



For Immediate Release

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National Organizations Hold Successful Data and Learning Summit for State Departments of Education

Washington, DC, February 13, 2008 – The Schools Interoperability Framework Association (SIFA), Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), Data Quality Campaign, International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA), the United States Department of Education, Pearson, Edustructures and Microsoft hosted its first *Data and Learning Summit: Collaboration, Assimilation and Connection – Planning for Systemic Integration* January 16-18 in Washington, DC. The summit brought together teams from state departments of education across the country to engage in structured conversations around the systemic, statewide use of data, infrastructure, curriculum, assessment, educational technology and PK20 in order to improve teaching and learning.

State teams, including a local education authority (LEA) representative, spent time learning from other states, discussing what other “department silos” focus on in regards to data and planning for systemic implementation and data use. Panels of experts from states and industry provide success stories, barriers, challenges and strategies. Don Knezek, CEO for ISTE, states, “The Summit, planned and delivered by a team of national organizations, once again proved to be successful in fostering open communication among state and district leaders. This event provided an opportunity for leaders at all levels to move toward developing a shared vision for infusing data into the teaching and learning process.”

Prior to attending the Data and Learning Summit, states attended a pre-summit meeting. During the Summit, the state teams worked on developing an action plan for the systemic use of data. A portion of that action plan will include a replication of the Summit with the LEAs within their state. Finally, post-summit meetings will focus on topics desired for further discussion, information and depth. “The rare time for state teams to discuss these difficult issues was invaluable to the conversation,” explains Jill Abbott, Learning Strategist for SIFA. “The vital connection between the various forms of data collected by a state and LEA, including assessment, accountability, perceptual and demographic data, must be made in order to improve teaching and learning for every student and teacher. Providing deliberate strategies of involving LEAs and time to continue the dialogue is an important piece of systemic improvement.”

The discussions generated solid dialogue from SEAs, LEAs and national experts garnering solutions and ideas on the statewide use of data for transformation, curriculum, assessment, educational technology and PK20. Each discussion began with expert panels and ensued with dialogue amongst the state team. Irene Spero, COO for CoSN, asserts, “The Data and Learning Summit was an excellent opportunity to identify ways for school districts to collaborate, connect and plan for the effective utilization of data. CoSN is pleased to have been part of this effort and to highlight the work of its Data-driven Decision Making Initiative. Both Sharnell Jackson, Chief eLearning Officer, Chicago Public Schools and Bob Moore, Executive Director of IT Service, Blue

Valley USD #229, Kansas, illustrated the many powerful ways in which school districts can be data focused and achieve significant results in improving the academic performance of students.”

Overall, the Summit provided professional development time between co-workers to develop a common mission and vision, shared best practices between states, developed strategies for effective statewide data utilization and provided ongoing mechanisms for best practice sharing and follow-up. "Getting useful data into the classrooms where it can personalize instruction for all children is key," said Mary Ann Wolf, SETDA's Executive Director. "The group approach offered state teams an opportunity to put the data into a context of teaching and learning. This was an exciting step toward using data to transform the way teachers teach."

For More Information and Presentations from the Data and Learning Summit, please visit <http://www.sifinfo.org/presentations.asp>.

The Schools Interoperability Framework Association (SIFA) is a unique, non-profit collaboration composed of over 1500 schools, districts, states, US and International Departments of Education, software vendors and consultants who collectively define the rules and regulations for educational software data interoperability. Learn more at www.sifinfo.org.

The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) is the country's premier voice in education technology leadership, serving K-12 technology leaders who through their strategic use of technology, improve teaching and learning. For further information, visit www.cosn.org.

The Data Quality Campaign (DQC) is a national, collaborative effort by national organizations to encourage and support state policymakers to improve the collection, availability and use of high-quality education data and to implement state longitudinal data systems to improve student achievement. For additional information, visit www.dataqualitycampaign.org.

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) is the premier membership association for educators and education leaders engaged in improving teaching and learning by advancing the effective use of technology in PK-12 and teacher education. Home of NETS and NECC, ISTE represents more than 85,000 education professionals worldwide. Learn more at www.iste.org.

The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) is the principal association for state directors of technology and their staff members providing professional development and leadership around the effective use of technology in education to enhance competitiveness in the global workforce. For more information, visit www.setda.org.

Pearson, educating 100 million people worldwide, is the global leader in educational publishing, assessment, information and services, helping people of all ages to learn at their own pace, in their own way. More information about Pearson can be found at <http://www.pearsonschool.com>.

Edustructures is the recognized leader in SIF integration solutions for the PK-12 education market, making it possible for market-leading Student Information, Library, Transportation, Cafeteria and Directory solutions to reliably and securely share data in real-time. For more information about Edustructures, please visit <http://www.edustrucures.com>.

Microsoft was founded in 1975, Microsoft is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential. For additional information about Microsoft, visit <http://www.microsoft.com>.

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