



Vision 20/20 launches 21st Century Learning Center

Clark: 'This has the potential to bring equity in curriculum to our entire state'



The Vision 20/20 coalition on Tuesday morning launched its 21st Century Learning Center, an initiative to provide teaching tools that could help transform education in Illinois.

"This has the potential to bring equity in curriculum to our entire state," said IASA Executive Director Dr. Brent Clark, referring to the digital course content that now is available free of charge for any teacher, student or parent in the state through the iTunes U platform. The content includes lectures, videos, books and materials.

In its first phase, the 21st Century Learning Center includes nine high school courses in the core areas of math, science, social studies and English language arts. The courses include Algebra I and II, Chemistry, Geometry, ELA 9-10, ELA 11-12, Economics, Biology and Physics. More courses will be added this fall and, ultimately, the plan is to provide an entire K-12 course collection of

resources.

The resources were developed by content-area experts from schools throughout the state and they align with the Illinois Learning Standards that define what all students in Illinois public schools should know and be able to do. The 21st Century Learning Center can be accessed by clicking [here](#). (You must have iTunes to view the center and the link works best in Mozilla Firefox). If the link takes you to the iTunes store instead of to the 21st Century Learning Center, you will need to download iTunes and then reach the center by searching for: Illinois Association of School Administrators.

"The Vision 20/20 21st Century Learning Center provides cutting edge support to teachers as they engage 21st century learners," said State Superintendent Dr. Tony Smith, who was at the Springfield site, where the press conference from District 214 in Arlington Heights was streamed. "Technology continues to evolve and this allows educators to get updated content they can use in their classrooms at no cost to their district. It's great to see Illinois educators collaborating to make this type of resource a reality and available to everyone to benefit students."

Illinois Secretary of Education Dr. Beth Purvis attended the event in Arlington Heights and lauded the work of Vision 20/20.

"Vision 20/20 has brought a collective, positive voice to school reform with the goal of supporting teachers, administrators and parents as they prepare the future leaders of Illinois," Purvis said. "The launch of the Vision 20/20 21st Century Learning Center is an outstanding example of what can be accomplished when Illinois teachers and school leaders are given the opportunity and support to demonstrate their knowledge and commitment to children."



Senate and House resolutions proclaimed Tuesday "Vision 20/20 21st Century Learning Day" in Illinois, and Clark said the launch was another step forward for the Vision 20/20 initiative developed by IASA, the Illinois Association of School Boards, the Illinois Principals Association, the Illinois Association of School Business Officials, the Superintendents' Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity and the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools.

"We still have more hills to climb, but Vision 20/20 already is starting to change the landscape of public education in Illinois," Clark said, referring to the fact that the governor recently signed into law two Vision 20/20 initiatives - [House Bill 2657/Public Act 99-58](#) to streamline educator licensure and establish reciprocity with other states and [HB 2683/PA 99-193](#) to implement the Illinois Balanced Accountability Measure. "The 21st Century Learning Center is an example of what can be accomplished using technology and it also is a shining example of what can be accomplished through collaboration and partnership."

Yours for better schools,

Brent Clark, Ph.D.
Executive Director



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