



Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute

Executive Instructional Leadership Program for Rural Central Valley School Districts ("Rural Network") 2012-2013

Rationale

Improving teaching and learning in rural school districts is not easy. Rural educational leaders need the knowledge, skills, and understandings that will allow them to conceptualize, support, and ensure the continuous improvement of powerful instructional initiatives that result in measurably better teaching and learning in their rural schools.

Program Design

The Executive Instructional Leader's Program is designed to help superintendents and their leadership teams. The two-year program engages leaders of rural schools and districts who come together as a cohort to solve specific student achievement problems. The program combines five (5) group meetings per year, visits to other districts, peer review and analysis, and meetings with a CVELI staff facilitator in a manner that guides district leaders to attain improved learning results associated with solving their student achievement problem(s).

Expectations of Participation

A minimum of 2 years of participation is expected. Participation expectations include:

- Attendance at two full day network events with all network participants (August and April).
- Attendance at three area cohort events to be held at a participating district with a focus on the priority issue of the host district, using specified protocols for observation and debrief.
- Collaborate with a CVELI Staff Facilitator who will assist district leader(s) with problem identification, planning, implementation, monitoring, and making adjustments to strategies to occur at network events, cohort events, and between events.
- One literature review and/or specialized project (within the two year cycle) completed by graduate students related to the participating district's identified problem.

Expected Deliverables

- Year 1 – Completed problem identification and improvement plan
- Year 2 – Documentation of implementation activities related to developed plan with evaluative measures identified
- Year 3 and beyond – Revisit measures and effectiveness of implementation strategies
- Once over the two years, completion of a guided site visit in own district for observations relevant to identified problem, receiving participant feedback
- Experience three site visits per year in participating districts and receive observational protocols/tools
- Established relationships with and CSUF staff facilitators and colleagues in similar districts in the region with whom to discuss common leadership issues and strategies

Cost of Participation

Cost for 2012-2013 is \$2500 for each superintendent; however, CVELI is able to offer the program at reduced rates.

- Thanks to a gift from Lozano Smith, the cost is reduced by 50%, **\$1250** for all districts
- Thanks to contributions from the California Endowment and the Fresno County Office of Education, there will be **no cost for participating Fresno and Merced county superintendents.**
- The cost for each additional participant from any participating district will be **\$200.**

Please note: At the above rates, CVELI and its sponsors are encumbering all administrative and indirect costs for this project. CVELI will continue to seek additional support for needy districts on an as-needed basis per request by the district leader.

How to Request Involvement with the Rural Network

Superintendents in rural areas served by California State University, Fresno are invited to apply for participation in the network. Superintendents may nominate one or more other current or future leaders in their district to attend the sessions with them. Specific criteria for being selected shall include:

1. A letter or email from the superintendent indicating:
 - a. A commitment to participate in the program.
 - b. A preliminary definition of the major district achievement problem that will be the focus of the district's work through the program.
 - c. Assurance from the leadership of the district that time will be provided to attend all meetings and events.
2. An understanding that this is a data driven program and that results will be measured and reported to the cohort and potentially published at the conclusion of two years of participation in the program.
3. Completion of a signed agreement with CVELI to participate in the network.

General Schedule 2012-13

June, 2012 District leaders submit letter of intent indicating the intended instructional problem to be addressed.

August 29, 2012 One day Kick-Off retreat for all network participants at CSUF

October-November 2012 First cohort meeting in one of the selected districts followed by district leader-facilitator meetings for all participants.

December 2012 - January 2013 Second cohort meeting in one of the selected districts followed by district leader-facilitator meetings for all participants.

February - March Third cohort meeting in one of the selected districts followed by district leader-facilitator meetings for all participants.

April - End of Year Event - Presentation of action plans (year one) and data and results of two year effort (year two), and identification of on-going challenges and lessons learned (year three and beyond)

CVELI Staff -- Dr. Walt Buster and Dr. Virginia Boris will oversee the program as Co-Directors of CVELI. Dr. Marcy Masumoto, Project Director, will coordinate the work. CVELI Staff Facilitators include: Dr. Nancy Akhavan, Dr. Ginny Boris, Dr. Walt Buster, Elaine Cash, Dale Drew, Dr. Mark Ford, Dr. Linda Hauser, Dr. Marcy Masumoto, and Dr. Don Wise. Other experienced educational leaders and university faculty may also serve on the Staff Facilitator team.

<p>For more information, please contact: Dr. Marcy Masumoto, Project Director, mmasumoto@csufresno.edu or (559) 304-2190</p>
