

## **Testimonial: Matt LaBuda, Northern York County School District**

### **Why did we choose PLN?**

In 2012-2013, we conducted an internal analysis of our instructional program. This effort provided us with building-specific instructional focus areas. With these improvement areas in mind, we researched a variety of professional development options. The University of Pennsylvania's Literacy Network (PLN) unequivocally aligned best with our needs.

The Penn Literacy Network has provided us a system-wide learning framework through which we are successfully implementing research-based and targeted instructional strategies in a consistent, pervasive, **supportive**, and perennial manner. Because of PLN, our students are more engaged in their learning and they are being challenged to think at higher levels during their lessons.

### **Why has PLN been successful?**

We know student learning is catalyzed when teachers facilitate learning activities that require students to summarize frequently and use higher level thinking skills.

As a result of PLN, our students are utilizing these two powerful learning strategies through writing, explaining, building support for an argument, and solving problems, all within a co-constructivist learning atmosphere.

Teachers have flourished because this professional development is relevant, authentic, and purposefully job-embedded, providing a climate that incorporates both high expectations and high support.

The Penn Literacy Network, through its course work and instructional coaching support, embodies the above and has made a positive difference in our teaching and learning. It has been one of the most successful professional development initiatives with which I have been associated in my 21 years in public education.

Matt LaBuda  
Assistant to the Superintendent and  
Former High School Principal