

**ARKANSAS 21C SUPERINTENDENTS MEETING  
APRIL 21-22, 2004  
SUMMARY NOTES**

**April 21, 2004**

The Arkansas 21C video was shown. It was favorably received; comments included the fact that it was timely given the legislative climate and it would be useful in promoting a district's programs and association with 21C.

Dr. Bill Capehart gave an entertaining, insightful, and motivating presentation on Facing Change for Positive Growth. He emphasized that systematic change takes time and it should be enjoyed along the way. In summary, conflict energizes (not paralyzes) an effective leader.

**April 22, 2004**

Each program provided an overview of 21C in their district. The range of options and programs is fitted to meet the needs of each community. Sandy Goodlett led a follow-up discussion of the ways that 21C programs have evolved over time. Richard Shelby from Paragould discussed their efforts to find financial balance. Jim Loyd from Paris explained their collaborative efforts and outreach to include an additional district, Magazine, within their 21C grant.

Terri Hardy from the Governor's office presented an overview of the 2003-2004 legislative session. Some suggestions to bring back to the governor's office: use 21C model and research-based information to keep momentum and growth going; funding to work more collaboratively with the Dept of Health related to School nurses; concern about requiring two sets of student tests concurrently, should consider spacing those out over the year (Terri said they are considering combining them so it would be one week's worth of testing to cover all the needs); there was discussion about the new Master Principals program. Beth Lapin distributed national information that rated Arkansas preschool quality standards as one of the highest in the country.

Assessment for K-3: assessment will be the vehicle to efficiency, effectiveness and setting priorities. In KY, their legislation did not include standardized assessment. In Boyd Co, KY, they developed a continuous assessment model. The Core Content for Assessment is the publication that delineates academic expectations for grades primary through 10. It aligns curriculum to the standards, ensures retention of skills with transition between levels, and provides teacher support. Dr. Capehart emphasized the importance of the quality of staff. He mentioned that the use of portfolios for students and a consistent utilization of a strategic plan that is revisited regularly. He also mentioned the importance of including parents in the process. The CROCUS ([crocus.gerogretown.edu/Oklahoma.html](http://crocus.gerogretown.edu/Oklahoma.html)) program is available to find some

assessments. Woodcock Johnson is coming up with a more in-depth assessment available in the fall.

Leadership Transition: Frank Holman and Tony Prothro discussed the transition of leadership of 21C. With a focus is on systemic change, the individual in the leadership role becomes less influential. Frank gave an overview of the history of 21C and Tony talked about the way it has continued to evolve. He focused on the interactions with the local child care providers.

Andi Ridgeway, from the AR Dept of Health, Hometown Health unit, presented information about the program that they have developed throughout the state. She discussed the School Health Advisory committee and the upcoming conference in Little Rock August 10-11.

Beth Lapin presented a summary of the evaluation of 21C in Arkansas. Superintendents said that the 21C coordinators could get baseline information from the Central Office. It was suggested that the Yale Center could assist by distributing information about examples of 21C implementation in AR, so programs could learn from each other.