

the S.I.N.E. Post

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

from the President/CEO



Greetings!

As 2009 draws to a close, we are reminded of the many wonderful achievements of the past year and turn our thoughts to the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead.

SINE experienced many changes in 2009 which yielded new opportunities. Internally, staff changes brought new talent to the team. The additions of Scott Kirsch as Director

of Fund Development, John Wood as Director of K-12 Programs, and Donna Taylor-Bouchie as Project Director of Dream It! Do It! Southwest Indiana have allowed SINE to expand our efforts towards engaging the community and boosting the progress and accomplishments of their respective programs.

SINE has also been privileged this year to build the most diverse, talented team of Consultants in Education we have ever had. In addition to having more members than previous years, each of our current consultants has their own area of expertise, both in grade level and subject area. This allows CIE to provide the highest possible level of service to local educators - schools work with an individual who is entrenched in a particular strategy, giving the participants the opportunity to receive a more in-depth understanding of the subject. It also provides for a very productive team environment, in which CIE is able to create new strategies and activities that can be quickly modified to accommodate students at many different levels.

Additionally, SINE's management of newly-renamed ACE Academy has given us new involvement in the area of adult education. While SINE has always worked to bring service providers together, this experience has allowed us a more intimate, close-up view of the day-to-day operations of one of the region's more successful adult education programs.

In taking inventory of the educational landscape and what lies ahead, we turn our thoughts to the various audiences we serve. The current state of our workforce presents many opportunities for adult education efforts by the many service providers in our region. If each of the 524,370 Hoosier adults without high school diplomas would complete their GED, it would create an increase in earning potential of \$4.7 billion per year. This adds amazing potential to the economy of our state and our region. By raising

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SINE and Vincennes University partner to convene adult education providers

There are approximately 931,000 Hoosiers ages 18-64 in need of adult education services and training. Of these, only an average of 42,000 each year enroll in adult education classes. In southwest Indiana alone, there are more Hoosiers age 25 and over without a high school diploma than those who have a Bachelor's Degree or higher.

These startling statistics immediately drive home the sense of urgency that should accompany adult education in southwest Indiana. For many reasons, there are students in our local high schools who will drop out before graduation. While some of these individuals are able to find some form of employment and earn income, many suffer from a life of either unemployment or underemployment – the inability to find a job that allows them to perform to the best of their capabilities. Over time, this dilemma grows, and now includes almost 18% of our local workforce.

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Presenters at November's Regional Adult Education Meeting included facilitator Dr. Sue Ellspermann, Timmie Westfall, and Dr. Richard Helton.

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education: power to change.

SINE and CIE workshops have educators talking

SINE's current team of CIE trainers have been hard at work to provide new content for classroom teachers. Several new workshops have been created and the reviews have been extremely positive.

Robert Gossom, M.Ed., developed a series of workshops that show teachers how to use multi-sensory interventions to help students in reading and math. Drawing upon his 40 years of teaching experience, Bob compiled activities and instructional methods that he has found to be effective in his own classroom teaching, many of which are research-based. These workshops comprise a total of four days targeting reading and math instruction from kindergarten to fifth grade.

"Most valuable workshop I've ever attended!! I loved all of the hands-on activities we learned. My students will love it. I'll definitely be telling my colleagues about it." - Jessie Davis, Washington Community Schools

"Still cannot believe the amount of 'REAL' materials and concepts we are taking with us. I will definitely use many of these math strategies in the classroom." - Heidi Moore, Maple Ridge Elementary, Pendleton

Penny Anderson, M.Ed., took the Indiana state standards for reading and math and put together a workshop in which teachers create materials that can be used with their students as quickly as the following day. This "make and take" workshop has been very well-received, with teachers enjoying the hands-on, collaborative environment as they prepare their new activities.

"Great workshop. I appreciated the practical, hands-on information that I can use the first day of school." - Amy Kerney, Evansville Christian School

"Great ideas! Exceeded my expectations. Penny did a great job." - Patty Eble, Sharon Elementary, Newburgh



CIE Consultants Robert Gossom, Penny Anderson, and Tracy Wilson develop new workshops for SINE.

Tracy Wilson, M.Ed., saw the benefit of learning centers in both her own teaching and through schools with whom she has worked as a consultant. From this, Tracy constructed "Centers in Action: Make Small Group Teaching a Reality", which takes an in-depth view of centers, how and why they should be used, and activities for teachers to create their own centers that will promote unassisted learning for students.

"Lots of good, practical ideas to go back & use on Monday."
- Cathy Witte, Vogel Elementary School, Evansville

"Tracy knows the content and is a great speaker." - Shannon Lee, Washington Catholic School

In addition to SINE workshops, each of these consultants have conducted similar training sessions on-site in local school corporations to provide more customized, ongoing instruction for teachers.

Consultants in Education will continue to develop and expand upon topics that are relevant and easy for educators to implement in their classrooms. To read more about how teachers have responded to SINE's workshops, visit www.sineonline.com, click on "News", then "News Archive".

"We believe all people of southwest Indiana deserve the opportunity to participate fully in the economic, civic, and cultural life of the region. SINE provides leadership and services that focus on educational networks, literacy for all ages, professional development of educators, workforce advancement, and lifelong learning."

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*SINE employees' cell phones can also be accessed through the toll-free number.

Letter from the President/CEO... *(continued from page 1)*

the level of income for such a large number of residents, poverty would decrease; more individuals would be able to live without the assistance of social services; and research has shown that an increase in education leads to a reduction in crime rates. All of these will ultimately raise the standard of living and make our region a safer, more prosperous place to live, bringing about new opportunities for everyone.

Whenever I reflect on all of the opportunities that exist for our region, I get very excited about the positive changes we can make together for our community, our economy, and the quality of life for future generations.

May you have a safe, happy holiday season and prosperous new year. We look forward to 2010 and having the opportunity to continue to share with all of you the power to change that can only come through education.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Cardinal
CEO/President

SINE welcomes new Director of K-12 Programs



John Wood

SINE is pleased to announce the recent hiring of John Wood as its new Director of K-12 Programs.

Wood comes to SINE with a total of 40 years of experience in education, from classroom teacher to superintendent. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Education from Indiana University in 1969. After spending his first three years of teaching at South Vermillion School Corporation in Clinton, IN, John accepted a position as assistant

principal of North Posey High School. Over the next 37 years he held various administrative positions in MSD of North Posey County, including high school principal, assistant superintendent, and ultimately Superintendent of North Posey Schools in 2001, the position from which he retired last year.

John has always been actively involved with SINE on various levels. As a member of the board of directors of the Posey County Community Foundation, John participated in the initial planning meetings of the Community Foundation Alliance that resulted in the formation of SINE. While an administrator, John saw the value offered to schools by Consultants in Education, with many North Posey teachers attending SINE workshops and regular visits by consultants in North Posey's two elementary schools, junior high, and high school.

"For the school community, it offers the chance to get outstanding presentations by well-known, national presenters that we couldn't afford to bring in," John says of SINE's K-12 workshops. "SINE brought them in from the grant money that was available. We were able to gain a lot from that which we never would have been able to have: the ability to listen to those kinds of performances and presenters. I think SINE opens up a whole new avenue of staff development that makes it affordable and something you can do in southwest Indiana so you don't have to travel across or outside of Indiana."

Once retired, John was attracted to SINE's position of Director of K-12 Programs as it gives him the opportunity to assist his former colleagues in the region with their professional development programs. "This is an ideal position because I can continue to work with the people I have worked with and had as cohorts for 37 years. I think that base of camaraderie, fellowship, and friendship could be very valuable to my position as Director of K-12 Programs in trying to better facilitate what those folks still in the trenches would like to have made available to them and then figure out a way to make it as affordable as possible. I hope to build on that relationship and build a stronger working partnership with area schools. Now I'm in a position where maybe I can help them as a big group rather than just giving them suggestions or words of wisdom as an individual."

SINE is equally excited about having John on board. According to Steven Stump, SINE's Director of Marketing/PR, "John is such a dynamic individual. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience, and is very passionate about finding new ways for SINE to assist the local schools. He really sees the big picture of what's happening in education on a broad scale, but maintains the regional focus that is necessary to insure that the services we offer are relevant and bring value to the teachers."

As the Business Manager for Consultants in Education, Steven will be working closely with John to make sure that SINE brings the largest possible benefit to the schools in the region through the services provided by CIE.

"I think first of all we need to identify the needs of our clients and, if it's doable, we need to address those and keep our repertoire of programs and consultants at a level where we'll always be desirable," John said. "We need to keep our services updated so that people will want to contact SINE and say 'can you do this for our school corporation?' So we're going to have to be creative and stay with the modern trends or different things that are going on, specifically Indiana-wide, to keep our people informed and make us a valuable commodity."

Adult Education Meeting... (continued from page 1)

The Indiana Department of Education recognizes the need to make services more available to adults seeking to complete their K-12 education and find a smooth transition to post-secondary, whether it be a local college or university, technical skills certificate, military service, apprenticeship, or on-the-job training. The first step for the Department of Education is to begin alignment of the adult education regions with Indiana's economic growth regions as set by the Department of Workforce Development. For southwest Indiana, this means that all of the counties in Economic Growth Region 11 will comprise a matching region for adult education service providers: Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Warrick.

Next, the Department of Education will be releasing a request for proposal to the regions regarding the administration of services. Each region is charged with developing a plan in response to the state's request for proposal. Regional adult education service providers and community leaders will deliver a cohesive program that will promote consistent, efficient opportunities for adult learners. The state hopes that this will raise the level of effectiveness and close gaps in service delivery, thereby allowing all adults throughout the region to have equal opportunities for advancing their educations and raising their standard of living.

To begin the process of formulating a region-wide plan, SINE partnered with Vincennes University to host a meeting at the Lynnville Community Center on Monday, November 2nd. A total of 57 individuals from 41 organizations attended to hear presentations from Dr. Richard Helton, President of Vincennes University, and Timmie Westfall, Project Director with the Indiana Department of Education, division of Adult Education. Dr. Sue Ellspermann, Director of the Center for Applied Research at the University of Southern Indiana, facilitated the meeting and led discussion as to how the region plans to respond to the new state-wide initiative and what information the participants would need to collect in order to make well-informed decisions. Overall, the response from the group was very positive. According to Westfall, attendance alone spoke to the level of dedication that the local adult education providers and community leaders have for adult learners in our community. "Each region has already had their first planning meeting," said Westfall, "and this is the largest turnout in the entire state for a first meeting."

Currently, the state has not finalized the details of its request for proposal. Therefore, the group turned its focus to identifying the resources and capabilities currently available to the region and how they can be leveraged to make a stronger impact within the community. For adult education, many unknown variables exist, such as why adults do not enroll in the classes that are being offered, how to reach these individuals, and the level of interest and support that local businesses have for adult education in general. The first step for the group is to collect data from each other and from other programs in order to determine the practices that appear to be the most effective. These best practices will then be given highest

consideration as the group works to find a way to replicate them within each county in the region. Once the programs are available to all local residents, a strong public relations campaign will be required to inform potential learners of the importance of their education and the various options that are available to them.

The additional benefit, the group hopes, will be support from the rest of the community. "Many people fail to recognize the importance of adult education and how it impacts all of us," said Steven Stump, SINE's Director of Marketing/PR. "It's very easy to say, 'I have my college degree, so adult education doesn't apply to me'. What many of these individuals don't realize is that while they may never enroll in an adult education class, the successes achieved by the students in these classes have a direct, positive effect on the entire region." The effects are fairly easy to identify when considering some of the research that has already been done. Research shows that an individual with a GED or high school diploma earns an average of \$9,000 per year more than someone without a high school diploma. If each of the 524,370 Hoosier adults without high school diplomas would complete their GED, it creates an increase in earning potential of \$4.7 billion per year. This earnings increase helps many of these individuals rise above the poverty level, become independent of government assistance, have more disposable income that can increase commerce for local businesses, and contribute more to the state and local tax base, thus empowering government to lower taxes for all Hoosiers or contribute more funds to government programs such as K-12 education, public safety, and community projects.

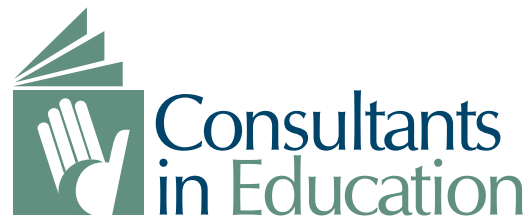
The next meeting for this group will be held on December 11, at which time discussion will be held as to what action steps are required and what new information is available from the Indiana Department of Education. The goal over the next few months is for the local service providers, other organizations, and community members to work together to create a plan for better delivering services, then discuss what organization should serve as the administrator of the plan.

As the regional convener, SINE will continue its involvement to help the region determine the direction of its response to this initiative. "As this group continues to develop its course of action in response to the state's request for proposal," Stump indicated, "SINE's goal is to be available to everyone as a source of support and information. We hope to be able to fulfill whatever role the region deems necessary of us for the benefit of the residents and local economy, and will support any plan that is in the best interests of the adult learners and regional service providers."

(Data Sources: Indiana's Adult Education and Workforce Skills Performance Report, February 2008; Indiana Dept. of Education; 2000 U.S. Census)

New SINE workshops for Spring 2010

SINE and Consultants in Education will be bringing a full schedule of workshops to the region during the spring semester. Included in these are the latest offerings from Penny Anderson, Robert Gossom, and Tracy Wilson, as well as original topics on math and language arts from Kay Davidson and Dr. Fred Wolff. Below is a preliminary schedule of upcoming workshops. Visit www.sineonline.com and click on "Workshop Schedule" for updates and details.



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

SINE is currently offering the following workshops for spring semester 2010. Please visit SINEonline.com for details and registration information.

Multi-Sensory Reading Interventions (K-5)

Date: January 13-14
Trainer: Robert Gossom, M.Ed. (CIE)
Location: To Be Determined
Registration limited to 40

The Simple 6 for Beginning Writers (K-2)

Dates: January 27
Trainer: Kay Davidson
Location: The Feed Mill (Poseyville)
Registration limited to 100

Centers in Action: Make Small Group Teaching a Reality (Grades Pre-K - 3)

Date: January 29
Trainer: Tracy Wilson, M.Ed. (CIE)
Location: Huntingburg Event Center
Registration limited to 40

Beginning 6 Traits Writing (Grades 3-12)

Date: February 10-11
Trainers: Dr. Fred Wolff and Penny Anderson, M.Ed. (CIE)
Location: Evansville Airport Marriott
Registration limited to 100

Math Reading Problems (1-3)

Date: February 23
Trainer: Robert Gossom, M.Ed. (CIE)
Location: Huntingburg Event Center
Registration limited to 40

Math Reading Problems (4-5)

Date: February 24
Trainer: Robert Gossom, M.Ed. (CIE)
Location: Huntingburg Event Center
Registration limited to 40

Addressing the Core Standards for Math and English (Grades 3-5)

Date: February 25
Trainer: Penny Anderson, M.Ed. (CIE)
Location: SINE Office (OCU Wilder Center)
Registration limited to 25

Multi-Sensory Math Instruction and Interventions (K-2)

Date: March 10
Trainer: Robert Gossom, M.Ed. (CIE)
Location: To Be Determined
Registration limited to 40

Multi-Sensory Math Instruction and Interventions (3-5)

Date: March 11
Trainer: Robert Gossom, M.Ed. (CIE)
Location: To Be Determined
Registration limited to 40

The Simple 6 Math

Dates: March 23
Trainer: Kay Davidson
Location: Evansville Catholic Diocese
Registration limited to 100

Kapp Reading Instruction (Grades K-5)

Date: April 1
Trainers: Robert Gossom, M.Ed. (CIE)
Location: To Be Determined
Registration limited to 40

Addressing the Core Standards for Math and English (Grades 3-5)

Date: April 15
Trainer: Penny Anderson, M.Ed. (CIE)
Location: SINE Office (OCU Wilder Center)
Registration limited to 25

Algebra Readiness (Grades 4-8)

Date: April 30
Trainer: Andrea Greaney, M.Ed. (CIE)
Location: To Be Determined
Registration limited to 50

Centers in Action: Make Small Group Teaching a Reality (Grades Pre-K - 3)

Date: April 2010
Trainer: Tracy Wilson, M.Ed. (CIE)
Location: To Be Determined
Registration limited to 40

education: power to change.



You and SINE – Partners in a Stronger Future

Why do people help SINE advance the cause of education in southwest Indiana?

They want the best possible education for their children: SINE provides high-quality consultations to educators that lead to significant improvement in student test results.¹

They are shocked by the statistics: 53,000 southwest Indiana residents don't have a high school diploma, but only 600 GEDs were awarded in 2008.²

Their donations make a wise investment in education: High school graduates earn on average \$9,000 more annually than high school dropouts. College graduates with a Bachelor's degree earn \$28,000 more.³

They want their communities to thrive: A highly educated workforce creates a stronger local economy, more tax revenue, better public services, more civic participation, and less crime.

Help SINE make a real impact in your community. Your support will touch the lives of students, teachers, and adult learners in so many valuable ways. To find out how you can help, visit www.SINEonline.com.

¹Source: Indiana Youth Institute program evaluation report for 2008-09

²Source: Indiana Dept of Education

³Source: 2006 American Community Survey

Yes, I want to become a SINE partner. Enclosed is my 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 the building of a better future for southwest Indiana.

Name/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Please complete and return this form with your check to:
The Southwest Indiana Network for Education, 909 W. Morton Street, Oakland City, IN 47660.