

LEADS

Network News

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SRN LEADS Early 2008 Events: Learning from Miami and Milwaukee

January Miami-Dade Leadership Session

On January 17-18, 2008, we held a dynamic leadership session for LEADS superintendents and liaisons from 8 of the 11 LEADS districts. The one-and-a-half day session, held in Miami, was co-hosted by Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) and SRN LEADS. The session began with dinner hosted by MDCPS at a South Beach restaurant with fantastic views of the water. MDCPS administrators sat with participants to talk about the district, preparing us for the second day.



Rudy Crew, speaking to LEADS members on day two.

Friday began with a panel and interactive discussion on issues and challenges in school and district leadership development, facilitated by Ash Vasudeva, and featuring panelists Richard Middleton, Superintendent, North East ISD, Sam Molinaro, Deputy Superintendent, Mapleton Public Schools, and Donna Wright, Assistant Superintendent, Knox County Public Schools.

The panel was followed by a presentation/conversation with MDCPS Superintendent Rudy Crew on “Leading Change and Developing Leaders in Complex Organizations.” Dr. Crew shared his insights over the years as a superintendent, and stories from his recent book, *Only Connect*, which was distributed to all participants. Following, Bill Andrekopoulos, Superintendent, Milwaukee Public Schools, reflected on the presentation.

In the afternoon session, Kriner Cash of MDCPS provided an overview of models being used in Miami-Dade for assessing district and school leadership in direct cor-

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**A timely newsletter
for network
members.**

**SRN LEADS Early
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WINTER/SPRING

Miami Redux

Have you been trying to draw Rudy's diagram? Want materials from the meeting?

Materials from the January 17-18, 2008 LEADS Superintendents/Liaisons Leadership Session can be accessed and downloaded online at our web site on our password-protected pages.

The following materials can be found online (click here to go to the web site):

~ Photos

~ Agenda

~ Video extracts from Rudy Crew's presentation

~ Link to Knox County video, "Change is Constant"

LEADS Liaison Annual Work Session

This one-and-a-half day session was co-hosted by SRN LEADS and the Institute for Research on Education Policy and Practice (IREPP), and held at the Stanford Alumni Center in February. Liaisons viewed selected video clips from Huggy Rao's 100-Day Plan update conversation with New Haven Unified School District. The clips and questions posed by Huggy to New Haven served as a catalyst for other districts to think about their own updated plans.

Susanna Loeb also spoke with the group on updated IREPP planning. She described the data collection and cleanup phase, and preliminary plans to use district data in a larger case study. Succession planning is an area of interest for many of the district partners, and Susanna provided an overview of succession planning as an example of data inquiry. LEADS and IREPP facilitators then had individual conversations with each of the districts to gather their updates.

SRN LEADS and IREPP hosted a New Orleans-style dinner at NOLA, in downtown Palo Alto, on Monday night. It's amazing how a few strands of cheap colored beads can transform our studious district liaisons into animated party people! Everyone had a great time.

On the second day, participants divided into four Expert Help Groups to conduct detailed planning for the network as a whole. The groups, co-facilitated by LEADS and district liaisons, focused on:

- Residency planning (Milwaukee, Austin, and beyond)
- LEADS 2008 Summer Session
- Research Studies in the network
- Technology/Web-based Communication

Find it Online

- Liaison Session Agenda
- Description of Network Opportunities and Venues
- Video snips of Huggy with New Haven



AEE wants you!

The Alliance for Excellent Education is seeking presenters for its popular breakfast forum series. The forum focuses on preparing all students for college and work and is for policymakers, educators, researchers, advocates, the media, and others. AEE covers travel-related expenses. Proposals are due May 12. Visit our web site for more information.

EVENT RECAP

Milwaukee Residency

This two-and-a-half day session was co-hosted by Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and SRN LEADS, and held at the Hotel Metro in Milwaukee. On Monday, March 10, participants received a thorough grounding in Milwaukee's reform story, shared by MPS Superintendent Bill Andrekopoulos, and met several MPS central office leaders. As a result of the grounding session, participants signed up for one of three school visit groups for the next two days, and learned an observation tool based on MPS' "Characteristics of a High Performing Urban Classroom." During school visits, participants were asked to make observations in 4 of the 10 characteristics:

- Active engagement of student learners
- Cultural responsiveness
- High expectations based on learning targets
- Strategic instructional choices

MPS hosted a delightful dinner Monday at Bacchus Restaurant, on the shore of Lake Michigan. (Are you picking up a pattern here?) The group was augmented by principals who would be hosting site visits over the next two days.

The sequence of the following days included:

1. Morning site visit to selected K-8 schools, regular and charter high schools, and to multiplexes (sites housing more than one school)
2. Lunch at the Hotel Metro, followed by a debriefing of the morn-

ing's visits, using the notes taken on the school observation tool

3. World Café: A roundtable opportunity to sit with MPS leadership on specific aspects of their district reform. Topics included: Union Perspectives, Using Data for School Improvement, Serving Students with Special Needs, Interview Process and Staffing, Differentiated Principal Evaluation Processes, The Curriculum Generalist, Benchmark Assessments, Mathematics Initiatives, High School Reform, and the First Things First Framework.

Many thanks to Marty Lexmond, Anita Pietrykowski, and Mr. A for their efforts in planning and hosting this first, very successful residency. To quote Mike Winstead from Knox County (and I do often), "This residency should be the model for every LEADS residency. Milwaukee really allowed us into their district to learn and see. This residency was very valuable."



Mike Winstead and Laurie Driver (Knox County) listen as dinner proceedings are translated into Tennessean.

More, more!

Have we piqued your interest? Want materials from the meeting?

Materials from the March 10-12, 2008, LEADS Residency can be accessed and downloaded on our password-protected pages.

The following materials can be found online (click here to go to the web site):

~ Residency Agenda

~ Superintendent's Powerpoint

~ MPS' "Characteristics of High Performing Urban Classrooms"

~ School Observation Tool

Need the username and password to log in? E-mail carstens@stanford.edu for the info.

END NOTES

Summer Session '08: Get Your Teams Together

The LEADS Summer Session is right around the corner. Below is information to help with your planning:

Team Composition: Teams of 8-12, representing various district perspectives associated with the district reform process. We'll ask you for the team participant names in early May.

Start Time: 1:30 p.m. on Monday, June 23; group dinner Monday.

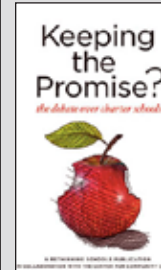
End Times: Typically 4:30 p.m., 12:30 p.m. on Friday, June 27.

Hotel: Crowne Plaza Cabana in Palo Alto, rate of \$155/night for double or single room (your own cost, we're blocking rooms from Sunday night to Thursday night).

Meals: All breakfasts, lunches, and snacks provided every day; group dinner also provided on Monday evening.

Transportation: All transportation provided by Marguerite Shuttle during the week of the Summer Session. Transportation to and from airports is on your own.

New Arrivals



Keeping the Promise? The Debate Over Charter Schools is a new book examining one of education's most complex reforms: charter schools. This wide-ranging and thought-provoking collection of essays

includes policy overviews from such renowned educators as Ted Sizer and Linda Darling-Hammond. Learn more at www.rethinkingschools.org

Congratulations to new grandma Linda Carstens and dad and mom Adrian and Mariana Velasco Carstens on the arrival Emilia James! Emilia was born two months early on March 21 in San Francisco at 2 1/3 pounds. She's now a whopping 3 1/2 pounds and thriving.

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Year Two Events

June 23-27, 2008	Stanford, CA	2008 LEADS SUMMER SESSION
July 7-11, 2008	Washington, D.C.	PRINCIPALS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
Oct. 8-10, 2008	Austin, TX	AUSTIN RESIDENCY
Jan. 15-16, 2009	Stanford, CA	ANNUAL LEADS LIAISON WORK SESSION
March 16-18, 2009	Location TBD	DISTRICT RESIDENCY

Miami-Dade from page 1

relation with the district's goals. Dr. Crew finished up the afternoon with a synthesis and his final thoughts on leadership.

Many thanks to Dr. Crew, Kamela Patton, Ava Byrne, and to all the MDCPS administrators for their planning and presence, and for hosting this Leadership Session. Miami's January warmth was not just at South Beach — it was radiated throughout the session by our Miami-Dade hosts.