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To: Superintendents, High School Administrators and teachers

From: Laurie A. Snell, Coordinator of Professional Relations
Paul A. Rommelmann, Coordinator of School Partnerships

RE: PLC Workshop held at Valparaiso University ~ December 7, 2011

THEME: Moving Forward with the Common Core Standards, Reaching Higher (5-12)

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Donna Ogle, National Louis University

Featured Speaker: Schauna Findlay

We would like to invite you to the third annual PLC workshop held Wednesday, December 7, 2011, at Valparaiso University Harre Union conference facilities. The workshop is being sponsored by Valparaiso University's Secondary Level Professional Educators Partnership (PEP). Members of the PEP partnership have planned sessions that would provide teachers' information to most effectively develop a more rigorous curriculum to align with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Teachers from all content areas will be provided tools and strategies to most effectively implement the CCSS.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Donna Ogle, will kick-off the morning with an overview of the CCSS and the major shifts in our curriculum. Donna's areas of work include content literacy and school-based professional development. She is past president of the International Reading Association and is an elected member of the Reading Hall of Fame. Her most recent publications include *Partnering for Content Literacy: PRC₂ in Action* and *Building Literacy in Social Studies*. Our featured speaker, Schuana Findlay, former IDOE Curriculum Director has worked extensively with the Indiana State Curriculum revisions and will provide insight into what actions are necessary to move forward.

Additional breakout sessions will include more specific information regarding implementing the Algebra and Language Arts CCSS. Dale Nowlin, recently appointed to the National Assessment Governing Board will work with the major shifts in the math curriculum. The 2011 Teacher of the Year recipient, Stacey McCormack will discuss how she motivates her physics students in a rigorous curriculum. Lynn Winland will present how to loop your math curriculum for at-risk students.

Enclosed are registration materials relevant to the one-day workshop. In response to the economic times, **Valparaiso University continues to offer an economical registration fee.** It is the mission of the University to serve teachers in the region with high quality professional development opportunities to raise the bar. Hope you are able to benefit from this year's special rates. Once again, we will offer a group discount rate during the early registration period. For every four paid registrations, a fifth teacher from the same school may attend for FREE. Please register all four attendees at the same time to receive the discount. We encourage you to share the information with your faculty and support their attendance.

The registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch. **Advanced registration prior to November 17, 2011 is \$75; late or walk-in registration will be \$100 if space is available.** Email confirmation will be sent upon receipt of your registration; **please print your email address clearly.** CRU or PGP's for license renewal are available for any interested participants.

We have also enclosed the agenda and information about the sessions. Since University classes will be in session, please use the Visitors Parking Lot just south of the Christopher Center, which is accessed by the University entrance off Highway U.S. 30, or Lots #14 and #15 located west of Huegli Hall and north of the Christopher Center. More detailed directions are available on our website at www.valpo.edu

The planning committee has worked hard to provide a quality professional development opportunity for a reasonable fee and at a convenient location. We hope that you and members of your faculty will participate this year. For additional information, you may e-mail laurie.snell@valpo.edu

**We encourage you to register early since space is limit*