**The Center’s Signature Initiatives**

**The Way CII Works**

**Challenge**. States are challenged to build more efficient and effective systems of support for school and district improvement.

**Inquiry**. CII's researchers combed the evidence while its technical advisors studied four states in depth. The result in 2007 was the *Handbook on Statewide Systems of Support*, research succinctly synthesized, confirmed with field studies.

**Ingenuity**. CII put experienced staff and consultants to work creating a comprehensive self-assessment and planning process for regional comprehensive centers and state education agencies to take a fresh look at systems of support.

**Application**. Within two years of the publication of the *Handbook on Statewide Systems of Support*, CII had trained all 16 regional centers to facilitate technical assistance with their states and 12 regional centers had initiated the process in 18 states.

**Results**. Dr. Barbara Hicks, Mid-Atlantic Comprehensive Center, commented, “The SSOS process helped the Delaware Department of Education improve coordination to make services to districts more coherent. The SEA commented, ‘The initiative started in 18 states. Systems of Support, publication of the year.’”

CII’s researchers combed the evidence and crystallized plain-language indicators that align the work of the district, the school, and the classroom. In the spring of 2008, the American Educational Research Association’s Division H (Program Development and Evaluation) recognized the Handbook as the outstanding publication of the year.

**Ingenuity**. Working with state education agencies and their regional comprehensive centers, CII develops web-based planning and coaching systems aligned with CII’s state, district, school, and classroom performance indicators from the Handbooks (or the state’s own standards and indicators), training materials, and protocols for each rung in the ladder.

**Application**. Several states now use a tailored version of CII’s indicator-based systems and trainings as a key component of their comprehensive support for district and school improvement. CII continues to refine and improve the systems and trainings to better meet the states’ challenges.

**Results**. Dr. Kathleen Smith, Virginia Director of School Improvement, noted, “We were thrilled! At the end of the first year, 20 of the 30 schools participating in Indistar and identifying as chronically low-performing made the benchmark pass rate to meet full accreditation status.”

**Academy of Pacesetting States**

The Academy provides training, consultation, and support for state teams to develop skilled experts in three critical areas:

1. **System Leaders** who administer the state system of support.
2. **Change Agents** who understand effective operational practices and the dynamics of change, and
3. **Instructional Specialists** who understand effective classroom instruction.

**Engineering Solutions for States**

The Center on Innovation & Improvement works alongside regional comprehensive centers to identify the challenges facing state education departments. Then CII calls upon its Scientific Council to synthesize the relevant research and generate ideas to meet the challenges and solve problems. But research-based concepts are not enough. CII’s technical advisors and staff, with loads of experience in schools, districts, and state and federal education departments, pass the good ideas through the sieve of common sense, converting them into practical applications to place in the hands of the state agencies. Getting the desired results means sticking with the work, and CII maintains strong consulting and problem-solving support for the regional centers and the states.

**The Center’s Personnel**

**Staff**

- **SAM REDDING** Center Director
- **Marilyn Murphy** Communication Director
- **Thomas Kerins** Program Director
- **Pamela Shley** Publication Director
- **Janis Langdon** Director of Information Systems & Websites
- **Reatha Owen** SES and Parent Involvement Coordinator
- **Bernadette Anderson** Education Options Coordinator

**Technical Advisors**

- **Carol Chellemi** Rockville, Maryland
- **Susan Hanes** Atlanta, Georgia
- **Kate Gill Kreasley** RMC Research
- **Marylyn Killeke** New Leaders for New Schools
- **Brett Lane** Providence, Rhode Island
- **Joseph Meyer** Portland, Oregon
- **Maureen Mirabito** Elliott City, Maryland
- **Carolie Perelman** Chicago, Illinois
- **Allison Poteet** University of Memphis
- **Susan Paige** Claremont Graduate University

**Scientific Council**

- **Herbert J. Walberg** Chief Scientific Advisor
- **Gordon Cawelti** Educational Research Service
- **Jay Greens** Public Impact
- **Lance Izumi** Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy
- **Joseph Murphy** Vanderbilt University
- **Nancy Protheroe** Educational Research Service
- **Michael E. Kamli** Stanford University
- **Pam N. Patrick-King** DePaul University
- **Lauren Miranda Reim** Public Impact
- **Steven Ross** Johns Hopkins University

**Leadership Council**

- **Judith Bairman** Appleton, WI Public Schools
- **David Driscoll** Former Massachusetts Commissioner of Education
- **William Libbetta** Rutgers University
- **James Lytle** University of Pennsylvania
- **Tony Movahedian-McCoy** Corpus Christi, TX Public Schools
- **C. Kent McGuire** Temple University
- **Paul Revilla** Massachusetts Secretary of Education
- **Paul Vallaa** New Orleans Recovery School District

**Advisory Board**

- **David Bratton** Rhode Island Department of Education
- **Marcie Brown** Indiana Governor’s Office
- **Ricardo Diaz** United Community Center, Milwaukee
- **Rhona Fisher** Ridgeland School District
- **Linda Johnson** Maryland State Department of Education
- **Steve Kondla** Van Buren School District, Arizona
- **Susan Morrison** Illinois State Board of Education

**Partnership with CCSSO**

CII partners with the Council of Chief State School Officers to provide ongoing support for states through:

- National Network of State School Improvement Leaders,
- **Support for School Improvement**, a monthly e-newsletter, and
- Institute for School Improvement and Education Options.
The Center on Innovation & Improvement is a partnership of

Academic Development Institute
Lincoln, Illinois

Temple University Institute for Schools and Society
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Little Planet Learning
Nashville, Tennessee

The Center’s Purpose
The Center on Innovation & Improvement (CII) supports regional centers in their work with states to provide districts, schools, and families with the opportunity, information, and skills to make wise decisions on behalf of students.

The Center’s Priorities
★ School and District Improvement
★ Restructuring and Turnarounds
★ Statewide Systems of Support
★ Families and Schools
★ Extended Learning (SES, Tutoring)
★ Charter Schools

The Center’s Services
★ Training and consultation for regional centers and states
★ Website at www.centerii.org
  » Database of resources on school and district improvement, restructuring and turnarounds, state systems of support, charter schools, parent involvement, and supplemental educational services
  » Database of state policies, programs, and progress
★ Web-based planning and monitoring systems for states, districts, and schools
  » Working Together for Student Success™
  » Parent Involvement Analysis
  » Achievement Profile Analytic Tool
  » Project Management (Title I, SES)
★ National Network of State School Improvement Leaders (with CCSSO)
★ Academy of Pacesetting States
★ Solution Finding reports for regional centers
★ Monthly e-newsletter on school improvement (with CCSSO), monthly resource Spotlights
★ Handbooks, guidebooks, and other publications

Innovation—the intersection of a challenge, inquiry, and ingenuity, with improvement as the result.

www.centerii.org