DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

The Future of ICS

The signature program of the Center for Catholic Education, the Initiative for Catholic Schools (ICS), is completing its ninth year. This highly successful professional development program has served over 100 Catholic schools in the Greater Cincinnati area. Phase One of ICS enhanced science and mathematics education and Phase Two is transforming our Catholic schools into Professional Learning Communities (PLC). A PLC school is one that focuses on student learning through professional collaboration. PLC schools promote an “I can” atmosphere of student success through the collaboration of faculty. ICS has been the most influential program enhancing the Catholic School Advantage for our local Catholic schools.

The Center for Catholic Education is now at a crossroads with the ICS program. While interest and enthusiasm in the PLC program continues to grow, funding to support ICS is dwindling. The Initiative for Catholic Schools was started by a $2 million grant from the Clement and Ann Buenger Foundation. Several other generous individuals and foundations will allow us to continue this program through the 2012-2013 academic year. It has always been our hope that it will be possible to endow ICS to ensure meaningful professional development for local Catholic schools.

A testament to the quality of Catholic schools is that over 99% of Catholic high school seniors graduated in 2011 (compared to about 70% in public schools). And 85% of Catholic high school graduates go on to college (compared to 44% of public school graduates). The Center for Catholic Education is proud to play a part in the Catholic School Advantage. We live the ICS motto - A Vision of Greatness for Catholic Schools.

ASSOCIATE’S NOTES

Home and Away

Our signature ICS program, described by Director Flick at the left, is a direct outreach effort working with teams of teachers in the school setting itself. Since 2008, we have also sponsored a Master of Education degree program that has benefitted over 100 individual teachers from both the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the Diocese of Covington. That program, which I have described in earlier columns of this newsletter, also reaches out to our Catholic school system through the teachers we have enrolled and educated; we will be enrolling the fifth cohort of teachers (see page 2 over).

I take a personal interest in that program since I am privileged to teach two of the 10 required courses. Since these are all Catholic school educators, I can make broader reference to Catholic materials and points of view, as well as directly address issues that confront Catholic elementary and secondary schools at this time.

One such issue is the Catholicity of that school system. That concern arises from the changing religious practice of our Catholic homes and parishes, as well as the changing demographics of our schools that, in some areas, especially in the poorer areas of our inner cities, have seen a rise in the percentage of non-Catholics attending Catholic schools. All of this was under discussion at the fourth annual gathering of the Catholic Higher Education Collaborative, held at Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., in the first week of October. In earlier meetings of the collaborative, our ICS program and our M.Ed. program for Catholic educators have been seen to be among the leading programs for colleges and universities concerned with assisting the work of our fellow collaborators in Catholic education, elementary and high school teachers and schools.
Ann Buenger
Catholic Speaker
Series

Our fall 2011 speaker series will feature Michael Rutherford. For more than 20 years, using workshops, institutes, television, and on-line-technology, Mike Rutherford has been at the forefront of educator development across the United States. He has a wealth of experience as a high school chemistry teacher, coach, and middle school principal. He currently heads the Rutherford Learning Group which is a research and professional development consultancy focused on high-performance teaching and effective school leadership.

This year’s presentation, The Art of Teaching, provides an in-depth examination of 23 themes of teacher artisanship. Excellent teachers are artful, knowledgeable, skilled, master craftsmen. The presentation is intended for K-12 teachers and those responsible for developing and supporting teachers.

Over 750 Catholic educators, parents, teachers, future teachers, and interested community members typically attend this annual event. There is no cost for the reception and program but reservations are required. Call Xavier’s Office of Special Events at 513-745-3571 to reserve your seat!

MEd for Catholic Educators
A New Cohort

XUCCE is again sponsoring a Master of Education (M.Ed.) cohort for Catholic educators at Notre Dame Academy (NDA). The new cohort will begin in January 2012. Two information sessions will provide program information. The first will be at Notre Dame Academy on November 17 and the second at Xavier on December 8. Both sessions will begin at 4:30 pm. The first 12 credit hours of the 30 semester-hour degree are offered at NDA with the balance of coursework completed on Xavier’s campus. This program makes the Master’s degree available to Catholic teachers at about a 50% discount. To enroll contact Xavier’s Office of Graduate Services at 513-745-3360.

Autism Society Partnership
10th Summer Institute

The Center for Catholic Education has continued to partner with the Autism Society of Greater Cincinnati by housing the 10th annual Summer Institute, Embracing Autism – Supporting a Lifespan of Needs. The Summer Institute brings together individuals with autism, parents, family members and professionals to share their interests and increase their knowledge about autism. This is a training institute focused on the need and treatment of all individuals on the autism spectrum, from early intervention through adult services. Full morning keynotes were delivered by national experts. In addition, there were over 35 breakout sessions including “practical solutions to stabilize individuals with classic autism”, “play across development”, “supporting students on the college campus”, “practical uses of technology for individuals with autism”, and much more.

The missions of XUCCE, and Xavier’s Department of Secondary and Special Education are greatly enhanced by this partnership.