

Report on a Technical Assistance Visit to Inner City Education Foundation (ICEF)

May 2012

Overview of this Report

A summary of the Technical Assistance visit to Inner City Education Foundation (ICEF) is provided.

Staff Recommendation

This is an information item.

Background

Once an institution is granted initial educator preparation program approval, it is assigned to one of the seven accreditation cohorts. Technical assistance visits are then provided two years prior to the scheduled accreditation site visit to: 1) provide feedback to the new sponsor on program implementation, and to 2) report to the COA on the progress of new programs. In June 2008, the Commission granted ICEF Public Schools initial institutional approval and the Committee on Accreditation approved the General Education (MS/SS) Induction program for the Inner City Education Foundation Public Schools, chartered by the Los Angeles Unified School District. A technical assistance visit was scheduled in the 2011-2012 year but was twice postponed at the request of institutional leadership until February 2012.

ICEF Public Schools' vision is to transform South Los Angeles into a stable economically vibrant community by providing first-rate educational opportunities and producing 2,000 college graduates annually. The Foundation, which operates 15 schools in low-income minority neighborhoods of Los Angeles, boasts five elementary schools, five middle schools, and three high schools, enrolling about 4,500 students. It was founded by Mike Pascal, and is currently funded by individuals such as Richard Riordan and Eli Broad. Currently in their third year of operation, the BTSA Induction program has 41 participating teachers, similar to last year's 46 participating teachers.

A technical assistance review team comprised of two CTC staff members received common standards and program standards responses before the visit, allowing them to review the program design and examine hyperlinked documentation. An interview schedule was collaboratively developed and some additional hard copy evidence was provided at the visit. The technical assistance team interviewed institutional and program leadership as well as first- and second-year candidates, program completers, support providers, and site administrators.

While the review team followed many of the procedures that are utilized in a traditional accreditation site visit, there were differences as well. In accordance with Commission practice, the major differences were that: 1) the team decided no standard findings, and 2) no accreditation recommendation was considered or mentioned. Instead, the review team

provided formative feedback to the institution about the adequacy of evidence provided to demonstrate that the program was addressing all standards.

The technical assistance team's report was presented to the institution at the conclusion of the visit. This report included comments on the information found for each of the common and program standards as well as additional items the site visit team will be looking for at the accreditation site visit in 2013. With numerous changes in program leadership since its inception, much of the formative feedback provided was related to the development of structures within and from the Home Office to adequately support the program. Additionally, the team encouraged ICEF to develop monitoring processes for the work of the candidates and their support providers so that the Home Office is aware of each candidate's progress and the support he/she is receiving.

Program and institutional leadership stated that they were grateful for the visit and valued the information provided in the report. Since the current program director assumed responsibility for the program six weeks prior to the technical assistance visit, he sees the technical assistance visit report as a "to do list" to help prepare for the site visit.

ICEF's BTSA Induction program has the full support of the Home Office and site administrators. They employ strong, dedicated support providers. With the addition of knowledgeable, sustained program leadership, ICEF should be able to prepare for their upcoming site visit currently scheduled for spring 2013.