

CREATE Professional Development Opportunities – 2010-11 Update
Melissa Moe, Project Coordinator

The focus of the CREATE Wisconsin Professional Development Opportunities for the 2010-11 school year was on culturally responsive academic interventions and culturally responsive behavior interventions. These services are targeted at the 27 school districts across the state that have been identified for participation in CREATE Wisconsin activities. The following professional development opportunities were provided for administrators, instructional and non-instructional staff members.

“Addressing Disproportionality through PBIS”

On February 1st CREATE Professional Development opportunities provided an overview of PBIS and disproportionate representation with presenters Rachel Saladis and Kent Smith. Within the PBIS overview the work of Lisa Bardon, Ph.D.; University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point and Matthew Cregor; NAACP Legal Defense Fund was incorporated. Topics covered were: What is PBIS; School-wide systems for student success; disproportionality in discipline systems; factors contributing to disproportionality; embedding culturally relevant instruction; systems changes; critical features for PBIS; racial disproportionality; and culturally relevant instructional practices. The presenters provided participants with tools to guide culturally responsive practices in schools – *“The Checklist for Culturally Responsive Practices in Schools”* and *“Guiding Questions: Cultural Mismatch”* developed by Lisa Bardon, Ph.D.

“CREATE Equity Leadership Team Networking” (Offered as a session at the Wisconsin RtI Summit) March 9-10, 2011

The session provided space and time for District Equity Leadership Teams to come together and discuss the learning that took place during the RtI Summit sessions and the intersection with equity plans.

“Culturally Responsive Frameworks for RtI and PBIS”

On April 8th a professional development opportunity was provided to address high achievement for all students, closing gaps and eliminating disproportionality. The presenter was Karen Schaeffer, co-director for Empowering Education Consultation and Systems Support Services. Topics covered were: culturally responsive frameworks, factors contributing to achievement gaps, critical aspects of culturally responsive systems, meaningful and lasting systems change, and integrating culturally responsive practices into multi-levelled systems. The presenter provided participants with tools to guide culturally responsive practices in schools – *“Culturally Responsive System process Review Protocol,” “CRP Policy Screening Tool,”* and *“Leadership and Teaming Systems Analysis Guide.”*

Ready to Launch! CREATE Wisconsin Professional Development Moodle Site

The purpose of this Moodle is to provide resources for professionals dealing with culturally responsive teaching in order to close the achievement gap of culturally diverse students. Resources shared on this site need to be viewed through the lens of culturally responsive practices and the intent is to embed these practices into all areas of curriculum and instruction. Topic folders include: Professional Development Opportunities, RtI Information, PBIS Information, Updates and Resources.

Look for information to come on events that will be held in the 2011-12 school year.

Making connections between the Wisconsin RtI Technical Assistance Center and CREATE

The Wisconsin RtI Technical Assistance center recently held a Wisconsin Communication Council meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to pull together various stakeholders from state initiatives, state organizations and the National Center on RtI and work toward a solidified and consistent statewide RtI message with synchronized efforts among all stakeholder groups. The Communication Council will meet quarterly to discuss efforts across the state and offer suggestions to further the efforts of RtI. In attendance at the Communication Council meeting representing CREATE were Ron Dunlap, CREATE Project Director and Melissa Moe, CREATE Coordinator for the Professional Development Opportunities.

Kathy Ryder, WI RtI Center Director, shared Wisconsin's vision of RtI implementation, present and future technical assistance and supports provided by the WI RtI Center, the present Wisconsin political support for RtI, a collaborative dissemination plan across the state of Wisconsin and there was discussion of the future work of a leadership board.

Meeting updates:

The DPI and the WI RtI Center have been chosen by the National Center on RtI for intensive support services. The National Center will be working with Wisconsin to develop demonstration sites, validating the tools used for RtI systems, and provide other services as needed in the state plan for RtI.

The WI RtI Center will be providing support and technical assistance to schools through their partnerships with CESAs, professional organizations, Institutes of Higher Ed., and other stakeholder groups. Professional development will be provided in multiple forums: webcasts, Foundational Overview trainings at each CESA, and Regional offerings across the state. Schools will have access to the *School-wide Implementation Review* which will help schools discuss and identify where they are in the process of implementation toward their RtI system.

The Wisconsin RtI Center has unveiled its new website at www.wisconsinrticenter.org. Training dates and information will be available on the website, in addition to resources, success stories, and information about the Center and about RtI in Wisconsin. The RtI Center has also launched an e-newsletter; if you're interested in ongoing information about the upcoming events and activities across our state and what is being offered through the WI RtI Center you can sign up for the e-newsletter at the Center website.

The RtI Center Communication Council will meet quarterly with one meeting each year being a joint collaboration with the Wisconsin PBIS Network Leadership Board. The structure of the meetings will be to develop work groups that are solution-focused and will meet to review, revise, and improve the efforts of RtI in Wisconsin.