



## ARKANSAS 21C SUPERINTENDENTS MEETING

MARCH 14, 2007

### SUMMARY

#### ***Introductions***

The meeting began with introductions of all attendees, which included representatives from 21 of the 35 AR21C programs.

#### ***Quick Guide to the School of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

Beth Lapin (Yale 21C staff) provided a brief overview to provide background for those new to 21C and a refresher to those familiar with 21C. She reviewed the components, guiding principals, and history of 21C, both nationally and within Arkansas.

#### ***Arkansas School of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership Council***

Patty Schumacher (Yale 21C staff) presented a side show prepared by Tracy Mulvenon about last year's activities of the Leadership Council and its progress to this point. Members in attendance were: Rogers Ford (So Mississippi County), Susan Simmons (Ashdown), Vicki Shelby (Paragould), and Jody Veit-Edrington (North Little Rock). Attendees provided input and discussion about the value of establishing an Arkansas 21C network. The list generated from this discussion is as follows:

- Share ideas (6)
  - Funding (5)
  - Programs (2)
  - Component implementation
- Alleviate start up resources
- Networking support (4)
  - Mentoring
  - Get questions answered
  - Expert pool
  - Problem solving (2)
- PR (2)
  - Inform a larger segment of the population
- Improve student learning
- Parental support
- Sharing resources (2)
- Foundation of further support
- Professional development(5)
- Increase awareness of quality
  - See benefit of ec development vs daycare
- Attract funding sources

- Advocacy
- Legislation support (2)
- Excuse to think outside the box(2)
- Validating programs
- Recognition
- Development of structure (planning)
- Employment source
- Reference source(2)
- Leadership ideas
- Parent involvement
- Health & nutrition
- On site visits
- Best practices/successful programs
- Collaborative options/special interest groups
- Creates a cohesive work site/positive climate culture

### ***Yale 21C Summer Conference***

AR conference committee chairs and Yale associates provide an overview of the work on the 2007 conference to this point. Beth Lapin showed a flow chart with the four main areas of the conference: program, outreach, hotel activities, and extracurricular activities. In the absence of Marilyn Chambers, Beth provided an update of the program planning. Jody Veit-Edrington summarized outreach activities to this point. Beth spoke on behalf of chair Karen Benham about hotel activities, and Vicki Shelby presented an overview of extracurricular activities that would be offered.

Attendees suggested sessions for the conference that included: School Board Buy-in for Early Childhood; funding sources for 21C components; quality per NIEER. They also suggested having the following as speakers: Tonya Russell, Speaker of the House, Speaker of the Senate, and Governor Bebee.

### ***Additional Topics***

Patty Schumacher requested input from the attendees about a list of criteria to recognize that 21C is embedded within a district. The group revised the list and prioritized them as follows:

10. Parents advocate and are involved with the 21C components.
9. Parents move to and/or choose to stay in your district so their children will have access to the components of the 21C program.
8. 21C grows even more prominent with new building administrators.
7. The program grows stronger with new superintendents and school board members.

6. All students have access to a 12 month before and after school program and a pre-school. The programs are not segregated; the services are brought to the student not the student to the service.

5. 21C program components are not impacted by district financial challenges.

4. The school district provides a full time 21C coordinator and space designated for 21C components.

3. Pre-school teachers with a bachelor of science degree in early education are paid on the same salary schedule as K -12 staff.

2. 21C staff members are included in the building/district staff meetings and receive building/district communication along with the K -12 staff.

1. The state assessment results are higher for students who participate or have participated in some or all of the 21C program components.

2.

With no additional comments or topics, the attendees had informal discussions over lunch.