



Conversation with Irwin Kirsch, ETS

Forum:

- Date: 2/11/04
- Location: NY Hilton
- P21 participants: Diny Golder, Susan Saltrick

Host organization contact info

- Key contact name : Irwin Kirsch
- Title: Senior Research Director, ETS
- Email: ikirsch@ets.org
- Phone:

OBJECTIVES

- Purpose: to learn more about the current state of ICT literacy assessment, and explore possible collaborative activities in this area

KEY TAKEAWAYS relating to:

- ICT Literacy Assessment:
 - Irwin: We don't really know how the US is doing with regard to 21st literacy skills as valid large scale assessments have not been implemented. RE: basic skills, the US tends to perform in the middle of the pack – our brightest students are among the top performers in the world, but we have one of the greatest disparities between top and bottom performers (e.g., much greater than some of the Asian countries, Scandinavian countries)
 - ETS is engaged in higher ed project (more detail found on ETS notes from 1/24 meeting in DC) involving 7 universities, and primarily the research librarians from those schools. Goal is to develop an ICT literacy exam for higher ed students. Beta this summer (04), first pilot in spring 2005. May be interesting to link this to states that have a K-16 articulation program in place (such as Florida)

FOLLOW UP

- Irwin meeting with Kristan on 2/12 – needs follow up?
- Irwin hasn't recd Tucson Forum invitation – Susan to follow up with Katie/Carrie
- Invite Irwin to participate in the Tucson Forum assessment panel -- JES follow up
- Meeting at ITS offices in March? need to follow up with staff and board to determine best course of action
- Discussed possibility of linking some states' K-12 system into this higher ed pilot – goal would be to do a large scale benchmarking assessment of ICT literacy, probably of HS seniors. This effort would require substantial funding. Diny will reflect further and bring to P21 exec committee.