



## North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

# Title I News

October 2008

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## Directors Report-Title I Fall Conference Summary

Another Title I Fall Conference has come and gone. The state Title I office staff are very pleased with this year's event. Our final count for attendance was just under 600 participants.

We would like to thank all participants who took the time to complete an evaluation. We truly read each one and count on your feedback to keep making improvements to the conference each year. Planning has begun for next year's conference. The following list outlines some changes that we plan to implement for next year:

- Pre-conference Session – It was recommended on several evaluations to hold the “Make It/Take It” at the pre-conference session. Most participants are tired after teaching and driving all day and find it difficult to sit through a presenter's session.
- Exhibitors – We are contemplating inviting exhibitors to our fall conference next year. Several companies have requested to attend over the years. Now that we have plenty of space, we are considering adding this component to the conference.
- Longer Sessions – Many participants expressed that 50 minutes is not adequate time for someone to present. We may lengthen sessions to 1 hour and 15 minutes each.
- Lunch – Even though most participants enjoyed the hot sandwiches, many expressed that they would have liked something healthier. We are contemplating having a few choices so participants can pre-select their lunch.
- Credit – We understand that many participants would like to take the conference for credit, but find it difficult to put in the required 15 contact hours, especially if they have far to drive. We are going to be pursuing an idea where educators could participate in conference calls throughout the school year and accumulate hours that could be applied to meet the 15 hours needed for the fall conference credit. We will keep you posted on the progress of this project.

In the very near future, we are going to survey all Title I personnel to get input on specific topics and presenters that they would like to see at our 2009 Title I Fall Conference. Please be on the lookout for this survey soon!

## 2008 Title I Award Winners

### Outstanding Title I Educator

Several years ago, the Title I office started an award called the Outstanding Title I Educator Award. We honored our first Outstanding Title I Educator in the fall of 1999.



Outstanding Title I Educator recipient, Kris Vogel, pictured with Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead, State Superintendent (left), and Laurie Matzke, Title I Director (right).

There are so many dedicated, outstanding Title I personnel (teachers, administrators, aides, etc.) in North Dakota and this award provides an opportunity to honor at least one individual each year!

The Department of Public Instruction, Title I office is pleased to announce that Kris Vogel is the recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Title I Educator Award. Kris is a Title I educator at Fort Lincoln Elementary School in the Mandan Public School District. This award was announced at the 2008 Title I Fall Conference held in October.

Kris is a true mentor to other educators. She is currently serving as a Reading Coach and assists with the RTI process at Fort Lincoln Elementary School. All of her peers described her as non judgmental and very approachable. Kris is an active member of NDEA and NDRA. Kris was also a presenter at this year's Title I Fall Conference.

Nominees for the award are Title I educators who have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues and play an active and vital role in their school's Title I program. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction solicited nominations throughout the past year. The Title I Committee of Practitioners selected the award winner from the nominations received.

Kris Vogel was described by those who nominated her as extremely dedicated to education. The letters of recommendation for Kris described her as a leader who has a positive attitude and a strong work ethic. We are so pleased to have Kris Vogel represent North Dakota as our 2008-2009 Outstanding Title I Educator.

As a recipient of this award, Kris received a plaque and a grant award for \$10,000. These funds can be used for any allowable Title I expenditure for the Title I program in her school district.

### Caught in the Act Recipients

The "Caught in the Act" award recognizes Title I staff who have been "caught in the act" of performing exceptional Title I services and are being honored for these outstanding acts. Three Title I personnel were recognized at the 2008 Title I Fall Conference for this award: Tara Johnson from the Bismarck Public School District, Sheri Scherbenske from the Kulm Public School District, and Antoinette Stith from the Fargo Public School District.

Tara Johnson was recognized for her efforts as the Bismarck Public School District's Title I parent involvement coordinator. Parent involvement is a key component in the Title I law. Tara has coordinated many parent involvement activities and events in her role. Her position is critical in building a partnership between parents and schools. Tara's assistance during the summer of 2008 with the parent involvement toolkit was instrumental in creating a valuable resource for North Dakota educators.



Caught in the Act award recipients with Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead, State Superintendent, and Laurie Matzke, Title I Director. From left to right, Tara Johnson, Sheri Scherbenske, and Antoinette Stith.

## 2008 Title I Award Winners (continued)

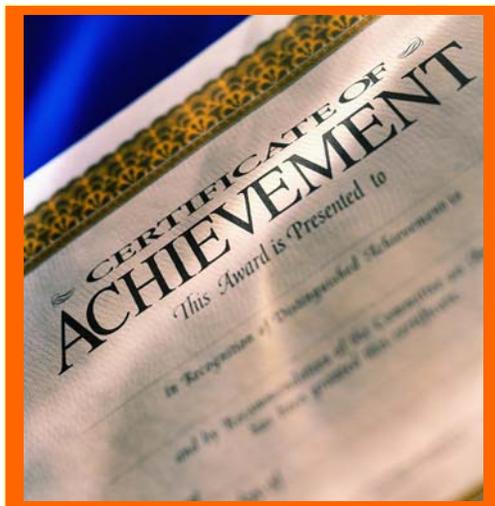
Sheri Scherbenske was recognized for the outstanding job she has done in establishing a Title I preschool program for Kulm Public School District. The research is clear in showing the benefits of high quality preschool programming to children as they are better prepared to begin kindergarten. It is especially challenging to implement a preschool program in a targeted assistance school, so her efforts are genuinely appreciated in that regard. Sheri is also appreciated for her willingness to share experiences and resources with other educators by presenting at our Title I Fall Conference.

Antoinette Stith was recognized for her dedication as an exemplary Title I educator for the Fargo Public School District and by sharing her time and talents with other educators through many state-sponsored projects. Educators have benefited from the presentations that Antoinette has conducted at several Title I events. Her efforts and valuable input on past Title I projects are truly appreciated. Antoinette also assisted during the summer of 2008 with creating the parent involvement toolkit.

As recipients of this award, these three educators each received a framed certificate and a grant award for \$5,000. These funds can be used for any allowable Title I expenditure for the Title I program in their school district.

## Title I Distinguished School

Sweetwater Elementary School in the Devils Lake Public School District was named the recipient of the 2008 Title I Distinguished Schools Award for the state of North Dakota. Each year, the National Association of State Title I Directors sponsors the Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition Program.



Schools are selected for outstanding results in one of two categories:

1. Exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years.
2. Closing the achievement gap between student groups.

Sweetwater Elementary School was selected for their exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years. The Title I Committee of Practitioners selected the award winner from the nominations received. Sweetwater Elementary School will also be honored at the National Title I Convention in San Antonio, Texas, in February 2009. The school has received a grant for \$15,000 which can be used for any allowable Title I expenditure for the Title I program in their school district.

## 2008-2009 Consolidated Application Update

Staff in the state Title I office are working to review and approve consolidated applications. To date, approximately two-thirds of the districts receiving Title I funds have the Title I portion of their consolidated application approved.

Due to several staff changes within the Title I unit, we have revised our Consolidated Application Title I Contact list. The new list is available online at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/require/list.pdf](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/require/list.pdf). If your district is not yet approved, you will be receiving correspondence from your Title I contact person to resolve any remaining issues so that the Title I portion can be approved.

Once the Title I portion of your consolidated application is approved, the district will receive email correspondence from Mary Neigum, Title I Fiscal Officer, confirming the approval and providing you with a copy of your approved Title I budget.

Once all federal Title programs have been approved, the district will receive email correspondence from the department's grants manager for all of the federal Title programs. Please review this correspondence in great detail as it outlines key issues the district should be aware of for the 2008-2009 school year.

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## Title I Parent Involvement Toolkits

As announced at our 2008 Title I Fall Conference, during the summer of 2008, the state Title I office and North Dakota Parental Information Resource Center (NDPIRC) collaborated with ten North Dakota educators to create a Parent Involvement Toolkit. The toolkit is filled with resources and samples for how school personnel can involve parents in each of the six types of parent involvement. We would like to commend the ten exemplary educators who helped to create this resource for North Dakota school personnel:

- Linda Anderson – Bismarck Public School District
- Tara Johnson – Bismarck Public School District
- Lisa Kadlec – Bismarck Public School District
- Debbe Poitra – Belcourt Public School District
- Kathy Lee – Fargo Public School District
- Tana Sly – Fargo Public School District
- Stacy Kilwein – Dickinson Public School District
- Tara Steiner – Oakes Public School District
- Antoinette Stith – Fargo Public School District

During the 2008 Title I Fall Conference, every Title I building in attendance should have received one Parent Involvement Toolkit binder to share among all staff in the building. If you did not receive a Parent Involvement Toolkit for your building, please email Missy Schiller in the Title I office at [mschiller@nd.gov](mailto:mschiller@nd.gov) and we will mail one to your school.

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## The State Title I Office is Looking for Consultants

As a part of this year's expansion of the Title I School Support Team into a more comprehensive statewide system of support for schools identified in need of improvement (program improvement), it is the intent of the state Title I office to create a new team, known as the Statewide System of Support (SSOS) Consultant Team.

It is evident that many schools and districts identified for program improvement, need additional assistance from individuals who can provide consulting in a variety of areas, related to program improvement identification.

For the 2008-2009 school year, the state Title I office would like to compile a list of individuals who can provide consulting to districts and schools on program improvement issues. In order to obtain a list of qualified individuals that will be able to offer consulting services under contract with North Dakota schools, an official Request for Proposal (RFP) is soon to be released by the Department of Public Instruction state Title I office. The official RFP will be available on the Title I website at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/resource/support/SSOS.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/resource/support/SSOS.shtm) for interested parties. Districts and schools interested in obtaining services from this team, those with questions, or individuals that are interested in applying to be a part of this team should contact Nita Wirtz, Title I Assistant Director, at [nwirtz@nd.gov](mailto:nwirtz@nd.gov) or (701) 328-1876.

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## Welcome New Title I Staff!

The state Title I office would like to extend a warm welcome to our two newest staff members.

Tara Bitz joined the Title I staff on October 20, 2008. She is the new program administrator for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and will assist with various Title I responsibilities. Tara has a strong background in Early Childhood Education.

Teresa Glass will join the Title I unit on October 29, 2008. She is the new administrative assistant for the Early Reading First grant. Teresa's knowledge and experience will be greatly needed and appreciated during this first year of implementation for the Early Reading First program. Along with Early Reading First, Teresa will also be working with the Title I program and the Reading First program.

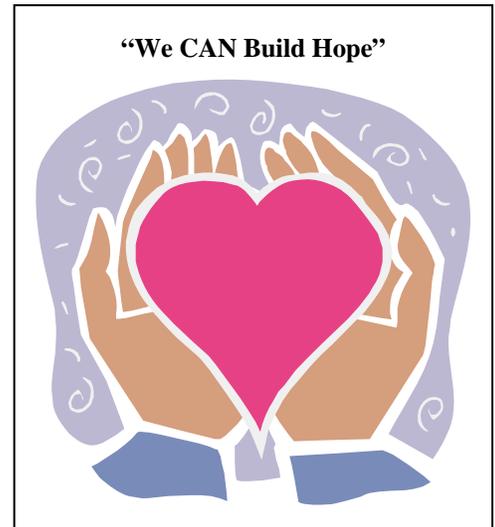
Please welcome our new Title I personnel!

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## Homeless Awareness Week

November 16-22, 2008 is Homeless Awareness Week in North Dakota. Many agencies and organizations across the state will be conducting special activities during the week to increase public awareness of homelessness in North Dakota. The Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People, Inc. will be drawing attention to homelessness in our region. There will be 273 volunteers participating in “We CAN Build Hope” that will be building a model home out of donated canned goods in the parking lot of Central Market. During the week of the event, both Central Market locations in Bismarck and Mandan will be collecting non-perishable food donations. If you would like to volunteer, call Community Action at 258-2240 and ask for Katie or Carrie. You may also email a confirmation for participation to [katief@cap7.com](mailto:katief@cap7.com).



This is a great opportunity for educators to address the issues of homelessness in their classrooms. The department has numerous resources available including books and videos. The Title I website also has materials available on homelessness to assist teachers in their efforts in educating children on this issue. These resources can be found online and downloaded at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/homeless/resources/index.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/homeless/resources/index.shtm).

Additional information on how to serve children and youth who experience homelessness can be obtained by contacting Tara Bitz at [tbitz@nd.gov](mailto:tbitz@nd.gov) or (701) 328-4646.

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## New Title I/Special Education Position Posted

At our annual 2008 Title I Fall Conference and in past issues of the *Title I News*, the state Title I office shared the department's plan for further collaboration between the Title I and Special Education units.

The department is currently advertising for an assistant director for Title I/Special Education. This person will be housed in the Title I unit on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the Capitol building. This new position will work toward bridging the efforts of both Title I and Special Education to deliver more coordinated professional development and technical assistance to North Dakota school personnel. This position will work to sponsor joint Title I/Special Education professional development trainings, generate a monthly Title I/Special Education newsletter, and coordinate the school improvement requirements for both programs.

If you are interested in this position, please review the application materials available on the department's website <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/dept/employ.shtm>. Applications must be received by October 31, 2008.



## Monthly Featured Articles:

### ✚ After School Program

The US Department of Education (USDE) has funded research aimed at identifying the circumstances under which after-school programs are most effective, with an eye toward improving after-school events. That was not the case with the mathematical study funded several years ago. It seems the USDE may be accepting what parents, student, and providers know so well: that after-school programs inspire students to learn.

The June 2008 Evaluation of Enhanced Academic Instruction in After-School Programs report found a statistically significant difference in student achievement between students in the math after-school program and those in the regular after-school activities. The full report is available at <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pdf/20084021.pdf>.

For further information regarding after-school programs, contact Dale Patrick [dpatrick@nd.gov](mailto:dpatrick@nd.gov) or 328-1644.

### ✚ Program Improvement Research

Low performing schools, especially those that persistently fail to make adequate yearly progress, need guidance on what will work to improve student outcomes. These schools generally have explored a variety of strategies to improve student achievement, but without quick, apparent success. They now need to look beyond slow, incremental change and examine practices that will raise and sustain student achievement within one to three years. The need to quickly explore improving student achievement is most pressing for low-performing schools that serve disadvantaged students. School improvement and school turnaround both aim to improve student outcomes by changing how schools and classrooms operate. Schools that adopt models of Comprehensive School Reform typically make incremental improvement. The recommendations from National Center for Education Evaluation and Research Assistance, Institute of Education Sciences May 2008 are based on a collection of case studies of low-performing schools that improved student achievement in one to three years.

#### Recommendations:

1. Signal the need for dramatic change with strong leadership.
2. Maintain a consistent focus on improving instruction.
3. Make visible improvements early in the school turnaround process.
4. Build a committed staff.

Leaders at schools that turnaround from low performing to increased student achievement demonstrate a commitment to developing a learning community for students and staff, with the primary focus of the school on learning and with staff and students working together toward that goal. Specific leadership actions are student centered and the belief that staff should have the skills and knowledge to provide strong instruction. Turnaround schools focus on improving instruction at every step of the school reform process. Data is used to set goals for instructional improvement, make changes to affect instruction, and continually evaluate student learning and instructional practices to refocus the goals. There is a need to examine student achievement data to identify gaps and weaknesses in student learning. It is important to use state assessments or other measures aligned with the state standards to help ensure that the progress in learning will result in increased student achievement.

Once schools have identified subject areas or instructional practices that need to be strengthened, staff members need to develop a plan with specific steps for improving instruction. Professional development should be based on analyses of achievement and instruction and differentiated for teacher needs and the subject areas targeted for instructional improvement. Teachers also need instructional strategies for teaching the knowledge and skills to students. School leaders and teachers need to continually monitor data, looking for ways to improve instruction. Monitoring progress regularly and making adjustments as needed is necessary to strengthen teaching and student learning.

Herman, R., Dawson, P., Dee, T., Greene, J., Maynard, R., Redding, S., and Darwin, M. (2008).

*Turning Around Chronically Low-Performing Schools: A practice guide* (NCEE #2008-4020).

Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance,

Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Retrieved 10/23/08 from

[http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/practiceguides/#turning\\_pg](http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/practiceguides/#turning_pg).

## Title I Staff

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## October To Do List

<u>Administrators</u>	<u>Teachers</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Work with Title I contact person to get consolidated application approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Determine Caseload, Instructional Practices, and Student Eligibility
<input type="checkbox"/> Request reimbursement of expenditures on a RFF form	<input type="checkbox"/> Finalize Student Selection
	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct Annual Parent Meeting

## Upcoming Events

### Schoolwide Planning Meeting #2

This meeting is for those schools participating in the 2008-2009 schoolwide planning year. Attendance at this meeting is required for schools planning to become schoolwide for the 2009-2010 school year.

- November 13, 2008 in Bismarck, ND

Information is available at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm).

### National Title I Conference

- February 19-22, 2009 in San Antonio, Texas

Information is available at [www.NationalTitleIConference.com](http://www.NationalTitleIConference.com).

### 2009 North Dakota State Reading Conference

- April 16-18, 2009 in Minot, ND

Information is available at <http://nd.nea.org/events/home.html>.

### 2009 Pathfinder Parent Involvement Conference

- April 16-17, 2009 in Bismarck, ND

Information is available at <http://pathfinder-nd.org>.

### 2009 IRA Conference

- May 3-7, 2009 in Minneapolis, MN

Information is available at [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org).

## Autumn Fun

Partnerships are special, partnerships are fun  
It'll help students and their families when you are done  
So check all activities, implement what's planned  
Include and empower everyone, make sure they understand  
That this work isn't scary, though Halloween is near  
This work makes the difference there is nothing to fear

Retrieved 10/27/08, National Network of Partnership Schools October E-Brief