April 2015

National Honor
TAP founder Lowell Milken NIET (left) and President Gary Stark (right) present the TAP Award of Distinction to Perry Township Schools' assistant superintendents Robert Bohannon and Vickie Carpenter.

National TAP honor recognizes Perry Township Schools
Perry Township Schools received the TAP™ Award of Distinction at the 15th National TAP Conference in March. The honor recognizes the district’s journey since 2011 when it implemented TAP in two of its elementary schools and, based on its effectiveness, later expanded to the entire district.

Perry first put TAP into practice in Title I schools Southport Elementary and Abraham Lincoln Elementary under the Federal TIF grant. That involved approximately 1,400 students and 80 teachers. Then the district chose the TAP Teacher Evaluation
schools, 2 sixth grade academies, 2 middle schools and 2 high schools. It touches approximately 800 teachers and 14,700 students.

Administrators credit TAP with improving student performance and making Perry an “A” district under the Indiana Department of Education’s system. The district’s initiative includes

- cluster professional development that supports each school goal,
- four official evaluations per teacher each year, and
- walk-throughs at each building.

“We are focused each day on ensuring that each student has an effective teacher every period of the day,” said Robert Bohannon, assistant superintendent for career preparation.

Milken Winner a Mentor

Perry Township educator and TAP mentor teacher Kelly Wilber was a 2014-15 Milken Educator Award winner. She’s a fifth grade teacher at Southport Elementary school, and you can see a video of her talking about the honor here.

“TAP has been a wonderful learning experience for me as a building administrator. . . The daily exposure to the quality instruction throughout my building as a result of TAP has been beneficial to all students. TAP is one of the best initiatives that I have been a part of in my entire career.”

Tom Gearhart, Principal, Beech Grove Middle School

Indiana TAP has updated its one-page information sheet to use for better understanding of the TAP system and the positive results it brings. Click here for a printable pdf version of the document.
Summer Training:
Indiana TAP CORE Training - For all new TAP administrators, master teachers, and mentor teachers for the 2015-16 school year at the University of Indianapolis (unless otherwise noted):

- **TAP Overview, TAP Rubric Introduction, and Evaluation A**: July 16-17, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST
- **Cluster and the TAP Leadership Team**: July 23-24, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST
- **Field Testing**: CHOOSE ONE--July 29 (in Goshen, Indiana), August 7 (Indianapolis), OR September 2 (Indianapolis), 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST
- **Evaluation B, Evaluator Certification Assessment**: September 3-4, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST

*For information or to register, Click Here.*

Two-day workshop for Indiana TAP Leadership Teams -
June 22 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and June 23 from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Sheraton North Keystone Crossing Hotel in Indianapolis.
Workshop topics include:

- Embedding Indiana’s New Academic Standards into Key TAP Processes
- Teaching Different Types of Thinking in a Variety of Content Areas and Grade Levels
- Critical Elements for Purposefully Planning Cluster Cycle 1
- Exploring Effective Student Thinking Strategies (strategy "showcase" by grade span)
- TAP Principals Roundtable

*Registration information available soon.*

National TAP Summer Institutes:

- Charleston, South Carolina: July 13-15
- Phoenix, Arizona: July 20-22