

Celebrating 20 years of service to the international gifted education community: 1988–2008

**The Connie Belin & Jacqueline N. Blank International Center
for Gifted Education and Talent Development**

The University of Iowa College of Education



Nurturing Potential | Inspiring Excellence



The Institute for Research and Policy on Acceleration

The 2004 publication, *A Nation Deceived: How Schools Hold Back America's Brightest Students*, has had remarkable success in bringing the issues of acceleration for gifted students to a national discussion. Political figures, educators, and parents are engaged in a new and vibrant conversation about the benefits of acceleration. The focus is on research, not personal opinion.

One of the outcomes of the success of *A Nation Deceived* is the formation of the Institute for Research and Policy on Acceleration (IRPA).

Dear Colleagues:

What curriculum *is most effective* for gifted students? This is one of the most important questions in our field.

The Institute for Research and Policy on Acceleration (IRPA) is unique in that its sole focus is research on acceleration so teachers and administrators can implement the most effective curriculum for gifted students.

IRPA also consults with policy makers so that educational policies and procedures will reflect research results.

There is no cost for the services and materials offered through IRPA. I encourage educators to use this valuable international resource.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Colangelo, Director

*Myron and Jacqueline Blank Professor of
Gifted Education*

IRPA Research Staff

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The Institute for Research and Policy on Acceleration (IRPA)

IRPA, the first institute of its kind in the world, was established at The Connie Belin & Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development at The University of Iowa in 2006 through the generous support of the John Templeton Foundation.

www.accelerationinstitute.org

IRPA is dedicated to the study of curricular acceleration for academically talented children.

The primary purposes of the Institute are to:

- provide educators, parents, and the general public with current information on the many aspects of acceleration;
- serve as an international clearinghouse for research and policy on acceleration; and,
- conduct and support research on the factors that moderate success with different forms of acceleration.

The Institute's Web site (<http://www.education.uiowa.edu/belinblank/acceleration/>) is the primary source of this information for both practitioners and researchers.

Parents and teachers can find answers to basic questions, such as:

- What is acceleration?
- What forms does it take?
- Why should students be accelerated?

They can:

- Obtain advice on the acceleration decision-making process (including information on the *Iowa Acceleration Scale* (2nd ed.), a tool for making objective decisions about whole-grade acceleration);
- Read personal reports about experiences with academic acceleration submitted by students, parents, and teachers;
- Download a free presentation on acceleration;
- Find links to other resources;
- View information on acceleration practices and policies in different states;
- Review an updated annotated bibliography on research about acceleration.