

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium

SBAC Weekly Update

Issue 25

Week ending Friday, July 22, 2011

The SBAC Weekly Update is an email sent each Friday to keep Consortium members and collaborators informed of new developments and upcoming events. The Update is widely distributed to Consortium State Leads, Work Group members, Consortium and WestEd staff, and Consortium advisors, partners, and service providers.

State members should feel free to share information in the Update with those interested in the Consortium's work.

Embedded links in the Update sometimes direct you to the website, <http://smarter.k12partners.org/>, designed for use by Consortium members. If you are a state employee in a Consortium state and need access to material on this website, please click the "Create new account" link on the website to register. If you are not a state employee in a Consortium state and need material from this site, please ask your state lead to forward it to you.

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From the Executive Director

Greetings. This week, the Governing States elected Carissa Miller of Boise, Idaho, as the new Executive Committee Co-Chair. Miller previously served as an Executive Committee member. She will replace Tony Alpert, who was named chief operating officer for SMARTER Balanced earlier this month.

In partnership with Judy Park, Carissa will oversee the work of the Executive Committee and collaborate with SMARTER Balanced staff, leadership, and advisory committees.

Carissa is well suited to this role. As deputy superintendent of the assessment division for the Idaho Department of Education, she has extensive experience in the development and administration of online assessments and adaptive testing. Since 2004, Idaho's general education assessment has been fully administered online.

This transition provided a good test of the governance policies adopted by the Consortium. In about three weeks, nominations for a new co-chair were put forward and a vote was conducted among Governing States. The process moved quickly and worked well. It also reflected our commitment to a transparent structure where states take the lead in making decisions about the design of the assessment system.

Carissa's move from Executive Committee member to co-chair leaves a vacancy for a Governing State representative. We will start the process for selecting a new Executive Committee member immediately, and I expect the transition will be just as smooth.

I am also excited to announce that we have filled the position of lead psychometrician. This position will provide leadership and guidance to the Consortium on technical assessment matters, including test design, item selection and calibration, field test design, scaling, comparability, standard setting, and reporting.

As we begin the development of the assessment system, I'm pleased that we continue to strengthen our staff and leadership. JW

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Announcements

Executive Committee Member election—The election of Carrisa Miller of Idaho as Executive Committee Co-Chair creates a vacancy on the Executive Committee, of which she was a member. The Consortium has started the nomination process for a new Executive Committee member. You can find nomination information at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/election>.

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Upcoming Events

TAC meeting—The next meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee takes place July 26–27 in Denver. Materials are now available online at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/july-26-27-2011>. See separate email for WebEx and conference call information for this meeting.

All States dinner during ICCS SCASS—SMARTER Balanced invites all SBAC state participants attending the ICCS SCASS meeting to join leadership for dinner at 6 p.m. on August 3. Please RSVP for the dinner when you register for the meeting using the CCSSO registration process.

Innovative Item Types webinar—Save 1–3 p.m. Pacific on August 15 for the next SMARTER webinar. Dr. Kathleen Scalise, Associate Professor of Educational Methodology, Policy, and Leadership at the University of Oregon in Eugene, and Dr. Mark Wilson, Professor of Policy, Organization, Measurement, and Evaluation at the University of California at Berkeley, will discuss innovative computer-based test items, as well as new processes for developing items.

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Resources

No new resources posted this week.

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Archive

Weekly selections of news items relevant to the Consortium are available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/news-archive>.

Previous SBAC Weekly Updates are available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/sbac-weekly-update-archive>.

Minutes from previously held meetings are available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/agendas-and-minutes>.

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