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If you have questions or need additional information, you can reach us at 877.485.1973 or [info@nifdi.org](mailto:info@nifdi.org).

## National Conference Keynote Videos Available Online



Videos of Siegfried Engelmann and Tom Torkelson's opening keynotes are posted for viewing on [YouTube](#) or accessed through the [NIFDI website](#). In his opening, Zig spoke about standards, curriculum, teaching and assessment and the need for an understanding of how each relates to the other if we are to have successful students.

Tom Torkelson, co-founder and CEO of IDEA Public Charter Schools, spoke on the importance of college in raising people out of poverty and the positive role DI can play in that process. He presented very compelling information on the cost of lost opportunities for students who do not complete a high school education and the advantages gained by not only completing high school, but also graduating college.



Finally, in the conference closing keynote, Zig highlights what teachers and administrators can do to make instruction effective and to ensure that students will succeed.

Each video is about 25 minutes in length and well worth the time investment.

## Recognitions Presented at National Direct Instruction Conference



The National Institute for Direct Instruction, in conjunction with the National Direct Instruction Conference, was pleased to present several recognitions the night of July 26th. The Wesley Becker Excellent School Award was given to two schools this year. The first recognition went to the Charter Day School (CDS), located in Leland, North Carolina. This tuition-free public charter school was established in 1999 and serves 950 k-8 students, utilizing Direct Instruction programs as its core curriculum. CDS parent of three students, Jennifer London notes, "CDS delivers on its promise to have all Kindergartners reading by January in their first year of school. This is unheard of in a school that doesn't use DI!" The hard work and dedication of the staff and students of CDS has consistently earned them much county and statewide recognition.

A Becker Excellent School Award was also presented to Bancroft-Rosealie Elementary School in Bancroft, Nebraska. This rural pre-6 school has been utilizing DI for the past 10 years. The school is a 2015 US Department of Education (USDOE) Blue Ribbon School and the Principal, Dr. Jon Cerny, is a 2015 USDOE Terrell Bell Award winner. In their path to school-wide implementation of DI, Reading Coach Karin Vogt says, "When we implemented Reading Mastery our special education kids were out-reading the core program. The next



year the first-grade class wanted it, then kindergarten. Everyone wanted to try. It was a no-brainer." In 2015, students reached 96 percent proficiency in reading and 94 percent proficiency in math. The support leadership of the administration, along with the commitment of staff to implement with fidelity, has led to amazing results!



Grade 5 teacher Toni Hatten is the recipient of the Siegfried Engelmann Excellence in Education Award. Toni teaches at Broadbeach State School in Broadbeach, Queensland, Australia. Broadbeach principal Michael Roberts wrote in his nomination, "She has been able to successfully advocate the use of Direct Instruction with a focus on delivery and passion. She spends a great deal of each week modeling lessons and coaching other teachers at Broadbeach to implement all DI programs to a high standard."

## NIFDI Presented With 2016 Partner of the Year Award by IDEA Schools

Tom Torkelson, CEO of IDEA Public Charter Schools, took time prior to his opening keynote at the recent National Direct Instruction Conference to present NIFDI with IDEA Schools Partner of the Year Award. Tom was assisted by his seven year old son, Liam, in making the presentation. Tom spoke of the pride IDEA Schools has in working with NIFDI and of the positive, collaborative climate generated by the partnership. To view the presentation, [click here](#).



## NIFDI Launches Educational Impact Calculator



State Departments of Education recently published the results of their annual assessments of student achievement. Many people want to compare results to previous years and to other schools. Yet, the thought of taking the time to look up formulas in a statistics book or finding a number cruncher to do the work can be a bit daunting. NIFDI's Educational Impact Calculator (EIC) provides an easy, quick, and no-cost alternative. Users enter aggregate data (e.g. percentage of students at benchmark, means and standard deviations or the percentile rank of the average student) and the EIC instantly calculates the effect size, improvement index, and probability results that would occur by chance. Click

here to get to the EIC: <http://www.nifdi.org/research/educational-impact-calculator>. The website contains numerous examples of questions the calculator can answer and its use. It also has explanations of the input data and output statistics and links to a technical report that provides complete details on the underlying statistical formulas and research designs.

## Plan Your Fall Professional Development Now!

NIFDI has two exciting professional development opportunities planned for this Fall. Join the National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI) for our **Direct Instruction Leadership Academy** in Columbus, Ohio October 17 & 18. This two-day training, co-sponsored by McGraw-Hill Education, is designed for administrators, instructional coaches, curriculum directors and school board members and will focus on the essential features of a successful Direct Instruction (DI) implementation. For a complete brochure and registration information, [click here](#).

On November 17 & 18, NIFDI will present **Analyzing Data, Classroom Observations & Providing Feedback, a Direct Instruction Coaching Academy**. This two-day training, co-sponsored by McGraw-Hill Education, is designed for instructional coaches, peer coaches and others responsible for observing instruction and improving student performance. For a complete brochure and registration information, [click here](#).