



F.I.E.L. Fellows Program

"Empowering educational leadership through professional development, mentoring, and networking"

Dear Potential Fellows:

You have been nominated by _____ to attend the eighth Annual F.I.E.L. Conference during the summer of 2012. Please allow me to introduce myself and share some information about the conference.

Although I work as a school superintendent in Illinois, I am also honored to be the F.I.E.L. Conference Director. I have spent one week of the summer on a college campus, immersing myself into an educational program that is by far the greatest contributor to a long and reasonably successful career as a school administrator. The people I have met, the presenters I have listened to, and the atmosphere of an effort totally dedicated to children, has caused me to clarify some practices, learn some new ones, and appreciate fellowship of those who share the similar toil of being a public servant.

F.I.E.L. emerged from the ashes of the Institute for the Development of Educational Activities (I/D/E/A), an Ohio based program that served public education for many years. When that organization folded, a group of participating fellows decided that the experience was too positive to end. F.I.E.L. was quickly formed. As there are no paid positions in F.I.E.L., and because the conference is organized and carried out by the fellows themselves, we are able to present a stimulating week of educational activities at a very inexpensive price.

Our website at fiellows.org can put forth examples of past activities. If you are looking for an experience that is academically stimulating and filled with opportunities to connect with fellow administrators from across the country, there is a positive chance that F.I.E.L. will serve your needs.

The website allows one to connect with any past participant so you have an ample opportunity to check us out prior to making a commitment. I am available to share any information or answer any questions you might have (mthurwanger@senecahs.org).

The process of registration for our **July 8-13, 2012** conference at St. Norbert College in DePere, Wisconsin can begin with a registration fee of \$725 and a completed Registration Form being mailed to Dr. Sandy Doebert, (sandy@mail.lemont.k12.il.us) Lemont School District, 800 Porter Street, Lemont, Illinois, 60439. The ultimate cost of the week, including room, board, and conference costs is \$725. An application form can be downloaded from the website, and should be sent with the deposit.

The conference site is served by Austin Straebel Airport in Green Bay and that is only a few minutes from campus. The application form includes a spot for selecting a roommate should there not be enough individuals in the dorm. This depends upon enrollment.

Each year I am blessed by meeting new administrators who have a great dedication to public education. I look forward to the possibility of seeing you in July.

Mark Thurwanger
F.I.E.L. Conference Director

Please send your Registration, complete with your payment of \$725 to Dr. Sandra Doebert, Lemont School District, 800 Porter St., Lemont, IL 60439.