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# MAKING TEACHING MATTER

## MREA 2016 Annual Conference

Nov. 13-15, 2016 | Cragun's Resort, Brainerd

## CALL FOR PRESENTERS

Proposals due May 27, 2016

Expectations for today's professional teachers have redesigned teaching, make it a more demanding profession. Meanwhile, research continues to demonstrate that great teaching is more important than ever to student achievement.

How, then, do we recruit, train, and retain the teachers we need to prepare the World's Best Workforce? How do we make teaching *matter*? This is an essential question for the next decade in Minnesota and across the nation.

Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) welcomes presenters to share best practices, solutions, and research in presentations on this education transformation during its 2016 Annual Conference, **Making Teaching Matter**.

## THE CHALLENGE

By presenting at the MREA 2016 Annual Conference, presenters can positively impact more than 300 rural education leaders from across the state. Presenters are invited to share their strategies, successes, and challenges to help educators dialogue about these challenges in the teaching profession:

- How do we keep up with the changing demands on students, teachers, and schools, while empowering teachers and improving school systems?
- What changes are needed at the classroom, school, district and policy levels to support effective teachers throughout all stages of the teaching profession – academic preparation and licensure, recruiting, training, developing, retaining, and retiring?
- How can better training and working conditions enhance the experience of being a teacher, attract more people into the profession, and celebrate the profession of teaching?

## PRESENTATION TOPICS & IDEAS

We are looking for presenter proposals that address these aspects of the teaching profession:

- Reimagining the teaching profession and education today
- Personalized support and development for teachers at all career stages
- Effective mentoring
- Recognizing and rewarding talent
- Teacher recruitment and retention strategies
- Teacher preparation, licensure and alternative certification programs
- Characteristics of effective school teams
- Managing stress and cultivating resiliency
- Beyond professional learning communities and personal learning networks

Other topics that may be proposed include:

- Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Proactive and creative communications to engage parents and community members
- Personalized learning/student ownership and creating healthy classroom cultures
- Linking rural education research to changes in policy and practice
- Shared services and community collaborations
- Technology trends and innovative tools
- Topics that meet mandatory requirements for MN teacher licensure renewal
- Other topics relevant to education today

## CONFERENCE INFORMATION

### DATES

The conference will be held Sunday-Tuesday, November 13-15, with early bird workshops and breakout sessions scheduled for Sunday evening and Monday.

### VENUE

The 2016 event will be held at Cragun's Resort near Brainerd, Minnesota. Cragun's offers comfortable spaces, flexible technology, and a dedicated event services team.

### AUDIENCE

Attendance at this premiere Greater Minnesota conference has grown over 50% in the last three years. We expect more than 300 superintendents, school board members, teachers, and other administrators and education influencers from around Minnesota to learn, network, and collaborate on the issues and topics at the forefront of education.

### REGISTRATION AND EXPENSES

Up to two presenters per presentation will receive discounted registration fees (free registration if attending only Monday of conference). Presenters will receive registration instructions after acceptance.

MREA does not provide registration, travel or lodging coordination or expenses, except as outlined above.

## PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

### SESSIONS

Sessions will generally have from 25 to 70 participants each, depending on the room size. Presenters must provide their own presentation devices (excluding data projectors), speakers and handouts. Electronic copies of presentations are due October 1.

Presenters will be asked to rank preferences for session length and day/time:

- **50-minute Breakout Sessions** These Monday morning sessions are intended to provide an overview into a specific innovative or promising practice.
- **75-minute Breakout Sessions** These Monday afternoon sessions are intended to go into more depth around innovative or promising practices, with audience participation.
- **90-minute Early Bird Workshops** These Sunday evening workshops should dive deep into the topic and provide participant interaction and/or practice.

## PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

All proposals should provide a brief description of the presentation and its relevance to Making Teaching Matter, leadership, learning, or policy in rural schools. Prospective presenters need to complete the following questions during the online proposal submission process:

- **Compelling title** as you would like it to appear in the event program (5-7 words or less). Avoid abbreviations and acronyms.
- **Session description** up to 150 words. Clearly identify what attendees can expect from the session and entice them to attend.
  - What topics in rural education is your session designed to address?
  - Include 2 outcomes attendees will learn from attending your session.
  - How will you engage participants during your session?
  - Describe the resources (if applicable) that participants will receive as part of your session.
- **Information for the primary contact** and co-presenters for this session. Be sure the names and organizations appear as you would like them printed in the program.
- **Rural school representative** as a co-presenter if you are a consultant or employee of a for-profit company. Sessions may be accepted on the condition that a rural school representative will be co-presenter.
- **Intended audience** – Superintendent, Principal, Teacher, School Board, Administrator, or Other
- **Other audiences** -- If this session has been presented to another group, list to what group and when.

## PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Completed proposals must be submitted by midnight May 27, 2016. [Submit your proposal online](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCF8YY8) at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCF8YY8>.

## PROPOSAL SELECTION & TIMELINE

The primary proposal contact will receive an e-mail notification regarding acceptance status by June 30, 2016, along with information on next steps if the proposal is accepted. Please tentatively reserve November 13-15 on your calendar.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Diane Vosen at 320.762.6574 or [mrea@mnrea.org](mailto:mrea@mnrea.org).