

# Illinois Institutes of Higher Education Partnership

## Fall 2012 Newsletter



## Overview of the IHE Partnership

The Illinois Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) Partnership is a project under the Illinois State Board of Education's federally-funded State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG). The IHE Partnership is responsible for SPDG Objective 3: Increase the number of undergraduate and graduate educator preparation programs at IHEs that implement response to intervention (RtI) content in their curricula. The work connected to this objective involves integrating the new Illinois Professional Teaching Standards (IPTS) into educator preparation programs and increasing the field placements of candidates in settings where RtI is implemented with fidelity. Current participating institutions include: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Chicago State University, Eastern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Loyola University, National Louis University, Northern Illinois University, and Western Illinois University.

The multi-year project began in July 2011 and will continue until September 2015. In the initial phase, the focus was on obtaining agreement from IHE administrators to support project objectives at their respective campuses. In the second phase, the IHE Partnership staff worked collaboratively with the SDPG evaluation team to create and align the evaluation tools that measure project effectiveness and worked with IHE faculty in the initial program redesign process in Elementary Education programs. Phase three will focus on building capacity at each participating IHE and working with Educational Leadership (specifically principalship programs).

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The IHE Partnership has established a collaborative network of 9 partner IHEs to support Illinois Teacher Preparation Programs with program redesign, alignment with the new IPTS and upcoming TPA requirements.

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In addition to technical assistance coordinators at the 9 partner IHEs, the Partnership has created an Advisory Council comprised of esteemed faculty from each partner institution.



# IHE Partnership: A Year in Review

*The Illinois IHE Partnership is establishing a synergistic network of key institutions around the state.*

**“Teacher preparation must, in the words of a recent NCATE Blue Ribbon Panel report, be 'turned upside down'.”**

***James G. Cibulka, President  
NCATE and CAEP***

Each partner IHE has a technical assistance coordinator (TAC) who was chosen for his or her experience in facilitating faculty workgroups, expertise in the key principles of RtI, and willingness to assist educator preparation programs in the redesign process. We are privileged to have many nationally recognized experts amidst our staff. The TACs provide “in house” support to their home institutions and provide resources and sample materials statewide. They are also working with IHE faculty in the process of redesigning teacher preparation programs to align with the revised IPTS and the upcoming requirements for teacher licensure and the Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA).

During the past year, the TACs helped elementary education faculties examine their current programs, assess areas for redesign, and identify helpful

resources. In addition, the TACs played an integral role in the development of project evaluation tools.

Illinois is a national leader in providing meaningful professional development opportunities to IHE faculty while adhering to best practices in Adult Learning Principles, and ensuring fidelity of training and technical assistance.

Most recently, the IHE Partnership created an Advisory Council comprised of key faculty leaders representing each institution. The Council serves as a forum to provide guidance regarding current challenges, needs, and priorities related to supporting educator preparation faculty as they engage in program revision. At the first Advisory Council meeting on September 7, 2012, we were honored to have Dr. Martha Hougren from University of Texas at Austin discuss with the group the vital impact of a similar council in her home state of Texas. Dr. Hougren also shared her insights about how to move program revision and teacher preparation improvements forward.

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*The IHE Partnership is an IDEA Part D State Personnel Development Grant project of the Illinois State Board of Education. All funds (100%) are from federal sources.*