Central Question at Loyola Chicago

- How can Catholic higher education collaborate to assist [more and better] in developing and supporting leaders for Catholic schools?

Conference Flow

#1 What is a Catholic school?
#2 What is the contemporary context
#3 What do PK-12 schools need from CHE?
#4 What innovative initiatives & partnerships can we put in place?
#5 What are next steps for true collaboration?

Proposed Follow-Up Actions

1. Standards for Essential Catholic Schools
2. Enhanced CIHE Leadership Programs
3. Resource Cloud
4. Expanded Research on Catholic Schools
5. Think Tank on Catholic Education

Standards for Essential Catholic Schools

The proposed action:

Develop a set of national standards describing agreed upon, non-negotiable characteristics of PK-12 Catholic schools.

Rationale:

Agreed upon national standards endorsed by the Bishops could/would:

- Clarify “brand” of “Catholic school”
- Provide framework for school improvement
- Provide framework to enhance public policy and advocacy efforts
- Serve as basis of accreditation
- Provide a link to CIHE professional development and leadership programs
- Increase funders’ confidence in school capacity for sustainable improvement

Task Force

Chair:
Lorraine A. Ozar, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Catholic School Effectiveness
Loyola University Chicago

Members:

- Margaret Boland, Ed.D.
  Senior Associate Superintendent
  Diocese of Trenton, NJ
- Br. William Carriere, FSC, Ph.D.
  Executive Director,
  Western Catholic Educational Association
- William S. Dinger
  President
  Sadlier, Inc.
Defining Characteristics (9)

✓ Flow from Church’s teachings
✓ Define deep Catholic identity of Catholic schools
✓ Serve as platform on which standards and benchmarks rest

Defining Characteristics of Catholic Schools

✓ Centered in the Person of Jesus Christ
✓ Contributing to the Evangelizing Mission of the Church
✓ Distinguished by Excellence
✓ Committed to Educate the Whole Child
✓ Steeped in a Catholic Worldview
✓ Sustained by Gospel Witness
✓ Shaped by Communion and Community
✓ Accessible to All Students
✓ Established by the Expressed Authority of the Bishop

Standards

✓ Describe policies, programs, structures, and processes that should be present in mission-driven, program-effective, well-managed, and responsibly-governed Catholic schools that operate in concert with the Defining Characteristics.

Benchmarks

✓ Provide observable, measurable descriptors for each standard
✓ Provide solid basis for development of *accreditation tools *self-assessment and diagnostic instruments *data collecting and reporting structures
Standards and Benchmarks in Four Areas

- Governance and Leadership
- Catholic Identity and Mission
- Academic Excellence
- Operational Vitality

Action Steps

- Present DRAFTS to Stakeholders and make appropriate revisions (CACE, 2010; NCEA 2011)
- Meet with Bishops in conjunction with NCEA
- Publish and disseminate widely (print and web)
- Develop Implementation Handbook to provide guidelines, examples, self-assessment and diagnostic instruments for use by schools and dioceses for improvement and sustainability
- Form partnerships among CIHEs to provide professional development and training to school and diocesan teams to support implementation of the National Standards and Benchmarks.

Conversation and Feedback

- Small groups -- elementary secondary other
- Sign In Sheets
- Feedback Sheets
- Open Comments

Questions for Conversation

1. Is there anything here that would not apply to your school/diocese? Why?
2. Is there anything important that is missing? What?
3. What would help you implement these standards in your school/diocese? What should be included in an Implementation Handbook?