November 25, 2009

From the OEP

We have highlighted a few news stories below; you can find a complete list of state and national news on the OEP website by visiting the In the News section.

Have a happy Thanksgiving!

News from Around the Natural State

Arkansas Recognized for Tracking Students’ Progress
The Data Quality Campaign has again recognized Arkansas as one of a handful of states with a high-quality system for keeping track of students’ performance.

District Starts School-Chief Search
The search for a superintendent for the Pulaski County Special School District is under way in anticipation of a Jan. 4 deadline for candidates to submit applications, consultants to the district’s School Board said Monday.

Springdale Schools: District Mulls Millage Hike
Since voters approved a millage increase in 2003, the Springdale School District has opened eight new schools. The district continues to grow, however, and administrators are concerned they may be reaching their limit on funding new schools with existing resources, Assistant Superintendent Allen Williams said.

Knowledge is Power Program
The Knowledge is Power Program is searching for a Fisher Fellow to start and lead a new KIPP Delta school in Arkansas in 2011. The Fisher Fellowship program offers leadership candidates a year-long program of an intensive summer of coursework, residencies at KIPP schools, and individualized coaching. If you are interested, please visit http://www.kippdelta.org/careers_schoolleader.cfm for more information.

News from Around the Nation
Stimulus Rules on ‘Turnarounds’ Shift
The final rules for the $4 billion Race to the Top competition give states and districts more leeway in how they intervene in chronically underperforming schools, a subtle but important change that raises new questions about whether the push to turn around struggling campuses will succeed in rehabilitating large numbers of schools.

Site Seeing
Last week we posted the final section of the Outstanding Educational Performance Awards, highlighting the Arkansas schools with the most improvement between 2008 and 2009 based on the percent of students scoring proficient or advanced on state assessments. If you haven’t had the chance yet, take a look at this report over the holidays and congratulate Arkansas’ outstanding schools!

Mark Your Calendar
The ADE will hold the following meetings about Race to the Top:
December 3: 4:30 – 6:30 in Arkadelphia
December 7: 4:30 – 6:30 in Farmington
December 8: 4:30 – 6:30 in Monticello
December 14: 4:30 – 6:30 in North Little Rock
December 15: 3:00 – 5:00 in Russellville
More details can be found on the ADE news release.

December 4: Lecture: “Classroom Management Strategies: Lessons from Special Ed” by Kevin Curtin, Clinical Director, The Frost School at the U of A Graduate Education building
December 11: Professional Licensure Standards Board Meeting, Arkansas Department of Education
December 14: State Board of Education Meeting, Little Rock
February 19: A Conference on Teaching and Learning through Arts and Literacy Integration, Springdale (Contact David Jolliffe, Brown Chair in English Literacy at the University of Arkansas, at djollif@uark.edu for more information.)
April 16: OEP Conference – “Preparing Effective School Leaders for Arkansas”

More information is available on the OEP Calendar.

Final Thought
“If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.” – Chinese Proverb

Thanks for reading! See you next week!
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If you would like to be added or removed from this list, please send an e-mail to oep@uark.edu.