Memorandum

TO: Participants, Assessment of Student Learning, February 1-3, 2004

FROM: Jay Labov
National Research Council
Co-Principal Investigator

Sally Shuler
National Science Resources Center
Co-Principal Investigator

DATE: January 23, 2004

RE: Agenda and Other Information

This CD-ROM provides information for the February 1-3, 2004 Assessment of Student Learning Workshop, hosted by the National Academies’ Center for Education and the National Science Resources Center.

WELCOME!

This is the second in a series of workshops to be conducted by the National Research Council (NRC) in collaboration with the National Science Resources Center (NSRC). Supported by the National Science Foundation’s Research, Evaluation and Technical Assistance program within its Mathematics/Science Partnership (MSP) Initiative, these workshops are designed to provide assistance to comprehensive and targeted MSP grantees and will contribute to the MSP Learning Network.

The content of the workshops will focus primarily on recent reports published by the National Academies that are directly relevant to the work being conducted by the participants and stakeholders of the MSP projects. Two goals of our project are to help workshop attendees 1) gain a deeper understanding of the research, evidence, issues, and implications for educational policy that are contained in these reports, 2) how that evidence can be used as a basis for informing and strengthening partnerships. A third goal of this project is to disseminate the important findings contained in National Research Council reports to people who have the greatest potential to use them locally to improve education.
Organization of This CD-ROM:

We are conducting an experiment. Instead of sending out bulky briefing books, we have placed all of the information that would have gone into the books on this single CD-ROM. The advantage of this format is that you can print only those documents that you need immediately. You need not carry any paper with you to the meeting if you bring a laptop computer, and you will have a more permanent record of the documents we have provided for the workshop. We suggest storing this CD with the CD containing a compendium of NRC reports on assessment and learning that you have received already. Please note that we also will have some copies of each document available during the workshop if you prefer that format.

This CD contains the following folders:

Workshop Objectives and Logistics

Within this folder you will find a document containing the goals and objectives for this workshop. We hope you will keep them in mind as you participate. [GOALS & OBJECTIVES.doc].

Also contained in this folder is a document that provides logistics about the workshop. [LOGISTICAL INFORMATION.DOC]. This document provides helpful information with regard to transportation, lodging, and the location of the meeting. Please note that a picture ID is necessary for entry to the workshop.

Also note that your participation in this workshop entitles you to a 25% discount on any NRC report that is available in the bookstore that is located in the building where the workshop will take place. Your name badge will enable you to receive the discount.

Workshop Schedule and Expanded Agenda

We have provided a brief Agenda with basic who, what and where information [February Agenda DRAFT.doc]. The Expanded Agenda provides a more detailed description of what each session will cover. This will allow participants to more easily discern connections throughout the workshop [Expanded Agenda.doc].

Workshop Participants and Presenters

Included in this folder is the list of registered participants (as of January 23, 2004) [Participant List.doc]. In this folder you also will find biographical sketches of the workshop presenters and members of the steering committee that planned the workshop [Steering Committee and Presenters Biographical Sketches.doc ] Please take a moment to review the background and expertise of our speakers and our Steering Committee.
members. If you have specific questions, it is helpful to address them to the appropriate speakers and committee members.

**Background Readings and Resources**

To expedite your preparation for this workshop, in this folder we provide a document containing references to specific pages and chapters of the compendium of NRC reports contained in the CD-ROM that will enhance your understanding of the subject matter [Additional Background Reading and Resources.doc].

Also contained in this folder are other articles suggested by our presenters which they will reference in their presentation. Please note that additional articles and copies of the presentations will be provided to you at the workshop.

As of the date that we mailed this package to you, we were unable to obtain permission to reprint one article recommended by presenter Dr. Lorrie Shepard:
Shepard, L. A. (2000). The role of assessment in a learning culture. Educational Researcher, 5, 4-14. The article is available at http://www.aera.net/pubs/er/arts/29-07/shep01.htm. We request that you download and read this article prior to the workshop.

---

**THANKS!**

We extend our sincere thanks to our steering committee members who are volunteering their time and expertise to guide the planning and implementation of this project. We encourage participants to acquaint themselves with this group of individuals who represent a repository of information in the field of teaching, mathematics, science, and psychometrics.

Safe travels to Washington! We look forward to meeting and working with you on February 1-3!