

2010-11

## Sonoma Leadership Network

### Next Steps in the PLC Journey: Better Learning Through Structured Teaching

The **Sonoma Leadership Network** brings school/district teams together to deepen their understanding and implementation of the essential foundations and structures for sustaining highly effective professional learning communities (PLCs) and improving learning for all. Each session is dedicated to the study and implementation of research-based strategies that improve student achievement and narrow the achievement gap. Every session provides tools, strategies, and protocols that can be used immediately.

This year the Network will feature **Douglas Fisher, Ph.D.**, professor of language and literacy education at San Diego State University. Dr. Fisher will provide **four interactive sessions** focused on **teaching practices that promote stronger learning skills** by ensuring that instruction moves from modeling and guided practice to collaborative learning and independent tasks. Through the use of videos, lesson planning and instructional rounds, participants will learn and practice strategic teaching to help meet critical challenges, including differentiating instruction and making effective use of class time.

Dr. Fisher has published numerous articles on reading and literacy, differentiated instruction, and curriculum design, as well as books such as *Creating Literacy-rich Schools for Adolescents*, *Improving Adolescent Literacy: Strategies that Work* and *Teaching English Language Learners: A Differentiated Approach*. He also teaches middle school in San Diego.

#### Benefits for Network Participants

- Build on our work developing the guaranteed curriculum, we will now determine the “guaranteed instructional practices” available to all students, everyday, every classroom.
- Develop a plan of action for deepening the implementation, support and monitoring of strategic teaching practices throughout your school and district.
- Utilize trained facilitators to work in-district with your team as you implement your action plan.
- Gain practical strategies, tools, and insights from research on gap-closing schools and districts that operate as PLCs.
- Utilize invaluable team time at each meeting to debrief, plan and act.

#### Network Dates and Meetings

All meetings are held at SCOE from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Lunch is provided.

- Monday, September 20, 2010
- Friday, November 5, 2010
- Monday, January 24, 2011
- Monday, March 14, 2011

In addition, four meetings will be held between sessions for district leads and facilitators to gauge progress, problem-solve, and identify needs.

The content and structure of the Leadership Network aligns with the standards of powerful professional learning.

The content for each session arises from real work going on in schools, requires reflective collaboration among team members, keeps the focus on student learning and requires participants to create a plan for implementation in their school/district.

