



May 2016

# GREAT LAKES BEAT

*Jenny Berry, the Director of College and Career Readiness at the Indiana Department of Education, shares the work the Indiana team completed during one of the activities that took place at the Integrating Employability Skills: A Workshop for State Education Agencies in Indianapolis, April 26–27, 2016, co-hosted by Great Lakes Comprehensive Center, College and Career Readiness and Success Center, and the Midwest Comprehensive Center.*

## Director’s Corner

It has been our good fortune to serve our state education agency partners for more than 10 years. In that time, we have learned quite a bit—so have the other regional comprehensive centers (RCCs) operated by American Institutes for Research (AIR).

AIR’s RCCs are always looking for ways to improve our technical assistance – both in terms of effective service delivery and high-quality resources that support our work. To that end, we are bringing together a community of practice (CoP) composed of representatives from all four of AIR’s RCCs and organized by Claudette Rasmussen ([crasmussen@air.org](mailto:crasmussen@air.org)). The CoP will strive to share and capture the wealth of knowledge gained from our collective experiences and then transfer and apply that knowledge across AIR’s RCCs. Ultimately, the CoP will help us deepen our work, all in the interest of providing the most effective support to the 13 states served by our RCCs. I look forward to updating you as the CoP makes progress. As always, let me know if you have questions, thoughts, or ideas. (Gary Appel, [gappel@air.org](mailto:gappel@air.org))



**GARY APPEL**  
Director

## State Work

### Indiana



### Personalized Pathways to Academic Achievement for All Learners

GLCC continues to support the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) in their efforts to ensure all students in the state are well prepared for college or a career after high school. GLCC is assisting IDOE in planning and presenting a series of workshops on “Writing Skills for English Learners.” The initiative kicked off with opening sessions held on February 23–24, 2016, followed by a full-day, GLCC-sponsored presentation. Invitees included 30 educators from six district teams. Participants will practice and share materials from the February meetings with colleagues, before returning June 7, 2016 to review, share out, and receive additional training. (Project co-leads: Chris Rauscher, [crauscher@air.org](mailto:crauscher@air.org), and Stacy Rush, [srush@air.org](mailto:srush@air.org))

### Excellent Educators

As part of the effort to ensure IDOE has the organizational capacity to provide the leadership to local education agencies and institutions of higher education around excellent educators, GLCC provided Lean training for Licensure division staff. The division had expressed a need for improved organization and workflows and is among the other divisions at IDOE receiving Lean training. After GLCC’s training, progress checking, and revising process, the new Licensure organization pilot is in full implementation. As a result of the process, IDOE has already revised the [website](#), further defined staff roles, and ensured a more efficient division of labor. (Project Lead: Tara Zuber, [tzuber@air.org](mailto:tzuber@air.org))

### Michigan



## Effective Educators: Aligned Instruction and Assessment

As the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) transitions to a new statewide assessment, GLCC has collaborated with the Center on Standards & Assessment Implementation (CSAI) to support MDE in building Michigan educator capacity to align instruction with state standards and new assessments. In December 2015, CSAI and GLCC facilitated an all-day workshop to build MDE and stakeholders' knowledge and understanding of the [CSAI Assessment Design Toolkit](#)—a set of tools that help teachers to select and build assessments aligned to state standards. This toolkit was posted along with several other resources on the new [MDE District Assessment Literacy and Inventory website](#), and a memo that included a link to the website was sent out to all school superintendents and major professional organization leaders. (Project Lead: Bersheril Bailey, [bbailey@air.org](mailto:bbailey@air.org))

## College and Career Readiness: Career Pathways

On March 18, 2016, GLCC facilitated an all-day meeting for Career and Technical Education (CTE) stakeholders. At this meeting, AIR researchers presented preliminary findings from their study of Michigan's Career and Technical Education and Career Readiness System. The research describes the status of secondary and postsecondary CTE opportunities in Michigan and the workforce needs of Michigan's employers. A full report will be available to MDE later this month. GLCC facilitated discussions among stakeholders to discuss the study findings and plan strategic actions. The strategic actions developed through those discussions will help inform the final recommendations to MDE on developing a career pathway system in the state. (Project Lead: Claudette Rasmussen, [crasmussen@air.org](mailto:crasmussen@air.org))

## Ohio



## Ohio's New Learning Standards, English Language Proficiency Standards, and Sheltered Instruction

GLCC is working with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to provide local education agencies and regional staff with guidance and instructional support for a program called "What's Different About Teaching Reading to Students Learning English." Following a December 2015 planning meeting with ODE and the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), Jen Himmel from CAL developed a work plan for ODE's consideration. As part of this plan, GLCC, CAL, and ODE staff will host and facilitate a training-of-trainers workshop in May 2016 targeted toward Educational Service Center staff who will then train district English learner coordinators and specialists from their regions. (Project Lead: Mark Mitchell, [mmitchell@air.org](mailto:mmitchell@air.org))

## Competency-Based Education Pilot Program

GLCC continues to collaborate with the Center on Innovations in Learning (CIL) to provide technical assistance to ODE's Office of Innovation and Ohio's competency-based education (CBE) pilot program. GLCC and CIL served as thought partners and content experts to ODE to help develop a technology-aided structure and process for translating state mathematics, science, English language arts, and social studies standards into competencies. Translation of content standards into competencies is an early step in the development of competency-based education models in each of the five pilot sites. The first scheduled sessions occurred April 26–29, 2016, and included administrators, curriculum coordinators, and key content staff from each of the five competency-based education (CBE) pilot sites, as well as ODE curriculum and assessment staff. Additional work sessions are scheduled for June 2016. Competencies are written to emphasize the application and transfer of knowledge and the development of important skills and dispositions. These competencies will form the foundation for the subsequent development of learning objectives, progressions of learning, and opportunities to demonstrate mastery of learning. The five CBE pilot program sites are expected to begin using these competencies during the 2016–17 school year. (Project Leads: Mark Mitchell, [mmitchell@air.org](mailto:mmitchell@air.org), and Karen Sanders, RMC Research Corporation, [sandersk@rmcres.com](mailto:sandersk@rmcres.com))

## Regional Work

### Integrating Employability Skills: A Workshop for State Education Agencies

GLCC partnered with the College and Career Readiness and Success Center (CCRS Center) and the Midwest Comprehensive Center (MWCC) to offer *Integrating Employability Skills: A Workshop for State Education Agencies*. The workshop focused incorporating employability skills—technology, communication, and problem-solving skills and the abilities to work in a team and cross-apply knowledge—into instruction and other initiatives, such as deeper learning, competency-based education, and social-emotional learning. Fifty-five SEA and Comprehensive Center representatives from nine states came together in Indianapolis for the two-day workshop. The opening welcome to Indiana, delivered by Superintendent of Public Instruction, Glenda Ritz, was followed by presentations by Laura Jimenez, CCRS Center Director, and Ellen Cushing, CCRS Center Deputy Director. All three GLCC states (Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana) brought teams, as did Kansas, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, and South Carolina.



*The Indiana Team—Alyson McIntyre-Reiger, Peggy Wild, Jenny Berry, and, Jason Bearce (left to right)—collaborates during the workshop.*

## Great Lakes and Midwest Deeper Learning Initiative



The Deeper Learning Initiative explores best practices for integrating content knowledge and interpersonal and intrapersonal skills so that students can easily and effectively transfer and apply their learning. In April 2016, the Deeper Learning Initiative has hosted two events. First, the Initiative hosted the second in a series of cross-state conversations on CBE among state education agency (SEA) staff. This event focused on defining competencies and featured presentations by Sarah JanTausch and Buddy Harris from ODE, and Gregg Dionne and Michelle Ribant from MDE. The second event occurred later in the month. The Deeper Learning Initiative kicked off its Teaching Deeply series by hosting a virtual event featuring Angela Minnici, Director of the AIR Education Policy Center and the Center on Great Teachers and Leaders. Dr. Minnici spoke about the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and highlighted the opportunities this new law will provide for SEAs striving to expand the capacity of educators for 21st century teaching. Then Lynette Thompson, lead for the Regional Educator Effectiveness team (see below), shared highlights of how ESSA is affecting plans by SEAs related to their educator effectiveness work. Teaching Deeply follow-up events will be released in the next few weeks. Visit the [Deeper Learning Initiative website](#) for recent updates.

Additionally, through its technical assistance brokering role, on March 14, 2016, GLCC invited the Deeper Learning Initiative Lead, Wendy Surr, to lead several Deeper Learning sessions for MDE staff to learn more about the why, what and how of Deeper Learning. Surr facilitated the MDE Curriculum and Instruction unit through a process to explore and document how Deeper Learning aligns to their current MDE work and to identify opportunities, gaps, and connections to MDE goals for becoming a “Top Ten in Ten” state in education. The unit staff met with the deputy superintendent for Education Services in May to share their documentation and to identify next steps. GLCC will identify technical assistance needs in June to support the MDE implementation of their strategy to implement Deeper Learning competencies and experiences across content areas.

### Regional Educator Effectiveness Team

The educator effectiveness content team is a group of experienced RCC staff and AIR colleagues, including staff and leaders from Center on Great Teachers and Leaders and Regional Educational Laboratory-Midwest. The team conducts ongoing needs sensing in the 13 states in the Great Lakes, Midwest, Southeast, and Texas RCC regions to identify and carry out cross-state and cross-region project work related to three challenges around educator effectiveness, including: (1) equitable access; (2) educator preparation, induction, mentoring, recruitment, and retention; and (3) educator evaluation and professional development. A set of informal interviews will be conducted with each of the 13 SEAs and the state manager prior to launching the cross-state project work of each of the three project teams. For more information about this content team, please contact Lynette Thompson ([lmthompson@air.org](mailto:lmthompson@air.org)).

## Our Resources

### Handbook of Student Learning Objectives Implementation

GLCC currently serves as a strategic partner with the MDE as they provide guidance to district leaders on the successful implementation of SLOs. In collaboration with MDE, GLCC developed handbook *The Implementation of Student Learning Objectives: Recommendations for Decision Makers*. This

handbook provides guidance for local and intermediate school districts in measuring student growth and improving instructional effectiveness through the implementation of student learning objectives (SLOs). An SLO is a measurable, long-term academic goal for students, informed by available data, set at the beginning of a course. GLCC led MDE in developing policy recommendations for local school districts through decision-making meetings. For a copy of this guidance, please contact Valera Lane ([vlane@air.org](mailto:vlane@air.org)). For more information about the SLO work in Michigan, please contact Andrea Guiden ([aguiden@air.org](mailto:aguiden@air.org)).

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