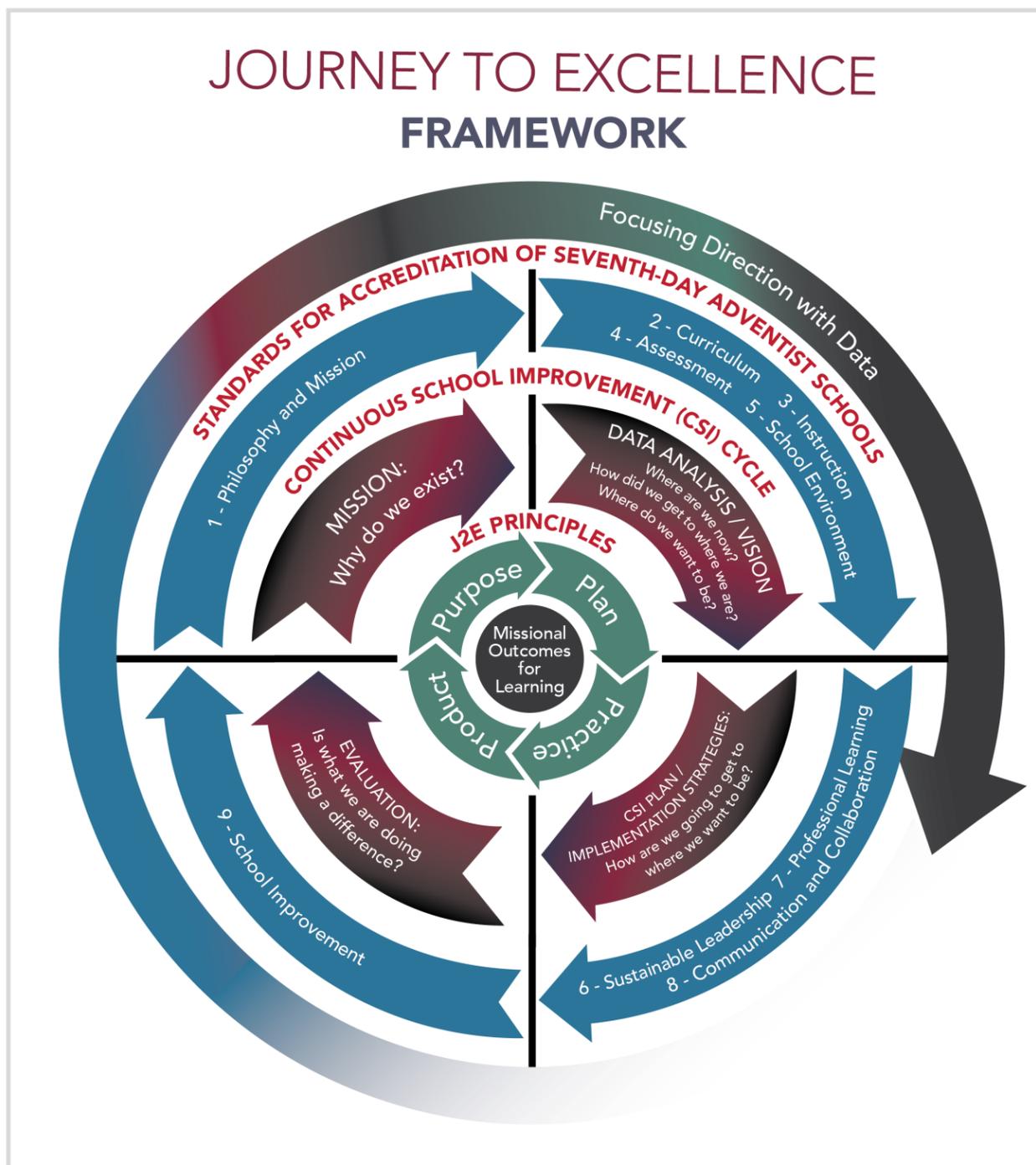


Dear Colleagues,

Our newsletters for the past two years have focused on understanding the concept of Continuous School Improvement. As you recall, the Continuous School Improvement (CSI) Cycle, a research-based framework centered on data analysis, lays the groundwork for the accreditation process. This approach involves transition from an “event” or compliance mindset, in regards to accreditation, to a commitment to “continuous school improvement.”

If you are familiar with Simon Sinek’s “Golden Circle,” you know the importance of starting with WHY before moving on to HOW and WHAT. We have recently developed a Golden Circle for Adventist education in the Southwestern Union that contextualizes the CSI Cycle in regards to Missional Outcomes (WHY), J2E Principles (Organizing Categories), CSI Cycle (HOW), Accreditation Standards (WHAT), while Focusing Direction with Data.



The figure depicts the five layers of the Framework as interdependent circles of support, both holistically as well as by quadrant. Working from the center outwards, the key components are:

Layer 1—The driver of the Journey are the missional outcomes of Adventist education or the 7Cs, global competencies linked to our mission. **WHY** (more on these in a future newsletter)

Layer 2—The guiding principles for the Journey are Purpose, Plan, Practice, and Product.

Layer 3—The vehicle for meaningfully embedding the outcomes in practice during the Journey is the Continuous School Improvement (CSI) Cycle. **HOW**

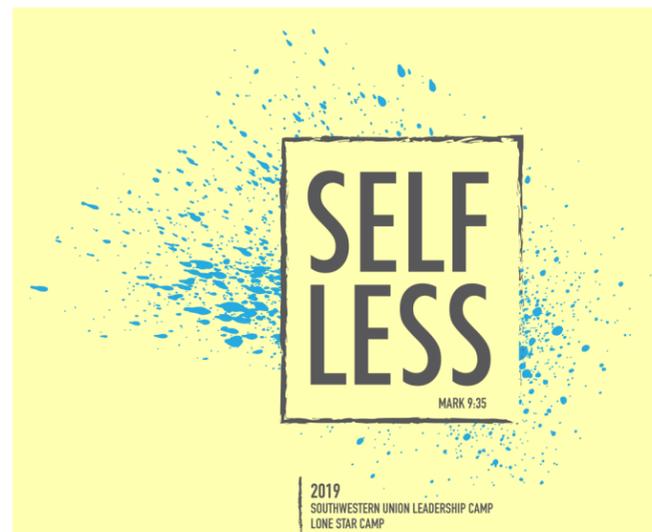
Layer 4—The evaluation tool for the Journey is the *Standards for Accreditation of Seventh-day Adventist Schools*. **WHAT**

Layer 5—The directional focus for the Journey is determined through the continuous collection and analysis of data.



PURPOSE

Leadership Camp—On September 12-15, 2019, more than 120 student leaders from the Union's academies attended Leadership Camp at Lone Star Camp in Athens, TX. The event's theme was "Selfless" and was hosted by the Southwestern Union's Education Department, assisted by the student association (SA) of Southwestern Adventist University. Each year, academies in the Southwestern Union territory elect SA and class officers from their respective student bodies to lead and represent each academy. Leadership positions include president, religious vice president, social vice president, yearbook/newspaper editor, etc. Students took part in breakout sessions about leadership, conducting a meeting, planning, and management. They also enjoyed worship sessions, a disaster training simulation, and recreational activities. Director of Secondary Education Mike Furr said "The purpose of leadership camp is to help prepare student leaders to fulfill the roles that they have been elected to, so that when they get back to their own campuses, they will have new and creative ideas and knowledge of how to implement those ideas. Additionally, our intent is to spiritually uplift and inspire our students so that they can return to campus and feel equipped to lead their peers to Christ." Singbawi Sing, a sophomore at SWAU and an SA officer, said Leadership Camp was a blessing, as she saw younger students learning, growing and discovering their talents, and that the students enjoyed worshipping and studying the Bible together, and bonding as a team of leaders.



Stewardship Pilot—Please let us know if you would be willing to pilot a stewardship program.

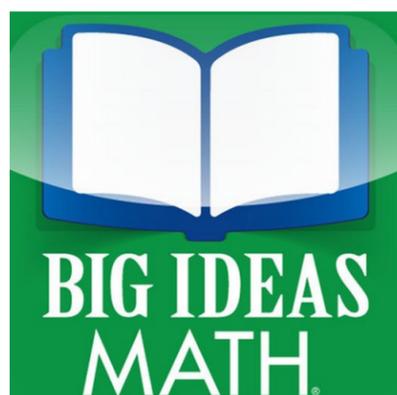
Assist/Partnering for Eternity Programs—See more about this service program at <https://www.southern.edu/administration/assistpfe/>.

Data Cards—Please contact your superintendent for 2019-2020 education data cards. These make excellent marketing tools and bulletin inserts. We have extras if you need more.

PLAN

ECE Standards—Early childhood standards will be available soon at <http://ecec.nadeducation.org/>.

Dyslexic Readers Pilot—Please let us know if you would be willing to pilot a set of dyslexic readers.



Elementary Math Adoption—National Geographic Learning/Cengage and Big Ideas Learning would like to extend to Seventh-day Adventists Schools a special offer for 2019 orders, pending approval by the NAD Curriculum Committee.

- **Student and Teacher Materials Discount:** 20% discount for the purchase of *Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life* © 2019 K-8 student and teacher materials (excluding manipulative kits). To receive this special discount offer, Purchase Orders need to be received by Dec 16, 2019 to ensure processing and delivery by December 31, 2019. *The 20% discount is only for 2019 purchasing and will not apply to 2020 orders.*

- **Discounted Shipping:** 0% shipping on orders placed before September 15, 2019 and 5% shipping on orders placed September 16, 2019-December 16, 2019

- **Teacher Support:** One grade level Teaching Edition will be provided gratis per teacher. Every teacher will be granted free access to the Teacher's online platform, where all additional Teaching Editions and the components of the Teacher Resource Packages are housed electronically, for all grade levels, for the duration of the adoption.

- **Training Support:** From August 2019 to August 2020, a dedicated training team will be available to provide virtual training via webinar, on a standing weekly appointment dedicated to only SDA teachers.

The offers above apply only to Purchase Orders placed by December 16, 2019 to ensure processing and delivery by December 31, 2019.

Versacare Grants—STEM grant application deadline is December 31. <https://versacare.org/>



PRACTICE

Small School Workshop—Thirty-eight teachers from around the Southwestern Union participated in a Small School Workshop on July 8-11, 2019 in Burleson, TX. The theme of the workshop was “A Journey to Excellence;” teachers are on a journey to create a culture of excellence for their learners. It was a time for multi-grade teachers to network as well as participate in professional learning experiences that included topics related to classroom management, scheduling, curriculum, lesson planning, and administrative duties. One day was spent in simulated multi-grade classrooms to observe master teachers manage and instruct groups of students, including grades 1-4, 5-8, and 1-8.



English Teachers' Workshop—On October 7-8, 2019, on the campus of Southwestern Adventist University, there were 15 teachers from various academies across the Union attending an English Teachers' Workshop. Dr. Renard Doneskey and the staff of the University English department presented several topics that were of interest to English teachers. Topics included were: The Importance of Literacy, Writing Across the Curriculum, Reading Strategies, How to Grade “That Much” Writing, What College Readiness Means, Drama and Film in the Classroom, Teaching Potentially Controversial Literary Works, and others. They also had time to share ideas with each other and enjoy the professional fellowship of their colleagues. Each year the Union and the University plan to team together to present a workshop for a different discipline. Last year it was for math teachers and next year we plan to have one for music teachers.

2019-20 Webinar Series

- Oct. 3—Marketing Basics
- Nov. 7—Facebook Presence
- Feb. 6—Online School Rankings
- Apr. 2—How to Engage Your Community

LEADERSHIP

SWUC Leadership Institute, July 20-23, 2020—This institute is for head teachers, principals, and superintendents. Learn about the three stances of a good leader: the change stance, the implementation stance, and the sustainability stance. Learn about the two roles of a good leader: operational responsibilities and academic leader. Please contact your superintendent by January 31 to reserve a space.

PRODUCT

Website—The Union website has gone live. Check out the content and resources on <http://www.southwesternadventisteducation.com/>.

Website Content—Please send video clips, photos, news items, podcasts, book reviews for posting on our website.

WELCOME

We would like to say welcome to our new conference personnel.

Kisha Norris has joined the Texas Conference as their Vice President for Education.



Renee Whiting, Head Teacher for New Orleans Adventist Academy, will serve as an Assistant Superintendent for the Southwest Region Conference.

CERTIFICATION

Remember to request an official transcript when you complete classes for certification. To be official, the transcript must be sent directly from the institution to our office by mail or email.

You can view your certification file in User Manager at any time. It is the teacher's responsibility to keep your certification current.

SWAU REGISTRATION & TERMS

Spring 2020 Registration: November 4, 2019 and ends January 13, 2020

Spring 2020 semester: January 13, 2020 to May 6, 2020

Summer 2020 Registration: March 30, 2020 and ends May 11, 2020

Summer 2020 semester: May 11, 2020 to August 20, 2020

