TO: C&I/Technology Councils

FROM: Neil Pedersen

Executive Director

SUBJ: Update on Professional Learning and Equity Group Meetings

DATE: January 2, 2017

As an outgrowth of the work of the C&I and Technology Councils, we have convened groups to discuss in greater depth issues related to Professional Learning and Equity. Both groups have held their initial meetings. Below are brief summaries of the outcomes of those meetings:

**Professional Learning**

District representatives shared what they were doing in their respective districts pertaining to Professional Learning. The following emerged as common themes and/or challenges:

* How to find the time and resources required for DLC artifact evaluation
* How to get teachers to reflect and focus on improving their practice instead of simply obtaining CEUs?
* How to measure the effectiveness of professional development and the Return on Investment?
* How to meet PD needs given the lack of human capacity created by recent budget reductions
* How to enhance the capacity of teachers when turnover is so high?
* How to shift from all face-to-face PD to more online and blended models?
* How to provide more PD for principals and district administrators and encourage them to participate effectively?
* What is the appropriate balance between district-led PD (needed for consistent practice and common language) and teacher-led PD, which is often more popular and provides leadership opportunities for teachers?

The group decided to hold two more meetings this year on the following topics:

* Micro-Credentialing and Digital Badging (February 13, 2018)
* How to Define and Determine the Impact of Professional Learning? (TBD)

**Equity**

We had a great turnout for the meeting on equity, which includes issues surrounding diversity, racism, and opportunity and achievement gaps. District representatives shared how these issues were playing out in their districts and steps that were being taken to address inequities. The group indicated that at future meetings it would like to examine success stories in our region, state, and country and identify resources that the RESA might draw upon to support efforts to provide greater equity across groups that have experienced discrimination. It was also suggested that we explore partnerships with IHEs, other networks, or other school districts. I will be asking the CCRESA Board in March if it would like equity/diversity/racial prejudice to be a major focus for the RESA next year. If so, we will look for resources and strategies that we can bring to the region to support individual districts. The next meeting of the Equity Group is on April 12th.