### NBC Education Nation Summit - 2011

Along with approximately 350 invited guests, I attended the second annual Education Nation Summit, hosted by NBC News, to engage the country in a solutions-focused conversation about the state of education in America.

Featured panelists and speakers included:
- First Lady Laura Bush
- Secretary of Education Arne Duncan
- President Bill Clinton
- Florida Governor Jeb Bush and ten currently serving governors
- Warren Buffet
- Melinda Gates

Topics included:
- Brain science and the first 2000 days of a child’s life
- Value of preschool education
- Business and educational partnership
- Engaging learning
- Connection between economic development and education teacher effectiveness

North Carolina was highlighted for its work with the teacher survey, early childhood education, and Microsoft academy results.

### Research – Reading and Balanced Calendar

Staff members are conducting research about effective and efficient strategies for addressing the school calendar, as well as the status of reading instruction and teacher preparation. The reports will be presented to the State Board of Education in early 2012.

### Superintendents’ Quarterly Meeting

The October 18, 2011 Superintendents’ Quarterly Meeting will be devoted to the following topics.
- Making changes when change is hard (Dan Heath, author of *Switch*)
- Connecting with public about education (Dr. Tiffany Manuel, The Frameworks Institute)
- Career and College Promise

### New Superintendents’ Orientation

As a part of an ongoing tradition, 22 superintendents participated in a new superintendents’ orientation on September 8. The superintendents received an overview of the SBE goals and the department’s services and priorities. The focus was about measuring success, serving, and leading for public schools. Senior leadership presented specific information on the following topics.
- Strategic planning and performance navigator
- Graduation initiatives
- Budget
- NCVPS
- Common Core and Essential Standards
- College and Career Promise
- Communications and superintendent activities
<p>| White House Announcement about ESEA | On September 26th, 2011, I joined President Barack Obama, Education Secretary Arne Duncan, and other chief state school officers for the White House announcement that states can apply for waivers from provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The waivers would be provided in exchange for more focused efforts at the state level to “close achievement gaps, promote rigorous accountability and ensure that all students are on track to graduate college and career ready.” DPI staff is preparing the waiver request to meet the first submission date of November 14. States may submit waivers on November 14 and mid-February 2012. An additional opportunity will be available following the conclusion of the 2011-12 school year. |
| Longitudinal Data Systems Grant | The Department of Public Instruction is eligible to request a grant to develop or expand a longitudinal data system K-20. DPI staff will coordinate the development of the grant by working closely with public and private universities, the community college system, and the Employment Security System. The application is due December 14, 2011. |
| Schools of the Deaf and Blind | Three public hearings have been conducted to give the public an opportunity to comment about the closing of one of the three schools serving deaf and blind students. The law states that “no later than January 15, 2012, the Department shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee of the General Assembly the residential school it has decided to close and the Department’s plan for consolidating the programs with those at the two remaining schools.” As prescribed by state law, the Department of Public Instruction will…. |
| STEM Strategies Plan | A draft of the NC STEM Strategic Plan will be emailed to SBE members in an upcoming Friday update. This plan has been developed in collaboration and with input from the JOBS Commission, STEM Collaborative, Governor’s Education Transformation Commission, and New Schools Project. It will be presented to the SBE for discussion and action over the next two months. |
| Congratulations AP Scholars | Congratulations to Raisa Chowdury and Jacob Feldman from Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools for being among the 117 students national wide to receive recognition for outstanding performance in the 2011 Advanced Placement exams. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recent Activities of the State Superintendent</th>
<th>RttT Monthly Highlights of Activities Completed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delivered remarks/keynote address at</td>
<td>RttT Management:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ashe County Schools’ Strategic Plan Celebration</td>
<td>• Provided RttT update to Governor’s Education Transformation Commission</td>
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<td>• NC STEM Advisory Council</td>
<td>• Continued developing and processing with USED amendments to State Detailed Scope of Work (DSW) and budget to submit to USED</td>
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<td>• CTE Directors’ Fall Conference</td>
<td>• Continued approval of LEA/Charter School DSW submissions; began posting Local Education Agency (LEA)/Charter School approved fully completed DSWs to the website (108 posted as of 9/23)</td>
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<td>• Regional ACTE Fall Conference</td>
<td>• Submitted RttT Annual Performance Report to USED</td>
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<td>• Dunn/Erwin Rotary Club</td>
<td>• Continued planning for building a cadre of teacher and principal ambassadors in each school to help communicate the reasons and mechanisms for the changes under way in curriculum, accountability and educator evaluation; participants will include at least two teachers per school, each school principal and superintendent</td>
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<td>• Financial Coaching Pilot, Corinth-Holder High, Johnston County</td>
<td>o Continued preparations for the regional meetings for statewide rollout of the new accountability program planned for March 2012</td>
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<td>Attended</td>
<td>o Continued developing promotional materials for use at the statewide regional meetings and toolkits to distribute at the meetings. Toolkits will include practical information about the new Common Core and Essential Standards, and the new accountability program to be completed by February 2012</td>
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<td>• Completion by Design State Advisory Board Meeting</td>
<td>• Began creating parent resource podcasts about new standards, new student assessments and new accountability model to distribute online and via social media fall of 2011 along with an online guide for parents to be posted by 12/31/2011</td>
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<td>• NC Community Colleges Kick-off, Guilford Technical College</td>
<td>• Continued distributing RttT Weekly Update to more than 600 LEA and charter officials involved with Race to the Top</td>
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<td>• Evergreen Charter School</td>
<td>Standards &amp; Assessments:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• CCSSO International Conference on Teacher Effectiveness and Preparation, Brazil</td>
<td>Standards</td>
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<td>• Governor Morehead School Open House</td>
<td>Standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>• International Delegation Visit from Jiangsu, China</td>
<td>Standards</td>
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• Continued development of Unpacking Social Studies elective courses to be posted 2/2012
• Continued development of Developing Local Curricula module to be released in the fall
• Continued working on Graphic Organizer tool to be completed 2/2012
• Continued developing Revised Bloom’s Taxonomy (RBT) module to be released by 11/15/11
• Began designing data literacy guide for data coaches to be published by 5/2012
• Continued developing PD Map
• Continued delivering Common Core and Essential Standards training for Principals and Assistant Principals
  • Continued planning Common Core and Essential Standards training for Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs)
• Began work to embed content classroom examples and video vignettes within NC FALCON to be completed 5/2012
• Began development of Learning Map exemplars to be posted for LEA use by 3/2012
• Began curriculum and instruction content-specific "live chats" to provide support and fidelity checks to district-teams, Educator Recruitment and Development (ERD), and District and School Transformation (DST) (held quarterly/dates will be posted on ACRE site)
• Began designing Common Core and Essential Standards professional development for Charter Schools

Assessments
• Began including the Online Assessment Best Practices Guide in regional informational and professional development sessions

Data Systems to Improve Instruction:
• Continued IIS Workgroup meetings
• Completed the “Visions, Goals, Objectives,” “A Day in the Life,” documents
• Continued working on the “Roles Matrix,” AND “Web” documents to be finalized by 12/31/11
• Worked with planning vendor to complete Background Information document
• Continued working with planning vendor to develop Business Requirement document, Technical Requirements document, RFP, and Comprehensive Plan
• Continued developing “Using Data for Instruction” guide to be completed by 12/31/11
• Continued developing master project plan document to be completed
Held follow-up webinars for people who volunteered at the focus groups to provide feedback on the revised business requirements documents

Working with the NCPTA to set up a parent focus group to inform the business functions of the IIS

Invited vendors offering full or partial IIS solutions to present to functional workgroups; nine vendors presented 9/8-9/24

Collaborated with other RttT states to determine where there are commonalities and where there are gaps in requirements

Participated in Shared Learning Infrastructure (SLI) Kick-off and meetings to determine how the SLI will impact the IIS work

Great Teachers & Principals:

Began final approval process for publication for NCDPI website informing potential partners of the process for approval to become an alternative licensure program to be posted by 10/1

Continued compiling working paper to guide conversations with IHE partners regarding how to improve educator pipeline for high-need content and specialty areas to be posted by 11/15

Executed contract with Research and Evaluation Associates to design evaluation instruments for media specialists, instructional technology teachers, school counselors, school speech pathologists, school social workers, and school psychologists

Selected vendor to develop and validate student academic growth factor

Continued Northeast Regional Leadership Academy (RLA) Cohort 1 school year administrative internships through 6/30/12

Continued training for Northeast RLA Cohort 2 participants through 6/30/12

Continued Piedmont-Triad RLA Cohort 1 participant administrative internships through 6/30/2012

Continued Sandhills RLA Cohort 1 participant clinical residencies through 6/30/12

Continued ongoing Teach For America support for corps members as they enter classrooms; support to occur throughout Corp member’s two year commitment through 6/30/13

Continued New Teacher Induction Program in four regions with first cohort

Receiving re-negotiated bids for Strategic Staffing Request for Proposals

Continued developing educator preparation program report cards

Began compiling teacher and administrator effectiveness data to be linked to NC School Report Cards; end of October is release date
• Continued 2011-12 Professional Development Calendar based on needs assessment results from Summer Institute training

• “Understanding the Standards” module released August 28; 160 completers as of September 5

• Continued development of Developing Local Curricula module to be released in the fall

• Continued contract with TOPS to continue to host modules through “NC Education” portal; Began development of four new modules by the ERD module design team to include Data Literacy, Common Core State Standards ELA: Content Area Literacy, Effective Use of Learning Progressions, Embracing the Change: Embedding Digital Literacy in the Content Area (tentative titles)

• Posted Summer Institute materials on ACRE website and linked to Professional Development resource page (http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/profdev/institute/)

• Continued partnership with Regional Education Service Alliances (RESAs) to implement next steps in job-embedded, blended professional development cycle

• Continued meetings with IIS team to discuss development of professional development learning management system

• Continued bi-weekly interagency collaborative planning time with Professional Development (PD) Team, Curriculum and Instruction, and Instructional Technology to collaborate and deploy future professional development based upon assessment feedback and the new NC Standard Course of Study changes

• Deployed state-sponsored PD Leaders to provide training on the Educator Evaluation Systems, Common Core and Essential Standards

• Finalized revision for Component 2 (Maximizing Human Resources for Goal Accomplishment) of the Distinguished Leadership in Practice (DLP) professional development; began Component 3 (Building A Collaborative Culture with Distributed Leadership) working with the North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE) to make final preparations for business visits made by DLP participants during the face-to-face sessions at each of the four geographic locations

• Deployed ten graduates of the inaugural cohort of Distinguished Leadership in Practice (DLP) to co-facilitate a DLP component starting this month

**NC Virtual Public Schools:**

• Continued to determine professional development needs for project-based learning, STEM, mobile teaching and learning, and blended teaching for all of the online and face-to-face teachers

• Held professional development for teachers on the new blended STEM instructional model; virtual for 1st and 2nd sessions in September with a face-to-face meeting 9/20 on NCSU Centennial Campus

• Continued development of promotion and marketing strategy for the
RttT Blended STEM process for community, parents, students, and staffs to be completed by 1/2/12

- Continued development of a course template and outline based on “chunking of material” into project-based modules to align with the current NC Standard Course of Study and Common Core standards
- Continued writing criteria for the Mobile Web Application/Application development RFP; plan to post RFP in November
- Continued development, design, and modification of virtual STEM core math and science courses that provide access and targeted instruction to at-risk student populations for the purposes of credit attainment toward graduation; plan to release final course materials for Earth/Environmental Science and Integrated Math I by fall 2012
- Continue research of blended resources and training appropriate for support of teachers and students in using the devices for STEM courses to be completed by 12/31
- Completed initial development of LEA Technology Support Plan (revised based on LEA feedback)
- Worked toward posting an Invitation for Bid for devices; plan to post in November
- Continued developing professional development modules and training sessions for lead teachers, face-to-face teachers and district teams; training completed 9/21

Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools:

- Completed the unpacking of a Comprehensive Needs Assessment report at North Pitt High School in Pitt County and at Dillard Middle and Goldsboro High in Wayne County
- Completed Comprehensive Needs Assessments at:
  - Greene County Schools (CNA Orientation)
  - Green Grove Elementary, Janie Hargrave Elementary, Red Springs High, St. Paul Elementary, Red Springs Middle, Rosenwald Elementary School, Southside Ashpole Elementary School, and Townsend Middle School in Robeson County
- Held monthly District Transformation Coaches meeting, School Transformation Coaches meeting, as well as Instructional Coaches meeting
- Began scheduling ‘progress check’ meetings with the twelve partnered school districts for the months of October and November
- Continued PD and Coaching for currently served schools/districts
- Delivered make-up session for the Summer Professional Development for School Leaders Session #1 for new Principals of T.A.L.A.S. schools and those school leaders that were not able to attend the sessions held during the summer
- Delivered Professional Development for School Leaders Session #2 focused on an introduction to the Framework for Action for all Principals in T.A.L.A.S. schools
NC Education Cloud:

- Participated in eight Regional Technology Directors’ meetings with new comprehensive NC Education Cloud updates during the second and third weeks of September
- Continued detailed work of project teams and meetings of the Consortium/Cooperative Purchasing LEA Advisory Working Group, Data Collection and Analysis Working Group, Identity and Access Management Working Group and the Shared Services Advisory Committee
- Began the process of aggregation and analysis of data from all regional site surveys. This raw data and anecdotal points from site surveys should be available in early October
- Sent Instructional Content Learning Systems Working Group invitations to representative LEA Charter subject level experts
- Continue to work with IIS Planning Process
- Work with Consortium Buying Working Group to identify and be working on any needed E-rate strategies related to NC Education Cloud in order to be ready for fall E-rate applications

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM):

- Completed list of four anchor schools (one new anchor Regional School to begin 2012-13) and sixteen network affinity schools (one new affinity Regional school to begin 2012-13)
- Developed draft rubric for identifying Future-Ready STEM High Schools/ Programs of Achievement
- Prepared meeting for Lieutenant Governor’s Joining Our Businesses and Schools (JOBS) Advisory Committee to assess STEM Attributes and Strategic Plan
- Began plans with STEM partners for an 4/2012 STEM Symposium for students and teachers demonstrating project-based learning
- Met with Navy representatives to review their STEM initiatives and STEM efforts on teacher fellowship recipients
- Began creating a STEM Asset Map/Web-portal for North Carolina research State and National resources (NC STEM)
- Held a Critical Friends Group session and Secondary Lenses on Learning Mathematics professional development for 70 teachers (New Schools Project- NSP)
- Arranged two study visits for three days at Cross Creek and Caldwell (NSP)
- Held five Leadership Innovation Network session meetings and a Biotechnology/Agriscience Industry Innovation Council meeting for the Kannapolis Biotechnology/Agriscience regional school which is to open 2012-13 (NSP)
- Held a STEM New Principals’ Institute 9/14 for 12 principals (NSP)
- Developed tri-fold brochure on Scaling STEM practices in North Carolina (NC STEM)
• Presented at the National Governor’s Association STEM Summit in Boston (NC STEM)
• Met with K-12 program area to better link the work with the STEM philosophy
• Briefed Academic Services and Instructional Support (ASIS) Directors on STEM Strategic Plan

Evaluation:

Cross-Cutting Evaluation Elements
• Completed Omnibus Teacher and Principal Survey
• Completed Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) reliability testing for 28 classroom observers; several other classroom observers signed up for online CLASS training; Management Team designed protocols and data collection tool for classroom observations
• Continued Working (Carolina Institute for Public Policy- CIPP- data administrator) with DPI on data needs for fall analyses

Teacher and Leader Effectiveness
• Continued literature review
• Continued to use historical data to compare different Value-Added Models (VAMs) of teacher effectiveness to share with NCDPI
• Revised school sample for classroom observations

Distribution of Teachers and Leaders
Baseline Teacher Quality Analysis
• Continued work on report; due fall 2011
• Continued work on VAM

Regional Leadership Academies
• Observed Piedmont Triad Leadership Academy (PTLA) Internship Seminar and Curriculum Writing Session; Sandhills Leadership Academy (SLA) Advisory Team Meeting; and NELA Distinguished Leaders in Practice
• Attended RLA planning session
• Presented NCDPI-approved Scope of Work to Quality Assurance Committee
• Continued work on the cost-effectiveness study

Teach For America (TFA)/NC Teacher Corps (NCTC)
• Received historical TFA data on Corps Member leadership scores
  ○ In the process of securely downloading and storing those data
• Identified TFA “pod” locations for 2011-12 and will finalize site selections during the first week of September
• Began constructing focus group protocols, survey items, and NCTC recruitment protocols – to be submitted to Institutional Review Board by mid-September

*Induction Program for Novice Teachers*

• Entered data from Summer Institute into Excel database
• Began contacting control schools to identify Year 1 teachers and assess interest in participation

*NCGPS*

• Completed write-ups of blended-course orientation PD observations onsite in Person County and Montgomery County
• Considering how to modify the CLASS observation tool to work in an online, STEM-focused environment. Meeting planned with the STEM team to discuss overlap (ongoing)

*Professional Development*

• Staff formed two workgroups for fall 2011 work:
  o LEA/School Site Visit Prep Team – This Team is:
    ▪ Creating standards-based rubric for reviewing online modules and resources
    ▪ Developing or identifying teacher and LEA staff surveys
    ▪ Creating teacher and LEA staff focus group protocols
    ▪ Detailing CLASS Observation protocol modifications for PD work
    ▪ Finalizing a process for contacting and scheduling visits
    ▪ Assigning staff to observe Regional PD Sessions
  o Report-Writing Team – This Team is analyzing and interpreting:
    ▪ Omnibus survey items
    ▪ Exit Survey items
    ▪ Informal interview transcripts
    ▪ NCDPI Curriculum & Instruction and Regional PD Leads focus group data
    ▪ Observation data
    ▪ Staff reflection data

*District and School Transformation (DST) Including STEM Schools*

• Completed quantitative impact assessment and write-up
• Completed full draft of qualitative and quantitative assessment of pre-DST
• Completed the first draft of the baseline scan of NC STEM schools
• Created first drafts of site visit measures
• Ongoing: Monitoring the online tool NSP is using to develop their
community of practice

**Local Spending**

- Investigated Cloud computing background to better understand upcoming fiscal analysis
- Beginning to develop a forecast model for local spending