

## **SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium**

### **SBAC Weekly Update**

*Issue 15*

*Week ending Friday, May 13, 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. As we roll into mid-May, we start to see that the school year is beginning to dwindle down. That's not to deny that testing might still be going on (or about to start) in some places, nor to discount that school will continue well into June for some.

Nevertheless, as the days get longer it's hard to avoid the realization that another year is drawing to a close.

Summer is not only vacation time for our students, it is also an opportunity for renewal for us adults. Sure, we need to recharge our batteries and take some time off for leisure. But this is also a great time to get caught up on professional development opportunities. I'd like to encourage everyone engaged in the Consortium's work to see if there are development opportunities this summer to learn more about, or to begin engaging with, the Common Core State Standards. Many of our professional organizations will be hosting events this summer. Of course, there's the CCSSO National Conference on Student Assessment in Orlando in the middle of June. But that's only one of many workshops and conferences that will take place this summer.

This is a good time to look over your calendar and see what might fit with your summer schedule. Who knows, in addition to learning more about the Common Core, you might get to spend some time by the pool, too. JW

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### **Announcements**

Communications Director position posted—The position of Communications Director for the Consortium is now open and posted at <http://k12.wa.us/employment/default.aspx>. This is a full-time, salaried position with funding secured through September 2014. The Communications Director will provide strategic leadership to the Consortium's Executive Director and Executive Committee on all matters of external and internal communications. This position will work closely with WestEd as the Project Management Partner and the soon-to-be-announced communications services provider. Qualified applicants are encouraged to submit their application.

Letter from the Center on Education Policy—Last week, the Center on Education Policy (CEP) published an open letter addressed to our Consortium and to PARCC. They suggested specific items to consider in designing our assessment system. The Consortium issued a public reply to CEP's letter. You can find the original letter and the Consortium's reply at <http://www.cep-dc.org/>.

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### **Upcoming Events**

U.S. Department of Education support meeting—The second public meeting sponsored by USED and designed to support SMARTER Balanced and PARCC is scheduled for June 10, 2011. The meeting will focus on artificial intelligence scoring.

TAC meetings—The meetings for the remainder of 2011 have been scheduled and will be held on July 26–27 and December 14–15.

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### **Resources**

List of state representatives—A list of state representatives to the Consortium can now be found at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/about-sbac>.

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### **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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