

Weekly Newsletter

August 7, 2013

MREC Superintendents and Principals,

The MREC publishes a weekly bulletin reporting highlights and upcoming events. Administrators and principals are asked to forward the bulletin onto their staff and their school board members are you deem pertinent.

Director's Note:

We hope your summer has been everything you had hoped, that you were able to find time to relax and enjoy time with family and friends. We are sure you are excited about the educational opportunities awaiting in the new year and we are anxious to help and serve you.

This is the first edition of the MREC Weekly Bulletin. The bulletin is sent to our governing board, and to our member administrators and principals. We ask principals to forward the bulletin onto their individual staff members. In this edition we are introducing our new staff members and highlighting the staff adjustments made with our additional Title III Circle Project Grant.

The MREC is happy to announce the expansion of our programs and opportunities to support students, teachers, and administrators for our member schools. We have partnered with schools, received an additional grant, and tweaked our Succeed 2020 grant to be able to improve our service to our membership. We added an additional professional development position through school partnerships and Succeed 2020, went from half time to full time data analysis support, and doubled our ELL support in our schools on our reservations through our latest approved grant, Primary Circle.

The goal of an REA is to serve and assist schools toward their school improvement goals while doing it in the most efficient manner. The MREC strives to be a Go To agency. An agency our schools think about and contact for assistance. Superintendents, principals, and teachers have many duties and responsibilities in the school improvement process and in the support of their students. The MREC is here to help, and in that process take some of the work load off of the professionals as they work to improve their schools.

-Tom Conlon

The MREC is happy to introduce our new staff members:

Data & Assessment Coordinator:



My name is Magdalena (Maggie) Brockel, and I am the new Data and Assessment Coordinator for the MREC. Before obtaining this position, I worked as a Research Analyst for the State of North Dakota using the Statewide Longitudinal Data System accessing data for statistical analyses. Prior to that, I worked as a School Psychologist for a special education cooperative in northeastern Minnesota. I am very excited about my new position at the MREC and am eager to assist member school districts with their data needs. In this position, I will be able to work with school data teams and school improvement teams using data to identify areas of need, which will help schools to pinpoint where instruction may be modified and/or where professional development may be desired. I hope to be able to support school teams as North Dakota moves toward common core instruction and assessment. I believe that the skills I have developed in both research and educational assessment provide a strong foundation from which to grow as a data and assessment coordinator, and I am certain that I will gain even more knowledge working with the MREC team as well as with the dedicated staff at our member schools. I look forward to getting to know you and your schools!

Newsletter Spotlight

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-Primary & Project CIRCLE

Learning Forward Conference

Upcoming Events

August 14: Governing Board Meeting at 5:30 p.m. in BSC's Energy Center room 335

August 12: PD Training In Turtle Lake

August 13: PD Training in Napoleon

August 14: PD Training in Turtle Lake & in Standing Rock

August 14-15: Graded Elementary Training at Seven Seas

August 15: PD Training at Standing Rock Elementary

August 21-22: EscWorks Training at BSC's Energy Center room 443

September 18: Administrator's Meeting 3:00 p.m. at BSC's Energy Center room 335

Following is the MREC Annual Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

New Employees Continued...

Professional Development Curriculum Specialists:



My name is Kayla Vandal and I am very excited to join the MREC team as the Professional Development Curriculum Specialist. I am originally from Garrison and earned my undergraduate Elementary Education degree and Masters of Education from Minot State University. I have taught 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, and worked as a K-5 Reading Specialist. In addition to work in the public schools, I have worked as a reading intervention planner and student mentor for Minot State Elementary Education majors earning their reading credentials.

I am looking forward to being a valuable resource and helping your school meet your professional development goals.



Before, I introduce myself, I have to say thank you to everyone at MREC for the warm and inviting welcome I have received over this past week. I am Kelly Larson, a graduate of Dickinson State University, with a Bachelor's of Science in English Education. I dedicated the previous four years of teaching English (9-12) at Standing Rock High School in Fort Yates, North Dakota. It was during my time at Standing Rock that I became intimately familiar with the school-improvement process, Common Core State Standards, aligning curriculum to those standards, and differentiating instruction. I also taught online courses for Dickinson State University for several years, developing curriculum that could best be delivered to students through a digital medium.

Now, I am excited to start working with staff and like-minded individuals at MREC, and begin work with area schools and teachers as we take our students into the future of education.

Professional Development Key Points of focus for the 2013-2014 school year:

- Smooth and Confident Transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
- Incorporating Higher Level Thinking and Questioning to Meet the Increased Rigor of the CCSS
- Exploration and Evaluation of The Smarter Balance Assessment
- Differentiation and Higher Level Thinking with Easy-to-Implement Tasks
- Developing Successful Guided Reading Groups and Interventions
- Using Rigby and DIBELS testing and data to guide intervention and instruction
- Student Motivation
- Supplemental Online Resources and Technology

MREC Bookkeeper:



I'm Gina Madson the new bookkeeper and records manager for the MREC. I have a varied work history with over the 15 years of office management as well as a background in social work. I am excited to help support the schools in the MREC and hope to have the opportunity to meet people from our member schools!

Primary & Project CIRCLE Title III Grants Employees:



Dr. Joan Oigawa Aus has moved to director for both Primary and Project CIRCLE as well as acting as an instructional coach for grades 6-12. Dr. Oigawa Aus has been an English Language Learner (ELL) teacher for 15 years and has worked with diverse groups of ELL students across the spectrum such as Native American ELLS and new immigrant and refugee students. She is K-12 certified ELL teacher in English Education and Social Studies composite in Florida and California.



Dr. Kathy Froelich has moved from part time instructional coach/culture coordinator to working full time with both Primary and Project CIRCLE in grades K-12. She was the Education Department Chair for Sitting Bull College for 17 years, and prior to that she was an elementary teacher for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 15 years. Dr. Froelich is the culture coordinator/community liaison for both Primary CIRCLE and Project CIRCLE and is an enrolled member at Fort Berthold with strong communities ties in Standing Rock.



Shawna Marian is our new full time instructional coach for grades K-9 in Primary CIRCLE and she is a veteran elementary teacher who is also certified in Title I reading and math. Shawna has completed graduate work in Special Ed and is working towards her English Language Learner certification. She comes to us from Selfridge, where she's taught for the last five years.



Vanessa Peach is our Data/Administrative Assistant and will be working closely with educators in the field. Vanessa has previously worked as a paraprofessional in the Bismarck Schools and completed student teaching in the Center -Stanton School system. She has since obtained her Bachelor's of Science in Elementary Education from Dickinson State University with a Middle School Endorsement and a math concentration.

Learning Forward North Dakota Conference

Who: Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Curriculum Directors, and Administrators

What: Second Annual Learning Forward North Dakota Conference "Professional Learning: Make it Happen"

When: November 14-15, 2013 at the Ramada Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center (Formerly the Doublewood Inn) in Bismarck, ND

How: Register at bit.ly/LFND2013

Reasons to Attend:

- To gain insight on how to make sustainable professional learning work in your district.
- To gain access to the most up-to-date information on professional learning & instructional coaching.
- To grow as a leader and offer your leadership skills.
- To affiliate with an organization that is recognized internationally as a premier voice for professional learning.

Registration fee \$99 which includes LFND annual membership, social breakfast, lunch, and snacks throughout the day. One graduate credit with follow up is available.

To learn more about the conference and conference agenda [visit blogs.edutech.nodak.edu/lfnd/events](http://visit.blogs.edutech.nodak.edu/lfnd/events) or contact Kari Sauer by email or phone at kari.sauer@sendit.nodak.edu and 1-800-804-8550.

MREC Annual Meeting

The MREC will conduct the MREC Annual Meeting at 5:20 PM Wednesday, September 18, at the National Energy Center on the BSC Campus. Each school district is asked to be represented by their administrator and a school board member. A meal will be served starting at 5:00 PM.

The MREC began conducting an Annual Meeting four years ago when the MREC reorganized. The purpose is to recap the past year's activities, to give an overview of the new year's programs and activities and have direct communication with member schools.