

August 30, 2005

Dear SETDA IFAST Sponsor,

Welcome and thank you for sponsoring the latest venture between SETDA and JES & Co. the Implementation Framework for Achievement Standards Toolkit or IFAST! We are so pleased that you will be a part of this exciting project.

As you know, JES & Co. and SETDA have partnered to develop IFAST which will expand on the National Science Foundation's Achievement Standards Network (ASN), the authoritative electronic collection of all state and national standards. We look forward to working with you and the SETDA members and staff to create a tool that will address the needs of schools and state departments of education.

Our workgroup will focus on creating a toolkit which will address these key areas of best practices and support:

- The tool will include an identification of the various ways to align and codify standards.
- States will have access to fully digital versions of their standards in order to consistently and accurately represent them in systems of accountability and assessment.
- States will be provided tools that use technology to review, evaluate, compare and identify academic standards unambiguously.
- States will be provided tools that can be used to create and revise standards and participate actively in the Achievement Standards Network project, while assuring their standards are accurately represented in eLearning, content management and other technology-based systems including SIF-compliant applications.
- States will be provided tools and best practices that can be used to correlate (align) educational resources and assessment items to academic standards and incorporate them within repositories and assessment banks, educational portals and resource collections.

We are working to create an online forum for communication and document posting which will be highly beneficial as we move forward in the project. Once the forum is complete, I will be in touch with the link and login information.

Also, I will be your first line of communication moving forward. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments that may come up.

Thank you again for choosing to participate in this exciting venture and we look forward to working with you over the next several months.

Jennifer

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