Supporting Education, Research, and Training in the 21st Century

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The expanding array of digital devices accessing the Internet around the globe provides new opportunities to collaborate in educating Adventist teachers and educational leaders to continue the teaching ministry of Jesus Christ in the 21st century. Partnerships among the Curriculum and Instruction Resource Center Linking Educators (CIRCLE), the Adventist Learning Community (ALC), and the Institute of Church Ministry (ICM) now connect more Adventists to education and training resources electronically than ever before.

Since 1999, CIRCLE has increasingly served as the “Google” of Seventh-day Adventist education. CIRCLE provides quick and easy access to resources uniquely created by and for Adventist education, as well as other materials recommended by Adventist educators for specific disciplines and levels. Funded by the North American Division Office of Education and supported by the General Conference Department of Education, CIRCLE is coordinated from the Andrews University School of Distance Education in Berrien Springs, Michigan, with servers hosted by Walla Walla University, College Place, Washington. Contracted Adventist educators manage and research resources within their area of expertise. Christian educational leaders, teachers, students, parents, and researchers can find and share resources in any language, for any level or educational discipline, and encompassing a biblical worldview are welcome.

The ALC is a new initiative of the North American Division Office of Education with the mission of equipping people with the passion and skills necessary to further the kingdom of Christ in the 21st century. Using strategies and pedagogy developed in tertiary distance-education programs, the ALC provides uniquely Seventh-day Adventist professional-development courses and resources that are available anywhere and anytime. The ability to search multiple Adventist databases simultaneously will provide church members, ministry leaders, and educators alike with convenient access to training and tools for any ministry anywhere.

The ICM conducts research and seeks to acquire research done by any entity on any aspect of Adventist ministry including education and missions. An Adventist human-subject-research online directory will provide quick and

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easy access to data sets, and academic and other publications that disseminate research findings and suggest practical applications for growing disciples in any setting. See the Website http://www.adventistresearch.org.

Data feeds make it possible to find research, education, and ministry resources through CIRCLE and ALC site searches. ICM is able to launch a Website using CIRCLE’s data-management tools. The collaboration between CIRCLE, ALC, and ICM will make it easier than ever before for researchers, pastors, members, and educators to find and share resources to better serve where God leads, anytime, anywhere, for any level and kind of ministry.

Glynis Bradfield, Ph.D., CIRCLE Director, enjoys facilitating collaboration that helps Adventist educators find resources to continue the teaching ministry of Jesus Christ. She also enjoys serving as the Director of Student Services and Assessment, Distance Degree Advising and Dual Enrollment for the School of Distance Education at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Adam Fenner, Ph.D., Director of the Adventist Learning Community, finds satisfaction in coordinating the development of ministry training and teacher-certification courses that will make professional development a click away for lay members and church employees alike. He also enjoys teaching world history online for Andrews University.

Petr Čincala, Ph.D., is the Director of the Institute of Church Ministry and an Assistant Professor of World Mission in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. With experience as an innovative pastor in the Czech Republic and a research project coordinator, he is passionate about making research findings available to church members online.