



ACADEMY ACTION

The Newsletter of the Arkansas Academy for Leadership Training & School-Based Management

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INTENSIVE SCHOOL SUPPORT

The Arkansas Leadership Academy, in cooperation with its Partners and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), is prepared to offer “intensive support” to selected school districts whose students are not making adequate academic progress. This newest initiative will provide support for the long-term improvement of education in the selected districts. Intended outcomes include

- Increasing the number of student who meet or exceed achievement targets as identified by the Arkansas Department of Education (by requiring specific outcomes that coincide with the School Improvement Plan and align with the *No Child Left Behind* legislation). The focus will be on math and literacy.
- Defining and aligning the supporting roles of the five categories of Academy Partners (professional associations, higher education, educational cooperatives, governmental agencies, and business and industry) to provide appropriate support to the selected districts.
- Aligning the efforts of the Academy with existing regional support systems.
- Developing *learning communities* to ensure continuous improvement of and development of the selected districts.
- Advancing professional development in the selected districts and the entire state.
- Recruiting and developing the leadership capacity of teacher leaders who aspire to be principals.
- Expanding the leadership capabilities of the districts’ leaders and potential leaders.

In order to accomplish these outcomes, the Academy will bring together a wide variety of resources and approaches, with particular focus on the following approaches:

- Marshal the resources of the Academy Partners to provide support systems for the targeted low-performing districts.
- Form partnerships with city, county, and state agencies and philanthropic organizations engaged in community and economic development, when possible.
- Engage all stakeholders who have a role in the success of students, including those external to the schools.
- Focus on learning and growth for all (students, teachers, administrators, parents, the community, and Academy Partners).
- Use research and best practices in systems development, professional development, leadership development, and teaching and learning.
- Draw on SREB’s 15 learning modules for *leading low-performing schools*.

The Intensive School Support model was designed by a statewide committee and is based on the strategies used in other Academy programs. In addition, the design has been reviewed and approved by the Academy’s 45 Partners and by SREB personnel. It includes the “Critical Factors for Success” identified by SREB research.

School districts interested in participating in this service may learn more at the Academy’s website or by contacting the Academy office.

Kudos

The Southern Regional Education Board has recently named the Arkansas Leadership Academy as the outstanding leadership development program in the 18 SREB states. This recognition is in part responsible for SREB's active role in the Intensive Support Services described elsewhere in this newsletter. Hats off to the Academy staff and those who have provided support and guidance for the past 11 years!

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

"Opportunities are seldom labeled."

- John Shedd

"The future is like heaven—everyone exalts it, but no one wants to go there now."

- James Baldwin

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ACADEMY CALENDAR

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTE

December 7-12, 2003..... Tyson Management Development Center

TEACHER INSTITUTE

FORUM X

Winrock International Conference Center
Petit Jean, Arkansas

Session 1: October 12-15, 2003

Session 2: January 11-13, 2004

Session 3: February 29– March 2, 2004

Session 4: June 23-25, 2004

PRINCIPAL INSTITUTE

Session 2: November 17-19, 2003.....Winrock International Conference Center
Petit Jean, Arkansas

Session 3: February 16-18, 2004.....Winrock International Conference Center
Petit Jean, Arkansas

Session 4: June 13-16, 2004.....Tyson Management Development Center
Russellville, Arkansas

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