



Message from the deputy director

At Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest, we're using the final months of 2017 as an opportunity to take stock of our completed projects, continue progress on our current commitments, and develop new connections and work for 2018 and beyond.

In this newsletter, you'll find some examples of our recent work, including a preview of resources being developed in partnership with the Midwest Achievement Gap Research Alliance on closing the Black-White achievement gap in Wisconsin and information on various engagement activities that highlight our work throughout the region.

Currently, we are engaged in a number of training and coaching initiatives, including a coaching project on continuous improvement cycles in Iowa and a two-part training exploring the potential for clinically oriented teacher preparation programs in Michigan. Through our Ask A REL service, we compile relevant research to answer questions posed by educators and policymakers. In addition, we continue to work on several applied research projects, such as a study of postsecondary pathways in Minnesota, designed to answer stakeholders' questions identified in research agenda-setting discussions.

Finally, we also are looking forward to new opportunities to serve our stakeholders in 2018. In some cases, we aim to build off prior work in our partnerships and collaborations. In other cases, we will identify emerging needs in the region and design approaches to best fill those gaps.

If there are ways in which we can better communicate our work and meet your needs, please be sure to let us know.—**Chad Duhon, deputy director**

Top 7 facts about REL Midwest in 2017

For a by-the-numbers overview of the year, check out these top facts you should know about REL Midwest's work in 2017.

[Read more](#) 

A year of work toward closing the achievement gap

The Midwest Achievement Gap Research Alliance has had a busy first year of work, including producing an environmental scan, a literature review, and an in-person event.

[Read more](#) 

Sharing RELEVant research: The Ask A REL reference desk

Looking for education research? Learn how our Ask A REL reference desk can help you find relevant research in a snap.

[Read more](#) 

Education research resource roundup

In case you missed them, we compiled a list of REL Midwest reports and other resources that were published in 2017.

[Read more](#) 

Contact Us

Please contact us for more information about any of the items in this newsletter or to speak to a member of our staff. We look forward to hearing from you.

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