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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CELT AWARDED GRANT TO DEFINE FRAMEWORK FOR INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT/LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (IIS/LMS) FOR EDUCATION

MARLBOROUGH, MA, February 9, 2011—The Center for Educational Leadership and Technology (CELT) recently announced a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to convene school and school district administrators, as well as State Education Agency representatives from Florida and Ohio to discuss the functional requirements and performance specifications for an Instructional Improvement/Learning Management System (IIS/LMS). This cross-state, collaborative effort focused on designing a system that would provide teachers, students, schools principals, administrators, and parents with meaningful data to support continuous instructional improvement, as well as enhance individual student growth and achievement.

In each state, CELT held three fact-gathering workshops to develop a consensus of what educators at various levels consider the major components of an IIS/LMS that would support their goals related to improved student learning and career/college readiness. This collaborative effort has been focused on leveraging the collective knowledge, experiences, and resources of the participating states and school districts to determine a common approach to deriving the maximum benefit from the information that is collected through existing data systems.

The research project is being conducted cooperatively with the State Education Agencies of Florida and Ohio as a complement to each state's implementation of their recently awarded Race to the Top (RTTT) grants. The broad scale deployment of an Instructional Improvement System (IIS) is a major initiative of the U.S. Department of Education's RTTT program focused on improving student achievement, in part, through the use of data. Both states emphasized the use of an IIS/LMS system at the school district, school, and classroom level. When aligned closely with the each state's Longitudinal Data System (LDS) and School Improvement Grants (SIG), the IIS/LMS will provide data related to the effectiveness of instructional materials, strategies for educating different subgroups of students, and data in support of college and career readiness. In addition, it will encourage researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to work in close and open collaboration on data systems tied to specific school improvement opportunities. The outcomes of this project will guide these states

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in recommending the required educational functions of an IIS/LMS that will be needed for procurement, implementation, and integration with other educational management applications.

“Educators today are increasingly focused on tracking and analyzing data that links students, standards, assessment data, instructional resources, and learning facilitators in a customer centric and real time way,” explained Dr. John Phillip, founder and Executive Director of CELT. “As in any profession, the right tools can enhance effectiveness and productivity. In education, access to complete and centralized information about the learner, clarity about curriculum and standards, identification of appropriate instructional resources, a view of how well students are learning, and alignment of staff/proficiencies is essential if our schools are to realize the full impact of the Common Core Standards.”

Both the Florida and Ohio Departments of Education are committed to personalizing instruction for every student in every classroom every day in a blended learning environment. Achieving this most important goal requires that states ensure that data is being used effectively by all stakeholders - teachers, principals, parents, students, administrators, and researchers - with the necessary professional development and supports in place.

About CELT

For nearly two decades, CELT has helped align leadership, learning, and technology in support of improved student achievement by working collaboratively with educational organizations to support and transform teaching, learning, and administrative processes. CELT’s mission is to help learning organizations attain their vision, mission, and goals by integrating high-quality programs, services, and technology with the organization’s people and processes in a timely, efficient, and cost-effective way. For the past several years, CELT has been a leader in assessing and designing learner-centered, instructionally focused, and affordable decision support/accountability systems that are valid, reliable, and replicable at the student, classroom, school, school district, state, and federal level. In addition to helping establish data definitions and systems architecture, CELT assists with the alignment of data systems with contemporary research, best practices, proven business processes, and governance policies such as the work we are currently doing on the Teacher-Student Data Link under a separate contract for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

For additional information about this grant / project or CELT’s extensive work in this area, including case studies, vignettes, procurement and implementation guidelines, or field-based research please contact David Krongard at dkrongard@celtcorp.com.