



College of Arts & Sciences
Professional Educators Partnership (PEP)

November 30, 2018

To: Superintendents, Curriculum Directors, Principals and Teachers
From: Laurie A. Snell, Director
RE: **15th Annual Middle School Conference: February 5, 2019**

Theme: **Fair is Not Always Equal**
Keynote Speaker: Rick Wormeli

How do I know that my students are learning what they need to learn? This is an essential question faced by all middle school educators. What constitutes assessment that is helpful, fair, and meaningful to students? How can assessment help move students along their learning path, not just as a student, but also as a person? Rick Wormeli will tackle these questions, offering insights and experiences, as well as actionable guidance, on how to equitably and meaningfully assess students in today's educational environment.

The questions and controversies surrounding assessment inevitably tie into the bigger educational picture, from the pressures of curriculum overload to the realities of our students' lives. Understanding the importance of establishing a school-wide philosophy for assessment and examining the real impact of grades will help all educators hone in on how to reach their students, even in today's challenging classroom environment. From differentiating assessments to handling student failure, Wormeli will give all in attendance food for thought and strategies for action to help every student learn and grow.

This spring marks our 15th Annual Middle School Conference sponsored by the Professional Educators Partnership (PEP). Keynote speaker, Wormeli will focus on creating a shared vision for assessment within a school, differentiating assessment and ensuring that assessments provide valid evidence of learning, discussing the ethical underpinnings of re-do and re-take policies, and investigating what grades, success, and failure actually mean to students. Thought-provoking and practical, attendees will leave with the knowledge and skills needed to rethink, reshape, and revive their assessment practices to help students be the best learners they can be.

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 continue to offer economical registration rates. There is also a group discount for every four paid registrations; a fifth teacher from the same school may attend 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!

Registration fees include a continental breakfast and lunch. Pre-registration prior to January 9, 2019 is \$125; regular registration will be \$150 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. Wormeli has long been a nationally renowned and respected educator. His expertise at the middle school level is incomparable, and he always gives educators new ideas, new tools, and new ways of understanding our students. It is an honor to have Rick share his immense expertise with our professional learning community.

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