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To: Superintendents, Middle School Administrators and Teachers

From: Laurie Snell, Conference Facilitator
Paul Rommelmann, Coordinator of School Partnerships

RE: 7th Annual Middle School Conference, February 10, 2011
Theme: Actively Engaging Adolescents, Winning the War against Student Apathy

We would like to invite you to the seventh annual Middle School Conference held Thursday, February 10, 2011 at the Harre Union. Once again, the conference is sponsored by the Valparaiso University's Middle Level Professional Educators Partnership (PEP). The conference has been moved from the fall to winter semester, after a brief sabbatical, to align with changes within the IMLEA organization's professional development offerings. Members of the PEP partnership have planned sessions that promise to be stimulating and beneficial to your professional growth as a middle level educator.

This year's theme is *Actively Engaging Adolescents, Winning the War against Student Apathy.* We are honored to have David Shepard, a member of the ***National Middle School Association's speaker cadre*** as this year's keynote speaker. Shepard's opening general session is ***The Magical Madness of Middle School***. Shepard is a veteran of thirty-five years in education, and since his retirement in 1999, manages his own consulting firm, *The Middle Matters and More*. He is primarily a practitioner and his presentation promises to be humorous and stimulating. Topics of the morning and afternoon breakout sessions are included on the enclosed conference agenda.

Enclosed are registration materials relevant to the one-day conference. **In response to the economic times the University has significantly reduced the registration fee**. It is the mission of the University to continue to serve teachers in the region to be the best they can be. Hope you are able to benefit from this year's special rates. Also new this year, for every four paid registrations, a fifth teacher from the same school may attend for FREE. Please register all five attendees at the same time to receive the discount. We encourage you to share the information with your colleagues and encourage attendance.

The registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Advanced registration prior to January 25, 2011 is $60; late or walk-in registration will be $80 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 a campus map. 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 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 email laurie.snell@valpo.edu.

*We encourage you to register early since space is limited.