



INSTITUTE *for* EVIDENCE-BASED CHANGE
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PRESS RELEASE

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University of Hawai`i awards \$531,400 for system to track student performance and improve student success

SAN DIEGO, CA - Institute for Evidence-Based Change President and CEO Brad Phillips has announced a \$531,400 grant award from the University of Hawai`i. Announcing the award at this week's annual meeting of the IEBC Board of Directors in San Diego, Phillips expressed pleasure that the ground-breaking IEBC work that has developed SMART Tools is being increasingly used by a number of states.

Hawai`i's funding is for development of a data infrastructure and programming requirements for reporting Hawai`i's student and workforce data in order to track performance and improve success from K-12 through university education and into the workforce. The new project is called HI SMART (for Hawai`i Standardized Metrics for Analysis, Reporting and Tracking).

"IEBC has been working with Hawai`i, assisting them in collecting, analyzing and sharing student data," said Phillips. "The new funding for HI SMART will broaden the data collection and produce multiple, comprehensive, user-friendly, data-reporting tools while preserving student privacy. We are excited about the opportunity to expand the work in Hawai`i."

IEBC Board President Omero Suarez said the board is very pleased with the work of the Institute and its four areas of focus: K-16 Collaboration, Cross-Sector Data Linkages, Analytic Tools, and Tuning. "All of the data that is being collected around the country at all levels of education is just the first step," he said. "The information must be properly understood, applied and used. Connecting the information to the classroom is hugely important and the IEBC use of groundbreaking technology to develop SMART Tools makes this possible."

SMART Tools, developed by IEBC, are web tools that make it easy for educators – superintendents, presidents, classroom teachers, and others – to access and customize information from vast student databases while protecting student privacy. All levels of education are under pressure to build longitudinal data systems. But data in such systems does not necessarily translate to usable information.

IEBC SMART Tools are able to ensure that data do not just sit on servers and fill accountability reports but provide usable information that can improve education. Using these web-based tools, educators are able to access a wide range of variables, including student demographics, enrollments, and outcomes using intuitive point-click-drag commands.

SMART Tools are increasingly used to facilitate data-driven decisions by giving policymakers, as well as practitioners a fast, practical way to directly access a massive database with years of information on student achievement. Faculty, administrators, program directors, enrollment managers and researchers throughout California's community colleges are among those using IEBC SMART Tools today.

HI-SMART implementation will occur over a two-and-a-half year period. The work will involve stakeholder groups – policymakers and practitioners – every step of the way.

The Institute for Evidence-Based Change (IEBC), a nonprofit organization created in 2010, grew out of California's Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS) and both supports and expands its work. IEBC is dedicated to improving education practice by helping clients use data (evidence) to identify and implement change that leads to measurable improvements in education.

IEBC concentrates its work in four areas: K-16 Collaboration, Cross-Sector Data Linkages, Analytic Tools, and Tuning. IEBC works with faculty, administrators, and others at all levels of education, giving them the tools they need to identify levers for change, design interventions that address problems, and regularly measure progress. Projects are currently underway in California, Hawai'i, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, New York, Utah and Texas.

For more information, visit www.iebcnow.org

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