



# Southern Indiana Education Center

## News Notes

Vol. 2011

April/May, 2011

No. 4

### LEARN DYNAMIC MINI-LESSONS IN READING AND WRITING FROM KRISTINA SMEKENS



By popular demand, SIEC is bringing Kristina Smekens back to southern Indiana for two days in May to train teachers in “Dynamic Mini-Lessons in Reading” (**May 5**) and “Dynamic Mini-Lessons in Writing” (**May 6**), at the Huntingburg Event Center. After watching Kristina model these mini-lessons live, you will learn how to develop 10- to 15-minute “mini-lessons” in reading or writing that are both effective and dynamic. You will be able to create engaging lessons that target the different learning styles of your students, learn strategies that “release reading responsibility” to students and make them independent writers, and identify mini-lessons you should teach according to the reading or writing skills you are targeting. You can register for one or both of these workshops at the SIEC website. You can also receive 6 professional growth points or 1 graduate credit hour for each workshop.

### SIEC VAN ROUTE PLANS FOR 2011-2012



Southern Indiana  
Education Center



Like many of our school districts, the SIEC has been facing cuts from state funds this school year. Our state funds for basic operation have been completely cut. For 2011-2012, we are only able to plan on 1/3 of the funding received in the past for our day-to-day operation. We have attempted to make this year appear very much “business as usual” for our member schools. With the coming year, we will be making some adjustments. One adjustment which we can announce at this time is that beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, our van routes will run an every-other week cycle to our member-schools for regular deliveries. We will still need to make some “special” delivery runs to member schools to deliver StarLab and Computer/AV repairs. We are hopeful that these changes will not cause great inconvenience to our members. We encourage our member-schools to tell our state lawmakers about the ways your SIEC helps and brings added value to the work you do in teaching and learning in our schools of southwestern Indiana.

### TITLE I NETWORKING SESSION



A Title I Networking Session is scheduled for Friday morning, **May 13** at the Southern Indiana Education Center. The session will begin at 9:30 a.m. (Eastern Time) and end around 11:30 a.m. This is an opportunity for you to network, ask questions, and share ideas with other Title I staff. Common Core State Standards (It All Starts with Kindergarten - 2011-12) and continued discussion of the Third Grade Reading Plan will be the main topics of the session. Title I Program Administrators will receive further details soon.

### STARLAB SCHEDULING



SIEC Principals will receive a Starlab scheduling memo in early May. If your school is interested in scheduling a Starlab portable planetarium for use during the 2011-12 school year, it will more likely be available for your preferred dates if you return a scheduling form this spring. Scheduling will take place over the summer and principals will receive a memo with confirmed scheduling dates in early August. A Starlab Training Workshop will be held in September. Contact Amy at the SIEC if you have questions.

### BOOK REPAIR WORKSHOP/ MEDIA NETWORKING SESSION



At the request of school librarians, a hands-on book repair workshop will be included with the SIEC Spring Media Networking Session. The meeting will be held at Ferdinand Elementary School on Friday, **April 29**, from 9:30 to 2:00 (Eastern). Kary Barth, Regional Sales Manager for Kapco Library Products, will provide the training. She will demonstrate quick and easy techniques for extending shelf life on general circulating materials. Prevention is the key, but specific repairs will also be addressed: re-inserting loose pages, broken spines, torn header caps, and ripped and torn pages. Each participant will be provided with a sample packet of materials. The book repair training will be followed by lunch and then networking time. To view a copy of the flyer or to register online, visit [www.siec.k12.in.us](http://www.siec.k12.in.us) and click on “workshops.” The flyer provides various details including what participants need to bring.

## IMPROVING STUDENT WRITING ACHIEVEMENT: THE 15-DAY CRUNCH



Kay Davidson, a well-acclaimed trainer at SIEC will be back on **August 30** to help grades 3-6 teachers hit the ground running in improving student writing. If you've implemented The Simple 6™ in your classroom and you're ready to move on to the next level, this workshop is for you! Whether you use the 15-Day Crunch

to start your school year or to review with your students prior to ISTEP, this session focuses on reviewing and compacting strategies for writing improvement.....and includes so much more!

Come spend the day with Kay Davidson as you

- Review the Simple 6™ components and have questions answered
- Review ISTEP assessment writing
- Practice Prompt Attack
- Score student writing samples
- Complete a Class Analysis Chart
- Analyze writing data to drive instruction
- Practice at least one revision strategy

You will receive a 15-Day Crunch binder filled with 15 days of lesson plans and necessary supplements, extra prompts, and other Simple 6™ materials necessary to start the school year. Six Professional Growth Points or 3 graduate credit hours will be available. Please note that you need to register for this workshop by August 19 at [www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops](http://www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops).

## TEACHING 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SKILLS IN THE ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM

Most elementary students in our classrooms today were born in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Many of them could have working years that will end near the dawn of the 22<sup>nd</sup> century! What technologies can we use NOW to give them the

skills they need for the future we won't see but will be reality for them? We've heard of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills: creativity, collaboration, communication, innovation, and critical thinking. We have technology tools to develop these skills in our elementary students, but we need to take some time to learn how to use those tools ourselves as teachers. That's what July 25 is all about! Michele Lyon, a teacher at Chapelwood Elementary School in MSD Wayne Township, will help you learn the latest technologies such as blogging, wikis, collaborative word processing, Twitter, Prezi presentations, Google Earth, MP3s, Wordle, and many other tools. You will learn how she uses these technologies with her students to create learning activities that are innovative, relevant, and engaging for children who never knew a life without MP3s, smart phones, and Internet. Michele will present her training on "Teaching 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills in the Elementary Classroom" on **Monday, July 25**, at SIEC, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Eastern time. You can earn six Professional Growth Points for receiving this training. Register at [www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops](http://www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops) by July 1.

### SIEC Executive Board for 2010-2011

**Mr. Terry Enlow, Chairman**

SW Dubois County Schools

**Dr. Todd Camp, Vice Chairman**

MSD North Posey

**Dr. Mark Eastridge, Secretary**

Crawford County Schools

**Mr. Walter Hoke, Member**

Southwest Sullivan Schools

**Mr. Ty Mungle, Member**

Eastern Greene Schools

**Mr. Al Chapman, Member**

Cannelton City Schools

**Mr. Brad Case**

South Knox Schools

### A publication of the

**Southern Indiana Education Center**

**1102 Tree Lane Drive**

**Jasper, IN 47546-8157**

**812-482-6641**

**FAX 812-482-6652**

**<http://www.siec.k12.in.us>**

#### SIEC Staff

**J. Scott Turney, Executive Director**

**Amy Gonnerman, Media Coordinator**

**Chadd Smith, Technology Coordinator**

**Robert Moore, Program Coordinator**

**Mida Creekmur, Title I SES Coordinator**

**Sharon Gunselman, Executive Secretary**

**Peggy Wiesehan, Media Scheduling and Insurance Trust**

**Teresa Stuffle, Program and Media Assistant**

**Herald Stuffle, Van Driver**

**Ron LaGrange, Van Driver**

**Ron Brosmer, Van Driver**

**Martha Hammond, ICAM Regional Site Coordinator**

**Lori Kane, ICAM Technology Consultant**

**Beverly Lau, ICAM Administrative Assistant**



# SIEC Schedule of Events 2010-2011



April 29	Book Repair Workshop and Media Networking
May 5	Delivering Dynamic Mini-Lessons in Reading—Kristina Smekens
May 6	Delivering Dynamic Mini-Lessons in Writing—Kristina Smekens
May 13	Title I Networking - Common Core Standards, Third Grade Reading Plans
June 6-9	Teaching American History Field Study
June 13- 16	Regional AP US History Training - SIEC
June 16	How to Do the 90-Minute Reading Block
June 22	Pre-AP Strategies: AP Vertical Teams in History and the Social Sciences
June 23-July 7	Young Entrepreneurs Training - for Students - Day Sessions
July 20-23	Young Entrepreneurs Training - for Students - Evening Sessions
July 25	Teaching 21st Century Skills in the Classroom
August 30	Kay Davidson - Improving Student Writing Achievement - 15 Day Crunch
September 1	Research-Based Reading for Elementary Students
September 6	Kristina Smeckens - Launching Your Writer's Workshop
September 7	Kristina Smeckens - Beyond the Launch
September 8	Kristina Smeckens - Teaching 6 Traits in Writing Genres

*As of April 22, 2011*

As always, watch our website for new additions and schedule changes.

For more information/registration go to <http://www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops>

## AP US HISTORY TRAINING AT SIEC THIS SUMMER!

**AP**<sup>®</sup>

The SIEC has partnered with the Center for Teaching and Learning in Columbus, IN, to host a regional College Board Approved - **APUS History Training** this spring from **June 13 – 16** daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the SIEC Offices in Jasper. Training is not usually available this close to home! Our trainer will be Bill Polasky, AP History teacher at Stillman Valley High School – Stillman, IL, and a National Consultant for the College Board. Space is limited to 25 participants. Cost will be \$449 for registrations received until May 15 for all four days, including lunch each day and materials. After May 15, registration is \$499. The SIEC has 10 slots for FREE registrations for SIEC members courtesy of our SIEC Teaching American History Grant. These are on a first-come basis. Contact Scott Turney or Amy Gonnerman at the SIEC to learn more. PGPs will be available at no charge and College Credit will be available at a fee from Purdue University – Calumet. Contact the SIEC for registration forms or register online at: [www.columbusctl.com](http://www.columbusctl.com)

## PURCHASING DISCOUNTS THROUGH NEW E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

***K12 Indiana Procurement* is easy, efficient,  
& FREE for schools**

**CIESC**  
CENTRAL INDIANA EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER  
TEACHING & LEARNING | PURCHASE

Looking for ways to run schools leaner and more efficiently? ***K12 Indiana*** is a free resource to help make it happen. This new E-Procurement system gives Hoosier public schools the purchasing advantage of statewide-bids, organized into convenient online catalogs, all through one easy-to-use website. A partnership of Indiana's Department of Administration, Central Indiana Educational Service Center (CIESC) and *BPSLive.com*, categories include AV Equipment, Buses, Classroom & Office Supplies, Communications, Paper, Janitorial & Maintenance Products, and Technology Hardware and Software. Regional ESC's and pilot schools have been working with software developers to keep this program simplified and user-friendly. To get started using ***K12 Indiana***, contact CIESC Cooperative Purchasing Coordinator, Barney Summers, [summersb@ciesc.k12.in.us](mailto:summersb@ciesc.k12.in.us), 317-387-7114 or SIEC Technology Coordinator Chadd Smith, [csmith@siec.k12.in.us](mailto:csmith@siec.k12.in.us), 812-482-6641.



SOUTHERN INDIANA EDUCATION CENTER  
1102 TREE LANE DRIVE  
JASPER, IN 47546  
WWW.SIEC.K12.IN.US

## RESEARCH-BASED READING FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS



Bring research-based reading instruction to your classroom! In this workshop, you will learn how to teach active reading strategies within each component of the literacy

block that research has proven to most effectively improve reading comprehension. We will focus on Prediction, Connections, Visualization, Inference, Summarization, Questioning, Text Structure, and Monitor & Clarify the text. Kim Strobel, literacy coordinator at Tell City-Troy Township School Corporation, will conduct the training. Whether you are an elementary teacher or administrator looking to enhance your research-based strategies for teaching reading in your classroom or school, a curriculum director or literacy coach in charge of coaching teachers, or a literacy team member, you won't want to miss this opportunity to get trained in the most effective reading strategies for such a low cost! The training will be held at the Southern Indiana Education Center, 1102 Tree Lane Drive, on Thursday, **September 1, 2011**, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Eastern Time. Register by August 22 at [www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops](http://www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops).

## HOW TO DO THE 90-MINUTE READING BLOCK



Learn how to use the 90-Minute Reading Block to make up and support a balanced literacy program in your classroom and/or school that includes shared reading (whole group), guided reading w/literature stations (small group), interactive read aloud, and independent reading. You will learn the dynamics that make up each of these components, strategies for implementing, mini-lessons for teaching the components, how to incorporate literature responses in each of the blocks, before, during, and after reading activities, and how to motivate students to “think” about their reading and apply it. Join us and learn how to create meaningful and highly engaging learning opportunities to help move your students forward and become better readers, writers, and thinkers! The presenter is Kim Strobel, literacy coordinator for the Tell City-Troy Township Schools. The workshop will be held at the SIEC office on Thursday, **June 16**, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Eastern time. Register at [www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops](http://www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops). The deadline is June 9. Kim is a very popular presenter for SIEC, so register quickly!

## STUDENTS TO LEARN ENTREPRENEURISM THIS SUMMER



The Southern Indiana Education Center (SIEC) has contracted Vicki Wiederkehr, dba Cardinal Young Entrepreneurs in Action, to coordinate and administer two boot camps for summer 2011. This educational program will include two different timeframes for students and will involve up to a 9 county area among local young adults. This program will involve instructional direction on critical development areas such as financial literacy, income creation, time management, and goal setting, and will incorporate life and career coaching tips. The main focus will be generating income and starting a business. A summer boot camp is being coordinated in Jasper this summer at the SIEC building, 1102 Tree Lane Drive, near VUJC. Two sessions will be offered: **July 20-23 from 9 am – 3 pm, and Tuesday and Thursday evenings, June 23-July 7, from 6 – 9 pm.** A highly interactive event, students will be directed in group settings and individual sessions as well. This professional program is geared towards 13-18 year old young adults and will increase their awareness about basic finances, life choices, and the powers of e-commerce in small business. The program dissolves the myths of starting a business and working to empower students to take a firm grip on their future. It is our intent to instill self-confidence and inspiration in these students to use their talents and passions in life to create a part-time income for college success. This is a non-credit 'program,' and each student will receive a copy of Ms. Wiederkehr's newest book release "Cardinal Rules: Financial Resources for Young Adults" (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) among other tools for success. **This program is being offered for a fee of \$75 to all participants age 13-18. Students can register at [www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops](http://www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops).**

For more information contact Robert Moore, SIEC's professional development coordinator, at 812-482-6641.

## BRITANNICA ONLINE SCHOOL EDITION PREK-12



Indiana education service centers are now partnering with Britannica Digital Learning to bring you the award-winning Britannica Online School Edition for PreK-12<sup>th</sup> grades. The program offers encyclopedias and related materials for students of all levels – elementary, middle, and high school along with a special Learning Zone for the PreK-2 learning environment. Users can also take advantage of the Learning Materials, a collection of educational exercises, activities, and study guides. For further details or a free 30-day trial, visit the Britannica website at: [http://corporate.britannica.com/k12\\_us\\_all\\_tour.pdf](http://corporate.britannica.com/k12_us_all_tour.pdf) Contact Amy at the SIEC for special pricing information.

## PRE-AP STRATEGIES OFFERED IN SUMMER 2011

# AP<sup>®</sup>

Getting our students college-ready is most certainly a point of emphasis in our nation and in Indiana. Successful Advanced Placement testing is a significant factor in students' college readiness. You will learn how to align your middle and high school curriculum in English, math, and social studies in this series of workshops entitled "**Strengthening AP Strategies**" this summer. You will get the tools you need to align their curriculum through building and strengthening AP Vertical Teams. You will learn research-based strategies to engage your AP students in learning. You will come away with a concrete action plan you have created to align across the grade levels and anchor Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> course expectations. The series for pre-AP strategies in math, English, and social studies is being offered in several locations around the state this summer. Note that SIEC is hosting the social studies workshop on **June 22**. Register for any of them by going to [www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops](http://www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops). Participants must register as teams. Check the flyer on the website for other details.

## COOPERATIVE PURCHASING



Each year, the online cooperative purchasing service provided through the SIEC expands with new features and product opportunities. The SIEC now supports two Cooperative Purchasing Systems. Both systems offer a variety of choices for saving money in your school district. Watch for training on both systems, either at the SIEC or in your school district. The two systems include the IAESC System (Contact Nathan Clover for assistance and set-up at 800-327-5467) or the CIESC Purchasing System (Contact Barney Summers for assistance and set-up at 317-387-7114).



## MISSION OF THE SOUTHERN INDIANA EDUCATION CENTER

The mission of the Southern Indiana Education Center is to meet the needs of our member-schools in southwestern Indiana by:

- ✓ offering educational, supplemental, and support services effectively and efficiently on a cooperative basis,
- ✓ encouraging and assisting schools in a mode of continuous growth and desire for quality through innovative and scientifically based research based initiatives,
- ✓ supporting activities which provide for the individual and group needs of southwestern Indiana schools,
- ✓ better equalizing the educational opportunities for the staff and students of our southwestern Indiana schools, and by
- ✓ serving as a liaison between state, federal and other entities for the benefit of our southwestern Indiana schools.

## SIEC READY TO ROLL OUT READING LICENSE PREPARATION



In its first-ever initiative of this kind, SIEC is planning to offer pre-school, elementary, secondary, and adult education teachers licensed in grades P-12 a program of preparation to add “Reading” as a content area to their licenses by passing the Praxis II Examination. The course will be only one week long, from

June 27 through July 1, at the SIEC office. The topics will include all of the content categories tested on the Praxis II *Teaching Reading* (#204) exam. Participants can then be ready to take the exam on July 21 if they choose to do so. Moreover, it will enable pre-school, elementary, secondary, and adult educators to become more effective in providing their students reading instruction at any level or content area. Teachers will learn about emerging literacy, comprehension and fluency, helping students learn the sound structure of words, teaching vocabulary, phonics and word analysis, and instructional processes. “Teachers of all grade levels and content areas will benefit from this knowledge,” said Rob Moore, SIEC’s professional development coordinator. “For the pre-school, elementary, and adult educators, most of their students are building reading skills from the ground floor. It’s important for those teachers to understand how they can help their emerging readers grow in their skills with scientifically- and research-based strategies.” But it’s just as important for secondary teachers, asserts Moore, a former middle and high school social studies teacher. “For the middle and high school teachers who think, ‘Oh, the teaching of reading is an elementary thing,’ or ‘That’s an English thing; I don’t have time for it,’ I would say that if you help your students become more skilled in reading their textbooks, they will learn your content more effectively and thoroughly. So, good reading instruction in the secondary classrooms will naturally lead to increased content knowledge, and that’s what you want. And you’re helping your students become more college- and career-ready at the same time.” The developers and instructors for the program are **Angie Burch**, director of learning and assessment for the North Spencer County School Corporation and licensed reading specialist, and **Kim Strobel**, literacy coach in the Tell City-Troy Township School Corporation. Another added value for teachers will be the professional security having this license can offer. “Teachers will be awarded 30 of the 90 professional growth points they need for license renewal by participating those five days,” Moore said. “Plus, let’s face it. In this time of budget cuts and the proposals to do away with tenure and including student performance data in teachers’ evaluations, the more skills a teacher demonstrates and the more areas he or she has on the license, the more likely that teacher is to stay employed.” Teachers can register for this professional development activity on the SIEC website at [www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops](http://www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops).

## PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING: CORE AND COMMERCIAL TRAINING



On November 20, 2010, the *Pesticide Use at School* Rule became effective. The purpose of this rule is to minimize the potential for pesticide exposure to students and school staff in Indiana schools. The rule includes all Pre K—12

schools and districts accredited by the Indiana Department of Education. For the first year, the Office of the Indiana State Chemist is providing opportunities for training to help schools comply with this Rule. Training for Pesticide Application is presented by Purdue University and will be held at the SIEC Offices on Wednesday, **April 27**, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. This training will help districts have a certified pesticide applicator on staff and will have two sections on training day: 1) Applicator Training (8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., and 2) Providing the Core Exam (3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.). Cost for all day is \$90. A future training will be held for Category 3b exams (for applications to turf, grounds, athletic fields), plus Category 7a exams, (for applications made indoors, such as for ants, flies, roaches, rodents, etc.), which is also required. The workshop on April 27 is for initial training only, recertification credits are not awarded for this training. Study Materials: Upon receipt of registration, a training manual will be sent to each participant. Late registrants will pick up their manual the day of training. Training will be geared toward those who have reviewed the manual in advance of the workshop. For further program content and certification information, please contact: Andrew Martin, Purdue Pesticide Programs, Purdue University, 765-494-4567 or 888-398-4636 or < [martinag@purdue.edu](mailto:martinag@purdue.edu) > or go to: < [www.btny.purdue.edu/ppp/certification.html](http://www.btny.purdue.edu/ppp/certification.html) >. A flier for the training as well as registration information can be found online at: [www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops](http://www.siec.k12.in.us/workshops). Space is limited, you are encouraged to register early.

## SIEC WORKSHOP REGISTRATION: IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SUMMER REGISTRATOINS



**Things you want to know:** Always give the **email address**

and **emergency contact information** of the *person who will be attending*. This is the only way we have to contact those who have registered in the event changes occur at the last minute. This information will be used for contacting participants in the summer just in case something changes with a summer session for which you are registered. If one person does register a group, that person will be assuming the responsibility of informing the others in the group of changes.

## SIEC WINS GRANT FOR NON-TRADITIONAL CTE PROGRAMS



SIEC has won a competitive grant from the Indiana Department of Education's Division of College & Career Readiness to research and expand programs that effectively recruit and retain students in non-traditional career and technical education (CTE) programs. SIEC learned its proposal was accepted on March 22. **Robert Moore**, SIEC's professional development coordinator, will be the principal investigator for the project. "By 'students in non-traditional career and technical education programs,' we're talking about, for example, girls in auto mechanics, boys in nursing, girls in welding, boys in elementary education, and things like that," Moore explained. "We're going to be looking for models and initiatives around Indiana and the nation that have been successful in helping students become aware and complete occupational programs which have a significant gender skew in enrollment." The grant to SIEC is in the amount of \$70,000. Most of the money, however, will be awarded in mini-grants to secondary schools and CTE districts in Indiana to put a promising model in place where a need exists or expand an already existing. An application for these mini-grants is available at the SIEC by going to: <http://www.siec.k12.in.us/pdfs/Mini-grantRFPforNon-traditionalStudentsinCTE.pdf>

## VIDEO STREAMING SERVICE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT CLASSROOMS



A great addition to think about for the 2011-2012 School Year! Based on the project results, Learn360 was selected as the video streaming service provider as their content of nearly 8,500 videos plus video clips, audio files, and still pictures best met the needs of member educators. A recent addition to Learn360 is the award winning Reading Rainbow series. Learn360 video streaming is now available to SIEC schools at a special rate. The cost is \$550 per building for the 2011-2012 school year, which includes set-up and training. Sign up now and get the remainder of the 2010-2011 Free. For a 3-year contract, the price is only \$500 per year. Questions? Contact Amy at the SIEC.

**SIEC** Southern Indiana Education Center



## KRISTINA SMEKENS WILL HELP YOU LAUNCH YOUR WRITER'S WORKSHOP



Starting the year can be an awkward and anxious experience. Many teachers have confessed that they struggle to get their writer's workshops off the ground. *What should I do the first weeks of school? What are key lessons to jumpstart my writing curriculum? How fast or slow should I move?* These are valid questions. And, it's easy to see why so many teachers are eager for some beginning-of-the-year lesson suggestions. Kristina Smekens will help you launch your Writer's Workshop on **September 6** at SIEC. When you leave you'll be able to kick off your writing year with a 20-day "game plan," implement a writer's notebook in the classroom, establish routines to effectively manage a writer's workshop, address common writer dependencies with procedural mini-lessons, and take home a complimentary copy of Kristina's book, *Launching The Writer's Workshop*.

On **September 7**, Kristina will take you "Beyond the Launch" and help you plan a year-long writing curriculum, incorporating mini-lessons, literature, and assessment within a variety of writing units. Kristina will provide lesson plan examples for several writing units, then she'll reveal her framework for developing writing units on your own. After this training, you will be able to organize your grade level writing standards and grammar skills within writing units throughout the year, plan mini-lessons and corresponding independent activities to develop students' writing skills, take one mini-lesson and develop it into a multi-day series that gradually releases the responsibility to the students, plan your writing units to give students experience writing both free-choice final drafts and no-choice first drafts (prompts), speed up or slow down any writing unit to meet the needs of your writers, and target isolated skills within intermittent "maintenance mini-lessons" throughout the year.

Stick around! On **September 8**, Kristina will show you how to "Teach the 6 Traits in Writing Genres."

## IAESC PROCUREMENT TO OFFER BUS BIDS



IAESC Procurement will be awarding a statewide school bus bid on April 20, 2011, with the purchasing period to begin April 21, 2011. Conventional, Front Engine, Rear Engine, A1 and A2 buses will be available. Vendors responding to this bid are Kerlin Bus Sales and Leasing Inc., MacAllister Power Systems, and Midwest Transit Equipment of Indiana. We look forward to having a great offering of buses to fit all our districts needs. If you have interest in purchasing a bus this year, please contact IAESC Procurement at 800.326.5467

## EDUCATORS HELP STUDENTS WITH ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

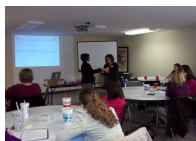


Joey has become very fearful. He doesn't want his mother to be in a different room at home. Even if she is in the bathroom, he will sit outside the door. When it is time to go to school, he re-

fuses. He reports trembling, heart racing, sweating, and an upset stomach. He is worried something bad will happen to his mother. Katie has always been a little shy and nervous. She used to be reluctant to answer questions in class, but would do so when called upon. Now, she refuses to answer. She used to be somewhat shy in social situations but now she will not even attend parties or go out with friends. She reports became frightened, with her heart pounding and nausea, when she is in class or at a social gathering. She feels like everyone is looking at her and judging her. Teachers, counselors, and administrators face these students everyday. And everyday they are accountable for these students' academic growth and achievement. Carlabeth Mathias, a former teacher school guidance counselor and now a licensed and practicing social worker, led a group of SIEC educators in learning strategies to help students cope with anxiety and depression at a workshop on February 4. Participants learned the elements and symptoms of anxiety and distinguished them from those of depression. Drawing on research and more than 30 years of experience as a teacher and counselor, Mathias used numerous scenarios such as those above to help the participants understand how to recognize anxiety and depression in students. But it didn't stop there. The participants also learned some simple positive school supports that could be put in place to help students who are experiencing anxiety and depression, as well as some practical thinking and counseling strategies specifically designed for these students. "It was great to have someone who understands our positions in the schools and can give us practical activities to use in that setting," commented one school counselor who attended. The strategies are "applicable and easy to use in the schools," said another.

## TEACHERS HANDLE GIRL TALK

"I just want the bullying to stop. That is all I ever wanted. I used to love going to school. Now I hate it." Those words from a nine-year-old girl illustrate the impact of the *relational aggression* that begins to emerge in girls her age.



On February 4, twenty-five teachers, counselors, and administrators attended a training at SIEC with Carlabeth Mathias, a licensed clinical social worker and former teacher and school counselor. Mathias presented a wealth of research on relational aggression, including the particular strategies girls tend to use bullying to gain power. She also gave the participants useful strategies for forming "girls' groups" to help them recognize characteristics of healthy relationships, develop positive social skills, acquire engaging conversation skills, and reduce relational aggression through assertiveness training or by-

stander intervention. She also introduced and modeled activities she has found successful to use with those groups to help the girls' group members, whether they are aggressive or unassertive. "I love that Carlabeth broke down what a group for relational aggression would look like! Great tips and activities," one educator stated after the workshop. Another counselor promised afterward, "I will be forming and facilitating a girl's group at my school."

## LEARNING SOLUTIONS TO CYBER BULLYING

Twenty-eight educators from fifteen school corporations and the Indiana Department of Education came to the SIEC on February 23 to be trained to use the "Cyber Bullying MATRIX: School Sanctioning Worksheet©." The MATRIX is the work of three faculty members from



Western Illinois University, one of whom has a daughter who was the victim of cyber bullying at one time: Jill Joline Myers (associate professor of law enforcement and justice administration), Donna McCaw (professor of educational leadership), and Leanda Hemphill (associate professor of instructional design and technology). The trainers are co-authors of a newly-released book, *Responding to Cyberbullying: An Action Tool for School Leaders*. Although legal actions against schools filed in cases of student-versus-student harm are rarely successful, school officials do well to systematically document their investigation of cyber bullying claims. The MATRIX does just that. It provides an advisory, objective framework to justify a sanctioning decision in case of cyber bullying. At SIEC's training, the participants learned the difference between students' protected and unprotected speech as defined in case law, as well as what constitutes a school's authority and duty to protect students. They also learned the authors' "Top Ten Rules for Addressing Cyber Bullying." It's important to school officials to distinguish between simple acts of teasing and real, systemic acts of bullying, the authors contended. Those considerations make cyber bullying so challenging to deal with for school administrators. The participants practiced using the MATRIX on real-world cyber bullying scenarios compiled by the trainers to structure a sanctioning decision in each case. **J. Wilson**, principal at South Spencer Middle School, commented, "I found the cyberbullying workshop to be very helpful. I think the presenters have designed a solid plan to help school leaders use data to document and manage cyber bullying incidents while also avoiding potential legal problems."