



**Ely Elko Eureka Lander Humboldt Pershing**  
**Dawn Hagness, Director 775-753-3879 1290 Burns Road, Elko, NV 89801**

January 31, 2012

To: Colin Usher, Project Manager SRCL

As the director of the Northeastern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program (NNRPRP), I am submitting this overview letter as a potential provider of professional development in partnership with our regions six districts (Elko, Ely, Eureka, Lander, Humboldt, and Pershing County School Districts) who may be applying for the grant funds to be awarded from the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Grant (SRCL). The NNRPDP was established as part of NRS 391.512 in 1999 to provide research-based professional development opportunities to all of the school districts in our assigned region. The Nevada Revised Statute specifically directs the RPDP's around our state to provide training around the standards adopted by our state. In addition we have offered trainings/workshops in the following areas: Northern Nevada Science Project, STEM Initiatives, Nevada Early Literacy Intervention Program (NELIP), School Improvement, Assessment for Learning, Data Analysis/Data Teams, Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP), Teach for Success (T4S), instructional coaching, Technology, Writer's Workshop, Content Area Reading, Differentiated Instruction, K-12 Math, Science, Reading, and Writing instruction, SMART Boards, Depth of Knowledge (DOK), Common Assessments, Portfolios, Teacher Inquiry Groups, and Substitute Trainings.

The NNRPDP has done extensive work with the Nevada Department of Education and the other regional training programs across the state by serving on Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Committees to create consistent professional development trainings as well as working to create many of the CCSS roll out documents. The regional trainers in the state were tasked with both developing and delivering the initial trainings that all teachers and administrators throughout our region were given on the implementation of the CCSS.

In reviewing the work of the NNRPDP, including the implementation of the CCSS across our region, and the Nevada State Literacy Plan from 2011, I have found numerous areas of alignment and support. Our mission statement is to enhance student learning within the context of Nevada State Professional Development Standards by recognizing and supporting research-based effective instruction and by maintaining a collaborative learning culture and facilitating instructional leadership. The mission of the NNRPDP supports the NSLP's third belief that "all teachers and administrators need ongoing professional development to improve literacy instruction." As noted on page two of the NSLP, we are a state funded agency charged with the professional development in our regions in partnerships with Elko County School District as our fiscal agent and other agencies charged with preparing teachers to work with literacy leaders to shape policy to improve literacy instruction. Essential Element 1 aligns to our



**Ely Elko Eureka Lander Humboldt Pershing**  
**Dawn Hagness, Director 775-753-3879 1290 Burns Road, Elko, NV 89801**

work in various literacy initiatives, NELIP, writing initiatives with CCSS in collaboration with the Great Basin Writing Project. Essential Element 2 has multiple connections to our current work with various agencies around the implementation of the CCSS and our work to increase teacher understanding and practices of a language-rich literacy classroom. Essential Element 3 aligns to our work as the NNRPDP is working on a partnership with Great Basin College to create Literacy Academies to support and increase the access of our teachers to high-quality professional development. NELIP aligns with Essential Element 5 as well as the work we are doing in schools to support teachers in the implementation of ELA CCSS at the classroom level. The NNRPDP has been heavily involved in CCSS ELA Committee work in our region as well as providing research-based instruction especially in regards to content area literacy instruction as noted in Essential Element 6.

As noted earlier the RPDP's were established by NRS 391.512 in 1999 to provide research-based professional development opportunities to all of the school districts in Nevada. NRS 391.544 specifically directed the organization to focus on training teachers in the standards which are established by the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools (NRS 389.520) and to establish and implement the Nevada Early Literacy Intervention Program (NELIP). The regional training programs have been further charged with providing at least one of the following types of training: using assessment and measurement of pupil achievement including methods of instruction or training in methods to teach basic skills to students in reading and mathematics in the last twelve years.

Over the first decade of the NNRPDP program evolved from a Train the Trainers model, where leaders from each school site were trained as Site Trainers who then trained their colleagues, to a model based on the National Staff Development Council (NSDC) professional development standards. Many programs have been designed to meet the various needs of the six counties we are currently servicing. Thus, we already have in place a culture of facilitation, follow-up observations of mentoring and coaching of both teachers and administrators.

I hope that this document which includes a brief description of our services will give you and your literacy team a picture of the services we provide at the NNRPDP. Our team of trainers has already supported our region in the writing of their initial grant requests, and they are willing to continue working with these districts during both the planning of the Striving Readers sub-grants as well as the implementation of the sub-grants if awarded by the NDE. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in a grant that will support schools in providing effective literacy instruction to our striving readers across the state.

Sincerely,

Dawn Hagness, Director NNRPDP