

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 30, 2015

Contact: Brendan Williams-Kief
bwilliamskief@ncee.org

Major Multistate Effort to Improve the Training & Coaching of School Principals Launches This Week

Johns Hopkins Researchers to Evaluate National Institute for School Leadership's Results in One of the Largest-Ever Studies of Its Kind

This week, principals from across California, Florida and Mississippi will kick off a major effort by the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) to increase school leader effectiveness and improve student learning. The U.S. Department of Education selected NISL's Executive Development Program for a "gold standard" study of implementation on a multistate scale. Participating school districts enroll nearly 1.7 million students in communities across the three states.

"Strong school leaders are at the center of improving school-wide instruction and student learning," said NISL CEO Jason Dougal. "NISL's Executive Development Program was chosen for this substantial investment because it has proven to be one of the most cost-effective investments any state or district can make in school improvement. This is an opportunity to greatly expand the number of students who can benefit from it and demonstrate the effectiveness of this program using the most rigorous methods available."

NISL's Executive Development Program (EDP) is now the most widely used, rigorous school leadership development program in the country with some 10,000 school leaders trained across 27 states. 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.

A team from Johns Hopkins University, using a randomized control trial design, will assess the impact of the three-state effort on principals, teachers and students. It will be one of the largest such studies of a school leadership program ever conducted, according to the Hopkins research team.

"The scale and scope of this study presents a truly unique opportunity to understand the real impact of leadership development on student achievement," said Johns Hopkins University Senior Research Scientist Steven Ross.

Made possible by a \$12 million U.S. Department of Education Investing in Innovation (i3) validation grant and funds from the Wallace Foundation, 750 principals from California, Florida and Mississippi will take part in NISL's twelve-month program. The i3 grant to NISL—a program of the National Center on Education and the Economy—will support principals in districts serving large percentages of economically disadvantaged students across the three states, accounting for 50 percent of all students reached by this year's i3 grants.

In addition to participating in NISL's in-person and online training program, many 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.

[Click here for a full list of participating school districts.](#)

Just over 90 percent 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 i3 competition requires all grantees to secure private-sector matching funds. The Wallace Foundation is providing the funding necessary to meet this requirement for the NISL i3 grant.

Reporters interested in attending a training session can contact Brendan Williams-Kief, Director of Communications at 202-905-6284 or by email at bwilliamskief@ncee.org.

###

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 www.NISL.org.

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/NCEE).