

# MEMO

To: Presidents, Directors of Institutional Research and other interested parties at the Pennsylvania private and independent postsecondary institutions

From: Kathleen M. Shaw, Ph.D.  
Deputy Secretary  
Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education  
Pennsylvania Department of Education

Re: Invitation to PIMS Information Sessions

Date: October 21, 2008

## ***Memo Purpose***

As you may have heard, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is in the process of expanding its pre-Kindergarten through 12 data system to the postsecondary institutions within the Commonwealth. The purpose of this memo is to invite you to an information session regarding this effort.

## ***Background***

PIMS, or the Pennsylvania Information Management System, is PDE's data collection and enterprise-wide longitudinal data warehouse and reporting system. Once postsecondary data is captured within this system, PDE will have a single centralized student-level longitudinal data system covering pre-Kindergarten through postsecondary undergraduate education. PDE, K-12 school districts and other education agencies, postsecondary institutions and other stakeholders will be able to develop a better understanding of how high school graduates are performing in postsecondary education, and to identify as well the predictors of such important outcomes as admission, retention, transfer and graduation.

Please see the attached document for additional background on the PIMS project.

## ***Information Sessions***

To provide you with more information on this important effort, and to provide you an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns, PDE will be conducting information sessions at five different locations throughout the Commonwealth this Fall. I highly encourage you to attend one of these sessions. The table below provides details on the five sessions.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Pittsburgh Area	Tuesday, October 28 <sup>th</sup>  1:00 – 2:30	Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)  3190 William Pitt Way Pittsburgh, PA 15238
Harrisburg	Thursday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>  1:00 – 2:30	Pennsylvania Department of Education Honors Suite, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor  333 Market Street Harrisburg, PA 17101
Erie	Monday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>  1:00 – 2:30	Gannon University Room TBD  109 University Square Erie, PA 16541
Northeastern Pennsylvania	Wednesday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>  1:00 – 2:30	Misericordia University Bevevino Library Catherine Evans McGowan Room  301 Lake Street Dallas, PA 18612
King of Prussia	Thursday, December 4 <sup>th</sup>  1:00 – 2:30	Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)  200 Anderson Road King of Prussia, PA 19406

So that we can plan appropriately, please RSVP to Blake Kiefer of Deloitte Consulting ([bkiefer@deloitte.com](mailto:bkiefer@deloitte.com)) at least one week in advance of the session you will be attending. Please include the name, phone number and email address of all individuals attending from your institution. Emails will be sent to these individuals shortly before the session confirming attendance and providing additional logistical information.

## ***Questions***

If you have questions regarding PIMS that cannot wait until one of these information sessions, these can be directed to:

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Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education  
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Warm regards,

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