



University of Illinois North Central Association NEWSLETTER



Spring 2006

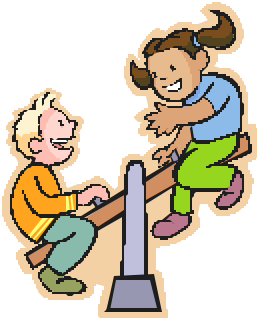
Contact Us!

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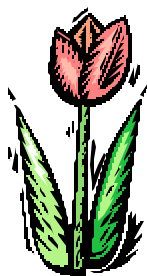
217-244-1132 — Fax



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Happy Spring!



From the Director's Desk...

As many of you have already heard, the North Central Association has developed a partnership with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) located in Atlanta and the National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE) in Schaumburg, Illinois. The new organization will represent more than 23,000 schools in 30 states and serve more than 15 million students. The partnership will strive to enhance and support the three pillars of accreditation.

- * High Standards
- * Quality Assurance Review
- * Continuous Improvement

The partner organizations are working together to establish shared, research-based accreditation standards that will support improvement efforts in schools and districts. Implementation of the improved accreditation process is scheduled for the 2007-08 school year. Schools should continue with the implementation of their current school improvement plans in 2006-07.

Combining the best practices of NCA CASI and SACS CASI with the research base developed by NSSE will result in a high quality process designed to support local efforts to improve student performance.

I am excited about the future of NCA as we begin this journey of continuous improvement with our new partners.

Please check the web-site regularly for the latest updates and information.

On-Line Updates Requested From Member Schools

In an effort to keep the Illinois database correct, we are asking all Illinois Member Schools to log onto www.nca.uillinois.edu and go to "Update Your School Info".

We are trying to confirm phone and fax numbers; e-mail, mailing, and building (physical) addresses; and key people at the building and district level.

This information can be submitted on-line and should take only a few minutes to complete.

Thank you for taking the time to make sure we have the most accurate information for you and your school!

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **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!

2. **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. If you need further assistance, please contact the Illinois NCA office.



3. **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.

4. **Must I use the NCACASI software to prepare reports or documents for our peer review visits?**

Schools are not required to use the NCA-CASI software for reporting purposes.

5. **Where can I find guidance on expectations and documentation required by NCA?**

Please visit the nca.uillinois.edu web-site often. We have all reporting formats, timelines and other resource materials available.

Illinois State Advisory News

Many thanks to Dr. Susan Silvey who was recognized at the Annual Meeting in April for completion of her term on the NCACASI Board of Trustees. During her tenure on the Board, Sue was a tireless advocate for Illinois schools and worked to eliminate any duplication of effort for our members. She consistently provided leadership and direction to the NCACASI Board of Trustees. Sue will continue to chair the Illinois State Advisory Committee.

Congratulations and welcome to Dr. Fran Brady. Fran is the Director of Careers at East Leyden High School District 212 in Franklin Park. She was inducted at the Annual Meeting to begin a 3 year term on the Board of Trustees. Fran will communicate the interests and challenges of Illinois schools and will influence the decisions of the Board. Fran is a great asset to our Illinois NCA team!

State Advisory Committee Members

Dr. Fran Brady—East Leyden High School, Franklin Park
 Dr. Brian Brown—Brehm Preparatory School, Carbondale
 Dr. Steve Cordogan—Township High School Dist. 214, Arlington Heights
 Mr. Jerry Douglas—Chaddock School, Quincy
 Mr. Paul Maloney—Archdiocese of Chicago, Chicago
 Mr. Eric McLaren—Illinois Math & Science Academy, Aurora
 Ms. Elise Schwartz—Carlinville Primary School, Carlinville
 Dr. Susan Silvey—Bloomington Junior High School, Bloomington
 Dr. Marcia Turner—Chicago Public Schools, Chicago

Thank you to these individuals who volunteer their time and expertise to strengthen NCACASI in Illinois.

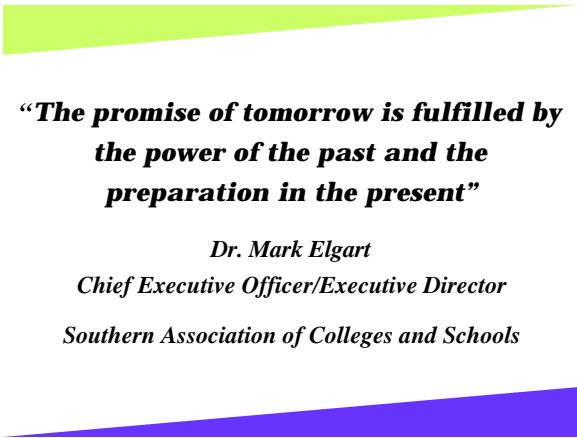
Thank You!

University of Illinois

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***“The promise of tomorrow is fulfilled by
the power of the past and the
preparation in the present”***

*Dr. Mark Elgart
Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools*

High School Conference—June 19-20

Rigor and Relevance Meet Reality

I hope to see many of you in Bloomington on June 19-20 to share successful strategies and learn ways to better meet the needs of high school students in Illinois.

Featured speakers include State Superintendent Randy Dunn, Willard Daggett, President, International Center for Leadership in Education, Katie Haycock, Director, The Education Trust and Ed Rust, Chairman & CEO, State Farm Insurance.

This should be a great conference and space is limited so please reserve your space now by registering at http://www.nca.uillinois.edu/HS_Challenge.pdf

WHEN & WHERE

Date: June 19 - 20, 2006

Location: Doubletree Hotel, 10 Brickyard Drive,
Bloomington, Illinois, 61701

**Registrations must be
received by the Illinois
Principals Association no later
than June 12, 2006.**

Space is limited.