



**Kansas Educational Leadership Institute**

## **Introducing the Kansas Educational Leadership Institute (After its first year of operation)**

### **What is KELI?**

- The Kansas Educational Leadership Institute (KELI) emerged from collaborative planning by six major Kansas professional entities interested in developing and supporting leadership for Kansas schools and districts in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Partners in this effort are: Kansas Association of School Boards, Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas School Superintendents Association, Kansas Leadership Center, Kansas State University, and United School Administrators. Representatives from these collaborators comprise the KELI Steering Committee, guiding the development of KELI programs.

### **Who is KELI?**

- Partners appoint representatives to a 17-member Advisory Council which meets quarterly to provide two-way communication related to leadership development needs and KELI programs.
- K-State College of Education provides the KELI Executive Director and support staff.

### **How did KELI support leadership development in its first year?**

- In the 2011-2012 school year, KELI contracted with nine mentors to deliver almost 600 total hours of one-on-one contact to the 26 first year Kansas superintendents.
- Those completing the KELI mentoring/induction program met the requirements for adding the district leader professional endorsement to their license. This KELI program is based on the design recommended by KSSA, research on best practice, and input from other partners.

### **KELI's contribution to Professional Development for Veteran Leaders**

- Based on the KELI 5 Year plan, KSDE designated KELI a Regional Professional Development Center. KELI can issue credits toward license renewal to those participating in Institute activities.
- KELI mentors completed 20 hours of training from an accredited source for leadership coaching.
- Over 100 leaders attended the 12.5 hours of professional development activities KELI offered during the Spring 2012 semester. Topics were leadership aspects related to current legal issues, technology initiatives, and transitioning to Common Core Standards.

## **What do participants say about KELI programs?**

- **New Superintendents**

100% of mentees agreed the KELI mentoring program helped first year superintendents grow professionally, and that meetings between mentors and mentees were purposeful and accomplished specific goals. Their comments included:

- Having a veteran superintendent to bounce ideas was valuable support. He was wonderful to ask, “what are you thinking” first, before giving his suggestions. I appreciated his support!
- Face to face visits were excellent!
- My mentor has passion for this role. He takes pride in being a resource and contact and it is obvious. Sometimes we are assigned mentors who just go through the motions; not the case with my (KELI) mentor and I feel this to be an emphasis of the leadership the Mentors they themselves are provided.
- I think the expectation to attend other professional development was strong and encouraged.
- ...they have been here at board meetings and other events to see things in action so that appropriate communication about what is truly going on could take place.

- **Mentors**

- This Mentoring Program is very well received by the mentees. It is a great personal professional development for both the mentee and the mentor. I hope it can be expanded and maintained over the next few years.
- This is a great program and has the potential to really impact school leadership in Kansas.
- I think all of the components have been helpful – being onsite once a month, receiving monthly checklist information, professional development sessions, cohort/networking, & onsite observations – really was well thought out and worked well for its first year.

- **Let’s Talk Seminar Attendees**

- On session evaluation sheets, the seminars were consistently rated above average to excellent on overall quality and content. Sample quotes:
- “The format and presenters were EXCELLENT!”
- Good networking opportunity.
- Having discussion with other districts was extremely helpful.
- Making connections with other educators.
- Seeing small districts and large districts.
- This is the best learning activity I have been a part of in a long time.
- Today was powerful for me and my district.
- Very beneficial day!