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Area Educators Work on New Principal Evaluation System

University Park, Illinois, May 18, 2011 – In the culmination of a three month project, approximately 15 school district administrators and principals recently met at Governors State University to finish developing a new design framework for a principal performance-based evaluation system. The redesign was necessary in response to the state's required system changes effective in 2012. The project is part of the Metropolitan Institute for Leadership in Education/Teacher Quality Partnership (MILE/TQP) grant at GSU.

"We made significant progress in creating an evaluation system that measures the aspects of leadership and principal effectiveness that are deemed important at not only the state level but also at our local, regional level," said Dr. Karen Peterson, co-director of the TQP grant.

The educators worked closely with Dr. Joseph Murphy from Vanderbilt University. Dr. Murphy is the leading policy expert in the field of educational administration in the country. He has worked with four education departments at the state level in the design of their evaluation systems. Dr. Murphy will continue working with MILE/TQP for the remaining four years of the TQP grant.

The school district administrators involved in the redesign are participants in the MILE/TQP Turnaround Leadership Initiative. Attending the meeting were John Dudzik, Principal of Nathan Hale Middle in Crestwood; Andrew Maisonneuve, Principal of Burr Oak Elementary in Calumet Park; Dr. Vickie Person, Principal of Franklin Elementary School in Dolton; Dr. Doug Hamilton, Superintendent of South Holland School District 151; Phil Skubal, Principal of Holmes Elementary School in Harvey; Phil Schumaker, Director of Curriculum in Lansing District 158; Dr. Donna Joy, Superintendent of Flossmoor District 161; Michael Baur, Principal of Sauk Elementary School in Richton Park; Karen Brown of Flossmoor District 161; Shirley Bragg of Brookwood District 167 in Glenwood; Dr. Greg Jackson, Superintendent of Ford Heights District 169; Gretchen Sutherford, Principal of McKinley Elementary School in Chicago Heights; Johnny Billingsly, of Bloom District 206 in Chicago Heights; and Patricia Welch, Interim Principal of Rich Central High School in Olympia Fields.

Participating in the project from GSU were grant co-director and faculty member Dr. Pam Guimond, faculty members Dr. Joe Matula and Dr. Lora Knutson, assistant to the Dean of the College of Education Dor Fitzgerald, Director of MILE Alicia McCray, and Sue Rasher, evaluator.

The MILE/TQP is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For more information on the grant, call (708) 534-6989.