

Closing the Achievement Gap in Rural Nebraska Districts: Lessons from Research and the Field

August 27, 2015

Objectives

Participants will gain understanding of:

- Research results related to closing the achievement gap in rural districts; and
- Lessons from the field related to closing the achievement gap in two rural districts in Nebraska.

- 1:00 p.m.** **Shelley Billig (REL Central)** will provide the welcome, an overview of the Rural Education Research Alliance and related projects, and gap closure indicators for identification of rural districts in Colorado.
Amanda Withington and Michael Culbertson (REL Central) will provide an overview of the webinar goals, anticipated outcomes, and speaker introductions.
- 1:10 p.m.** **Patricia L. Hardré** will summarize 15 years of research in rural education settings and a summary of results from some of her published work focused on motivating rural students to succeed in learning and development. She will focus on “success” not solely as high test scores and college-going, but on a much broader framework of being the best they can be, including developing and realizing their own career and life aspirations.
- 1:25 p.m.** **Question-and-answer session** moderated by the facilitator.
- 1:30 p.m.** **Cheryll Malcolm** will provide an overview of the Plainview School District in Educational Service Unit #8, Nebraska and factors in the areas of organizational structure and culture that may have contributed to gap closure.
- 1:45 p.m.** **Question-and-answer session** moderated by the facilitator.
- 1:50 p.m.** **Richard Alt** will provide an overview of the Homer School District in Educational Service Unit #1, Nebraska and factors in the areas of organizational structure and culture that may have contributed to gap closure.
- 2:05 p.m.** **Question-and-answer session** moderated by the facilitator.
- 2:10 p.m.** **Shelley Billig and Michael Culbertson (REL Central)** will provide an overview of the findings in Nebraska concerning districts and gap closure.
- 2:15 p.m.** **Question-and-answer session** moderated by the facilitator.