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Contact: Emily Kingsland  
(202) 379-1800

## **NCEE Launches Research Program and Web Site Focused on the Strategies of the World's Leading Education Systems**

Washington, DC – The National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE) today launched the [Center on International Education Benchmarking](#) (CIEB). The new Center will conduct research on the world's most successful education systems. It will also offer access to information, analysis, and opinion on the education systems of the top-performing countries from all over the world through a new web portal that goes live today. In addition, the Center is launching a monthly newsletter for people interested in keeping up-to-date on the strategies used by the top-performing countries.

The Center will expand the existing body of information on high-performing education systems through its new, multi-year research program. The program will involve scholars from many countries in research on those countries whose students regularly top the PISA league tables. Research performed by the Center will seek to describe their policies and practices, identify the strategies those countries have used to produce their superior performance, and analyze the common principles that underlie those strategies. The Center will also make recommendations to policymakers and educators based on its research and analysis.

The Center's mission is not, however, confined to the conduct of its own research. It is also launching a [web site](#) designed to provide access to a wide range of databases, research reports, analytical documents, official white papers, opinion pieces, and other resources that explain the strategies, policies, and practices of the top-performing countries. The site, developed for policymakers, educators, researchers and journalists, is easy to understand and to navigate. Users can access the information by country and find a comprehensive overview of each country's system, including its structure, historical development and policies, as well as a description of the way it approaches each of the issues dominating the discussion of education policymakers around the world. But users can also access the information by issue and find descriptions of how each top-performing country is handling school finance, teacher and leader quality, and other issues.

Finally, the Center will publish and distribute an e-newsletter, "Top of the Class", a monthly news update containing a sampling of the latest data, analysis, and opinion about the countries with the best education systems. To sign up for the newsletter, [click here](#).

NCEE has researched the education systems of the top-performing nations for more than 20 years to unfold the secrets of their success. When U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan asked the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to produce a report for the United States on the strategies used by the top-performing countries, the OECD asked NCEE to produce the report under their supervision. The report, [\*Strong Performers and Successful Reformers: Lessons from PISA for the United States\*](#), was released in December 2010.

“The global economy has changed the requirements of what young people need to know and be able to do to succeed. High-wage countries that fail to match the performance of the countries that do the best job of educating their young people will see their wages fall until they meet the wages of those countries moving up the economic ladder,” said **NCEE President and CEO Marc Tucker**. “We created the Center on International Education Benchmarking to help countries around the world understand the principles, policies, and practices that top-performing countries use to drive their education systems. But, because it is necessary to interpret the data in order to come to sound conclusions about their implications for policy and practice in one’s own country, the Center’s web site and other activities will also serve as a forum in which leading experts can debate with one another about the issues of the day.”

The Center on International Education Benchmarking will be advised by some of the world’s leading experts on education. Members of the advisory board include:

- **Kai-ming Cheng**, Professor and Chair of Education and Senior Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor at the University of Hong Kong
- **Linda Darling-Hammond**, Charles Ducommun Professor of Education and Co-Director of the School Redesign Network at Stanford University
- **Michael Day**, Executive Director of Teacher Training for The Training and Development Agency for Schools, Manchester, UK
- **Michael Fullan**, Professor Emeritus of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto
- **Roland Osterlund**, former Director General of the Ministry of Education in Denmark
- **Lee Sing Kong**, Director at the National Institute of Education, Singapore and Dean of the National Institute of Education International
- **Barry McGaw**, Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne and Chair of the Board of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority
- **Pasi Sahlberg**, Director General of Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation in Helsinki, Finland
- **Andreas Schleicher**, Special Advisor on Education Policy to OECD’s Secretary-General and Head of OECD’s Indicators and Analysis Division
- **Robert Schwartz**, Francis Keppel Professor of Practice in Educational Policy and Administration and Academic Dean at the Harvard Graduate School of Education

- **Vivien Stewart**, Senior Advisor for Education at the Asia Society

The launch of the Center follows the release of [\*Surpassing Shanghai: An Agenda for American Education Built on the World's Leading Systems\*](#). The book, published by Harvard Education Press and edited by NCEE President Marc Tucker (with a forward by Linda Darling-Hammond), focuses on five countries that have sustained records of superior education performance including Canada (with a focus on Ontario), China (with a focus on Shanghai), Japan, Finland, and Singapore. The authors describe each country's history, culture, and education system in terms of standards, instructional systems, assessments, teacher quality, school finance, the gateways through the system, and the incentives that affect student motivation. In the final chapter, the book offers recommendations for how the United States can catch up and even outpace these educational leaders.

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*The National Center on Education and the Economy was created in 1988 to analyze the implications of changes in the international economy for American education, formulate an agenda for American education based on that analysis and seek wherever possible to accomplish that agenda through policy change and development of the resources educators would need to carry it out. Follow NCEE on Twitter [@CtrEdEcon](#) and on [Facebook](#).*