

November 25, 2019

To: Superintendents, Curriculum Directors, Principals and Teachers  
From: Laurie A. Snell, Director  
RE: 16th Annual Middle School Workshop: February 11, 2020

**Theme: 4 - Steps to Make Learning Stick**

**Keynote Speaker: LeAnn Nickelsen**

Thinking about how your students can be more active with opportunities to make the content meaningfully connected to their lives and their world? Do you want students to be independent thinkers, so they can use powerful strategies that allow them to learn faster and more efficiently? Come learn how it is possible to double the speed of learning in your classroom. Combining educational neuroscience, formative assessment, and differentiated instruction strategies to improve student achievement, Nickelsen created a four-step instructional cycle that educators can easily use in any classroom. 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. Every step in the process improves student engagement drastically!

Throughout the workshop Nickelsen will model and share assessments, strategies, and tools that teachers can use the next day! In this powerful training, you will receive an amazing packet of free resources to help teachers (Grades 4-12) plan and instruct any subject effectively.

This spring marks our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle School Workshop sponsored by the Professional Educators Partnership (PEP). Keynote speaker, LeAnn Nickelsen is a national expert at closing the learning gaps in struggling students, especially in high poverty and special education populations. Nickelsen work is grounded in classroom realities and instructional truths. She is a former teacher of the year, a Jensen-certified, brain-research trainer for over 20 years and has authored over 14 practical books.

Enclosed are registration materials relevant to the one-day workshop. In response to the current budget challenges 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 includes lunch. Pre-registration prior to January 9, 2020 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](http://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. Rick Wormeli wrote the foreword to Nickelsen's latest publication, *Teaching with the Instructional Cha-Chas, 4 Steps to Make Learning Stick*. Rick highly recommended Nickelsen's research to build on our assessment conversation from the 2019 Fair is Not Always Equal workshop. It is an honor to have Nickelsen share her immense expertise with our professional learning community.

**\*We encourage you to register early, space is limited. Email: [ValpoWorkshop@valpo.edu](mailto:ValpoWorkshop@valpo.edu)**