



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION

Dear State Directors for Career and Technical Education:

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), Division of Academic and Technical Education (DATE) is pleased to announce a new round of customized technical assistance to support the development and refinement of Perkins IV accountability systems. Both states and discretionary grantees funded under the Native American Career and Technical Education Program (NACTEP), Native Hawaiian Career and Technical Education Program (NHCTEP), and Tribally-Controlled Postsecondary Career and Technical Institutions Program (TCPCTIP) are eligible to apply. Technical assistance will be provided through our contractors at MPR Associates, Inc.

OVAE's technical assistance efforts are designed to assist administrators to obtain information, design materials, or develop and implement a specific component of their Perkins IV accountability systems. This could include, but is not limited to, refining measures or collection instruments, assessing survey or administrative record matching options, or analyzing Perkins data to identify local program improvement needs. The consultation services are intended to supplement, not supplant, state or local efforts to improve Perkins IV accountability systems.

Technical assistance projects should be specific in scope and build on information and data currently available. MPR will tailor its assistance to your needs and priorities, and will provide on-site consultation if necessary. Each participating state or discretionary grantee will receive a summary report that offers recommendations and draws conclusions regarding the issues particular to that state or discretionary grantee. Each report will also have value for other states and discretionary grantees that are addressing similar issues. Examples of the type of products MPR has produced for states can be seen on OVAE's Peer Collaborative Resource Network (PCRN) at <http://www.edcountability.net/quality/support.cfm>.

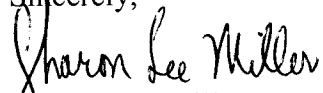
To be considered for technical assistance, please submit a brief description (maximum of one page) of your technical assistance needs and/or research questions to Amanda Richards at MPR Associates, Inc. (arichards@mprinc.com). Requests must be received by Friday, October 10, 2008, to be considered.

While OVAE will make every attempt to accommodate each request, resource constraints may prevent us from funding all projects. Consequently, we will assign the highest priority to states and discretionary grantees that have previously requested, but have not yet received, any assistance, and to states and discretionary grantees that have projects with the highest relevance to the field. We will select projects expeditiously so that they may be completed by May 30, 2008.

If you have questions regarding this opportunity for technical assistance, please contact John Haigh, Chief of the Performance and Accountability Branch at (202) 245-7735 or via email at john.haigh@ed.gov. You may also contact Amanda Richards at (503) 963-3758 or via email at the address noted above.

We look forward to working with you as you undertake efforts to improve your state's Perkins accountability system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Lee Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sharon Lee Miller
Director, Division of Academic
and Technical Education