

**From:** Patricia Levesque (patricia@excelined.org) <patricia@excelined.org>  
**Sent time:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 10:31:48 AM  
**To:** Robinson, Gerard  
**Cc:** murphyp@usfca.edu  
**Subject:** FW: meeting with researcher  
**Attachments:** Chiefs backgrounder.docx

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Gerard,

Dr. Patrick Murphy with University of San Francisco is doing research for the Center for Reinventing Public Education (funded via Broad Grant). He would like to interview several state ed chiefs about the issues they face doing school turnaround.

He has calls set up with tony, chris and paul. He would really like to get a Florida perspective.

Patrick will be at the ed summit in October. Would you be willing to carve out a few minutes to meet with him re: Florida?

If you don't have the time then, I am connecting you both via email so you can possibly talk by phone before/after the summit.

Thank you so much for considering.

Patricia

The Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE), with support from the Broad Foundation, is conducting a study of efforts to build their capacity for performance management and innovation.

The purpose of the study is to identify ways SEAs:

- build the data systems and decision-making frameworks to identify leading and lagging schools and districts;
- target improvement resources; and
- promote innovation.

We will also explore legal and policy barriers that SEAs encounter along the way.

The goal of the study is to identify performance management best practices and opportunities for collaboration among SEAs. We also plan to make recommendations on how federal and foundation funds can help support SEAs in this work.

As part of the study, two CRPE researchers—Patrick Murphy and Lydia Rainey—are looking to speak with State Education Chiefs who are committed to moving forward on school improvement in their states. We seek to learn from their experiences to-date, and what their needs are looking forward.

Specifically, we are interested in:

- What is the State Education Chief's vision for their state agency with regard to school improvement?
- What have been the key successes in implementing that vision thus far?
- What are the key obstacles or challenges they face?
- What can others (e.g., districts, the federal government, the private sector) do to help their efforts?
- Are there any other states that they looked to as positive examples?

Murphy and Rainey are hoping to schedule a 20-minute conversation with State Education Chiefs who are committed to education reform. The conversation can take place over the phone, or when/where schedules will permit, in person.

If you are interested, please let us know and we will contact your office to arrange a time to talk. Or, alternately, please let us know who else may be well suited to address this issue.

Additional information about the research can be obtained by contacting Prof. Murphy at: [murphyp@usfca.edu](mailto:murphyp@usfca.edu), or 415.250.4930, or by visiting [www.crpe.org](http://www.crpe.org).