About the Conference

In 2010, researchers in the Department of Education Reform at the University of Arkansas developed a growth model designed to measure the academic gains of students as compared to their expected performance. The hope is that teachers and administrators will be able to use this to determine reasonable expectations for student growth based on each individual student’s starting point.

Using this model, another set of researchers from the Department of Education Reform, investigated different instructional practices observed in some of the highest “growing” schools in the state. The researchers found several themes surrounding successful schools. This conference was structured to provide educators in the state with information on these successful practices, as well as practical expertise regarding the advantages and challenges of practically implementing these successful practices. It’s time to spread the good news about education in Arkansas.

For more information about the conference, contact mdno1@uark.edu
Register for the conference at: www.uark.edu/ua/der/InstructionalExcellenceRSVP.html

What Works in Arkansas: Showcasing Instructional Excellence

A conference featuring experts and practitioners from around the state discussing the common (and uncommon) instructional practices that are currently increasing student achievement in Arkansas

Sponsored by:
Arkansas State University and the Department of Education Reform, University of Arkansas

February 24, 2010
8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Student Union Auditorium
at Arkansas State University, Jonesboro

For more information contact: mdno1@uark.edu
### Agenda

**Registration for Conference begins at 7:30 AM.**
*Conference begins at 8:00 AM.*

#### Welcome to the Conference
Don Maness, Dean, College of Education, Arkansas State University

#### Panel 1: The Current Landscape in Arkansas
8:15-9:00 AM

- **The Political Landscape in Arkansas Education**
  Gary Ritter, Office for Education Policy, University of Arkansas

- **Growth Model: Hitting a Reasonable Target**
  Josh McGee, Department of Ed Reform, University of Arkansas

- **Arkansas: The Land of Opportunity**
  Representative David Rainey

#### Panel 2: Effective Use of Student Data
9:05 – 10:15

- **Using Interim Assessments to Increase Student Achievement**
  Ellen Treadway, Arkansas Public School Resource Center

- **Using Formative Assessments to Increase Teacher Quality**
  John Bacon, Executive Director of eStem Public Charter Schools

- **Using Data to Close the Achievement Gap**
  Sherry Hill, Principal, Barton Junior High, El Dorado School District

#### Keynote Speaker
10:15-11:15

Dr. John Sipple, Cornell University, serves as the Director for the NY State Center for Rural Schools. Additionally, he is the Co-Director of the Community and Regional Development Institute. Central to his work are issues of leadership and organizational change and how they relate to learning opportunities for students across different demographic lines.

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### Agenda

**Lunch will be served on-site from 11:15 AM to 12:00 PM.**

#### Panel 3: The Role of Leadership in School Wide Success
12:00-1:30

- **The Different Strokes of Leadership**
  Robert Maranto, Endowed Chair in Leadership, Dept. of Ed Reform

- **How Leaders Support Teachers and Develop Excellence**
  Scott Shirey, Executive Director, KIPP Delta

- **Developing and Implementing School Wide Culture Change**
  Diann Gathright, Superintendent, Mena School District

#### Panel 4: The Development of Curricular and Instructional Excellence
1:30-3:00 PM

- **The Role of Curriculum in Instructional Excellence**
  Quentin Suffren, Chief Academic Officer, The Learning Institute

- **Developing Instructional Excellence in the Classroom**
  Louise Standridge, Principal, Rogers School District

- **Development of Curricular Excellence**
  TBA

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### Registration Information

Registration is free. Lunch is provided with registration.
For more information contact Misty Newcomb at mdn01@uark.edu or (479) 575-7024

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