Professional Learning Unit (PLU) in Diversity/English Learners

TITLE: Exemplary Practices to Support English Learners
ACLD: PLU #241890
PROVIDER: UAB Regional In-Service Center
ORGANIZER: Dr. Susan Spezzini, Professor and Program Director, English Learner Education, School of Education, University of Alabama at Birmingham

PURPOSE: The purpose of this professional study is to provide school and district leaders with knowledge and tools for leading teachers, counselors, and staff towards more effectively providing exemplary practices to support English Learners and their families and to do so while complying with state and federal law.

REQUIREMENTS: Participants must hold instructional leader certification. They must have access to a computer with internet connection. They must be willing to effect positive changes for how their schools and/or districts provide services to English Learners and their families.

FOUR ACTIVITIES

Activity #1) Alabama Leaders Advocating for English Learners (ALA-EL) conference Making an Impact. ALA-EL is a new affiliate of the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS). [www.clasleaders.org/alaelconf](http://www.clasleaders.org/alaelconf) Thursday, January 9th (8:00-3:00) at the Shelby County Instructional Services Center in Alabaster. This conference is designed for K-12 administrators whose primary job responsibility is working with English Learners. ALA-EL’s chair is Mr. Heath Grimes, Superintendent of the Russellville City Schools. Expectations: Document attendance at ALA-EL conference and prepare an online reflective summary.

Activity #2) Alabama-Mississippi Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (AMTESOL) Conference, A Shared Vision for Multilingual Learner Success: [http://www.amtesol.org/](http://www.amtesol.org/). Friday, January 24 or Saturday, January 25th in Auburn. The Conference Chair is Dr. Heidi Goertzen, AMTESOL Vice-President. The keynote speaker is Dr. Deborah Short, author of the book used in the book study (third activity of this PLU). Attend ONE of the following time periods:

1st time period—Friday morning and afternoon (9:00 am—4:45 pm), or
2nd time period—Friday afternoon and evening (1:00 pm—8:30 pm), or
3rd time period—Friday evening (6:30-8:30 pm) and Saturday morning (8:00—12:45).

Expectations: Document attendance at AMTESOL conference and prepare online reflective summary.

Activity #3) Book Study, The 6 Principles for Exemplary Teaching of English Learners (Deborah Short, 2018), Participate in five discussion boards on Google Classroom within a designated professional learning community (PLC), one for each of the five chapters. Each discussion board will take place during a 2-week module. This book study will take place from January 13 through March 22.

Expectations: Participate in discussion boards and prepare online reflective summary.

Activity #4) Action Plan for school or school district; this EL plan should have at least three action points.

Expectations: Develop plan in collaboration with educators in school or school district. Share plan with PLC colleagues via PLU’s Google classroom (March). Implement one aspect of plan. Prepare reflective summary of preliminary implementation with projection for ongoing implementation (due April 30).

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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