices, shape the center’s priorities, and collaborate to plan the development of the center’s products, including web-based systems and tools. One of her first projects is to help develop a nominating and vetting tool to help educators find or learn more about innovations in learning.

Janet Twyman is a career educator and has been a preschool and elementary school teacher, a principal and administrator, and a university professor. She has worked directly improving the personalization of learning, and engineering self-paced learning with typically developing students, preschoolers with intellectual disabilities, adolescents with emotional and behavioral problems, and learners with autism spectrum disorders. As a vice president at HeadSprout, she led the design, development, and dissemination of the company’s award winning Internet-based reading programs and oversaw their implementation in over 1,500 public and private schools. Dr. Twyman has presented nationally and internationally on effective instructional practices and evaluating and supporting educational innovations, including a 2011 presentation on technology and education for learners in developing countries at the United Nations.

Janet grew up in Kentucky and credits her professors at the University of Kentucky with leading her on a path to discover the best ways to teach kids with learning and behavior problems. After completing her doctorate at Columbia University in New York City, she ran an early childhood center and taught kids, teachers, and parents. Wanting to see more of the country she moved to Seattle, which is where she and friends created HeadSprout, but after 11 years she moved back East. Now, when she is not busy with the University of Massachusetts or CIL, she is riding horses and trying to figure out how they learn.

www.centeril.org