*(SAMPLE INVITATION)*

An Invitation to Join *Access and Equity*

An On-line Professional Development Course for Educators Working with Highly Capable Students

**ABOUT THE COURSE**

*Access and Equity* is a professional development course created in partnership with Whitworth University, the University of Washington, and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The course is designed to introduce a variety of audiences to the importance of developing accessible and equitable programs for highly capable students in the State of Washington. Currently the course is available to pilot members of the HiCapPLUS Project. Northwest ESD is one of the pilot ESDs in the project and the course is available to member districts of our NW ESD Highly Capable Co-operative.

**COURSE MODULES**

The *Access and Equity* course is comprised of four modules which focus on identification, diversity and developing services for highly capable students. Our on-line workshop will specifically cover Module 4, “Developing an Array of Services for Highly Capable Students.”

**STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE**

Students participate in the course on-line, during their own time. Module 4 includes the following components all of which are accessed on the Canvas website:

1. A PowerPoint lecture with scripted text to inform the audience;
2. Activities and readings that are designed to engage the participants in critical thinking about ways to improve their district’s program;
3. Additional resources that include current research and articles to inform our practice; and
4. A summary of key ideas and a call for action to investigate ways to improve programming practices in programs for highly capable students.

**TIME COMMITMENT AND CLOCK HOURS**

The course will be conducted on-line over the course of five weeks, January 30th through March 3rd . Participants should commit at least one hour per week to cover the readings, PowerPoint lecture, and reflection activities.

Five clock will be offered through NW ESD. Cost is $15.00

**OBJECTIVES FOR MODULE 4**

The primary objectives for Module 4 involve gaining a deep understanding of the relationship between students’ identified strengths and learning needs, and educational services that would help them to continue to grow. Specific objectives for the module include the following:

1. Describe potential service delivery options for highly capable learners as defined and articulated in the state administrative codes (WAC 392-170-078, 080)
2. Examine critically their own districts’ array of services for highly capable students.
3. Design services that match their identification process in their district.
4. Examine critically what it means to have a continuum of services, including moving between grade levels, types of services, and policies put into place to ensure needs are being met throughout the student’s school experience.
5. Design appropriate policies and procedures to change or exit from highly capable services.

**HOW TO JOIN THE COURSE**

The facilitator for the course will be Todd Christensen, Contracted Consultant with NW ESD 189.

If you wish to join us in the course, please send you name, school district, and email address to Todd Christensen at [tschristensen52@gmail.com](mailto:tschristensen52@gmail.com)

Please submit your information by **Friday, January 27, 2017**

Once you have submitted your information, you will receive an email from OSPI with an invitation to join the *Access and Equity* course on Canvas. Once you accept the invitation you will have access to all of the modules and resources. Again, our work will be specifically with Module 4, “Developing an Array of Services for Highly Capable Students.”

Please feel free to contact Todd Christensen at the above email address if you have any questions.