School Improvement Network and Empirical Education Partner to Introduce Solution for Accurate, Consistent Teacher Observations

New Calibration & Certification Engine Trains, Certifies Observers for Consistent Results, Tracks Reliability of Observations

SALT LAKE CITY—Dec. 10, 2013— School Improvement Network, the leader in educator effectiveness resources, and Empirical Education Inc., a leading R&D firm serving K-12 schools, today announced they have partnered to introduce the Calibration & Certification Engine (CCE) to create consistency, reliability and accuracy in teacher evaluations.

"Teacher evaluations must move beyond mere compliance to truly help educators grow as professionals and foster educator effectiveness in a way that will have a meaningful impact on student learning," said Chet D. Linton, CEO and president of School Improvement Network. "Through scalable training and continuing support, the Calibration & Certification Engine allows observers to ensure accurate, meaningful observations that measure up to the high standards set by any district or system and push teachers towards growth and effectiveness."

Built by Empirical Education as part of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) Project, CCE provides evaluators with observation training and practice opportunities to ensure they are accurately measuring teacher practice as defined by district or school system standards. School systems can use CCE to certify their observers who have demonstrated proficiency and expertise in accurate teacher observations. CCE also tracks observation results over time to ensure that evaluators show continued alignment to established standards.

"By partnering with School Improvement Network we are broadening the availability of the latest technology to improve teacher effectiveness," said Denis Newman, CEO of Empirical Education. "In this era of tightening budgets, CCE helps schools maximize the value of educator improvement programs based on fair and consistent evaluations. We are very pleased to help contribute to School Improvement Network's extensive system for improving teaching and student performance."

CCE is currently being piloted in several school districts, and will be available to any district or system beginning Dec. 7, 2013.

For more information, please visit http://www.schoolimprovement.com/cce.

About School Improvement Network
Founded in 1991 by teachers, School Improvement Network has spent decades researching and documenting the best practices and teaching strategies in education. From this research, School Improvement Network has developed the Educator Effectiveness System. This system delivers a process to improve teacher practice and teaching strategies, and gives educators a set of powerful tools to drive the process. Research shows that districts and schools that use the tools in the Educator Effectiveness System produce better teachers and, as a result, experience dramatic increases in student achievement, driving up student proficiency scores by an average of 19 percent in a single year. School Improvement Network works with thousands of schools and districts in every state and around the world and has visited over 3,500 classrooms to document best practices and teaching strategies in action. Learn more at http://www.schoolimprovement.com.

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About Empirical Education Inc.
Empirical Education Inc. is a Palo Alto, California-based research company that provides rigorous and independent evidence to inform school system decisions. The company brings its expertise in research, data analysis, engineering, and project management to customers that include the US Department of Education, educational publishers, foundations, leading research organizations, and state and local education agencies. For more information visit our website at http://www.empiricaleducation.com.