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**Exploring Innovative Schools and Policy Supports that Prepare College and Career Ready Students**

**Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1750 Welton St, Denver, CO 80202**

**March 16-18, 2015**

**Agenda**

**Study Tour Goals:**

The goal of this study tour is to learn about effective teaching in schools that incorporate rigorous academics, deeper learning experiences, higher order skills, and innovative and effective teaching and learning practices. These practices create personalized learning experiences and prepare students for college and career success.

Participants will visit a school in Denver, CO that is supporting teaching that provides rich academic learning in personalized settings.  Through conversations with students, teachers, and administrators, participants will witness first-hand how a school culture is created that supports teachers as they grow professionally and offers instruction that promotes the deeper learning competencies of mastery of core academic content; critical thinking and problem solving; working collaboratively; communicating effectively; learning how to learn; and cultivating an academic mindset.

High-level education policy leaders will also join the study group to share an understanding of the policy conditions that support the expansion of innovative approaches, such as those featured in the site visits to schools. The policy discussions will focus on capacity building, professional development, funding, Common Core-aligned curriculum, instruction, and assessments.

**March 16, 2015**

**Grand Hyatt Hotel**

3:00 – 4:50 pm                 **Welcome, Introductions, Study Tour Overview - Mt. Oxford Room, 3rd floor  
Chris Shearer**, Program Officer, Hewlett Foundation, will provide an overview of Deeper Learning.

4:50 – 5:00pm **Break**

5:00 – 6:00 pm                 **Setting the Stage for Deeper Learning in Colorado  
Speaker, Rebecca Holmes.** Associate Commissioner for the Division of Innovation, Choice and Engagement at the Colorado Department of Education

Rebecca will provide an overview of state policy that is enabling Colorado to engage in innovation and experimentation in schools. She will highlight some fundamental changes and conversations that are happening on the ground in order to provide all students with a learning experience that will enhance their deeper learning competencies in a rapidly changing society, including Colorado’s move towards innovative teaching practices.

6:15 – 7:30pm **Networking Dinner - Mt. Wilson Room, 3rd floor**  
Participants will have an opportunity to talk with Colorado state officials and school personnel at this informal networking dinner.

**March 17, 2015**

7:30 – 8:00 am                  **Breakfast at Grant Hyatt Hotel (Available as of 7:00am) - Mt. Oxford Room,   
 3rd floor**

8:00 – 8:20 am                 **Travel to Denver Center for International Studies**  
574 W 6th Ave, Denver, CO 80204 Telephone: 720-423-9000

8:30am – 1:15pm **Site Visit at Denver Center for International Studies (including lunch)  
 Theresa McCorquodale, Principal   
 Lisa Tyrrell, Director, International Studies Schools Network (ISSN)**

This school visit will focus on:

* Overview of ISSN model and school background information
* Participation in Advisement classes
* Classroom visits
* Lunch with panel of teachers and students to learn about professional development and collaboration; Passages Portfolio Presentations, Student-led conferences, etc.
* Debrief with principal

The study tour will include time to visit classrooms and interact with teachers, students and administrators.

The Denver Center for International Studies (DCIS) became a magnet middle and high school in 2006. DCIS prepares students for college by developing multilingual, interculturally competent citizens who are actively involved in a rapidly changing world. Throughout their school career, students are expected to practice and promulgate the school’s core values: Integrity, High Expectations, Diversity, Collaborative Culture, and Reflection. Among other pursuits, students successfully curate a portfolio of their best work, guided by the four domains of global leadership, in order to earn a Certificate in International Studies diploma. Working with teachers they actively engage in their learning, including offering feedback to teachers on lessons. Teachers receive differentiate professional development, with different teams focusing on various aspects of professional development.

Fifty-three percent of DCIS students receive free and reduced lunch. Close to 70 percent of DCIS students are minorities, 12.3 percent are English language learners, and 6.4 percent of students receive special education services. Forty-two percent of DCIS students come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. DCIS is recognized for their one-hundred percent graduation and college going rate among its senior classes.

1:15 pm **Break and Return to Grand Hyatt Hotel**

1:45 – 2:45 pm **Panel Discussion: Colorado State Initiatives and Partnerships Promoting Deeper Learning (at Grand Hyatt Hotel – Mt. Oxford room, 3rd floor)**

This panel will feature speakers from the Colorado Department of Education and ReSchool Colorado. Speakers will discuss how Colorado is creating pathways for deeper learning and the role of teacher effectiveness in deeper learning.

**Katy Anthes, Executive Director of Educator Effectiveness Office, Colorado Department of Education**

Katy Anthes, CDE’s executive director of educator effectiveness, leads CDE’s efforts to recruit, prepare, evaluate, support, and retain highly effective educators in Colorado. She will discuss efforts to ensure the successful implementation of the state’s educator evaluation and development system, pursuant to Senate Bill 10-191.

**Tony Lewis, Executive Director, Donnell-Kay Foundation**

In 2013 the Donnell-Kay Foundation launched [ReSchool Colorado](http://dkfoundation.org.401elmp01.blackmesh.com/our-work/reschool-colorado/reschool-colorado), a multi-year initiative to create an entirely new state public education system in Colorado where learning is re-imagined and students graduate equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing world.   
Tony will address:

* The purpose and implementation of ReSchool Colorado
* The potential of ReSchool Colorado and deeper learning initiatives
* Influencing policy to ensure the implementation of the ReSchool Colorado vision

2:45 – 2:55pm **Break**

2:55 – 3:10pm **Presentation by Monica Martinez** on her book, *“Deeper Learning: How Eight Innovative Public Schools Are Transforming Education in the Twenty-First Century.”*  This presentation will provide Commissioners with time to learn about Deeper Learning in a variety of settings.

3:10 – 4:00pm **Peer to Peer Learning Time and Reflection (at Grand Hyatt Hotel)**This session, facilitated by NCTAF staff, will give Commissioners an opportunity to reflect on what they have seen and learned as a result of the study tour and to consider the implications for their own work and that of the Commission.

4:00 – 5:45pm **Break**

5:45pm **Networking Dinner at Grand Hyatt Hotel** – **Mt. Oxford room, 3rd floor**

**Keynote Presentation: The Role of Teachers in Deeper Learning  
Speaker: Linda Darling-Hammond, Faculty Director, Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education**

Linda Darling-Hammond has published extensively on education policy and practice, and has conducted research on school restructuring, teacher education, and educational equity. She will discuss why deeper learning is necessary and how this will impact the recruitment, preparation, and professional development for teachers, who are critical to effective implementation of deeper learning. She will also identify some of the characteristics around teaching that are different in a deeper learning school than a traditional school.

**March 18, 2015**

8:00am Breakfast, followed by NCTAF Commission Meeting (9am – 4pm – Grand Hyatt, Gray’s Peak A&B meeting room).