

Wednesday: February 17, 2010

8:00 am - 10:45 am **BREAK*** refreshments available (includes coffee, tea, soft drinks and water)
Location: Conference Registration Area

8:00 am - 5:00 pm Registration/Help Desk **Location:** *Desks 3 & 4*

8:00 am - 5:00 pm Exhibits **Location:** *Guilford D*

9:00 am - 9:15 am **WELCOME:** Lou Fabrizio, Gary Williamson, Sarah McManus and Tammy Howard
Location: *Guilford EFG*

9:15 am - 10:00 am Opening Remarks: Dr. June Atkinson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Location: *Guilford EFG*

10:00 am - 10:30 am Overview of Conference: Lou Fabrizio and Gary Williamson
Location: *Guilford EFG*

North Carolina's Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort - also known as ACRE - is the state's comprehensive initiative to redefine the Standard Course of Study for K-12 students, the student testing program and the school accountability model. In undertaking this ambitious work, North Carolina education leaders are the first in the nation to address learning standards, student tests, and school accountability simultaneously. Quite simply, this is the most important and significant work of the State Board of Education and Department of Public Instruction in a generation.

This work, being completed in stages over five years, will identify the most critical knowledge and skills that students need to learn: filtering the "must have" elements of the curriculum from the "nice to have" elements; creating new student tests for grades 3–8 and high school courses that use more open-ended questions, updating technology and including more real-world applications of what students learn; and providing a new model for measuring school success that gives parents and educators more relevant information about how well schools are preparing students for college, work, and adulthood.

North Carolina was a pioneer in school accountability in the mid-1990s when the state's education and political leaders developed the ABCs of Public Education, the current school accountability model. At that time, few states were able to measure student academic growth from year to year and use this information to evaluate school performance.

With ACRE, North Carolina once again finds itself in a pioneer role. When the ACRE work is in place, North Carolina will have a 21st century model that identifies what students should know and clearly measures whether students are on track for success after high school.

The ACRE work involves many educators from across North Carolina—classroom teachers, school administrators, content and curriculum experts from the Department of Public instruction, university and community college faculty, and national experts on curriculum design and testing. While ACRE is on a fast-track schedule, this work will take time to unfold and take effect statewide. In order to be reasonable about how much change can be implemented at once, there is a schedule for addressing each subject area and its assessments. The new accountability model for schools and tracking student growth over time will be the final phase of ACRE work.

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

10:45 – 11:45 CONCURRENT SESSION ABSTRACTS

1. New Math Tests: What's Coming and How to Prepare

Presenter: Michael Gallagher, Accountability Consultant, NCDPI

Location: Auditorium I

The near term “horizon” for the Framework for Change in Assessment will bring change to mathematics in North Carolina. Essential Standards and Common Core Standards will affect what is taught and tested at each grade and for each course. Formative and benchmark tests will play an important role. The latest details will be shared as well as suggestions for preparation to help our students to become 21st century learners.

2. Formative Assessment through LinguaFolio

Presenters: Ivanna Mann Thrower, ESL/Title III Consultant, NCDPI

Glenda Harrell, ESL/Title III Consultant, NCDPI

Joanne Marino, ESL/Title III Consultant, NCDPI

Location: Auditorium II

This presentation will introduce participants to a powerful new assessment tool: LinguaFolio, a project of the National Council of State Supervisors for Languages (NCSSFL) and a means to increase performance on standardized assessments. This portfolio assessment instrument is used with students of foreign languages and has been customized to address the academic language development of English Language Learners, as well as students in dual language/immersion programs.

Inspired by the European Language Portfolio, LinguaFolio includes a Passport, Biography, and Dossier. Workshop participants will be introduced to the 3 sections of the instrument, discuss the self-assessment proficiency checklists, receive an update on the electronic version of the tool and online training modules, as well as receive suggestions and guidance for developing LinguaFolio-like tasks that can be used to enhance the use of the tool in the classroom.

3. The 2009–10 NC Writing Instruction System: Two “Online” LEA Perspectives

Presenters: Jim Kroening, Accountability Consultant, NCDPI

Phyllis Blue, Middle Grades ELA Consultant, NCDPI

Cindy Manning, Testing Coordinator, Craven County Schools

Michael Tart, Learning Systems Coach, Craven County Schools

Anna Lankford, Elementary and Middle School Curriculum Director, Wilkes County Schools

Location: Auditorium III

The North Carolina Writing Instruction System (WIS) received the 2009 21st Century Skills Practice of the Year Award. WIS is currently being piloted statewide this school year. This flexible approach to writing instruction and assessment affords students the opportunity to

improve their writing skills across the various content areas, enabling them to communicate more effectively in the real world. Participants will gain insight on how two LEAs organized professional development activities; developed instructional and assessment plans; organized collaboration among curriculum, testing, and IT staff; and handled logistical planning.

4. Understanding the General Statutes and Policies that Govern the NC Testing Program

Presenter: Drew Davis, General Counsel, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

Location: Auditorium IV

In light of increasingly higher-stakes testing, districts and schools have extensive responsibility for ensuring testing occurs uniformly and equitably. Superintendents, principals, and coordinators should be well-versed in the North Carolina *Testing Code of Ethics*, should understand the requirements for successfully administering tests, and should be able to follow proper procedures when testing violations occur. This session will outline these responsibilities and provide the appropriate courses of action during investigations of testing violations.

5. Enhancing the Technical Quality of the North Carolina Testing Program: An Overview of Current Research Studies

Presenters: Nadine McBride, Psychometrician, NCDPI

Melinda Taylor, Psychometrician, NCDPI

Carrie Perkis, Psychometric Support, NCDPI

Location: Guilford C

North Carolina has recently overseen research studies on comparability by mode of presentation of the North Carolina End-of-Course tests. Results of these studies will be presented. In addition, a new study will examine the consequential validity of the state assessment program. The methodology of this study will be presented. Session participants will receive information on how they can potentially participate in this new study.

6. Open Lab

Location: Grandover

12:00 – 2:00 Keynote Luncheon

2:15 – 3:15 CONCURRENT SESSION ABSTRACTS

7. Quantiles: Coming Soon to a Score Report Near You!

Presenters: Samantha Burg, Research Associate, MetaMetric, Inc.

Michael Gallagher, Consultant, NCDPI

Location: Auditorium I

In the spring of 2010, a Quantile measure will be reported as an indicator of mathematics achievement for each student in NC based upon their EOG/EOC performance. In addition to student measures, the Quantile Framework[®] for Mathematics uses empirical data to define the

difficulty of mathematics concepts within a taxonomy of mathematical skills. This session explores the research behind the Quantile Framework[®], and the results of the linking study, and it gives an introduction to the power of the Quantile Framework[®] for differentiated instruction in the classroom.

8. The 2010 Assessment Literacy Team Campaign: Increasing the Understanding of Testing in the 21st Century

*Presenters: Iris Garner, NAEP Coordinator, NCDPI
David Bryant, Consultant, NCDPI*

Location: Auditorium II

This session outlines strategies for strengthening assessment literacy in the public schools of North Carolina. The presentation showcases the elements of the 2010 Assessment Literacy Campaign. The campaign improves, encourages, and streamlines dialogue and resources. Working together to promote the understanding of assessment is paramount. If you are interested in being part of the Assessment Literacy Team, an essential part of globally positioning students for the 21st century, you don't want to miss this session.

9. Back to the Basics with WinScan

*Presenters: Betty Laws, Regional Computer Consultant, NCDPI
Judy Walker, Director of Testing, Mount Airy City Schools*

Location: Auditorium III

Have you recently been given the duties of testing and have no idea where to begin? If so, this session is designed especially for you! Tests are pouring in at your doorstep and you think, "What next?" In this session, the first step will be to learn how to download and install WinScan. You will also learn how to test and calibrate the scanner. Before the session is over, you'll know how to select appropriate tests, understand folders, and scan answer documents. You'll gain an understanding of Check Data files and frequently used terminology. Join us and find out how to use WinScan Editor, learn what Match Process means, and see how to print various reports. Additionally, you'll be the "wise one" because you will learn how to create a .SCO file for import to NC WISE.

10. Ethical Challenges Facing Testing Coordinators

*Presenters: Katie Cornetto, NCSBE Staff Attorney, NCDPI
Laura Crumpler, Assistant Attorney General, Education Section, NC Dept of Justice*

Location: Auditorium IV

Katie G. Cornetto, NCSBE Staff Attorney and Laura E. Crumpler, Assistant Attorney General, Education Section, NC Department of Justice will cover the North Carolina *Testing Code of Ethics*, the investigation of testing irregularities (OTISS), and other ethical challenges facing testing coordinators. This presentation will include a question and answer session with the legal advisors to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

11. Connecting the Data Dots: Where Do the Data Go?

Presenter: Traci Blount, Section Chief, Web Services & Publications Sales / NC School Report Cards State Coordinator

Location: Guilford C

Now more than ever, education professionals use data on numerous levels—from day-to-day decision-making in local schools, to long-term district planning. Additionally, parents and citizens are demanding greater government transparency. Do you know where your data go and how this information is utilized? This session provides an overview of key data elements and public reports, (such as the NC School Report Cards). It also addresses statewide data quality efforts and best practices.

This session is designed for any participant who collects, validates, or uses data. From testing coordinators to Superintendents and other district or school staff, this session will provide practical information about how select data are used by the NC Department of Public Instruction.

12. Open Lab

Location: Grandover

3:15 – 3:30 Break

Guilford D

3:45- 4:45 CONCURRENT SESSION ABSTRACTS

13. Advancing Student Mathematics Learning through Formative Assessment

Presenters: Carmella Fair, Mathematics Consultant, NCDPI

Mary Russell, Mathematics Consultant, NCDPI

Location: Auditorium I

In this interactive session, participants will engage in discussions and learning experiences relating to the role formative assessment plays in student learning and instruction. Participants will be provided strategies to use for addressing the learning progression of students. Prior knowledge is not required.

14. Algebra in the 8th Grade: What Does It Mean for Students?

Presenter: Triangle High Five Regional Partnership

Location: Auditorium II

In the national education agenda, math performance is one of the subject areas to be addressed with the common core standards. Learn how five school districts are partnering to consider how to adequately prepare more students for algebra in the 8th grade. This session will focus on 8th grade algebra in North Carolina. What students enroll? Was their success predictable? How does it affect ultimate math achievement at end of 12th grade if students take algebra as 8th graders or wait and take it in high school?

15. Special Assessments Projects Roundtable – A Session of Innovation and Exploration

*Presenters: Sarah McManus, Section Chief, Testing Policy & Operations, NCDPI
Selected LEAs*

Location: Auditorium III

This session provides an in-depth look at the Science Enhanced Assessment Grant and America Diploma Project/ADP Algebra II. A panel of participants will share their experiences and highlight the milestones. This information will showcase North Carolina Department of Public Instruction leaders' ability to lead in educational forums and seek effective resources. Come and participate in an informative conversation that will prompt you to explore innovation and embrace new ideas.

16. ABCTools10 Precode Plus

Presenter: Lori Ivey, Programmer/Analyst, NCDPI

Location: Auditorium IV

This session covers basic operations in the use of the Precode Plus program within ABCTools. Steps in Precoding, printing a student roster, external file, and other topics will be discussed.

17. Data Management Group (DMG)

Presenters: Karl Pond, Enterprise Data Manager, NCDPI

Gary Williamson, Director, Accountability Operations, NCDPI

Location: Guilford C

This session provides an introduction to the Data Management Group (DMG) of the Department of Public Instruction. Organization, membership, and governance of the group are described. A tour of the DMG Web site will highlight selected policies related to data quality, security, communication, information needs and analysis, and research facilitation. An update is provided regarding authoritative data sources as well as resources and other information available at the DMG site.

18. Open Lab

Location: Grandover

**4:45 – 5:00 Break
Guilford D**

5:00 – 6:00 pm

19. LEA Test Coordinators' Update

Presenters: Lou Fabrizio, Director of Accountability Policy & Communications, NCDPI

Gary Williamson, Director, Accountability Operations, NCDPI

Sarah McManus, Section Chief, Testing Policy & Operations, NCDPI

Tammy Howard, Section Chief, Test Development, NCDPI

Location: Guilford EFG

This session will brief Testing Accountability Directors and Test Coordinators on changes to occur in 2009–2010 within each Accountability Division section. A question and answer opportunity will also be provided.

Thursday, February 18, 2010

7:00 am – 8:30 am – Breakfast (Name tag required)

Location: Guilford EFG

8:00 – 9:00 CONCURRENT SESSION ABSTRACTS

20. Making Data Accessible on a Shoestring

Presenters: Lewis R. Johnson, Director of Testing and Research, Rockingham County Schools

Barry McCorkle, Data Technician, Rockingham County Schools

Location: Auditorium I

This presentation chronicles and demonstrates work Rockingham County Schools is accomplishing in building and maintaining a multi-level data collection and reporting system using Google sites and Oracle's Application Express. Through the use of Excel and Application Express, the district is creating a data system that more than meets administrators' expectations. While we all know that timely access to student performance and other data is vital for guiding instructional decisions and program evaluation, most presentations fall short in describing how to build the data system. If you want to know how to accomplish the data access part of the process, attend this presentation.

21. Spring 2010 Mathematics and English II (Grade 10) Item Tryout: The Next Generations of Assessments

Presenters: Michael Gallagher, Consultant, NCDPI

Jim Kroening, Consultant, NCDPI

Amy Callipare, Consultant, NCDPI

Randy Craven, IT Director, NCSU, TOPS

Location: Auditorium II

Since the North Carolina *Essential Standards* for Mathematics and English II (Grade 10) were adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) in September 2009, the Test Development Section has been designing and building new assessments consisting of varied item types and non-traditional student response formats. The spring 2010 item tryouts include Mathematics at Grades 4 and 7 and Math Level A (paper-and-pencil and online test formats) and English II (Grade 10), designed solely to be delivered in an online test format. Participants will have the opportunity to preview test items and new innovative formats.

22. Beyond Career Readiness

Presenter: Les Harrison, KeyTrain Regional Director

Location: Auditorium III

This session will preview Thinking Media/KeyTrain's new internet software tool that is being widely used for a comprehensive approach to career readiness. The Career Ready 101™ tool covers ACT WorkKeys® skills for the National Career Readiness Certificate and extends into required workplace behaviors and vital life skills like financial literacy. Foundational skills are only a part of the picture—today's workplace environment demands an array of skills such as technology use for career exploration, creating career goals, financial awareness, work habits, business etiquette, workplace effectiveness, and communication. This tutorial session will focus on a unique system and curriculum that enable instructors to organize and deliver powerful learning tools essential for the development of effective career-minded students.

23. ESEA Reauthorization

Presenter: Lou Fabrizio, Director of Accountability Policy & Communications, NCDPI

Location: Auditorium IV

Lou will facilitate an informal discussion about reauthorization ideas for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Lou currently serves on the Council of Chief State School Officers' (CCSSO) ESEA Reauthorization Task Force.

24. Using Assessment Data to Direct Your Instruction

Presenter: Cathy Williams, Instructional Accountability Supervisor, Greene County Schools

Location: Guilford C

Have you ever wondered how a child made growth from 4th to 5th grade even though his or her scale scores appear to move backwards? This session breaks down the EOG growth formulas and shows you how each child makes growth from one year to the next. The session will also discuss how our school system used summative data to direct instruction for the current school year and guide formative assessment planning.

25. What's Up with OTISS?

Presenter: Brian Swiger, Accountability Consultant, NCDPI

Location: Colony BC

This session provides an overview of new features and reporting tools available to users of the Online Testing Irregularities Submission System (OTISS). One year after the implementation of the system for the statewide reporting of testing irregularities, new features have been added to improve usability and enable a smooth reporting process. Reporting tools built into the OTISS for those instances when you require hard-copy documentation for your local records will also be covered.

26. Open Lab
Location: Grandover

9:15 – 10:15 CONCURRENT SESSION ABSTRACTS

27. Useful Files on the Secure Shell—What They Are and How to Use Them
Presenter: Donald Rhodes, Director of Testing & Accountability, Pitt County Schools
Location: Auditorium I

This session will provide information and a demonstration on how to use files that are on the Secure Shell (from acadata files to end-of-year files). Examples include taking the ABC_SUMMARY file and creating a file in Excel that can be sent to the Superintendent and Schools. Other files that will be reviewed are ABC_GROWTH, AYP_ABC-PRE, AYP_ABC, NCLB-PREF, NCLB_TARGET, NCLP_PART, GRAD, SWD files etc. A lot of these file can be used by the LEA TC to check year-end data that is prepared by DPI.

28. Finding the Shoe that Fits: Matching Students to Instruction
Presenters: Amy Callipare, Consultant, NCDPI
Heather Koons, Research & Development, Metametrics, Inc.
Location: Auditorium II

A tremendous amount of information can be gleaned from test scores, ranging from objectives mastered to Lexile measures. However, educators, parents, and students often are not aware of the possibilities for how test scores can be used to improve learning. This session helps close this information gap by showing how the student reading scores on the EOG and EOC English I tests can be used immediately to help inform more effective instructional planning, communication with parents, and reading choices for students. The presentation showcases the new North Carolina Lexile Map, which illustrates the relationship between the test scores and reading materials. In addition to a brief explanation of Lexile measures and their relationship to Achievement Levels, recent research on increasing the effectiveness of summer reading programs and tools to help students, parents, and educators select reading materials will be provided.

29. Quantiles 101
Presenter: Samantha Burg, Research Associate, MetaMetrics, Inc.
Location: Auditorium III

If you are familiar with Lexiles, then meet its mathematical complements—the Quantile Framework[®] for Mathematics! Both are vertical, developmental scales and as a student’s Lexile measure is an indicator of reading achievement, a student’s Quantile measure is an indicator of mathematics achievement. Quantile measures will be reported with each student’s EOG/EOC score reports starting this spring (some EOC’s are available now). The Quantiles.com Web site provides free resources such as knowledge clusters, the new “Quantile Teacher Assistant” application, curriculum alignments, textbooks and resources calibrations, Web sites, games, “Math at Home,” and many other resources useful for both educators and parents.

- 30. A New Accountability Model for North Carolina**
Presenters: Lou Fabrizio, Director, Accountability & Policy Communications, NCDPI
Gary Williamson, Director, Accountability Operations, NCDPI
Location: Auditorium IV

A conceptual model is briefly presented to depict major components of the new accountability system envisioned through the ACRE: student performance, growth, graduation rate, Future Ready Core, postsecondary readiness. The majority of the session will focus on key questions and implications of the model, allowing for discussion and input from the audience.

- 31. Accountability and NC WISE—Working Together**
Presenters: Phyllis Price, QA Analyst, NCDPI
Lori Ivey, Programmer/Analyst, NCDPI
Location: Guilford C

This session will discuss the ways in which NC WISE and Accountability work together to support education in North Carolina. Topics will include an overview of the testing functions in NC WISE and the use of data to support state and federal reporting requirements.

- 32. WWW Dot Accountability: Learning More about the Accountability Web site**
Presenters: Brian Swiger, Consultant, NCDPI
Iris Garner, NAEP Coordinator, NCDPI
Location: Colony BC

“You can find out more about this on the NCDPI Web site.” How many times have you heard this during a presentation? The Accountability Web site contains many pages and links. In this session, participants are given a tour of the Web site, are provided access to a plethora of National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) resources, and are shown the easiest way to navigate to the information they need most. A site map and a sample of NAEP reporting tools will be distributed to attendees.

- 33. Open Lab**
Location: Grandover

10:15-10:30 Break
Guilford D

10:45 – 11:45 CONCURRENT SESSION ABSTRACTS

- 34. SQL for Dummies – How to Use It**
Presenter: Donald Rhodes, Director of Testing & Accountability, Pitt County Schools
Location: Auditorium I

This session will provide information and a demonstration on how to create SQL statements that are useful at district and school levels. Examples of SQL used in Pitt County will be given to

attendees such as SQL statements that can be used for audits for HS AYP Grade 10 Algebra 1/English1 and Grade 11 Science, Predictor Scores by teacher and section, Growth by Teacher, etc.

35. Testing Students with Disabilities

*Presenters: Mary Watson, Director, Exceptional Children Division, NCDPI
Claire Greer, Consultant, Exceptional Children Division, NCDPI*

Location: Auditorium II

This session will focus on the instructional need for accommodations for students with disabilities and how that translates to accommodations on classroom, district and state assessments. There will also be a discussion regarding the monitoring of the implementation of the accommodations and the importance of collaboration among professionals.

36. Using a Benchmark System to Assist in Teacher and Student Improvement

*Presenters: Geneva Squire, CCB Member, Data Consultant, Accountability, Career-Technical, and 9-12 Math Coordinator, Northampton County Schools
William Stevens, President and Founder of Eduware, Inc.*

Location: Auditorium III

Session attendees will get an opportunity to experience scanning, scoring, and reporting benchmark data in real time. Participants will be able to view reports generated and ask questions of the President and Founder of Eduware, Inc. An LEA testing coordinator, who uses the software to provide immediate reporting for teachers, will conduct a live demonstration of scanning, scoring, and reporting. Attendees with laptops and wireless connectivity will be able to login and navigate through the demo reports generated during the session.

37. Accountability and Curriculum Reform (ACRE) Overview and Update

*Presenters: Angela Quick, Deputy Chief Academic Officer, NCDPI
Cindy Williamson, Director, K-12 Curriculum, Instruction & Technology, NCDPI
Gary Williamson, Director Accountability Operations, NCDPI*

Location: Auditorium IV

North Carolina is involved in a 5-year reform of standards, assessments, and accountability systems going under the name ACRE (Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort). This session provides a general overview of ACRE (its purposes, strategy, and organization) and an update describing the work that has been accomplished during the past year, the current status of key initiatives, and plans for continuing forward, including how ACRE aligns with the Race to the Top (RTTT).

38. Statewide System of Support

Presenter: Pat Ashley, Director, District and School Transformation

Location: Guilford C

The Statewide System of Support is a mechanism through which the Department of Public Instruction provides service to all North Carolina school districts and also to schools or districts

who are identified because of gaps, growth, or proficiency levels. There are regional roundtables operating in each of the eight state board regions where needs of the regions are identified, and regional institutes are conducted to address some of those needs.

39. Positioning Students for Success with NAEP Data...The Clear Route

Presenter: Iris Garner, NAEP Coordinator, NCDPI

Location: Colony BC

This session will provide a comprehensive look at the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and tools that are available to help position your students for life. The NAEP Data Explorer and Questions Tool are engineered to give an in-depth look at student performance and state and national trends in reading and math. If you are interested in positioning your students for the 21st century, you don't want to miss this opportunity to see a clear data route to student success.

40. Open Lab

Location: Grandover

12:00 – 2:00 Working Lunch
Guilford EFG

2:15 – 3:15 CONCURRENT SESSION ABSTRACTS

41. What Goes on in the Warehouse: How Tops Distributes Test Materials

Presenter: Debby Hagemann, NCSU, TOPS

Location: Auditorium I

Successful ordering and handling of test materials can be enhanced by timely and unique information. This session includes tips and strategies for more effective communication with and support from the Technical Outreach for Public Schools (TOPS). Logistics will be discussed along with some of the "How-to's" of secure ordering, receiving, distributing, storing, and returning test materials.

42. Meeting the Challenges of 21st Century Blended Learning

Presenter: David Edwards, Chief Communications and Professional Learning Officer, NC Virtual Public School

Location: Auditorium II

The NC Virtual Public School and Learn and Earn Online are two of North Carolina's most innovative learning programs to help NC students become 21st century, future-ready learners. Participants will learn how these programs are quickly becoming a national model for blended learning and how their students can get the 'virtual advantage'. Topics will include review of successes from the programs, leadership initiatives, training that participants can get involved in, and much more!

43. Using ABCTools10 and Excel to Plan for Student Achievement

Presenters: Geneva Squire, Data Consultant, Career-Tech & K-12 Math Coordinator, and 9-12 Math Coordinator, Northampton County Schools

Tyrana Battle, Regional Accountability Coordinator, Northeast Region

Location: Auditorium III

Session attendees will use their own data files to generate student, teacher, subject and grade level predictions for EOGs and EOCs. ABCTools10 and pivot tables from Microsoft Excel will be used to assist in planning remediation, focused intervention and acceleration. Participants will need their acdata, acctest and member files downloaded from NC WISE. Those needing help installing ABCTools10 on their laptops will be provided assistance.

44. Next Generation of Assessments: Opportunities and Challenges

Presenters: Tammy Howard, Section Chief, Test Development, NCDPI

Melinda Taylor, Psychometrician, NCDPI

Nadine McBride, Psychometrician, NCDPI

Jim Kroening, Consultant, NCDPI

Amy Callipare, Consultant, NCDPI

Michael Gallagher, Consultant, NCDPI

Location: Auditorium IV

Test development staff is currently designing and building summative assessments aligned to the new Essential Standards in mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies. These assessments will consist of varied item types and non-traditional student response formats; some will be designed to be delivered solely online. This session addresses the technical and logistical effects of new assessment designs on the North Carolina Testing Program. The presenters will summarize current plans and encourage feedback from the audience.

45. New Test Coordinators' Training Session

Presenter: Cynthia Magee, Regional Accountability Consultant, Southwest Region

Location: Guilford C

This session is designed to help participants become familiar with the tasks involved in their new positions as LEA Test Coordinators. Specific information will be shared regarding general duties of Test Coordinators, obtaining access to secure sites, navigating accountability data sites, and using accountability program software.

46. ABCTools10 Precode Plus

Presenter: Lori Ivey, Programmer/Analyst, NCDPI

Location: Colony BC

This session will cover basic operations in the use of the Precode Plus program within ABCTools. Steps in Precoding, printing a student roster, external file, and other topics will be discussed.

- 47. Open Lab**
Location: Grandover

3:30 – 4:30 CONCURRENT SESSION ABSTRACTS

- 48. Fear Is Not a Factor in Testing: Take Some Risks Sharing Data**
Presenter: Deanene Deaton, Accountability & Media Director, Person County Schools
Location: Auditorium I

This session is intended for new testing coordinators just beginning their journey with testing and accountability. The presenter will share first-year lessons learned, tips, and strategies for surviving the first year of testing. The latter half of the presentation will focus on tips and information for sharing data with the district in order to have an impact on instruction and instructional planning. Door Prizes included.

- 49. Getting Started with MySQL**
Presenter: Janet Jenkins, Director of Student Assessment, Kannapolis City Schools
Location: Auditorium II

The session is designed for the novice MySQL user. This session provides step-by-step directions for accessing and using MySQL in ABCTools and MySQL Query Browser. Highlights include directions for writing query statements using one or two tables. Information is not provided about how to design tables since this function is included in ABCTools.

- 50. In the Beginning: Success As a New Testing Coordinator**
Presenters: Tracy Gary, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Weldon City Schools
Cynthia Wright, NC WISE/Testing Coordinator, Roanoke Rapids Graded Schools
Location: Auditorium III

Feeling overwhelmed as a new testing coordinator? Well, it's time to turn your anxiety into anticipation! Let us share with you some tips and best practices that will help you to become more confident with your new role. You'll leave this session with some strategies on organization, effective collaboration and teamwork, and understanding reports. Most importantly, you'll gain a sense of hope and relief knowing that you are not alone!

- 51. Four Approaches to Selecting Representative Samples in Educational Research**
Presenters: Charles Lanier, Consultant, NCDPI
Amy Powell-Moman, Educational Research Consultant, NCSU, TOPS
Alissa Bernholc, Statistical Consultant, NCSU, TOPS
Location: Auditorium IV

Researchers in the field of Educational Research are often asked to produce samples that are representative of the larger population, representative of a similarly sized group, or matched to a

set of specified criteria. Although, the four approaches discussed in this presentation are designed to meet different purposes, each approach considers the hierarchy of unit-levels required (state-, LEA-, school-, classroom-, or student-level data). They have been used to answer both actual and hypothetical research questions in North Carolina. Each approach is briefly introduced below and will be discussed in more detail during the presentation.

(1) Multi-Dimensional Stratified (MDS) sampling: This approach allows the researcher to select dimensions from available data and select a probability sample that represents the characteristics chosen.

(2) Recursive Post-Sampling Criteria (RPSC) sampling: This approach has been used to select samples for field tests and other test development studies. Representative samples are selected to meet required probability characteristics.

(3) Propensity Score (PS) sampling: This approach is a probabilistic approach to produce a unit that most closely matches defined characteristics of a given unit.

(4) Minimum T-Squared (MTS) sampling: This approach is a non-probabilistic method of producing a unit that best matches defined characteristics of a given unit.

52. Using MS Access to Create Rosters by Teacher for Growth/Predictions

*Presenters: Sharon Allen, Testing and Accountability Coordinator, Hoke County Schools
Cynthia Magee, Regional Accountability Coordinator, Southwest Region*

Location: Guilford C

Use MS Access to create teacher rosters of prediction and growth data that includes numbers of students for AYP estimates from tables created in ABCTools.

53. Using Technology to Manage Test Materials

Presenters: Phyllis Spencer, Director for Local Testing, WCPSS

Carol Jenkins, Senior Director for Testing, WCPSS

Brian Sumner, Senior Administrator for Alternate Assessments, WCPSS

Brian Swiger, Accountability Consultant, NCDPI

Location: Colony BC

This session will be divided into two parts. The first part will be presented by members of the Wake County Testing Office and will focus on the various methods used by Wake to manage over a quarter of a million test materials each school year. Participants will learn how to incorporate technology into their test material management strategies. Using *Microsoft Infopath* to collect information from schools, in just a few clicks, participants will learn how to combine the data into a spreadsheet that can be used to monitor testing materials in their various stages. Participants will also learn about other programs, mail merge capabilities, and support mechanisms that are used by Wake to help their 160 school test coordinators with their test material management processes. The second part of the session will focus on updates from the NCDPI regarding procedures related to handling materials for the 2009–10 school year.

54. Open Lab
Location: Grandover

4:30-4:45 Break
Guilford D

5:00 – 6:00 pm

55. Data Gurus and the Principals' Playbook
Presenters: Dot Lodge, Chief Accountability Officer, Gaston County Schools
Barbara James, Accountability Coordinator, Gaston County Schools
Location: Auditorium I

Gaston County Schools has begun a journey to provide data and data analysis skills to its 54 schools. We started with data guru workshops to train people at each school to gather and use data to change instruction and processes at the school level. From this series of workshops, we developed the Principals' Playbook, which specifies data sources, uses of the data, and questions to ask about the data each month of the year. We support the Playbook with continuing workshops and a wikipage with detailed instructions. This session will describe the process and showcase the Principals' Playbook.

56. Understanding Student Growth
Presenter: Janet Jenkins, Director of Student Assessment, Kannapolis City Schools
Location: Auditorium II

The session provides an overview of how one district uses ABC growth as an indicator of student achievement trends. Two different methods are shared. The discussion includes information about how these analyses have contributed to decisions about instruction and programming.

57. Drilling Down the Data: Helpful Tools for Principals
Presenter: Drew Maerz, Director Educational Data, Assessment, & Research
Location: Auditorium III

One of the challenges facing principals and school level instructional leadership is the timely ability to drilldown the data to make data driven decisions. Over the past two years, the Educational Accountability staff in Moore County Schools has worked to make data more meaningful and accessible to principals. With Electronic Data notebook, we have made information updates timely and instantly accessible. This year we have created a data build that allows instant disaggregation to the teacher and student level.

This session will introduce the Electronic Data Notebook, provide an overview to the data build, and then show in real time, how principals can disaggregate their data using pivot tables. Principals have found this to be enlightening, powerful, and necessary when used with school improvement, instructional discussions, and defining student needs. Come learn how to make your data more accessible and timely.

58. Helping Students Soar with NC Falcon: Formative Assessment Learning Community

*Presenters: Jamisa Gibson, Formative Assessment Consultant,
Douglas Byrd High School*

*Jo Wheeler, Assistant Superintendent for K-8 Instruction, Craven County Schools
Sarah McManus, Section Chief, Testing Policy & Operations, NCDPI*

Location: Auditorium IV

This session will provide a comprehensive look at NC FALCON, North Carolina's very own storehouse of formative assessment professional development modules. This session will provide a broader understanding of formative assessment and showcase its role in a comprehensive, balanced assessment system. This partnership entitles you to a plethora of knowledge and resources. If you are interested in your students soaring in the 21st century come and join this network of greater heights.

59. NC Registration Overview

Presenter: Randy Craven, IT Director, NCSU, TOPS

Location: Guilford C

This session will review NC Registration, its recent changes, and features being worked on. The session will solicit new ideas and feature requests from users.

NC Registration is a secure distributed online test and data collection management system. It is used to register students, schedule test sessions, collect data, and produce reports on a select group of assessments in North Carolina. School systems and schools use the system to indicate students who are eligible for testing and schedule test administrations within predefined testing sessions for groups of students. Additionally, districts and schools use the system to manage data collection efforts that do not have online assessment components.

NC Registration shares data with testing systems so that students can be given access to online tests by NC Registration users. The system shares data with data collection systems (e.g., *NCEXTENDI*) in order to process off-line assessments.

60. Using Formative Assessment in the K-12 Social Studies Classroom

Presenters: Faye Gore, Social Studies Consultant, NCDPI

Michellem McLaughlin, 9-12 Social Studies Consultant, NCDPI

Jolene Ethridge, K-5 Social Studies Consultant, NCDPI

Location: Colony BC

Have you heard the buzz about formative assessment and want to know more? Come to this session to find out how to use formative assessment in the K–12 social studies classroom. During this session you will receive an overview of the formative assessment process as adopted by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and review sample formative assessment plans for K-12 social studies. Resources will be shared.

- 61. Open Lab**
Location: Grandover

Friday, February 19, 2010

8:30 - 10:30 CONCURRENT SESSION ABSTRACTS

- 62. ABCTools10 and WinScan Updates**
Presenters: Ken Barbour, IT Portfolio Manager, NCDPI
George Stubblefield, IT Specialist, NCDPI
Location: Guilford EFG

This session will discuss new features and issues related to the use of the software programs WinScan32 and IndivRpt32 used for scanning, scoring and printing results for the 2009–10 accountability year. This session will discuss new and current features in ABCTools10 and relevant updates for end-of-year processing. The ATEAM will provide updates to graduation cohort rate and reports on the server.

10:45 – 12:00

- 63. Closing Session – “2010 Accountability Conference”**
Presenters: Lou Fabrizio, Director Accountability Policy & Communications, NCDPI
Tyrana Battle, Regional Accountability Coordinator, Northeast Region
Location: Guilford EFG

Come and join the accountability team for a historical overview of our conference both past and present. This session will be the culminating activity for the accountability conference. Door prizes will be given away. Individuals must be present to win.