



Director's Corner

Greetings everyone,

As I reflect on the last quarter and say farewell to 2009, I am reminded of the many PCC activities that have taken place—from sharing with you the information made available from the national content centers to providing technical assistance in areas such as multi-grade training and principal institutes. We also co-hosted a joint meeting between general education and special education leaders in the Pacific—an important opportunity to work together and plan for ways that value and support integrated services. We see these activities as a collaborative effort that continues to build capacity and enhance work with teachers and principals, promoting improved practices that make a difference for each and every student.

We also know it was a time of challenge for American Samoa in facing the tsunami and its aftermath. The ASDOE staff were, and continue to be, resilient and steadfast in keeping the needs of their students front and center in their work.

On behalf of the PCC staff, I wish 2010 to be a year full of promise and renewal.

Thank you.

Hilda C. Heine, Director

Pacific Comprehensive Center

Highlights of PCC Activities

Chuuk Multi-Grade Training of Trainers

In Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia, over 75% of schools face teacher shortages in relation to student enrollment needs. This situation is contributing to the need for many schools in Chuuk to become multi-grade schools. With PCC program support, staff member Pam Legdesog conducted a training of trainers on multi-grade teaching strategies for 28 Chuuk State Department of Education (DOE) principals, teachers, and curriculum staff November 30–December 4, 2009. The training included classroom management, lesson planning, and grouping strategies for multi-grade classrooms.

Yap Department of Education (DOE) Spring Principals' Institute

PCC staff provided planning assistance to the Yap State Professional Development Office to prepare for the upcoming Yap DOE Spring Principals' Institute. The institute will focus on strengthening the role of Yap principals as instructional leaders at their respective schools. Assistance through PCC program support was

also provided in Yap to plan for February teacher trainings focused on reading comprehension strategies. A key component of these trainings focuses on strengthening the local trainer skills to provide necessary follow-up for teachers following these trainings.

Pacific Curriculum and Instruction Council (PCIC)/Special Education (SPED) Directors' Joint Meetings

PREL's PCIC Chiefs and the Pacific region's Directors of Special Education met in late October in Honolulu. The focus of the meeting was Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) and how special education and general education staff can work together to better support the achievement of every child. Guest speakers shared Response to Intervention (RtI) early reading as a model of ISD. An outcome of that meeting was PREL's commitment to develop universal screeners for early literacy in the vernacular. Once local educators complete the translations in January, there will be a training about the use of the screeners at the upcoming meeting in Guam, February 8–9, 2010.

Principals' Institute, Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia

In response to a request for technical assistance in providing school leadership training in Pohnpei, two PCC staff collaborated with the Pohnpei State Department of Education (PDOE) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC), and conducted a 3-day principals' institute from December 16–18, 2009. The theme of the Institute was Data-Driven Decision Making in School Improvement, focusing on using data to inform school improvement planning (SIP). Thirty-five elementary and secondary school principals and vice principals representing the 28 public schools on the Main Island participated. Follow-up accountability measures were built in, requiring each principal to generate a timeline for establishing a school improvement team (SIT) to collaboratively create/complete an SIP by May 2010. On-site PCC staff will continue to provide follow-up support to this effort in cooperation with the PDOE. A follow-up institute, focusing on SIP implementation and evaluation, is currently being discussed by the PCC and PDOE.

Equity

The Pacific Equity Assistance Cadre (PEAC), which is comprised of local equity teams from each of the 10

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SEAs, is well underway in its second year of implementation with an equity academy planned for January 26–28, 2010, in Honolulu, HI. This year's equity academy will be an opportunity for local teams to share their equity work experiences, successes achieved, and challenges encountered. It will also be a time for cadre members to collaborate with each other in planning and implementing future equity work in each entity. A new feature of this academy is planning for future webinar sessions hosted by each local equity team over the remaining course of this school year.

National Content Centers Update

Center on Instruction (COI)

The COI is offering a series of linked webinars about academic literacy, grades 4–12. Watch for a notice from PCC staff regarding when the webinars will take place. They start in February.

Following are new resources offered this quarter:

- RTI CTRL: Response to Intervention Classification Tool and Resource Locator
- Using Student Achievement Data To Support Instructional Decision Making
http://www.centeroninstruction.org/resources.cfm?category=reading&subcategory=materials&grade_start=0&grade_end=12#260
- The *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*: Opportunities for High School
http://www.centeroninstruction.org/resources.cfm?category=specialEd&subcategory=materials&grade_start=8&grade_end=12#259
- The *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*: Using ARRA Funds Provided Through Part B of the *Individuals for Disabilities Act (IDEA)* to Drive School Reform and Improvement
http://www.centeroninstruction.org/resources.cfm?category=specialEd&subcategory=materials&grade_start=0&grade_end=12#258

Go to Quick Links on the PCC website, www.pacificcompcenter.org, or visit the COI website directly at www.centeroninstruction.org for additional highlights.

Assessment and Accountability Comprehensive Center (AACC)

Mark your calendar for the second AACC Formative Assessment Mini-Conference scheduled March 11–12, 2010. Center highlights:

- State Support
http://www.aacompcenter.org/cs/aacc/print/htdocs/aacc/resources_state.htm
- Regional Comprehensive Center Support
http://www.aacompcenter.org/cs/aacc/print/htdocs/aacc/resources_rcs.htm

Find more information about these areas at www.aacompcenter.org/cs/aacc/print/htdocs/aacc/home.htm.

National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality (NCCTQ)

Newest publications developed by the NCCTQ Center:

- [Teacher Hiring, Placement, and Assignment Practices](#)
- [Determining Processes That Build Sustainable Teacher Accountability Systems](#)
- [Recruiting Special Education Teachers](#)

Want to know more about the NCCTQ and services offered? Go to Quick Links on the PCC website, www.pacificcompcenter.org, or visit the NCCTQ website directly at <http://www.tqsource.org/>.

Center on Innovation and Improvement (CII)

The CII features documents and tools in each of the main content areas as Spotlights.

<http://www.centerii.org/spotlights/>

To learn more about the CII and services offered, go to Quick Links on the PCC website, www.pacificcompcenter.org, or visit the CII website directly at www.centerii.org.

National High School Center (NHSC)

Archived version of the following webinar now available:

[Effectively Educating English Language Learners at the High School Level: What Research and Practice Tell Us](#)

- [Access the recording](#)
- [Download the presentation slides](#)
- [View more information about this webinar](#)

Want to know more about the NHCS and services offered? Go to Quick Links on the PCC website, www.pacificcompcenter.org, or visit the NHSC website directly at www.betterhighschools.org.

Mark your calendars!

PREL's Regional Educational Lab Pacific (REL-P) and the Pacific Comprehensive Center (PCC) invite you to a Web Conference on:

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Using Student Achievement Data To Support Instructional Decision Making (Dr. Ellen Mandinach)

To participate, please contact your local PREL Service Center.

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