



College of Arts & Sciences
Professional Educators Partnership (PEP)

December 15, 2017

To: Superintendents, Curriculum Directors, Principals and Teachers
From: Laurie A. Snell, Director of Professional Educators Partnership (PEP)
RE: **Valparaiso University's Professional Educators Partnership presents ~
14th Annual Middle School Conference: Tuesday, February 13, 2018
Mark McLeod, AMLE Speaker**
Theme: ***Strategies to Motivate ALL Students***

This practical, hands-on workshop answers questions raised by middle level educators across the country: How do you develop the ultimate environment for success with young adolescents? Is there a culture of trust among all the students in your classroom; in your school? How do you increase student participation in class and reduce student apathy? Are students able to reach their full potential and overcome the difficult challenges young adolescents face in today's global society? Come hear AMLE speaker, Mark McLeod's insight on best practices

The impact of the success of your students' academic performance relies immensely on their engagement in the classroom. Understanding the power of utilizing a variety of questioning techniques could be a game changer for you in the classroom. Research has shown that effective classroom management maximizes teaching time which ultimately increases the students' academic success.

This spring marks our 14th Annual Middle School Conference sponsored by the Professional Educators Partnership (PEP). Keynote speaker, McLeod will focus on building a stronger rapport with students to increase student engagement. This workshop will be an interactive agenda and provide time for team building activities, role-playing real classroom scenarios, group sharing and guided handouts. Middle level teachers from all disciplines will be inspired by powerful strategies of engagement to purposefully increase student participation. In addition, teachers will explore techniques to raise student motivation to achieve higher success in the classroom.

Enclosed are registration materials relevant to the one-day conference. In response to the current budget challenges all our schools face, and to maintain PEP's mission to continue to serve the professional development needs of teachers in the region, we will again offer an **economical registration rate**. In addition, there is a group discount 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 colleagues and register early since space is limited!

Registration fees include a continental breakfast and lunch. Pre-registration prior to January 23rd is \$100; late or walk-in registration will be \$125 if space is available. The Harre Union is located at 1509 Chapel Drive; detailed directions and parking information are available at www.valpo.edu Email confirmation will be sent upon receipt of your registration; **please print your email address clearly**. PGP's for license renewal are available for attendees.

The planning committee has prepared a fantastic agenda and hope that you will consider attending this year's event. McLeod has been in the trenches working with middle school students his entire teaching career. He has been a part of the Association of Middle Level Education (AMLE) speakers' cadre for a number of years. We are honored to have him share his expertise with our professional learning community.

***We encourage you to register early, space is limited. Additional information: ValpoWorkshop@valpo.edu**