

## **2014 National Title I Conference Planning Committee Meeting Minutes April 16, 2013**

**In Attendance:** Margaret MacKinnon (AK), Bernice Martin-Russell (AR), Gaye Lela Kind (BIE), Heather Denny (MT), Melinda Bessner (OR), Gayle Pauley (WA), Yvonne Ryans (WA), Bernell Cook (LA), Edmund Moore (AL)

Staff in Attendance: Lisa Brandes, Steve Lund, Richard Long, Kristina Carbone

### **New Website Launched**

The new titlei.org website launched on Monday April 15, 2013. Registration for the 2014 conference opened on the same day. On the first day there were 25 exhibitors and 12 attendees that registered.

### **Positives and negatives of past Distinguished School conference activities:**

- Decision: The Committee will continue honoring the DS during the opening session with a celebration parade.
- Decision: Distinguished Schools will continue to be invited to the President's Reception.
- Decision: During opening ceremonies past distinguished schools should be recognized.
- Recommendation: The high school band leading the parade will be asked to play upbeat music as they are walking in and to continue playing quietly, as background music, while the schools names are being called. They will also be asked to refrain from bringing other members of the band that do not play an instrument.

### **Ways to improve informing Distinguished Schools of their role and what happens at the conference**

Decisions:

- Continue pre-conference interviews with Principals of schools
- Continuously update the distinguished school page on the conference website.
- Adding a short video of the Nashville opening ceremony parade on the distinguished school page.
- Melinda Bessner (OR) has agreed to work with A+ staff to better prepare schools for the conference.

Recommendation:

- Have a regional conference call with distinguished schools letting them know what to expect.

## **Recognition**

Recommendation to continue with recognition given during the 2013 conference:

- When announced each school was sent a certificate and a digital camera to be used for taking pictures of their distinguished school.
- Each school named a newspaper to which a press release was sent letting the community know they were selected as a distinguished school.
- At the conference each school had their picture taken with their state representative. These were available online to each school.
- Each school were given 50 distinguished school pins.
- After the conference each school was sent a banner and a DVD of the parade and the opening speaker.
- Each school with be on the interactive map of distinguished schools.

## **Next Steps:**

Topic for next meeting is:

- Refine keynote speaker list – discuss options

## **Next Call:**

Date: Monday May 20, 2013

Time: 4PM EDT, 3PM CDT, 2PM MDT, 1PM PDT & MST, 12PM AKDT, and 10AM HS