Greetings from the Center on Innovations in Learning (CIL).

The Third Indistar Summit was held on April 9th and 10th in Richmond, Virginia, with representatives from 22 of the 25 Indistar states and their respective Regional Comprehensive Centers. The summer-like weather was part of the southern-style welcome provided by the host state of Virginia; special thanks to Dr. Patricia I. Wright, Virginia state superintendent of public instruction, Dr. Kathleen Smith, Dr. Yvonne Holloman, and the great Virginia team for their hospitality.

The summit provided an opportunity for numerous states to present on implementation and sustainability of their web-based school improvement process, and panelists from across the country—Washington, South Dakota, Arkansas, North Carolina, Mississippi, Alaska and Virginia—shared their successes and experiences from the perspective of the user, both veteran and novice. In addition, Virginia, as the original Indistar user, assembled a panel of coaches and district leaders to share their perspectives. Heartfelt thanks to all of our panelists: Andy Kelly, Shawna Poitra, Elbert Harvey, George Hancock, Diane Antolak, Jayne Green, Chris Norwood, Staci Curry, Angie Love, Cathy David, Nate Marciochi, Megan Eliasson, Travis Campbell, Roy Geiger, David Wymer, Thomasyne Beverly, Annie Harman, Frank Ehrhart, Barb Jones-Smith, Darlene Bright, Dionne Ward, Ricky Hopkins, Natalie Halloran, Kimberly Gray, Bettie Swain, Michael Hill, and Ronald Leigh.

Marilyn Murphy and Janet Twyman, CIL, provided an overview of what to anticipate from the new Center on Innovations in Learning. Sam Redding, CIL, presented “What’s Next” for Indistar, including moving in May to a high-capacity, cloud-based platform. Courtney Graves and Stephanie Benedict introduced improved tools the coaches use to provide feedback to promote school improvement. Reatha Owen discussed the School Community Network: Just Connect, which provides resources, training, and tools to communities focused on student learning. The launching of Indistar Connect, a professional networking site for Indistar users, was presented by Mark Williams, Larry Kugler, and Maureen Mirabito. If you are an Indistar user and did not receive an invitation to join, please contact Mark at mwilliams@adi.org.

The full agenda, presentation materials, and pictures from the summit are posted at www.centeril.org/summit/Summit.aspx. If you would like more information on any of this material please let us know.

NEW solution-finding report: In response to a request from Emily Zyko Rukobo of the Northeast Comprehensive Center, CIL created a solution-finding report on “Teacher, Principal, and Leader Evaluation in Online and Blended Learning.” You can view the report on the CIL website http://www.centeril.org/reports/.

Meet the CIL Staff: Chris Sadjian-Peacock, CIL’s communication coordinator, is our featured staff member this month. Also attached is the first of our spotlighted resources to help you in the good work you do. Continue to visit our web site www.centeril.org, where we are adding additional resources on a daily basis.

We hope you have some lovely spring weather where you are; see you next month!

Best,
Marilyn Murphy
Director

April 2013

“Learning and innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow.”

— William Pollard

www.centeril.org
Meet the CIL Staff

CHRIS SADJIAN-PEACOCK
CIL Communication Coordinator

As CIL’s communications coordinator, Chris facilitates communication with the regional comprehension centers (RCCs). She meets monthly, via telephone, with a representative of each RCC to assess state educational agencies (SEA) and RCC needs and discuss progress with technical assistance. Through these communications she assists the CIL team in identifying the needs emerging from the SEAs and RCCs and determines topics for the CIL’s solution-finding reports. She also provides an informational update for the monthly e-newsletter and coordinates a number of other activities.

Chris is a career educator who worked in the School District of Philadelphia (SDP) for 34 years. While at the SDP, she held various positions, including special education teacher, instructional advisor, special education supervisor and vice principal. Her last 13 years were spent as a middle and high school principal. After her retirement she came to Temple University as the regional coordinator for The Center for Teaching Excellence, a support program for veteran teachers pursuing National Board Certification.

Chris was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is “Temple Made,” receiving her B.S in early childhood and elementary education and her M.Ed. in special education from Temple University. She completed her administrative and supervisory certificates and a certificate in applied behavioral analysis from Penn State University. She loves to spend her free time at the shore in North Wildwood, New Jersey, enjoying the beach, reading and restaurant sampling.
CIL’s e-source database has hundreds of resources for leaders of change and is growing constantly. It can be searched by topic and keyword. Below are some selected items from the database.

**Change and Innovation**

*Change Leadership: Innovation in State Education Agencies (pdf; 5.17MB)*

“This paper presents a Change Leadership Framework and applies the framework to the role of leadership in a State Education Agency (SEA) in setting the conditions for change to accelerate student learning.”

**Personalized Learning**

*Student Motivation: An Overlooked Piece of School Reform*

This series of six papers examines topics related to students’ academic motivation, a critical but often overlooked aspect of education.

**Students with Disabilities**

*Technology and Learning; Meeting Special Student’s Needs (pdf)*

This article on Universal Design and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) discusses the basic framework, UDL Guidelines and their research base, and future directions and research.

**Learning Environments**

*Blended Learning Implementation Guide (pdf)*

This paper guides school and district leaders through the process of successfully shifting to a blended learning model with a strategic and comprehensive plan.

**Data Use and Analytics**

*District-Wide Effects on Data Use in the Classroom*

This research reports on how data are used to improve classroom practice in three school districts, exploring the effects that attitudes toward data, principal leadership, and computer data systems have on classroom practice, finding educators ambivalent about data and facing many barriers.