Meeting Minutes

Present:  Winthrop University- Jennie Rakestraw, Mark Mitchell, Shirley Martin, Lisa Johnson, Mary Martin, Jennifer Etheridge, Tara Comer  The Evaluation Group- Joel Philip, Felix Blumhardt  Research Associates- Anne Black, Dan Williams  SCASA- Hanna Hopkins  Cherokee- Page McCraw  Chester- Sue Cauthen  Fairfield- Andrea Hicks  Marion 1- Cheryl Warren  Marion 2- Gail Fowler  Marion 7- Deborah Barnhill  Marlboro- Carolyn Williams  Dillon 1- Stephen Laird  Dillon 3- Martha Heyward  Union and Dillon 2- not present

Introductions
Dr. Jennie Rakestraw discussed the relationship of Winthrop, NetSCOPE, and NetLEAD.

Overview of NetLEAD Program and Partners
Dr. Mark Mitchell gave the Grant Management Team an overview of the NetLEAD program. The grant priorities, vision, framework, and goals of the program were discussed. He stressed the need for Assistant Principals to be able to transition towards instructional leadership if and when needed. In addition, he discussed that the Grant Management Team would select teachers that could participate to be future leaders in this program.

Dr. Mitchell then discussed the unique collaborative partnership. The partners of the program include: Winthrop University—College of Education and College of Business Administration, eleven School Districts (Upstate and Pee Dee), CERRA, SCASA, Research Associates and the Evaluation Group. Anne Black then discussed the role of Research Associates and the Evaluation Group in the NetLEAD project.

Basis for Model, Key Initiatives, and Benefits to Schools
Dr. Mitchell then discussed the basis for model, primary initiatives, and the benefits to schools. The NetLEAD program will use the SREB model. The key initiatives are M. Ed. Leadership program, induction and mentoring for school leaders, and sustained professional development. The M. Ed program will be offered in the Upstate and Pee Dee at reduced tuition cost, approximately $175 a class. The program would like for the candidates for the M. Ed. program to stay in the area and want to work hard for disadvantaged. NetLEAD will offer 4 Professional Development activities that will be offered locally and be created for the specific issues that affect that particular area. Principals will meet at collaborate on issues affecting school. There will be a Corps of Mentors that develop relationships with and mentor the
principals in the partner districts. Town hall meetings will also be held to develop involvement of the community and to contribute suggestions. Dr. Mary Martin discussed that the NetLEAD program will provide a “Cohort Connection” to support to students who graduate.

**LEA Responsibilities and Benefits**

Dr. Mitchell spoke about the responsibilities and benefits to the LEAs. The LEA responsibility is to assign and support a Liaison to the Grant Management Team, participate in the needs and assessment surveys, tap leaders for M. Ed. Leadership program, and support candidate leaders with time and access. The benefits include a central location for coursework, 2 leadership cohort per region, participants will coach teachers in identifying instructional needs using ADEPT and other tools, and Principal Professional Learning Communities (year 2). In addition, the LEAs will benefit from the induction and mentoring for all new school leaders, Corps of Mentors presence, induction academies, and 4 leadership academies per year for existing school leaders.

**Management Structure**

Dr. Mark Mitchell outlined the key project staff of the NetLEAD Grant. The Grant Management Team includes Dr. Jennie Rakestraw, Dr. Weikle, Dr. Mark Mitchell, Winthrop University Leadership Faculty, Director of Corps of Mentors, One district-level administrator from each LEA, Director of CERRA, and Director of SCASA. The NetLEAD Management Team will meet monthly to provide program oversight and leadership.

**Review of the Program Evaluation**

Dr. Joel Philp and Dr. Felix Bumhardt from the Evaluation Group presented information on the quality of the project evaluation and TEG’s approach to evaluation. TEG’s job is to assist in success, show success, and keep the program focused. TEG will provide feedback along the way for decision-making and demonstrate progress toward goals and objectives for NetLEAD. The evaluation framework is measuring program fidelity and measuring program outcomes.

TEG will be identifying district data management personnel through the Grant Management Team. Dr. Blumhardt will be meeting with these individuals to discuss the data collection process. TEG will collect and analyze data, report results, and stakeholders can then use data to improve the program and demonstrate accountability.

**Follow Ups**

Professional development programs to begin very soon, in January or February 2011. The next meeting will discuss topics for Professional Development with emphasis on a how to deliver and how to connect directly with leadership role. A needs assessment survey will be filled out to be a starting point for discussion of Professional Development.

**The next meeting will be January 25, 2011 at 9:30 AM, place to be determined.**