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In this edition of NIFDI News!

- NIFDI Announces New Coaching Institute - Atlanta, GA November 4th & 5th
- CNN Special: Soledad O'Brien's Great Expectations: A Black in America Special - August 30th
- Find Zig on Facebook!
- NIFDI Training Institute in San Antonio, TX Concludes
- Guahan Academy Charter School has Overwhelming Turnout for Lottery

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

NIFDI Announces New Coaching Institute! Atlanta, GA - November 4-5th

The National Institute for Direct Instruction is pleased to announce a new training opportunity, designed specifically for peer mentors, literacy coaches, staff development specialists and others whose duties include assisting educators (certified and non-certified) in improving the quality of their instruction.

Our Direct Instruction Coaching Institute will teach you how to improve instruction and student outcomes through developing skills in:

- Gathering, assessing and improving classroom data collection
- Using data to help insure the highest level of student success
- Conducting supportive classroom observations and delivering effective feedback
- Providing demonstrations and professional development

The session will also include simulated practice and feedback, so you will leave the session with skills that you can use with confidence and precision.

For more information or to register, go to www.nifdi.org/coaching-institutes.

CNN Special: Soledad O'Brien's Great Expectations: A Black in America Special - August 30th

CNN will air a special on August 30th about African American students in education today. The special, Soledad O'Brien's Great Expectations: A Black in America Special, will visit Harvest Prep/Seed Academy in Minneapolis where Direct Instruction is utilized. Harvest Prep/Seed Academy was founded about 25 years ago by Eric and Ella Mahmoud. The schools enjoy remarkable results, with student performance besting more severely disadvantaged students throughout the state of Minnesota. Jason Burns, a teacher at the school, says, "These young scholars are going to inspire you and be an educational beacon of light for other young scholars."



This special program will air on CNN August 30th at 10pm ET/PT. See a preview [HERE](#). For more information on Harvest Prep/Seed Academy, visit them [online](#).

Find Zig on Facebook!

Zig has branched out into social media! Earlier this summer, Zig joined Facebook in order to share his paintings, papers and any other musings he's come up with. Over the past few weeks, Zig has posted a number of things, including videos of his speaking engagements and recent watercolor artwork. Want to see it for yourself? Check it out now at facebook.com/ZigEngelmann.

If you haven't already, you can also follow NIFDI on Facebook where we share current news, updates, photos and information about events we're involved in! Find us at facebook.com/NIFDI.

NIFDI Training Institute in San Antonio, TX Concludes

Educators from literally around the world attended the National Institute for Direct Instruction first National Direct Instruction Training Institute in San Antonio, Texas the week of August 4-8. Tom Torkelson, Co-Founder of IDEA Schools, presented an excellent opening keynote, highlighting his views on education and poverty. Simply put, he believes education is the solution to poverty. By giving all learners excellent instruction, they will be equipped to take full advantage of options they may not have been able to without a solid education.

Along with training on all of the major DI programs, there were 18 future trainers that took part in the intensive Training of Trainers Academy. An Academy for administrators attracted equally strong numbers.

A unique feature of the Institute was the opportunity for participants to earn a Certificate of Proficiency. After being trained on a specific program (i.e. Reading Mastery Grade 2) the individual would "check out" on key formats and presentation procedures tied to the training they just received. Among skills checked were general items such as pacing, appropriate signals, error correction procedures, as well as program specific items, such as blending, workcheck procedures, etc. The trainers were pleased that about 85% of the participants were able to earn their certificates. Those that need more practice were given feedback and will be provided with an opportunity for a follow up check out.



Participants in a Connecting Math Concepts session presenting a lesson format

Plans for next year's Institute include advanced training, a Coaches Academy, as well as the Trainer Training and Administrators Institute. Read upcoming editions of NIFDI News! for announcements related to next year's exciting event.

Guahan Academy Charter School has Overwhelming Turnout for Lottery

After a challenging two and a half years, the Guahan Academy Charter School successfully secured its funding and a facility, setting the wheels in motion to open as Guam's first charter school this fall. The pre-K through 12th grade school is sponsored by NIFDI and will utilize DI for core instructional programs.

Donna Dwiggin, Ph.D, CEO/Principal said upon hearing the good news, "This is a good day for education on Guam."

With four months to opening day and no time to spare, Dwiggin swiftly put her team into action registering students and preparing Guahan Academy Charter School to open its doors by August 2013. By the end of the 4-week registration period, the school had collected a list of 800 applicants. This was an amazing turnout, especially since Guahan Academy Charter School was only allotted 500 student slots for this upcoming school year.

Read more about the lottery [HERE](#). Interested in learning more about Guahan Academy Charter School? Find them online [HERE](#).

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