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TO: Educators, Administrators, and Coordinators

FROM: Lucy Fredericks, Director, Office of Indian/Multicultural Education

DATE: January 11, 2016

RE: Picturing Writing: Fostering Literacy through Art

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI), North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA), and North Dakota Council of Humanities (NDCH) are collaboratively hosting the Picturing Writing: Fostering Literacy through Art training. Beth Olshansky, Director of the Center for the Advancement of Art-Based Literacy at the University of New Hampshire in Durham and author of *The Power of Pictures: Creating Pathways to Literacy Through* for teachers will facilitate the training.

During this training, participants will learn to combine creativity, rigor, and deep thinking through a progression of art-and-literature-based mini-lessons designed to provide students with an experiential understanding of the key elements of writing including: sense of setting, character and plot development (problem and solution), creating an ending, and use of descriptive words.

The NDDPI along with its partners NDCA and NDCH will offer an enriched learning opportunity for educators to participate in a five-day training and will cover the cost for registration, lunch, and materials to eligible participants that meet any of the following criteria:

1. Educators working in the Bureau of Indian Education schools and/or in schools with a high percentage of Native American students. Native language and culture teachers are highly encouraged to attend.
2. Educators working in a school with a student population consisting of 40% or more poverty rate.
3. Educators working in Title I schoolwide programs.

The Picturing Writing training is scheduled for June 13-17, 2016, at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck, North Dakota from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. Registration will begin at 8:00 am each day. Lunch will be provided daily at no cost. Reserved housing is available through Bismarck State College (BSC) at a rate of \$30 for a single room per night and \$25 for a double room per night. If you intend to take advantage of the housing at BSC, you will be required to indicate this on the registration form, otherwise you are free to arrange your own housing/hotel accommodations.

Two graduate credits are available for \$100 through University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University, and Minot State University. Active registration links will be provided to registered participants in May.

Registration for this training is available at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q9G2FCF. The deadline to register is March 21, 2016, as commitments for materials and meals must be secured. The following information includes a summary, expected outcomes, and training materials participants will receive.

Summary

Picturing Writing is a dynamic art-and-literature-based approach to writing using simple hands-on art experiences, the introduction of quality picture books, and an on-going artists/writers training to promote literacy while meeting the needs of students with diverse learning styles. With a two-decade-long history of proven effectiveness, Picturing Writing can be easily woven throughout the language arts, science, social studies, and curriculum. An array of concrete visual tools such as storyboards, specially designed brainstorming sheets, and accordion folders will ensure that students create art and writing with clear literary purpose. The Picturing Writing process has been used as an effective tool for making cultural connections and for Native Language instruction. To view a video of teachers and students in Nunavut, Canada, engaged in the Picturing Writing process, visit <https://youtu.be/1HtAj7cJOmY>.

Expected Outcomes

- To expand teacher's notions about literacy learning and to recognize the important role visual and kinesthetic thinking can play in supporting the development of basic literacy skills.
- To provide teachers with a new framework for facilitating the writing process.
- To provide teachers with a rich experiential learning opportunity which will encourage teachers to rethink traditional classroom practices regarding the teaching of basic skills.
- To offer concrete tools for fostering literacy for children with diverse learning styles.
- To provide a model for integrating Picturing Writing into the curriculum and into Native language instruction.

Participants will receive the following training materials:

- The Power of Pictures, by Beth Olshansky, three instructional manuals, and one poetry unit packet
- Five classroom posters
- Seven exemplar lesson plans
- Classroom pack of high-quality art materials

If you have registration questions, please contact Jill Frohlich from the NDDPI at (701) 328-2254 or jmfrohlich@nd.gov. If you have questions regarding the training, please contact Rebecca Engleman from the NDCA at (701) 328-7593 or rengelman@nd.gov.