

## **SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium**

### **SBAC Weekly Update**

*Issue 22*

*Week ending Friday, July 1, 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. I am thrilled to announce that Tony Alpert has accepted the position of Chief Operating Officer for SMARTER Balanced, beginning July 6. Tony has been a part of the Consortium from the beginning, and he is well positioned to help lead the work ahead. As COO, Tony's responsibilities will include:

- Serving as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee
- Overseeing the fiscal operations of the Consortium
- Collaborating with the Lead Procurement State (Washington) regarding procurement, contracts, and grants
- Monitoring internal Consortium operations to ensure timely completion of Consortium deliverables
- Serving as the designee for the Executive Director as required
- Providing expert guidance on assessment design and technology

As I mentioned in an email yesterday to all state leads, Tony's acceptance of the COO position leaves an Executive Committee Co-Chair vacancy to fill. We are immediately starting the process for selecting a new co-chair. Governing States have until July 12 to nominate a co-chair candidate. Our member site contains detailed instructions about the [nomination process](#).

In other significant news, you may have heard that PARCC announced changes to their assessment system design. We are working to analyze these changes and will share more information shortly.

What is clear is that our approach—with computer adaptive summative and optional interim assessments—remains unique. SMARTER Balanced is focused on giving teachers actionable information about student progress toward college and career readiness, while delivering a summative assessment that meets state and federal accountability requirements.

As a state-led, national effort, the work of dedicated individuals across the Consortium has gotten us to where we are today. It's gratifying to see this commitment recognized in print. In early June, *Education Week* published an article about assessments for students with disabilities and interviewed Michel Hock, SMARTER lead from Vermont and a co-chair of our Accessibility and Accommodations Work Group. You can read the full piece [online](#), but I don't think anyone could have expressed the importance of this effort better than Michael: "The idea of making tests accessible, it's a social-justice issue. And we want to accurately measure every kid's skills."

Thanks to Michael and all of our work group members for their leadership. JW

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### **Announcements**

State membership changes—Iowa has been officially accepted as a Governing State for the Consortium. The state has been a national leader in assessments, most notably through the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, and will be a great addition to governing the Consortium.

New Mexico has left the Consortium.

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### **Upcoming Events**

Advisory States meeting—Due to the July 4 holiday, the next Advisory States meeting will be held on July 11.

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.

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### **Resources**

Updated summary presentation—To reflect the recent changes in state membership, the summary presentation has been updated and is available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/presentations>.

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### **Archive**

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

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

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

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SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium  
WestEd—Project Management Partner  
sbac@wested.org