

September 24, 2013



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If you have questions or need additional information, you can reach us at 877.485.1973 or info@nifdi.org.

Follow Up to Soledad O'Brien's CNN Black in America Special: "Drill Not Kill"

CNN aired a special on Friday, August 30th hosted by Soledad O'Brien that looked at African American students in education today and the gap in achievement between these students and their white counterparts. The documentary, [Great Expectations: A Black in America Special](#), followed the stories of three at-risk students for a year at Harvest Prep/Seed Academy in Minneapolis where Direct Instruction is utilized.



Earlier in the day, Ms. O'Brien sat down with CNN's morning show to discuss the documentary and the state of education for African American students. Eric Mahmoud, co-founder of Harvest Prep/Seed Academy, is featured talking about the achievement gap and the high rate of failure in Minneapolis - over 70 percent of African American students in Minneapolis taking the state assessment fail. In addressing this issue at Mahmoud's schools, they frequently test students - referred to as "drill and kill" by critics. Mahmoud's response? "We definitely drill, but we don't kill...I think that is a negative connotation that they associate with working hard."

Click on the image above to see the video of the CNN morning show segment featuring Mr. Mahmoud. For more information on Harvest Prep/Seed Academy, visit www.seed-harvest.org.

IDEA Public Schools Welcomes South Flores Campus with Ribbon Cutting September 27th

IDEA Public Schools will welcome the South Flores campus to the IDEA family of schools on September 27, 2013 with a ribbon cutting at 9:00 am featuring Mayor Julian Castro and IDEA Founder Tom Torkelson. The campus is located at 6919 South Flores in San Antonio. South Flores is the second IDEA school in San Antonio. IDEA's first elementary in San Antonio, Carver Elementary, is sponsored by Former NBA Great, David Robinson. NIFDI works with IDEA Public Schools to implement the comprehensive DI model in grades K-5 in all of its 14 elementary schools.

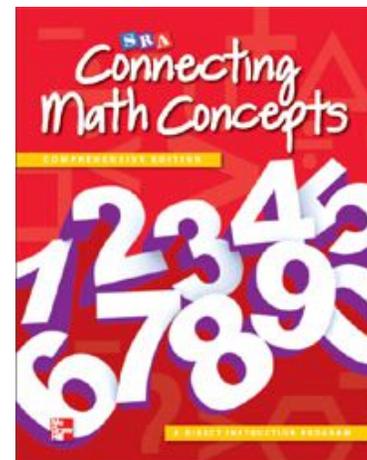
For more information on the South Flores Ribbon Cutting or to RSVP, contact rebeca.clay-flores@ideapublicschools.org.

Series Guide for New DI Math Program, *Connecting Math*

Concepts: Comprehensive Edition, Now Available

The Series Guide for the new Direct Instruction math program, *Connecting Math Concepts: Comprehensive Edition*, is now available! Contact your local McGraw-Hill representative to get your copy! Not sure who your representative is? Call McGraw-Hill at 800.334.7344.

You can also find additional information on the *Connecting Math Concepts: Comprehensive Edition* program on [McGraw-Hill's website](#).



Registration for NIFDI's Coaches Institute Open



There is still time to register for the NIFDI Coaches Institute, to be held in Atlanta, Georgia on November 4 & 5. This new training opportunity will guide participants in how to analyze classroom and individual student data, observe teacher and student performance and assist the instructor in improving their delivery of DI lessons. There will be a focus on how to communicate effectively and clearly utilize a number of techniques, including:

- Side-by-side coaching
- Demonstration
- After class debrief

Additionally, participants will see many live and video demonstrations as well as have the opportunity to practice through role-play.

The lead trainer, Tamara Bressi, is an experienced DI teacher, trainer and coach. As an Implementation Manager for NIFDI and an independent consultant, she has provided support to schools implementing DI around the world—from Oregon to Colorado to Australia and Africa.

To register, [visit us online](#) or call Bryan at 877.485.1973.

Know other DI users or supporters who would benefit from receiving NIFDI News?

Share this sign up link: <http://www.nifdi.org/component/content/article/61-uncategorised/226-nifdi-news-signup>. Interested parties can also sign up via their mobile device by texting NIFDI to 22828 to get started!

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