

## **Heartbeat of the Community: Recruiting and Retaining Teachers in Rural Schools**

REL Midwest  
In-Person Documentary Screening  
French Auditorium, Central Michigan University

December 5, 2019

### **Agenda**

- 5:00–5:10 p.m.**      **Networking**  
Participants will have the opportunity to network with other attendees and individuals featured in the program.
- 5:10–5:15 p.m.**      **Welcome and Introductions**  
Laura Checovich of Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest will provide a brief overview of REL Midwest and the public television program on teacher recruitment and retention in rural areas.
- 5:15–5:45 p.m.**      **Program Screening**  
Attendees will watch the 30-minute documentary, which covers research on recruiting and retaining teachers in rural areas and features Maple Valley, Elk Rapids, and Bellaire school districts.
- 5:45–6:30 p.m.**      **Facilitated Panel Discussion**  
Laura Checovich will moderate a discussion with the following panelists:
- Dr. Jillian Davidson, Director of Clinical Experiences, Central Michigan University
  - Jennifer Robel, Department manager, Office of Educator Excellence, Michigan Department of Education
  - Dr. Katherine Bertolini, Superintendent, Maple Valley School District
  - Heath Nestle, Teacher, Shepherd Public Schools
  - Dee Yarger, Principal, Farwell Public Schools
- Panelists will discuss their reactions to the research and stories presented in the documentary and will share additional information about their experiences related to recruiting and retaining teachers in rural areas. Panelists also will share resources and facilitate connections among attendees, who will have an opportunity to ask the panelists questions.
- 6:30 p.m.**              **Adjourn**