

April 16, 2019

TO: Superintendents, Curriculum Directors, Principals, and Educators in Northwest Indiana
FROM: Laurie A Snell, Director of the Professional Educators Partnership (PEP)

RE: 2019/20 Professional Development Opportunities at Valparaiso University

We encourage you to save the dates for three professional development opportunities for administrators and teachers. The events, held at Valparaiso University, are sponsored by the Professional Educators Partnership (PEP) within the Department of Education, and planned by area administrators and teacher representatives.

ELEMENTARY: Literacy Workshop, Spark the Reading –Writing Connection, (K-5), December 6, 2019

The theme for our fall event, *The Reading- Writing Connection*, features author and literacy expert Maria Walther. Guided Reading is a key component of a comprehensive, balanced literacy program that allows teachers to flexibly group students to meet their individual needs. This workshop focuses on the gradual release of responsibility to students, within different learning contexts and teaching strategies. Learn how to boost students' writing skills by reading aloud quality literature, teaching students how to read like writers, and highlighting the qualities of good writing through targeted mini-lessons for a variety of genres. Explore new ways to re-energize your students' independent reading. Rediscover the art of interactive read aloud to spark high-level conversation.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Double the Speed of Learning: 4 Steps to Make Learning Stick, (5-12) February 11, 2020

Really? Double the speed of learning if I use these four steps in my classroom? Yes! Research explains how much this one teaching process can change a classroom, a grade level, an entire school, or even a district! Students acquire a small **CH**unk of content based on standards, then they **CH**ew or process this content in different, high-impact ways. While they are chewing, educators **CH**eck for understanding and **CH**ange instruction (differentiate) as needed. LeAnn models and shares assessments, strategies, and tools that teachers can use the next day to make all of this super easy! Every dance step improves student engagement drastically! You will receive an amazing packet and so many free resources in this powerful training.

SECONDARY: Differentiated Instruction to Engage All Learners (5-12), September 30, 2019

A Model and Strategies for Responsive Teaching in Middle and High School: Many teachers want to use differentiation to help all students grow. But the press of time, standards, and class size can make that goal seem unattainable. What does differentiation really look like and involve in today's middle & high school classrooms? Is it even possible to plan with all students' needs in mind? In this dynamic full-day workshop, Dr. Jessica Hockett will challenge educators to consider these inquiries through interactive activities concrete examples that illustrate Carol Ann Tomlinson's philosophy and model of differentiation The day's content includes close examination of what differentiation is and isn't and practical strategies for the secondary grades.

Registration for the PLC Workshop with Jessica Hockett opens today! **See enclosed materials for early registration discount before May 23, 2019.** The latter two events' registration materials are available a few months prior to the event date. Registration updates are also available on our website at valpo.edu/PEP. ***We recognize professional development dollars are limited and make every effort to organize a quality conference at minimal cost.*** Early registration fees are \$125. Morning coffee and rolls, and a box lunch are included with the registration fee. Group discounts are available this year through May 23, 2019; fifth registration is FREE!

We hope you will include us in your professional development plans for the 2019/20 academic year. Please encourage colleagues and staff members to attend. Thank you for considering visiting Valparaiso University for your staff's professional growth to ensure success for all your students.