The Consortium built significant momentum in our third quarter. In partnership with member states, work groups and vendors, we finalized the Master Work Plan for the summative assessment, which now serves as a detailed roadmap for the Consortium through 2014. Our procurement processes are rapidly accelerating, highlighted by the selection of GMMB as our communications service provider and the Center for Assessment as developers for the English language arts and mathematics content specifications. We also released two technology requests for proposals (RFP), and an Item Specifications RFP.

We grew our organizational capacity by hiring Tony Alpert as chief operating officer (COO), will be bringing a lead psychometrician and a communications director onboard in August, and are posting and interviewing for two other key positions: a director of higher education collaboration and a director of stakeholder collaboration, to ensure that our key partners are included in the design and development of the assessment. We welcomed California and Iowa as Governing States. Consortium leadership began monthly meetings with state chiefs. We completed work group charters and employed those charters to update and expand our Master Work Plan for the summative assessment. Our work continues on schedule and on budget.

**Accomplishments**

- Conducted All States meeting on April 7 with over 50 state leaders in attendance
- Hired Communications Service Provider
- Engaged state chiefs in the operations and long-range planning of the Consortium
- Launched IHE engagement strategy to involve IHEs in the definition of college and career readiness
- Educated members through a webinar on computer adaptive testing
- Expanded national support for the Consortium by presenting at more than 29 external events and meetings
- Established major presence at the CCSSO national assessment conference including participation in a plenary session, more than 10 presentations, and discussions with foundations and other key constituencies
- Delivered weekly news updates to all members and stakeholders
- Joined the Mathematics Common Core Coalition

**Priorities for Next Six Months**

- Continue to engage chiefs in critical discussions on policy matters and long-term organization sustainability
- Develop database system to streamline and expand Consortium communications
- Enhance the public website and launch collaboration site
- Integrate with internal member state communication departments
- Conduct stakeholder research to strengthen our branding and communications
- Hire director of stakeholder collaboration and extend our interactions with members of Congress, governors, and other state policy makers and national professional and advocacy organizations
- Hire director of higher education collaboration to ensure that our assessment is a valid representation of career and college readiness
- Begin active inclusion of teachers and other state level constituents in Consortium’s state-level activities
**Accomplishments**

- Completed work group charters, detailing goals, objectives, scope, and deliverables for all work groups
- Developed the Master Work Plan for the summative assessment, based upon work group charters, reviews, and feedback from the work groups, member states, and vendors
- Hired chief operating officer
- Continued rigorous management of schedule, vendors, issues, risks, and financials

**Establish Rigorous Processes and Organization Structure**

- Released IT Readiness Tool RFP jointly with PARCC to help states gauge their abilities and needs for conducting statewide computerized testing
- Released IT Systems Architecture RFP to secure key vendor for designing and constructing Consortium’s testing platform
- Worked with a technology access expert to determine how to best leverage leading standards to ensure that the interaction of items and technology will meet the needs of students in our member states, including students with disabilities and English language learners

**Develop the IT Backbone**

- Continued the active involvement of state members in adding details to the Master Work Plan of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment System
- Engaged experts to develop the draft English language arts and mathematics content specifications and guide the definition of reporting categories in a manner consistent with the intent of the CCSS and SMARTER Balanced goals
- Released RFP to acquire a vendor to develop the Item Specifications that will guide all item development activities
- Completed vision document for the online digital library to supply formative tools and processes and professional development materials to member states

**Design the System**

- Developed Interim Assessment design with input from TAC and Work Groups
- Complete the CCSS-specific Content Specifications to guide test blueprint development efforts
- Continue to sponsor webinars on topics of immediate relevance to Consortium members
- Host TAC meeting to gather expert input on several complex design considerations of our assessment system
- Launch initial professional development tools and resources focused on transitioning to the CCSS
- Engage vendors to develop test design, write items and accessibility guidelines, and conduct cross-state accommodations study according to Master Work Plan
- Refine our career and college readiness definition to guide the content of the high school assessment and the vertical articulation of grades 3-8 performance standards

**Priorities for Next Six Months**

- Extend the Master Project Plan to include our Interim Assessment, Formative Processes and Tools and Transition to Common Core activities
- Submit annual performance report to the US Department of Education (USED) and host an onsite visit of the USED project director; demonstrate how the Consortium is developing high-quality deliverables and meeting its commitments to its funders
- Hire key staff members including: a lead psychometrician and communications director, and English language arts and math specialists
- Develop vendor procurement plans and develop RFPs
- Manage vendors to complete required work according to Master Work Plan
- Develop IT systems architecture and deliver IT readiness tool to states
- Develop RFPs for key technology components including the Item Bank and Item Authoring application
- Work with system architect to determine how to best leverage leading interoperability standards

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Work Group Status

Accessibility and Accommodations

Accomplishments
- Developed Accessibility Guidelines product description for inclusion in Item Specifications RFP

Priorities for Next Six Months
- Develop population definitions for various student groups
- Secure vendor to conduct State of the State / State of the Field review

Performance Tasks

Accomplishments
- Developed sample tasks for use in RFPs and future task writing
- Developed Item Specifications RFP with Item Development Work Group

Priorities for Next Six Months
- Oversee development and distribution of Performance Task Development RFP

Formative Processes and Tools / Professional Development

Accomplishments
- Developed Digital Library Vision document, outlining high-level goals, requirements and timelines for an online clearinghouse of formative tools and resources

Priorities for Next Six Months
- Oversee development and distribution of RFP for Professional Development on Assessment Literacy

Reporting

Accomplishments
- Served on IT Architecture RFP review committee
- Contributed additional reporting activities to the Master Work Plan

Priorities for Next Six Months
- Oversee development and distribution of Reporting System RFP

Research and Evaluation

Accomplishments
- Brought onboard two new members

Priorities for Next Six Months
- Work with lead psychometrician to procure the services of a psychometric support team
- Lead planning for and implementation of small-scale trials of item prototypes
- Plan and execute four-year validation agenda and develop validity framework

Test Administration

Accomplishments
- Selected a new co-chair and brought onboard three new members

Priorities for Next Six Months
- Plan administration of small-scale pilot and field tests
- Oversee planning and development of test administration materials and policy
- Finalize Consortium policy on test administration policies and procedures for SEAs and LEAs

Test Design

Accomplishments
- Oversaw development of content specifications

Priorities for Next Six Months
- Evaluate impact of constraints and constructs on CAT and paper test blueprints and forms
- Oversee development and distribution of Test Specifications and Test Blueprints RFPs

Transition to the Common Core

Accomplishments
- Collaborated with CCSSO on the planning and launch of the ICCS Collaboration Tool
- Outlined potential delivery formats for implementation tools and resources

Priorities for Next Six Months
- Collect and disseminate implementation tools and resources
- Begin collaborations with national content organizations

Item Development

Accomplishments
- Oversaw development and distribution of Item Specifications RFP

Priorities for Next Six Months
- Coordinate selection of Item Specifications vendor
- Oversee development and distribution of Item Writing, Training Materials, and Item Development RFPs
- Oversee development and procurement of items, including state-submitted items and vendor-supported, teacher-developed items

Technology Approach

Accomplishments
- Oversaw development and distribution of IT Readiness Tool and IT Systems Architecture RFPs
- Collaborated with PARCC, Dynamic Learning Maps, and National Center & State Collaborative on IT Readiness Tool

Priorities for Next Six Months
- Select vendors and initiate work on the IT Readiness Tool and IT Systems Architecture