



**International Renewal Institute, Inc.**  
Professional Development for Educators

## **iRi LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE IN CELEBRATION OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S INAUGURATION AND CHALLENGE TO CULTIVATE STUDENTS' MINDS FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SUCCESS**

**iRi** CEO Jim Bellanca

(January 2009) During President Obama's historic inaugural speech, he eloquently challenged our educators to:

***"Transform our schools to meet the demands of a new age."***

At **iRi**, we are delighted to show you how. Our redesigned website is our first tool to enable you to learn more about how to accept this challenge for change and see it work with all of your students in your classrooms.

**iRi** has been at the forefront of this movement, i.e., of understanding what is demanded of our students and expected from our schools to deliver 21<sup>st</sup> century critical thinkers and boundless achievers. We have translated that vision into practical, proven methods and materials for the classroom which nurture students' minds and enable teachers to realize unparalleled success. We are delighted to provide school districts around the country (<http://www.iriinc.us/resources-schools.html>) with a roadmap to fulfill Obama's challenge to American educators.

We as educators believe that all children can achieve higher, regardless of background --- from under to over-achievers, minority to majority populations, lower to higher income groups, and fluent to emerging English language speakers. We at **iRi** arm educators with the tools and students with the cognitive-based programs to improve critical thinking, problem solving and reasoning skills, collaboration and communication proficiency, and literacy and mathematics achievement. All of our programs are geared to prepare students for what all of us recognize, and President Obama demands, as necessary for the academic, work, and life requirements of this century.

We invite you to peruse our website while thinking about President Obama's challenge. He spoke of cultivating 'inventive minds' as a prerequisite to the remaking of America. What would a school filled with stimulated, challenged young minds look like? It would have no roof, no ceiling of learning. It would be filled with excited students and fulfilled teachers. It would be rewarded for all children's passing state achievement tests, not closed for inadequate progress. It would look like our "21<sup>st</sup> Century Enriched Learning School" model. Please review that section of our website (<http://www.iriinc.us/21st-century-enriched-school.html>), become inspired, and call us to get started.

**Early Childhood** educators, how do we lay a 21<sup>st</sup> century strong foundation for optimal thinking among our youngest students? We must encourage and leverage the powerful brain growth which is most rapid during these early years. Review this section of our website (<http://www.iriinc.us/early-childhood.html>), including our Critical Thinking/Feuerstein's Instrumental Enrichment (FIE) Program and our aligned Reading and Math professional learning opportunities which prepare teachers to mediate students' cognitive functions for higher achievement. Learn how we have helped districts to increase students' literacy by improving critical thinking skills.

**Middle School** faculty, how do we accelerate optimal learning and demonstrate the 'Middle Grades' learning plateau is a fallacy? Conventional methods often are no longer relevant for today's 21<sup>st</sup> century student. Journey through this section of our website (<http://www.iriinc.us/middle-school.html>) and learn how together we can improve the thinking skills, reading progress, and mathematical performance of all our Middle School students.

**High School** administrators, as you know, your teachers are often are the final step in providing students with the foundation for critical thinking and efficient learning. That teacher may be the reason why a student goes on to college, chooses a particular course of study, or focuses on a given career. Read this section of our website (<http://www.iriinc.us/high-school.html>) and learn how our customized implementation of FIE provides teachers of young adults with 14 tools to build the transformational motivation which turns students into more efficient thinkers and promotes their lifelong learning. Our aligned Reading and Math professional learning opportunities integrate cognitive teaching methods to enable your educators to advance all high school students in these critical subjects.

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**Special Needs** instructors, we believe that as educators and parents of children with special needs we must enable everyone to realize their universal learning potential. Review this section of our site (<http://www.iriinc.us/special-needs.html>) and learn how we can free children from stigmatizing labels by utilizing practical, research-supported, world-class strategies.

President Obama supports the creation of more successful charter schools. Learn how we have helped established thriving charter schools centered around Feuerstein's Instrumental Enrichment and which focus on cultivating and leveraging critical thinking skills across the entire curriculum (<http://www.iriinc.us/faulkner-charter-school.html>).

The new administration believes we must make math a national priority and prepare teachers to instruct more effectively. Where do you get started? Visit the math sections of our website in your relevant grade levels and learn about both our customized, standards-based improvement process to upgrade your math curriculum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century as well as our math topic-specific professional learning opportunities to enable your faculty to teach your existing math curriculum better.

As you will see from our case studies (<http://www.iriinc.us/resources-case-studies.html>) and we would be happy to discuss with you further, our results are robust, measurable, and enduring. Strengthened brain connections positively impact critical and creative thinking, problem solving, core academic mastery, peer relations, teacher-student interaction, and other skills necessary for today's complex world. Isn't that the core of Obama's challenge to us all?

**IRi** invites you to join us in accepting President Obama's challenge. Let's embrace the change. Together we can affect positive learning in your classrooms.

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**IRi** (International Renewal Institute) is the leading provider of Feuerstein-based Critical Thinking, Reading, and Mathematics Professional Learning and Student Programs for 21st century classroom and clinical use.