

2010 Topic: Leadership for New Ways of Learning

Application to be a

**Selected Program for
Improving Catholic Education**

June 24-26, 2010

Showcased at
Conversations in Excellence at Boston College

Apply by February 1, 2010



PURPOSE/GOALS OF THE PROJECT

SPICE is a project that identifies, validates, and systematically diffuses exemplary Catholic elementary, secondary, regional, and diocesan-wide educational programs that work, so that other educators may replicate or adapt them. Programs also may serve as catalysts for the creation of new models. SPICE is cosponsored by Boston College and NCEA's Department of Chief Administrators of Catholic Education (CACE) and NCEA's Department of Boards and Councils.

Programs selected through this application process agree to attend the entire Conversations in Excellence symposium June 24-26, 2010, at Boston College, to make a presentation at the following NCEA Convention (2011), and to respond to any serious requests for more information.

At Conversations in Excellence, leaders present their programs, hear talks by nationally recognized leaders in the focus area, assist one another to refine their programs, and suggest ways to adapt the programs for a variety of settings. Arrival and registration will be June 24 and the event concludes June 26 with a dinner at 6:45 pm.

One of the strengths of Catholic schools has been making the most of limited resources. It will take "new models to meet the needs of changing families, church, and society," said the National Congress on Catholic Schools for the 21st Century. SPICE provides a way "to use the wisdom and talent we have to build a stronger and larger network of Catholic schools."

FOCUS AREA FOR 2010: Leadership for New Ways of Learning

The challenges of leadership in Catholic schools, today and into the future, continue to grow and evolve as the expectations of education expand and develop.

To be leaders of institutions with a core mission of building the Kingdom of God through education calls each leader to examine his or her ability to incorporate and master the art and science of leadership. How do I build a learning community of educators who will embrace their call as Catholic/Christian role models for their students; who will use the scientific discoveries of the mind for curriculum and instruction; who will offer opportunities for their students to explore and apply their world of technology to their work; who will be challenged to serve their community to make the world with which God graced us a better place?

The SPICE conference on 21st century leadership will explore these skills through best practices, speakers, and cutting-edge programs throughout our schools. The leaders of our schools who have found success in changing their educational community because of the power of their program or programs will share their successful strategies with conference participants. Key areas of *Leadership for New Ways of Learning* to be examined and discussed are: Leadership Competencies Needed for Change; Spiritual Leadership; School Buildings of the Future Including the Technology Infrastructure Design for the School of the Future; Professional Learning Communities; New Models of Learning—21st Century Learning Environments/Digital Learning Including Curriculum; and ELL/Inclusion and Special Education Including Responsiveness to New Populations.

The following questions may guide your proposal:

1. Leadership Competencies Needed for Change

- What are the competencies that have enabled you to implement the “new ways of leaning”?
- How have these skills/competencies changed the culture of your building?
- How have they made it possible for you to change the people you hire and how you hire them for a building applying these strategies?
- How did you go through building a school for the future?
- What are the agreed upon critical success factors for the school of the future? How were they established? How have these influenced the hiring process for both administrators and faculty?

2. Spiritual Leadership

- How have you led the development of a plan to encourage students to use moral principles to guide their thinking and problem solving in today’s/tomorrow’s society?
- How have you directed the effort to emphasize gospel values and Christian ethics in the curriculum and policies of the school?
- How have you built a faith community among a diverse (culturally, religiously, etc.) faculty?
- What steps have you taken to involve faculty in planning faith experiences that would be relevant to them?
- How have you worked with your faculty to adapt the teaching of religion to match the circumstances of children’s lives?
- What are your critical success factors? How were they established?

(Ciriello, M., *The Principal as Spiritual Leader*, USCC, Washington, DC)

3. School Buildings of the Future Including the Technology Infrastructure Design for the School of the Future

- How did you go through building a school for the future?
- How has it changed instructional strategies used in your building?
- How did you get technologists and architects to work collaboratively and concurrently to bring both together to create the “power of design” for the teaching and learning experience?
- How did you build an infrastructure that is as “future-proof” as possible?
- What creative ways have you found to fund these building enhancements/renovations/expansions/ new structures?

4. Professional Learning Communities

- How did you build a culture that encouraged the faculty to be engaged in new ways of learning?
- How is the professional learning community designed to address global issues?
- What are your critical success factors? How were they established?
- What financial cost must be considered for such faculty changes?
- What creative ways have you found to fund these opportunities?

5. New Models of Learning—21st Century Learning Environments/Digital Learning Including Curriculum
 - How did you engage those involved in the design of curriculum to be open to the constant evolution of instructional practices and to be responsive to the ever-evolving needs of the community members?
 - What impact did the new curriculum have on the education of students?
 - What are your critical success factors? How were they established?
 - How has new curriculum changed the practice of assessment of student work?
 - How do you sustain this learning-cultural change in your building?
 - How did you lead educators and technologists to see technology through the lens of how it solves real problems and furthers the educational experience?
 - What financial cost must be considered for such curriculum changes?
 - What creative ways have you found to fund these opportunities?

6. ELL/Inclusion and Special Education Including Responsiveness to New Populations
 - How has it changed instructional strategies used in your building?
 - How do you sustain this cultural change in your building?
 - What are your critical success factors? How were they established?
 - What financial cost must be considered for this inclusiveness and responsiveness?
 - What creative ways have you found to fund these opportunities?

CRITERIA

To be selected, a program must demonstrate that it:

1. Enhanced the goals of the program and increased effectiveness
2. Met the needs of students and is tied to the mission of the school
3. Has validated effectiveness
4. Has been in operation at least three years
5. Involved parents/guardians
6. Received documented support from a local diocesan administrator
7. Can be adapted
8. Is committed to providing training, if needed, to the adapting schools
9. Will send 3 persons to present your configuration and participate in the entire Conversations in Excellence symposium at Boston College June 24-26, 2010

BENEFITS

Selected programs will receive:

- Free tuition, room, and meals for a 3-member team at the Conversations in Excellence symposium at Boston College June 24-26, 2010
- Free registration at the 2011 NCEA Convention in New Orleans for a 3-member team that will showcase their program at one session
- A Certificate of Achievement
- National attention through articles published in *Momentum* and *NCEA Notes* — an asset in recruiting
- Listing on the SPICE Web site (www.ncea.org) under Institutional Services
- The satisfaction of knowing that you have improved the education of other students

APPLICATION CONTENT

Please answer each of the following questions on a separate page. Use no more than three pages to answer any one question. Attach answers to the COVER SHEET and submit everything either as electronic files—by email or on a CD—or you may send a paper copy in the mail. Do not fax. Do not place paper copies in any kind of binder; attach with a paper clip only.

1. Identify which of the 6 areas above pertain to your program.
2. Provide the information requested under the area that pertains to your program.
3. Suggest some ways that you believe this model could be adapted for other Catholic schools, for example, inner-city, rural, urban, and large schools.
4. Include with this application a letter of support from an official of the diocesan schools office such as the superintendent or assistant superintendent, or the sponsoring religious community, who has visited the school and has seen this program in operation.

Notification of selection will be made at the end of February 2010.

Submit this application by February 1, 2010 to the following address:

*The application may be submitted as electronic files by email or on a CD,
or you may send a paper copy in the mail. Do not fax.
Do not place paper copies in any kind of binder; attach with a paper clip only.*

SPICE at NCEA
Suite 525
1005 North Glebe Road
Arlington, VA 22201-5792

Phone: (800) 711-6232
Fax: (703) 243-0025
Email: mcoombe@ncea.org

SPICE APPLICATION COVER SHEET
“Leadership for New Ways of Learning”
Due February 1, 2010

Please use this sheet as the first page of your application. Attach the information requested on the APPLICATION CONTENT sheet, and submit it either as electronic files—by email or on a CD—or you may send a paper copy in the mail. Do not fax. Please do not staple or put this application in any kind of binder that must be removed before photocopying.

Title of program (as it will be advertised)

Name of organization _____

Address of organization _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

E-mail Address _____

Web site _____

Contact person to receive future communications _____

Contact's e-mail address _____ Phone _____

Person responsible for the program _____

Name of principal or president _____

Principal/president's email address _____

Years the program has been in operation _____

(Arch)Diocese _____

Or sponsoring religious community _____

Signature of principal or president _____