Dear Colleagues:

We are in a transformational era of education. Superintendents and educational technology directors are facing increasing challenges and responsibilities in this era. As the lines between traditional functional services and departments begin to blur, senior and IT leadership are charged with 1) managing the constantly expanding role for IT within the LEA, 2) protecting the LEA from ever-increasing security threats, and 3) keeping up with the pace of new technology.

In light of these changes, we are excited to announce a professional development offering to help offer support to you through this challenging and exciting era. This is the fifth year for these exciting and dynamic programs. 95 LEA's and Charter Schools have participated and benefited from these programs. The single offering will feature two programs: one for superintendents and one for technology directors. The superintendents will participate in a certification program entitled "**Leaders for the 21st Century**." This portion of the offering will involve one day-long session at the UNC School of Government, at which superintendents and their technology directors will discuss the role of transformational leadership in K12 education. Subsequently, superintendents will attend two additional sessions (6 hours each), discussing legal and regulatory issues and leadership. A final session will occur at the conclusion of the technology directors' program/graduation and will highlight best practice projects created by the technology directors during their course of study (total of 20 hours for superintendents' portion of the program).

The technology directors' portion, a certification program entitled "**Certified Educational Chief Technology Officers**", is a ten-month course that establishes the foundation for assessing and addressing some of the most critical issues facing IT leadership in school systems. The purpose of this program is to equip leaders with the requisite tools to manage and improve their organizational technology assets. During the course of the program, we will address major topics, including organizational transformation, IT governance, project and risk management, and legal and regulatory issues. Each broad topic will examine specific LEA issues and draw on participant experience to provide both theoretical and practical applied knowledge to the challenges. This program will use a variety of instructional methodologies, including face-to-face sessions, synchronous online sessions, and asynchronous online sessions as teaching tools and to help technology directors evaluate various instructional technologies. It will also reduce the amount of travel required. This program is approximately 240 contact hours and CEUs will be awarded.

The programmatic offerings outlined above are based on the very successful Certified Government Chief Information Officers' program that was pioneered by the UNC School of Government's Center for Public Technology. The CGCIO program, started in 2005, was the first of its kind in the nation and has successfully graduated more than 1300 public sector IT professionals across the country. The program will focus on specific transformational practices for 21st Century learning and teaching, not just theory. For example, topics will include: 1) How the lines between curriculum and technology continue to blur; 2) Infusing technology into

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instruction and assessment; 3) How to garner resources, support and funding to begin the process; and, 4) How to execute and manage the change.

UNC School of Government will partner with the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and MCNC to deliver the two programs. DPI will help identify potential participants and offer some components of the instructional content. MCNC will also offer content and assist in the provision of necessary technology and connectivity to these communities. UNC School of Government will provide oversight and instruction for the majority of the program content.

The dual program offering of the Leader for the 21st Century and the Certified Educational Technology Officers programs will be limited to 15 superintendents/assistant superintendents and their technology directors. Both superintendent/assistant superintendent and technology director participation are required for admission consideration. The first 15 applications will be given preference for admittance in the program. The application process will start in June 2016, and the courses will begin on August 23, 2016. The total tuition cost of the dual program is $2400. The costs for each pair of superintendent/ technology director team will be $500.00. NCDPI will cover the difference of $1900 for the first 15 superintendent/technology director teams. Travel is not included in these costs. Additional superintendent/technology director teams can apply to participate in the program but will be responsible for the entire tuition, travel and lodging costs.

The application process can be found online at the link below. Please be sure to follow the application directions listed on the top right corner of the webpage. **The application deadline is June 15, 2016.** If you have additional questions please contact Maurice Ferrell at mferrell@sog.unc.edu or Shannon Tufts at tufts@sog.unc.edu.

Application website:
http://www.sog.unc.edu/node/1082

Warmest Regards,

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