

October 1, 2012

Dear Alliance District Administrator,

In the spring of 2011, we asked CAS to develop a year-long leadership training program for school leaders - principals and assistant principals - in the 18 partner districts. We asked that it be rigorous, high level training with month-to-month differentiated assignments and opportunities for hands-on experiences. We further asked that there be a great deal of dialogue between and among the participants, presenters, and the CSDE and CAS staff members. CAS did just that organizing and implementing a highly successful **Principals' Leadership Series**.

With CAS, we have further refined the eight day training series and will repeat it for school leaders in the 30 Alliance Districts. The foundation for the series remains the McREL research document, *Simply Better - Doing What Matters Most To Change The Odds For Student Success*, along with the practical application strategies captured in *Teach Like a Champion* by Doug Lemov. The format has been designed such that there will be a presenter for the morning session each day covering the key elements discussed in the McREL document with facilitated discussions in the afternoon about the application of the morning lessons to each participant's school. Relating the presentations and discussions to the current research on school and district improvement and highlighting the alignment to their current Alliance District improvement plans will be critical.

CAS Executive Coaches will serve as facilitators for each of the cohorts of 12 to 14 principals/assistant principals with the CAS coach remaining with the same cohort throughout the training sessions. To the extent possible, CAS coaches and principals/assistant principals will be grouped by school level (ES, MS, HS). It is expected that there will be 60 school leaders participating.

The schedule is as follows:

November 27th & 28th

*Introduction and Overview of Simply Better
Leadership in an Era of Stress and Transition:*

Bryan Goodwin, McREL
Mike Wasta, CSDE

December 11

Guaranteeing Challenging, Engaging, and Intentional Instruction

Anthony Rigazio-Digilio, CCSU

January 15

Ensuring Curricular Pathways to Success

Diane Ullman, CSDE

February 12

Providing Whole Child Supports

Harlem Children's Zone Staff

March 12

Creating High Performance School Cultures

Bob McCain, CREC

April 9

Developing High-Reliability District Systems

Eileen Howley, LEARN

May 14

Leadership Project Presentations and Wrap-UP

CAS & CSDE Staff

The first two days (including overnight) of the leadership program will be held at the Heritage Hotel in Southbury; the remaining sessions will be held at CAS, in Cheshire. School leaders selected for participation **MUST** be willing and able to attend all sessions—there are no stand-alone sessions. To do this, the school leaders will need your support, encouragement and permission.

We ask that you respond to Erin Guarino at CAS by fax (203) 250-1345 or email (eguarino@casciac.org) with the attached registration form by November 1st that must be signed by you and the principal(s) that you have selected to participate.

Sincerely,

Lol Fearon, Chief
Bureau of Accountability & Improvement