

# Examples of PLCs

## Schools Require the Following to Maintain Successful PLCs:

- Interdisciplinary Curriculum Guidebook
- Professional Training Cadres
- Intradisciplinary Common Assessments
- 7th Period vs. Block Schedule Ad Hoc
- Team Data Analysis and Team Plan
- Reading Leadership Cadre



## High Performing PLCs Adhere to the Following:

- Willing to consider matters from others perspectives
- Aware of how group contributes to the purpose of the larger organization
- Establish specific measurable standards and goals
- Seek feedback of team effectiveness from internal and external sources
- Pro-active when problem solving
- Identify and implement improvement strategies
- Analyze results

# Benefits of PLCs

## TRADITIONAL

- Primary focus on teaching
- Each teacher decides on what to teach
- Curriculum overload is common
- Statements are generic, “all students can learn”
- Willing to collaborate but not about student performance
- A “work group”
- Effectiveness of improvement strategies is externally validated

## PLCs

- Primary focus on learning
- Collaboratively agreed upon curriculum focuses on student learning expectations
- Reduced content means meaningful content is taught at greater depth
- Clarify what students will learn
- How will we know what students are learning?
- How will we respond when they do not learn?
- Approaches are internally validated

# Meet the DuFours

**Richard DuFour, Ed.D.** was a public school educator for 34 years, serving as a teacher, principal and superintendent. Dr. DuFour was named as one of the Top 100 School Administrators in North America by *Executive Educator Magazine*, was presented the Distinguished Scholar Practitioner Award from the University of Illinois and received the National Staff Development Council's Distinguished Service Award. He consults with school districts, state departments and professional organizations throughout North America on strategies for improving schools.

**Rebecca DuFour** served as a teacher and school administrator. As a former principal, she was instrumental in helping her school earn state and national recognition as a model PLC. Ms. DuFour is co-author of several books and video series on the topic of PLCs. In addition, she is the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award of Lynchburg College. She consults with school districts, universities and departments of education throughout North America.

# Overview

## Characteristics of a Professional Learning Community (PLC)

- Shared mission, vision, values and goals
- Collaborative teams focused on learning
- Collective inquiry into “best practice” and “current reality”
- Action orientation/ experimentation
- Commitment to continuous improvement
- Results oriented

## How to Become a Professional Learning Community (PLC)

- Teach staff to develop the capacity to function as a PLC
- Staff will develop a collaborative culture
- To develop a collaborative culture, schools must overcome the tradition of “teacher isolation”
- When “teacher isolation” is overcome, teachers will learn to work in effective, high performing teams

# Registration

**DATE:** April 17 & 18, 2012  
**TIME:** 8:00 am - 4:00 pm (CST)  
**LOCATION:** Airport Hilton  
Phone: 316-945-5272  
Room Block Rate is \$139 through 4/2/12  
**FEE:** \$350 for **SWPRSC Members** group rate of \$300/ea. for team of 5+  
**Non-Members**, \$425/ person with group rate of \$375/ea. for teams of 5+

**COLLEGE CREDIT:** 1.0 credit hour from MNU University, \$85

## HOW TO REGISTER

To register, go to [www.swprsc.org](http://www.swprsc.org) select Upcoming Conferences and scroll down to **Creating and Sustaining PLCs**, or call Nonie McMillan at 800-728-1022.

*Register Early!  
Space is Limited!*

# Presenting



Dr. Richard & Becky  
**DuFour**

## Creating and Sustaining Professional Learning Communities

Airport Hilton  
Wichita, KS  
April 17 and 18, 2012

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Sublette, KS 67877  
Phone: 800-728-1022  
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