

the S.I.N.E. Post

S.I.N.E.
866.380.SINE (7463)
www.SINEonline.com

from the President/CEO



Greetings!

As students and teachers headed back to the classrooms this fall it was important for school communities to understand the role math, science and technology can play in the future success of their students.

As we prepare students for a more competitive global future, the job for all of us involved in education will be largely focused in the math, science and high-tech fields and helping teachers of these areas to provide students with a more rigorous and relevant learning experience.

There is no doubt we need to stress the importance of science, math and other technology skills to our students. Inspired by our example, other nations have invested heavily in education, technology and research and development. Their students are starting to outperform students in the U.S., particularly in the fields of math and science.

In one recent test, U.S. 15-year-olds ranked 24th out of 29 developed nations in science and mathematics literacy and problem-solving. In another international test measuring math achievement, just seven percent of our 4th- and 8th-graders reached the "advanced" level.

One initiative SINE is excited about is the Indiana STEM (I-STEM) Resource Network. The I-STEM Resource Network is a partnership of Indiana's public and private higher education institutions, K-12 schools, business and government. It is dedicated to measurably improving K-12 student achievement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). I-STEM provides easily accessible, superior quality professional development for teachers; exciting and practical hands-

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SINE PARTNERS WITH UNITED CARING SHELTERS

Over the last several months SINE has been partnering with United Caring Shelters, a local agency which offers day, night and transitional housing, to provide educational services to its clients.

According to Susanne Wilson, Vice President of SINE's Development and Marketing, SINE first administered a survey to find out the educational levels of United Caring Shelters' clients. Then SINE contracted with teacher Anna Guesthill to go to United Caring Shelter and provide instruction to prepare students to take the GED.

The clients served by the United Caring Shelters benefit greatly from the partnership, says Wilson. Recently the students expressed a desire to further increase their computer literacy. Thanks to the Welborn Baptist Foundation, the United Caring Shelters now has four slightly used computers on which to provide basic literacy training to its clients. The shelter hopes to eventually develop a lab to provide more computer access to its clients. The computer training will assist clients as they attempt to gain employment and/or to increase their skills.

As always, United Caring Shelters has the need for supply donations such as soap, razors, deodorant, detergent, etc. Individuals can also

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volunteer by serving meals, clerical work, etc. If you are interested in volunteering at United Caring Shelters please contact Kerri at (812) 422-0297.

And the winners are...

SINE recently sponsored a calendar contest to celebrate the theme of "Lifelong Learning". The 2008 calendars will feature original artwork from area elementary students (grades K – 8). The contest was open to any public, private or parochial student in the nine-counties of Daviess, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh or Warrick. Artists were asked to depict how and why learning is important to people of all ages.

An independent council of judges chose the following as the 2008 SINE calendar winners:

Danny Hebenstreich - Brumfield School , Elizabeth Dauby - Perry Central, Trey Mullis - Perry Central, Mitch Meeks - Resurrection, Megan Weinzapfel - Resurrection, Victoria Richmond - Resurrection, Kaitlyn Poehlein - Perry Central, Adam Berendes - Resurrection, Ariel Happe - Resurrection, Hannah Nies - St. Joe School, Jacob Newmaster - Trinity Lutheran, Sarah Kercher - Resurrection, William Rodenberg- Westside Catholic

Honorable Mention:

Abbey McKey - Evansville Day School (EDS), Halle Sullivan - EDS, Alex Bucshon - EDS, Angie Folz - EDS, Dylan Rauch - EDS, Aimee Boyle - EDS, Jessica Rodgers - EDS, Elizabeth Yocum - EDS, Brittany Rodgers - EDS, Jessica Cogswell - EDS, Jake Morris - EDS, Emily Fortner - St. Joseph, Taylor Babbs - Resurrection, Megan Hunt - Resurrection, Ethan Head - Resurrection

Every student submitting an entry will receive a gift. Each monthly winner will receive an additional gift from SINE. Additionally, each of the twelve monthly and the overall winner's teachers will receive \$25 worth of art supplies and one additional teacher will be drawn from the other entrants to receive \$25 worth of art supplies.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Learning Exchange Program to Take Place this Fall

The SINE Learning Exchange is a school-to-work program designed to foster relationships between businesses, educators and students. While demonstrating the applicability of education to the business world, youth are exposed to real-life workplace experience.

The Learning Exchange is a minimum three-day process where:

1. **The teacher visits the workplace,**
2. **The business representative visits the classroom, and**
3. **The class goes on a field trip to see the worksite.**

Over 200 educators and business partners have joined the Learning Exchange and several have taken advantage of mini-grants for projects that will take student awareness of the relationship between classroom learning and the demands of the workplace to a higher level.

If you are interested in joining The Learning Exchange this fall logon to www.sineonline.com or call 1-866-380-7463 for more information.

Coming Soon! SINE is pleased to announce the following upcoming workshops:

- Beginning 6 Traits for grades 3-8 on November 8 & 9.
- Beginning 6 Traits for grades K-2 on November 12 & 13.
- Response to Intervention for school administrators on November 20.
- Introductory DIBELS on December 10 & 11.
- First day of Teacher Reading Academies for grades 1 & 2 on December 3.

Stay tuned to SINEonline.com or call 1-866-380-7463 for the latest workshop details.

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President/CEO... (continued from page 1)

on learning opportunities for students and families; and grassroots support for better STEM education policies across all Indiana communities.

Locally the University of Southern Indiana (USI) will play a key role in the development, implementation and long-term success of the I-STEM Resource Center. The university's membership and role in the I-STEM Resource Center will be spearheaded by USI's Pott College of Science and Engineering. USI is committed to strengthening Indiana's STEM recruitment and education by assisting the state in developing a strong workforce with the skills necessary to compete in the increasingly technology and science-based economy.

As a proponent of lifelong learning, SINE believes that the K-12 experience in science and mathematics is the first, and key, step toward developing students for future careers in technology and preparing individuals for an ever increasing technical and science based job market. As a result, the job we do in educating K-12 students and K-12 teachers is an ever increasing key to the educational and economic future of Indiana. Additionally, a number of industry, business, education and policy organizations have called for an increased investment in the STEM areas in order to re-energize, strengthen and produce more students with undergraduate and advanced degrees in STEM fields. And the call to action is being heard as several recently introduced bills will help increase the number of, and competitiveness of, STEM educated individuals.

We are excited at SINE to promote I-STEM through our Learning Exchange program and through consulting in the schools via our Consultants in Education services. Additionally, SINE will support USI any way we can in the promotion of I-STEM initiatives. STEM teachers will also be able to take advantage of a one-day workshop hosted by SINE in the near future.

We encourage anyone interested in more information about I-STEM to contact Dr. Scott Gordon at USI, Pott College of Science and Engineering.

Sincerely,
Mary K. Cardinal
President/CEO

SINE and Washington Community Schools benefit from successful partnership

Washington Community Schools (WCS) is a district that has benefited from the services of SINE since 2001. Early in 2002 the district wrote a grant contracting services from SINE to improve literacy levels in its schools. Within a short period of time, all of WCS' elementary teachers went through Four Block training for which each of the corporation's teachers in kindergarten through sixth grade received a \$1,000 grant for a classroom library to use for Self-Selected Reading. WCS quickly saw its students benefit from the partnership with SINE and has continued the partnership ever since.

According to Rebecca Dayton, Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum Coordinator for WCS, the collaboration with SINE has provided the district with the direction for aligned and targeted professional development as well as the financial means to make it possible. "We have selected professional development to lead us toward our school improvement goals," she said. "No longer are we sending teachers to workshops which are one time events."

Dayton said the job-embedded follow-up after WCS teachers attend SINE workshops has made the greatest impact on changing teaching practices. SINE's Consultants in Education (CIE) are also there to answer questions when problems arise and assist in finding solutions to difficult situations. Principals are also involved in training and can better support teachers when implementing new programs, she said.

SINE has been closely involved with most of Washington Community Schools' professional development for the past six years. Throughout these years SINE has made available to WCS training in Four Blocks, Differentiated Instruction, Six Traits Writing, Simple 6, DIBELS, Data Dashboard, SSP, Poverty in the Classroom, Writing and Reading Across the Curriculum and consultations with Dr. Steve Benjamin and Dr. Gary Phillips. WCS has also

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Learning for Life.

SINE & Washington (continued from page 3)

worked with SINE to establish a curriculum aligned to Indiana Academic Standards, identified Focus Skills in language arts and math, created Quarterly Assessments and ongoing standards-based lesson assessment. Last spring rubrics of implementation for several of the initiatives were created by a group of WCS teachers with the help of CIE consultants.

Dayton believes collaboration with SINE has enabled WCS to grow professionally as a district. “Many of the initiatives have been implemented in all of our schools,” she said. “We have common background and can communicate with each other as professionals on many educational topics. Additionally, we have been able to collaborate with other schools who are involved in the same initiatives and the consultants share knowledge they gain by being involved with many different schools. This communication is invaluable.”

The collaboration between SINE and WCS has benefited the teachers as well as the students. SINE consultants have worked with the teachers in training and have modeled strategies within the classrooms. In some cases teachers have had SINE consultants observe them initiating new strategies. With this partnership more effective teaching strategies have been implemented. Additionally, the students benefit by having teachers who are highly trained in best practices in adult-education programs.

Working with SINE has also impacted WCS’ Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results. Dayton said the district’s demographics continue to change each year to include more poverty and more ESL students. “One of our elementary schools was a choice school last year because it did not make AYP in one or more categories for two years and it made AYP this year,” she said. “Each of our elementary schools increased overall ISTEP scores and state placement categories. The involvement of the junior high and high school will be more extensive this coming year.”

Dayton said she would encourage other area school districts to partner with SINE for the guidance and collaboration it offers school districts in order to implement change which is necessary to improve the educational opportunities for students. “SINE begins training by building background knowledge through

traditional workshop presentations, but the difference in working with SINE is the job embedded follow-up which it provides on site according to what the district feels is needed,” she said.

WCS is eager to continue its partnership with SINE in the coming years. This year WCS has contracted with SINE to have consultants continue to work with its teachers both within the classroom and collaborating to improve implementation of DIBELS, SSP, Data Dashboard, Simple 6 in the elementary schools and implement SSP in the junior high. SINE consultants will work with the high school on reading and writing across the curriculum.

Dayton is thankful to SINE for the assistance it has given her district with professional development. “We appreciated that they have come to us asking how they might better support us in our efforts to educate our students,” she said. “When our principals felt a need to be better informed about some of the initiatives we were implementing, SINE designed an in-service with the vital information they needed to be more effective instructional leaders.”

In the years ahead both SINE and WCS will continue to reap the benefits of a successful partnership.



CIE consultant Wendi Nurrenbern works with students from the Washington Community Schools district during a recent training session.

Dear SINE donors:

On behalf of the Southwest Indiana Network for Education (SINE) I would like to thank each and every donor for your generous donation to our organization. Your commitment to helping to create lifelong learners in our community is sincerely appreciated.

Each year SINE continues to advance its mission which states that all people of southwest Indiana deserve the opportunity to participate fully in the economic, civic, and cultural life of the region.

To this end, SINE provides leadership and services that focus on educational networks, literacy for all ages, professional development of educators, workforce advancement and lifelong learning.

Through these programs we have seen many lives changed for the better. In 2006 alone, SINE trained over 1500 area teachers in professional development workshops and provided services to nearly 2500 adults in SINE sponsored adult-education programs.

The goal of SINE is to continue to make a difference in the lives of people in southwest Indiana. With the help of donations from supporters such as you we will continue to see improvements in creating lifelong learners.

As you know, SINE is a non-profit, charitable organization supported by public donations. Thanks once again for your generous support of our efforts.



Best wishes,
Susanne Wilson
Vice President, Development and Marketing

We salute the following list of generous donors who have repeatedly given toward the mission of SINE:

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You and SINE

Partners in a Stronger Future

SINE has had a very good beginning ... but this is just the beginning. SINE has made a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals in Southwest Indiana ... not only through direct contact, such as the many training programs, but also through the impact that these trained professionals, successful students, and achieving adult learners will have on the lives of those around them.

Your generous contribution aids SINE in developing and sponsoring the much-needed programs that partner with education and businesses to improve our workforce; assist us in underwriting costs for programs that aid our at-risk and underachieving youth, creating brighter opportunities for their future; help us establish or enhance adult learning opportunities that include literacy services, basic computer training, ESL, GED or high school completion programs; and allow us to increase the contributions that SINE makes to such programs as our classroom libraries. SINE is a non-profit, charitable organization supported by public donations.

Yes, I want to become a SINE partner. Enclosed in my tax-deductible contribution that will enable SINE to develop and support much-needed programs in our communities. I understand that through my generous gift, I will contribute to building a better future for Southwest Indiana.

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