

the S.I.N.E. Post

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

from the President/CEO



Greetings!

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. As we look forward to another exciting year for SINE in 2008, we want to take some time to reflect on the successes we have shared with the community.

Recently an independent third-party evaluator conducted an assessment of SINE's CAPE Grant Project in meeting our five primary goals including: increased literacy in schools, increased and better coordinated access to adult literacy services, enhanced opportunity for professional development for educators, more effective assistance for at-risk students and the creation of stronger ties between the business community and education.

The evaluators used a variety of quantitative and qualitative research methods, including surveys, focus groups, interviews, document review and secondary data analysis.

There were numerous evaluator findings that we at SINE are proud to share with the community that we serve.

Some of those findings include:

- Over 70% of all SINE workshop participants rated the professional development workshop content as highly useful and practical. While there was expected variation among the individual workshop participant ratings, most appreciated the caliber of the presentations, the organization of the material and the ability to simulate activities in small group activities.
- SINE's Consultants in Education (CIE) service is highly regarded throughout the region and there is evidence that the on-site professional services make a significant contribution to improvements in student reading scores. The CIE services, in conjunction with the SINE model school grants, helps schools solidify their commitment to student improvements in reading

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SINE HOSTS THIRD ANNUAL ADULT LITERACY CONFERENCE

On October 12, 2007, SINE hosted its third annual Adult Literacy Conference at the Evansville Marriott.

More than 50 participants attended the conference which was hosted to offer best practices, professional development opportunities to area adult literacy educators and also to recognize and award individuals for their support and commitment to teaching and learning.

At the conference attendees listened to a keynote address by Ken Johnson, chaplain for the Indianapolis Colts, who delivered a message of excellence that left every audience member with a feeling of hope and encouragement to conquer the obstacles and setbacks in life.

Attendees also participated in breakout sessions led by numerous guest speakers on topics such as: raising outcomes for diverse learners, brain strategies and multidisciplinary plans for GED success.

During the conference SINE presented several awards:

- **Stoyan Tonchev**, a Bulgarian immigrant, was named the English as a Second Language (ESL) Learner of the Year
- **Sister Marilyn Market**, was awarded ESL Tutor of the Year.

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Learning for Life.

Second Semester Workshop Schedule

Check out the following list of professional development workshops SINE has planned for second semester:

Dibels Interventions K-1
Date: January 14, 2008
Trainers: Wendi Nurrenbern and Susan Parnell
Location: Evansville Marriott

DIBELS Interventions K-2
Date: February 4, 2008
Trainers: Wendi Nurrenbern and Susan Parnell
Location: Evansville Marriott

Data Dashboard
Date: February 19 and 20, 2008
Trainer: Dr. Steve Benjamin
Location: Wilder Center Oakland City, IN

DIBELS Interventions 1-3
Date: February 12, 2008
Trainers: Wendi Nurrenbern and Susan Parnell
Location: Evansville Marriott

Strategic Reading 7-12
Date: March 3, 2008
Trainer: Susan Parnell
Location: TBD

Introductory DIBELS Training
Date: March 5 and 6, 2008
Trainers: Wendi Nurrenbern and Susan Parnell
Location: TBD

Math Workshop
Date: March 14, 2008
Trainer: Andrea Greaney
Location: TBD

DIBELS Interventions K-1
Date: April 8, 2008
Trainers: Wendi Nurrenbern and Susan Parnell
Location: TBD

DIBELS Interventions K-2
Date: April 22, 2008
Trainers: Wendi Nurrenbern and Susan Parnell
Location: TBD

DIBELS Interventions 1-3
Date: April 29, 2008
Trainers: Wendi Nurrenbern and Susan Parnell
Location: TBD

For more information or to register logon to www.SINEonline.com or call 1-866-380-7463.

SINE to host Business/Education Symposium

SINE is pleased to announce that it will soon hold its third Business/Education Symposium.

The purpose of the symposium is to foster networking among business and education leaders to be more effective regionally, share best practices and raise awareness of the need for better business/education communication.

SINE is currently planning for the symposium, along with businesses and other organizations, to provide breakout sessions with information related to how manufacturers are addressing learning and literacy issues; how basic literacy issues affect productivity, safety and employee retention; and how basic literacy affects the bottom line.

The event will also feature a nationally recognized keynote speaker.

Watch the SINEpost and www.sineonline.com for the date, location and further information on the Business/Education Symposium.

"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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Adult Literacy Conference... (continued from page 1)

- **Misty Ewin** received the award for Adult Basic Education Tutor.
- **Lindsey Hildenbrant** and **Israel Mandez** both were named GED Learners of the Year.
- **Sindy Harris** was named GED Tutor of the Year.
- **Community Action Program of Evansville (CAPE)** was honored with a Friend of Literacy Award for its literacy work with both the hispanic community and the homeless.
- **The North Spencer Alternative Education Center** was named the Outstanding Adult Literacy Program.

Award winners from the 2007 Adult Literacy Conference were:

Front (l to r) Sister Linda Bittner (accepting on behalf of Israel Mendez), Sister Marilyn Market, Misti Ewin and Stoyan Tonchev. Back (l to r) Sindy Harris, Rob Moore of North Spencer AEC, Lindsey Hildenbrant and Diana Schwartz of CAPE.

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

and literacy, allowing teachers to meet regularly to discuss practical changes and improvements.

- The southwest Indiana teachers generally believe that they are making significant improvements in student reading scores: 73% of educators believe there have been improvements in reading scores over the last three years, and over 82% of those educators believe that SINE has had an impact on that improvement.

- A statistical analysis of the relationship between SINE Four Blocks Training and improvements in student reading scores shows a positive correlation between a higher prevalence of teachers within a school trained in Four Blocks and improvement in student reading scores. In 2006, those schools with high numbers of teachers trained in the Four Blocks framework had an 83% passing rate for the ISTEP reading test, while only 79% of students passed the test among Four Blocks schools with a "medium" number of Four Blocks trained teachers, and 76% among those with lower numbers.

- The relationship between Four Blocks training and ISTEP reading score improvements was even more pronounced when taking into account students' economic background: schools with high percentages of students receiving free and reduced lunch performed significantly better on reading scores when more Four Blocks trained teachers were on staff.

- The adult literacy and education programs supported by SINE are providing effective and customer-sensitive services to a population that needs them. The programs are well received by clients who hold the teaching staff in highest regard. In many cases, the primary motivations for adult education services appear personal (self esteem, sense of achievement, providing a better role model for children), while job and career goals are secondary.

- The Learning Exchange program is highly regarded by participating middle and high school students with over 90% saying they would recommend the program to friends. They indicated that the primary benefit was helping them connect their school learning with the world of work.

* Community partners and other interested literacy professionals believe SINE plays a critical role in advancing literacy in the region for both adults and youth. Over 80% of survey respondents believe that SINE is important in establishing collaborations and partnerships to positively affect literacy in the region, and over 60% believe that SINE has already enhanced the learning culture of the region.

As we at SINE look forward to continuing this exciting work in 2008 and beyond, we wish you and your family and friends a wonderful holiday season and prosperous 2008!

Sincerely,

Mary K. Cardinal
CEO/President

Learning for Life. **3**

CIE CONSULTANT RECEIVES NATIONAL TRAINER STATUS



Congratulations to Susan Parnell of SINE's Consultants in Education (CIE) who recently became a lead national trainer with Houghton Mifflin's professional staff development division.

In this role, Parnell will provide training to educators to support Houghton Mifflin's writing and reading materials.

Parnell was one of 25 individuals selected this year to go through an apprenticeship for trainers. Following the apprenticeship she was selected from the group of 25 to be one of only five new trainers for the year.

Parnell said her apprenticeship training began in March of 2006, and she was named a lead trainer in July of 2007.

As a lead national trainer, Parnell will travel around the

nation training educators on Houghton Mifflin's products and methodologies.

"I am excited about the opportunity to work as a lead trainer with Houghton Mifflin," said Parnell. "It's not only a great opportunity to further my education personally, but it also allows me to have the opportunity to train with a major company that assists teachers with curriculum."

Parnell said the work she does as a lead trainer for Houghton Mifflin is beneficial to SINE's CIE because she has now been trained more in-depth by individuals who were trained by the authors of the reading and writing programs.

"I am gaining information by learning and teaching beside national trainers," she said.

Parnell has been with CIE since 2002, and her work focuses on literacy and reading and writing instruction. If you are interested in working with Parnell or any of CIE's consultants, please contact Sandy Nixon at snixon@SINEonline.com or call 1-866-380-7463.

Year-End Gift Ideas

There are multiple benefits to charitable giving. One benefit is the tax deduction which often makes it financially feasible for a donor to make a gift.

There is no easier way to receive a charitable tax deduction for 2007 and support SINE at the same time than by simply writing a check today! Make sure your envelope is postmarked by December 31, 2007. If it is, your gift will qualify as a 2007 gift even if it is not received by SINE until 2008. If you itemize, your outright gifts of cash are fully deductible for federal income tax purposes up to 50% of your adjusted gross income. If your total gifts should exceed this limitation, the excess may be carried forward for tax purposes for up to five additional years.

Year-end giving is as easy as (1) making a charitable gift, and (2) saving taxes. The tax laws intentionally encourage charitable giving. Because of the income tax charitable deduction, individuals who make their gifts by December 31, 2007 and itemize can significantly reduce their income taxes for 2007.

Example: If you make a charitable gift of \$10,000 in 2005, you can save \$3,300 in taxes if you are in the 35% tax bracket. And the higher your tax bracket, the more money you save with a charitable gift.



Charitable giving is more than tax brackets and charitable deductions. Your gift provides the meaningful difference in what SINE can do.

We encourage you to discuss your 2007 year-end tax planning with your accountant or other personal advisor.

Please consider a gift this year. We have provided reply cards for your convenience on the back of this newsletter.

SINE is a non-profit organization supported by the charitable gifts of those dedicated to enhancing the culture for education in southwest Indiana.

SINE involved in PCHS' Ninth Grade Academy

Over the past several years, SINE has worked with Pike Central High School in many areas. While PCHS has participated in SINE's Learning Exchange program and received continued support in Writing Across the Curriculum over the last five years, the most recent initiative PCHS has partnered with SINE on is the planning and development of the school's Ninth Grade Academy.

The purpose of PCHS's Ninth Grade Academy is to improve the lives of Pike Central ninth grade students by helping with the transition from middle school to high school. The 2007-2008 school year is the first year for the Ninth Grade Academy.

PCHS's teachers set individual goals to get to know each one of the students in their mentor groups and to take an active interest in the students' academic lives. The goal of the Ninth Grade Academy is also to improve the school environment by dealing with the students' academic and discipline issues through working together as a team. The long-term goal of the Ninth Grade Academy is to improve the school's graduation rate and student morale.

PCHS Principal, Leanne Kelley, said the professional and

financial support SINE has provided has helped with the initial success of the Ninth Grade Academy.

"SINE resources have provided us consultants to work with the Academy teachers to plan throughout the 06-07 school year," she said. "Support was also utilized to pay for release time for teachers to prepare."

Kelley said PCHS is especially thankful for the consultant expertise provided by SINE's Consultant in Education, Susan Parnell.

"We look forward to continuing work with Susan Parnell in our efforts," she said. "Our students, teachers and administrators are all benefiting from this experience."

Kelley said she encourages other schools to take advantage of the professional development opportunities offered by SINE to receive up-to-date educational information.

If you would like more information on how your school can participate in SINE's professional development opportunities contact Sandy Nixon at snixon@sineonline.com or 1-866-380-7463.



Ninth Grade Academy students and teachers are divided up into mentor groups to compete in a hula hoop contest.



Pike Central High School teachers are screaming "Charger!" while students scream back "Pride!" during a Ninth Grade Academy event.

Learning for **Life.**

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.

Name: _____

Company/Organization/School: _____

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.**