



June 10, 2014

Dear Member,

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### **Summer Leadership Conference - Santa Fe, NM - SOLD OUT**

For the second year in a row, we have sold all available seats for the summer leadership conference. Last year, we exceeded our expectations and with it happening again this year, our focus for the future will be on expanded capabilities with regard to facilities, workshops, and participation. Thank you to everyone who registered and our apologies to those who were not able to attend but wanted to.

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### **Annual Conference - San Diego, CA - December 3-6, 2014**

The registration process is open and we already have over 100 people registered. There is a full slate of fantastic breakout sessions and three terrific keynote speakers. We hope you can attend the only conference that deals specifically with what educational service agencies do. [Check it out here.](#)

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### **Educator's Call to Action - Washington, DC - September 16-18, 2014**

The Annual Legislative Conference and opportunity to meet with legislators and staff on the Hill will have registration opening after July 1st. This is a good chance to learn about what is happening legislatively from the folks who do this work and your opportunity to meet up on the Hill. Attend - Participate - Make a Difference!

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### **Heads Up - AESA Council Nominations Coming**

Nominations for positions will be coming out late this Fall for election to the AESA governing council. Each year, one region has a bye, and this year the eastern region has that distinction. There are three council seats available - one from the central, southern, and western region. We will let you know when those nomination forms are available. In the meantime, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to let us know.

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### **Information From our Business Partners - ACT**

ACT is committed to helping people achieve education and career success, and the path to college and career readiness starts well before they reach high school. In two previous reports on the importance of early learning, we have explored the [difficulty of getting students on track](#) to college and career readiness as well as identifying key [components of a strong preschool and elementary school](#) education program.

ACT has expanded on this early learning series with a look at the difficulty of getting students from at-risk demographic groups caught up in middle school and high school. Report highlights:

- Very few students from at-risk student groups who were "far off track" in eighth grade (defined as scoring more than a full standard deviation below the "on track" target for their grade level) were able to meet the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks in high school.
- Only 2% of far off track, low-income eighth graders were able to meet the ACT Benchmark in science compared to 6% of far off track, non-low-income eighth graders.
- 9% of far off track, low-income fourth graders were able to meet the ACT Explore<sup>®</sup> Benchmark in science compared to 17% of far off track, non-low-income fourth graders.

This report shines a light on the need to identify and provide instructional supports early-particularly to students from at-risk demographic groups-to ensure that all students are able to achieve education and career success.

- View or download [Catching Up to College and Career Readiness: The Challenge is Greater for At-Risk Students](#)
- View or download [Part 1: Catching Up to College and Career Readiness](#)
- View or download [Part 2: College and Career Readiness: The Importance of Early Learning](#)
- View additional ACT [research and policy publications](#)