



North Central Association
Commission on Accreditation
and School Improvement

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD • URBANA • CHAMPAIGN

Winter 2006

News *letter*

Message from the Director

The last 4 months have been busy and interesting as I become acclimated to working for the North Central Association and the University of Illinois. I have had the opportunity to meet and talk with many of you this fall and have greatly appreciated your kindness and warm welcome.

The fall workshops have been well attended. Special thanks to Dick Spohr for his wonderful assistance. I am pleased that more than 135 educators completed the external chairperson training. We are updating our chairperson list so please check the web site if you need an external chair.

My warmest wishes go out to you and your families as you celebrate the holiday season and enjoy the rejuvenation of a new year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'Susie Morrison'.

Susie Morrison

NCA Web site Under Construction

We are working to improve the nca.uillinois.edu web site to make it more attractive and user-friendly for the members. A January completion date is anticipated. Your input for improvements is always welcome.

Frequently Asked Questions

Must I use the NCA framework as my school improvement planning tool?

No – There are any number of frameworks that schools may use. High Schools That Work and the ISBE framework are just two examples. As long as the plan is data based and allows for study, planning, implementation of interventions and acting on the results, it will meet the spirit and intent of NCA. Never duplicate your efforts. Your time is too valuable!

How do I get an external team chair?

Visit the nca.uillinois.edu web site and click on External Chairpersons. An updated list of trained chairs is available to you.

How often should I host a team visit?

The NCA office suggests you host 3 visits during a school improvement cycle.

Visit 1 - Invite your external chairperson to review and offer professional guidance on your goals.

Visit 2 – Host a team visit after you have completed the development of your school improvement plan.

Visit 3 – To end a cycle, you will write a documentation report and host a final team visit.

How many goals should we have?

The NCA office suggests you devote time, resources and energy to 2 goals. Keep in mind that the goals should be student performance goals for improved academic achievement.

We have a lot of changes in our school and I am the newly appointed NCA internal team chair. Where can I go for help?

Call the NCA office at 866-292-1781. We will be happy to work with you as you transition into your new leadership role.

Spring Semester Workshops

<u>January</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Developing Your School Improvement Plan	1/24/06	Oak Brook
Implementing, Monitoring & Documenting Your School Improvement Efforts	1/25/06	Oak Brook
External Chairperson Training	1/26/05	Oak Brook
<u>February</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
PSAE Math – Everything You Always Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask	2/1/06	Utica- Starved Rock
Developing Your School Improvement Plan	2/6/06	Chicago
Implementing, Monitoring & Documenting Your School Improvement Efforts	2/7/06	Chicago
Developing Your School Improvement Plan	2/9/06	Springfield
Implementing, Monitoring & Documenting Your School Improvement Efforts	2/10/06	Springfield
External Chairperson Training	2/15/06	Springfield
External Chairperson Training	2/16/06	Oak Brook
<u>March</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Developing Your School Improvement Plan	3/1/06	Oak Brook
Implementing, Monitoring & Documenting Your School Improvement Efforts	3/2/06	Oak Brook
PSAE Math – Everything You Always Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask	3/17/06	Bloomington
PSAE Math – Everything You Always Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask	3/21/06	Springfield
PSAE Math – Everything You Always Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask	3/23/06	Oak Brook

Please check the nca.uillinois.edu web site for additional information and registration materials. We would be pleased to offer workshops in additional locations if guaranteed a minimum of 10 participants. Please ask!

*Everything You Wanted to
Know About the Mathematics
PSAE*

Enjoy an informative day with your colleagues as you explore the Math PSAE with Claran Einfeldt. Teachers and administrators will engage in activities that will lead to increased student achievement and teacher satisfaction. Topics will include: motivation techniques, math content that is actually tested, types of questions, scoring and whole school strategies that will lead to increased student achievement.

February 1	Utica - Starved Rock
March 17	Bloomington
March 21	Springfield
March 23	Oak Brook

Register Now - www.nca.uillinois.edu

Space limited to 50 Participants!

Learning Matters

NCACASI
111th Annual Meeting
April 2-5, 2006
Chicago Downtown Marriott

Keynote Speakers - Rick duFour and Ruby Payne

For further details and registration information, visit
www.ncacasi.org/event/meeting

*North Central Association - University of Illinois
616 East Green Street, Suite 201 Champaign, IL 61820
Telephone: (217) 333-1120 or (866) 292-1781 Fax: (217) 244-1132
Email: nca@uillinois.edu Web site: <http://www.nca.uillinois.edu>*