

from the
Executive Director



I am pleased to report that SINE continues to be a major force in providing support to the local school districts and adult literacy providers in their quest to deliver

a learning experience that will create life-long learners. SINE makes available human and financial resources to overcome barriers to educational attainment in Southwest Indiana.

Since the inception of SINE in 2001 we have accomplished much and witnessed the positive effects of our efforts. Working with teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals and social workers, SINE has trained 1326 teachers in the Four Blocks reading methodology and 925 teachers to work more successfully with children from poverty. SINE has also trained 312 counselors and social workers in Bridges Out of Poverty. Many school administrators expressed a need for more and better trained substitute teachers. SINE responded by offering a series of two-day workshops throughout our nine counties. This increased the substitute teacher pool by 290 people.

SINE has also been successful in helping schools with their School Improvement Programs. We have supported 23 school districts in meeting mandated professional development programs and funded 1308 elementary school classroom libraries to increase students' access to books. SINE has also provided Accelerated Reader professional development programs and materials to 71 schools and facilitated Learning Exchange partnerships between 147 businesses and classrooms.

Last fall SINE announced the formation of Consultants in Education - a unit committed to providing the

answers that busy educational professionals need through effective, affordable, onsite consultation services and training. CIE adds another dimension to SINE's teacher professional development focus.

In our efforts to promote adult literacy services throughout our region, SINE has experienced huge successes with the creation of the SINEonline.com "Clearing House" - a web-based directory of adult literacy services and providers. The "Clearing House" provides a confidential means for adults to access information concerning basic literacy and GED preparation services in their own community. Additionally the Adult Literacy Councils established in each of SINE's nine counties afford a means for more effective use of resources in reaching adults seeking to improve their literacy and life skills.

We were extremely fortunate to receive our initial funding through Lilly Endowment's CAPE grant program. Although the grant was awarded for a three year period due to expire at the end of 2003, we were able to secure a one-year extension. Also, we are pursuing corporate, individual and institutional funding to continue carrying out our mission to "create a culture for learning in Southwest Indiana."

To break the cycles of poverty and illiteracy a new approach is required. Since its inception, SINE has been an integral part of providing that approach in our community. We are making inroads but much work remains to be done. The SINE staff will not be satisfied until every individual in Southwest Indiana has a future unrestrained by a lack of opportunity for the attainment of knowledge.

Mary K. Smith
Executive Director

Dr. Ruby Payne says SINE partnership is mutually beneficial

Just mention the name Dr. Ruby Payne among those in the field of education and you will immediately sense a feeling of enthusiasm.

Dr. Ruby Payne, an expert on the topic of poverty in the classroom, has been involved with education since 1972 as a teacher, principal, consultant, and administrator. The lessons she learned during those years are the bedrock on which she has built her tools for educators to use when dealing with children from poverty.



EVSC teachers Becky Kinnaird (left) and Tijuanna Tolliver (right) participate in an activity using M&Ms at the Ruby Payne workshop.

In September, SINE was fortunate enough to be included in Dr. Payne's national tour which meant that SINE was one of a handful of organizations able to offer Dr. Payne's "A Framework for Understanding Poverty" to the educators and administrators in its nine-county area.

SINE was also fortunate to be included in Dr. Payne's "Training of the Trainers" workshop in 2003. During the months of July and November, Dr. Payne presented this material during a total of four days to approximately 175 area educators and administrators. The training was designed for those who had already attended Dr. Payne's "Poverty in the Classroom" workshop to equip them with the training tools to take back to their own organizations.

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Consultants in Education offers services for today's education professionals



How many times have you been excited about the material you've learned in a professional development workshop only to soon be disappointed that you don't have the time or resources to implement what you've learned in your own school or classroom?

Consultants in Education, a Division of SINE, realizes that in order to make the information education professionals gather from workshops useful for their students they must successfully implement it and continue to use it on a consistent basis. Consultants in Education now offers services to help education professionals accomplish this task.

By providing effective, affordable, onsite consultation services and training to education professionals, Consultants in Education reinforces and expands the ability to imbed learnings into daily educational practice.

Consultants in Education can provide your organization with a host of curriculum consultation services. Consultations within the area of literacy provide education professionals with the skills they need to implement Four Blocks, Write Traits, Writing Across the Curriculum and Reading in the Content Areas in their classrooms.

With today's students becoming increasingly sophisticated in the use of computers, Consultants in Education realizes that moving technology into the curriculum and instruction in a systematic manner offers challenges to educators. Consultants in Education works with individuals and staffs to devise unique, personalized strategies for successfully integrating technology into everyday classroom life.

Consultants in Education also offers tested, proven motivational and didactic strategies to improve your students' performance in the skill of problem-solving. With the help of the consultants, educators who struggle to motivate students to adequate effort and achievement will develop strategies to teach problem-solving in mathematics as well as problem-solving across the curriculum.

To meet the needs of every student in your classrooms, Consultants in Education can provide onsite training and support to assist educational professionals in implementing Differentiated Instruction. Strategies for addressing the needs of at-risk students are available through Understanding Poverty in the Classroom techniques, and strategies for challenging gifted and talented students are also offered.

Consultants in Education can expand your school's capabilities

through a host of other services including staff development to help meet federal and state education mandates, curriculum alignment/standards, temporary educational employment programs, data-based decision making and much more.

Phil Bender, principal of Yankeetown Elementary School in Boonville, Indiana, says his organization has benefited greatly from the services Consultants in Education provides. Educators at Yankeetown Elementary School have received onsite training in Four Blocks, Write Traits, Accelerated Reader and Integrating Technology.

Bender says he would definitely recommend Consultants in Education to other schools. "Consultants in Education services are provided by instructional professionals like ourselves who know first-hand what is happening in education today," he says. "They are providing an invaluable service to schools in southwestern Indiana."

Principal of Evansville Christian School, Susie Masterson, has also seen the benefits Consultants in Education has brought to her organization.

A Consultants in Education consultant has provided staff development, curriculum standards/alignment and specialized consulting to the teachers at Evansville Christian School in the area of problem-solving in mathematics.

"The work our consultant has done here has already proven to be so valuable and I look forward to working with her next semester," Masterson says. "She has developed a working relationship with my staff, based on mutual respect, and they value her assistance and advice."

Masterson says she would recommend Consultants in Education to other school districts because the consultants bring training, research information, advice on ways to collaborate with other schools/community resources and an unbiased look at what is going on within the school which allows administrators and staff to take a fresh approach to reaching school goals and to developing an action research plan.

"Consultants in Education offers experience and ideas that provide assistance and empower teachers to enhance curriculum and instruction that impact student learning," Masterson says.

For more information on Consultants in Education or to arrange for an in-school consultation, call 1-866-380-7463 or visit consultantsined.com.

Learning Exchange Provides Students with Real World Experience

What do you get when you combine the energy and creativity of middle and high school students with business professionals who face real-world challenges each day? The answer is a successful Learning Exchange project!

SINE created the Learning Exchange as an opportunity to foster relationships between businesses, educators and students. The program is designed to demonstrate the applicability of education to the business world/workplace to youth.

The goal of the Learning Exchange was exceeded during a partnership between a class of eighth grade students at Boonville Jr. High and the Warrick County Pet Adoption Center.

Students from Gretchen Fleming's classroom used their language arts and math skills to work with the center on a number of projects funded through a mini-grant from SINE.

The eighth graders spent six weeks in the classroom preparing to make the field trip to the center.

Among the projects they completed was animal-art, in which the students worked with dogs and cats from the center to put their paws into paint and walk around on a piece of canvas. The "paintings" were sold at an auction to raise funds for the Warrick County Pet Adoption Center.

Aside from helping dogs learn to paint, the students also worked with landscaping materials around the center site. Mulch, plants and rocks were set in place, and a water garden was cleaned up and set in motion.

"During class, we'd be digging through the books to find out about perennials and differ-



Boonville Jr. High eighth graders Kyle Johnson (left) and Zack Hicks (right) display their animal-art project.

ent types of flowers," said BJHS student Kyle Johnson. "And we'd take different colors of paint and put them on top of each other and see what it would look like. So when we worked with the kittens and dogs in the paint, we'd know it wouldn't look like mud. The project was a whole lot of fun!"

Warrick County Pet Adoption Center Director, Dale Wright, was just as impressed with the students, who she said were more than willing to get involved and work hard.

"It's a great real-world experience," said Wright. "It has been an outstanding program. It enhances our volunteer program, and it makes them good community citizens. That's the purpose: to encourage people to get involved in the organization so that they come back in the long-term."

Teacher Gretchen Fleming was also impressed with the work that her students produced. "The Learning Exchange project has been a wonderful experience for my students," she said. "They have been able to participate in real-world experiences. The students were actually able to start a project and see the finished results. More importantly they have experienced the joy of doing a good job and feeling that accomplishment."

The Learning Exchange was also a huge success for the Central High School students in Sherry Dockery's marketing class who partnered up for a project with the Evansville Federal Credit Union (EFCU).

Marketing Director for EFCU, Susan Smith, worked in conjunction with 47 marketing students from Central High School to develop and implement a marketing plan for EFCU's "Music in the Schools" campaign to benefit the EVSC music programs.

One goal of the project was to devise a marketing plan to raise money for the EVSC's high school music programs.

The primary plan the students came up with to raise money for the high school's music programs was to hold a holiday rock concert called "Jingle Bell Rock." The benefit concert took place on December 11, 2003 at the North High School Performing Arts Center and in conjunction with the sales of a CD created out of a previous "Music in the Schools" campaign raised a total of over \$4,200 for the

middle and high school music programs.

Aside from developing the marketing plan for the benefit concert, the students also implemented the plan by arranging the lighting and set-up for the concert. Some students also attended the new south side EFCU grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony where the benefit concert was formally announced. Other students created press releases and posters to publicize the event.

Central High School senior Kyle Asay who was assigned the task of heading up the sales department for this project was responsible for getting the word out about the concert and for ticket sales. He said that as a result of this project he has realized how much work it takes to market your business or a project. "I



Central High School senior Cassie Mullis participates in an interview for FOX 7 as part of the publicity for her class' Learning Exchange project.

have learned that in order to get good results out of your marketing efforts you have to put in a lot of time," he said.

Susan Smith said the key factor for the project's joint-success was in the expectations set beforehand. "I went into it expecting the students to make a solid contribution and to get real results, not just a 'let's get this project over with so we can get our grade' attitude," she said. "I also went into it expecting to give a lot of my time towards it (it's a two-way commitment) and I wanted to give it 100 percent, just as I expected the students to."

Teacher Sherry Dockery reiterated her appreciation to SINE and its Learning Exchange Program for the opportunity her students were given. "This opportunity has brought the real world into our marketing classroom," she said. "This is a project many of the students will never forget."

Area residents benefit from ESL classes

On a recent afternoon, a group of four students and their teacher gathered inside a classroom in the old St. Mary's school building in Washington, Indiana. Sitting around a table arranged in a circle, the students listened intently to their teacher. The students are part of an English as a Second Language (ESL) class offered to Daviess County residents to help them improve their usage of the English language.

The classes, which started nearly five years ago as part of Vincennes University's Adult Basic Education (ABE) program and are sponsored in part by SINE, are designed to help students from non-English speaking countries develop basic life skills, conversational skills and English vocabulary and grammar. Students also work to improve their pronunciation of English words and their ability to understand spoken English.

The four students in the classroom that afternoon represent about 30 students who attend ESL classes offered at different times and days throughout the week in Daviess County. Although most of the students

speak Spanish, there are also students who speak Chinese and Russian.

One of the ESL teachers, Lynne Simmons, says most of the students find out about the classes through word of mouth from friends or co-workers or from flyers that are posted around Daviess County.

"The students are very motivated to improve their English speaking, listening, reading and writing skills since they live in a country where that is the language that surrounds them," Simmons says. "Greater skills translate for them into more job security and ease of surviving in this country. They also enjoy the support of the other students and the teachers, along with getting new books."

The goal of the program is for students to continue moving up in achievement levels until they eventually work toward their citizenship or are prepared to take the General Equivalency Diploma (GED).

If you or someone you know would like more information on ESL or other adult education classes offered in any of SINE's nine county area, call toll free 1-888-534-8450.

SINE's Support of CTAs Benefits Both Students and Employers

In 1992, Indiana Public Law 19 established the Indiana Essential Skills and Technical Proficiencies Initiative (IESTPI) under the authority of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD). The law also created the nine-member Workforce Proficiency Panel to work with business and industry to identify skill standards for occupational areas where demand for workers is high, supply is low, and where there is strong availability of high-paying jobs and upward mobility. A common set of essential and technical skills has been defined for: 1) Advanced Manufacturing, 2) Bioscience, 3) Business, Management, and Finance, 4) Electronics, 5) Health, 6) Metalworking, 7) Plastics, 8) Printing, and 9) Childcare occupations. These skill sets include the academic, technical and employability proficiencies identified by each of these areas as critical for success in Hoosier industries.

Since this initiative began, educators have worked with local businesses to develop scenario-based assessments which represent the work that employers expect their employees to perform. Students are then provided the opportunity in the classroom and/or on the job to complete performance-based scenario assessments. Only if students successfully perform the assessments to industry standards with 100% accuracy, do they receive a Certificate of Technical Achievement (CTA) signed by the Governor of Indiana. CTA's have been embraced by labor unions, training organizations and schools, both secondary and post-secondary, as a way to recognize an individual's ability to perform to industry standards in a real-world situation. Over 40 trainers have taken the CTA training through SINE.

2004 SINE Workshop Schedule

Here's a look at the professional development workshops SINE will be offering in 2004:

Winter

Writing Across the Curriculum – Vincennes
Six Traits for Elementary Teachers – Vincennes
Six Traits for Secondary Teachers – Vincennes
Differentiated Instruction – Vincennes
Leadership Training for Four Blocks – Princeton

Spring

Poverty in the Classroom for Principals – Princeton
Tucker Signing Training – New Harmony
Tucker Signing Training of Trainers – New Harmony
Reading Renaissance 501-601 Training – South Knox High School
Components of Four Blocks – Evansville
Reading Renaissance 501-601 Training – Boonville
Six Traits K-2 – Otwell
Six Traits 3-12 – Otwell
Bridges out of Poverty – Evansville

Summer

Academy II Four Blocks – Evansville
Poverty in the Classroom Coaching – Princeton
Principals Four Blocks Leadership Academy – Evansville
Advanced Four Blocks – Evansville
Academy II Four Blocks with SIEC – Location TBD
Writing Across the Curriculum – Evansville
Reading Across the Curriculum – Evansville
Six Traits for K-12 Teachers – Location TBD
Principals Supporting Literacy in Secondary Schools – Location TBD
Poverty in the Classroom – Evansville
Tucker Signing Training – Location TBD

Fall

Six Traits for K-2 – Location TBD
Six Traits for 3-12 – Location TBD
Four Blocks Party – Location TBD
Writing Across the Curriculum for Secondary – Location TBD
Tucker Signing Strategies for Reading – Location TBD
Application of Learning Structures for English – Location TBD
Application of Learning Structures for Math – Location TBD
Application of Learning Structures for Science – Location TBD
Application of Learning Structures for Social Studies – Location TBD
Differentiated Instruction – Location TBD

SINE partners with Dr. Gary Phillips to offer distance learning courses through PL Connect



SINE is once again partnering with Dr. Gary Phillips to offer educators and administrators distance learning courses taught by Dr. Phillips through PL Connect.

Dr. Gary Phillips is highly sought after throughout the North American speakers circuit and loved for his humor, compassion and insights about life, in and out of the classroom. He has over 30 years of profes-

sional experience including teaching and research positions at elementary, middle, secondary and university levels. His professional roles have included teacher, counselor, probation officer, school administrator, and university professor.

PLConnect offers educators and administrators online professional development for which they can receive one or three credit hours through Indiana University, 15 to 45 Certification Renewal units (CRU's), or non-credit for personal, professional growth. The convenience of PL Connect's web-streamed courses allows participants the flexibility of viewing at home or school. PLConnect offers video presentations of the material in an informative narrative format, often with video examples from model classrooms, the use of conventional text material as well as an organized and efficient system to share documents and discussion issues electronically.

PL Connect courses are standards-based and there is no charge for designated PL Connect courses for educators and administrators who work in schools or adult literacy programs that are located in the SINE nine-county area. Non-designated courses have a nominal fee payable to SINE. The student is responsible for payment of tuition costs if the class is being taken for col-

lege credit. Educators working outside of SINE's nine-county area incur a nominal fee for participation in any class.

Dr. Phillips will be offering two courses for educators and administrators of all grade levels through PL Connect during the spring semester. The first class is "Using Brain Research to Raise Test Scores." The second course Dr. Phillips will offer is "Assessing and Transforming School and Classroom Culture"

If you are interested in taking one of Dr. Phillips' courses through PL Connect you can log on to SINE's website at www.sineonline.com and click on the PL Connect button near the left-hand side of the screen. Details on how to register for one of Dr. Phillip's courses are provided as well as a listing of other courses offered through PL Connect. Check it out!

Ruby Payne (continued)

In her presentations, Dr. Payne discussed the hidden rules that govern how each of us behaves in our social class. Students from poverty often languish in classrooms run by members of middle class because those are the rules that govern.

When asked why she chose to offer her workshop to the area served by SINE, Dr. Payne stated that the arrangement was mutually beneficial. "SINE is highly respected in the area," she said, "and we like to work with organizations that are respected within the districts they work."

Dr. Payne, who because of time limitations has to deny around five requests each day for her workshops, said that those involved in public education can particularly benefit from her material based on the enormity of economic diversity in public education.

She also said her workshops, which are spreading rapidly across the United States and even into Canada and Australia, have been proven to help schools increase their students' achievement levels. "The training provides educators with an understanding, and that understanding seems to lessen the frustration for them and also provides a common language for them to use," she said.

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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.

Yes, I want to become a SINE partner. Enclosed is 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, Wilder Center, Route 3, Box 12C, Oakland City, IN 47660.