

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 28, 2015

Contact: Brendan Williams-Kief
bwilliamskief@ncee.org

**US Department of Education Awards
NCEE's National Institute for School Leadership a
\$12 Million i3 Validation Grant**

**The Wallace Foundation Supports Initiative With
Matching Grant**

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently announced that the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) has been selected to receive \$12 million to validate its innovative approach to improving student achievement by providing world-class executive development to practicing school leaders in our nation's schools.

Seven hundred and fifty school leaders in California, Mississippi, and Florida will take part in NISL's fifteen-month leadership development program to increase their effectiveness and improve student learning at scale and at low cost. NISL's Executive Development Program has become the most widely used, rigorous school leadership development program in the country. Multiple research studies have shown that students in schools led by NISL-trained leaders outperformed their peers on state tests in both math and reading.

"These programs [i3] are changing the landscape of education in this country by supporting innovative ideas and scaling up what works," said Secretary Duncan.

With this grant from the US Department of Education, NISL's work with school principals will serve 375,000 students, which represents approximately half of the students served by all i3 grants made in 2014. The impact of the i3 initiative on principals, teachers and students will be assessed by a team led by Johns Hopkins University using a "gold-standard", random-assignment research design.

The i3 grant to NISL will support principals in districts serving large percentages of economically disadvantaged students across the three states. In addition to participating in NISL's in-person and online training program, some principals will be supported with on-site coaching during their training and, at the same time, leaders in all three states will be trained to deliver the NISL program to build local capacity to strengthen school leadership statewide for years to come.

"The school-leadership discussion today has been focused almost solely on identifying and preparing a new crop of principals, while current principals have been left with little support and ever-higher accountability. We believe this study will further demonstrate the critical role principals play in improving

instruction and student learning, and show that providing rigorous professional development to current leaders is one of the most efficient ways to increase the number of high performing schools in our country," said Jason Dougal, NISL's CEO.

The i3 competition requires all grantees to secure private-sector matching funds, the first 50 percent of which is required in order to be awarded an i3 grant. The Wallace Foundation, a leader in supporting research and development to strengthen school leadership, has stepped forward to provide the funding necessary to meet this initial requirement for the NISL i3 grant. Just over 90% of the funds for the NISL validation project will come from the Federal government with an additional nine percent or \$1.2 million coming from private funds.

###

The National Institute for School Leadership provides research-proven leadership programs for educators using the best practices in adult learning from a variety of fields, including education, the military, business, law, and medicine. NISL builds the capacity of districts and states to provide education leaders with the critical knowledge and skills they need to be instructional leaders and improve student achievement in their schools. NISL is a program of the National Center on Education and the Economy. Visit NISL at <http://www.nisl.net>.

The National Center on Education and the Economy was created in 1988 to analyze the implications of changes in the international economy for American education, formulate an agenda for American education based on that analysis and seek wherever possible to accomplish that agenda through policy change and development of the resources educators would need to carry it out. Follow NCEE on Twitter [@CtrEdEcon](https://twitter.com/CtrEdEcon) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CtrEdEcon).