



**ARKANSAS 21C ORIENTATION MEETING
DOUBLETREE HOTEL, LITTE ROCK
FEBRUARY 24, 2003**

Meeting Summary

Registration/Check-In: Representatives from four new 21C schools (Cabot, Emmet, Fort Smith, and Paris) and three guest districts (Warren, Magazine, and Hot Springs) attended a day-long orientation to 21C. Two of the four new superintendents attended, along with numerous principals, teachers, and 21C coordinators. Susan Underwood from AR Department of Education also attended.

Welcome and introduction: Beth Lapin (Yale Bush staff) led an introduction and overview of day, along with a few housekeeping details.

ABC's of 21C: Beth Lapin and Vicki Shelby (Yale Bush trainer from Paragould) presented a detailed overview of the 21C model, covering each of the key components and the rationale and research supporting them. Attendees participated in an exercise that stressed the fact that this model is child-focused and requires the participation of numerous partners.

Sustainability of 21C: Paul Vivian (Yale Bush trainer) led an engaging discussion on how to keep 21C going and build partnerships. Paul emphasized that sustainability planning and actions should start early and includes much more than funding. It consists of becoming an integral part of the local community and gaining recognition as the local expert related to children and families. He addressed working with the media and suggested some creative funding sources, including funeral directors.

Roundtable Lunch: Participants were grouped with job-related colleagues and discussed challenges and issues that they are currently facing. Each table had a Yale Bush trainer to help facilitate conversation.

Essential Tools for 21C Start-Up: Beth Lapin and Norma Meek led this session that covered tips and tools for some of the initial steps for creating a 21C program, including strategic and annual planning and forming an advisory committee.

Needs Assessment: Norma Meek presented a survey of needs assessments and distributed several examples. Norma presented key considerations when designing a needs assessment.

Benefits and Responsibilities of being a 21C School, Overview of 21C in Arkansas: Beth Lapin presented some of the responsibilities and benefits of being part of the 21C network. Topics included the Yale Bush Conference in July, Demonstration Site visits, and report requirements. Both Norma Meek and Vicki Shelby added ideas related to Demonstration Site visits. New 21C schools agreed that they would like their continued funding RFP to be due June 1, with awards being made July 1 for the September 2003-August 2004 grants. Beth said she would be sending them details about what would be required for the progress reports due March 31, 2003.