

1 **ND LEAD Center (Leadership & Educational Administration Development)**
2 **Request for funds for Administrator Mentorship in HB 1013 (NDDPI Budget)**
3 **Request for specific line item for NDLEAD**

4 **History of the NDLEAD Center:**

- 5 • Created February 1988 – (operational for 33 years)

6 **Vision: 3**

7 The ND LEAD Center seeks to make a positive difference for the students of North Dakota by helping to
8 develop excellence in educational leadership. We provide valuable and responsive services to public and
9 nonpublic school leaders and persons preparing to become educational leaders. The ND LEAD Center seeks
10 to develop excellence as a professional organization by . . .

- 11 • Offering high quality professional development programs that . . .
12 ○ Create measurable results
13 ○ Meet needs for leadership and managerial skill development, and
14 ○ Embrace successful human resource development practices and adult learning theory
15 • Offering high quality support services and technical assistance.
16 • Listening to those we serve and striving to meet emerging needs.

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18 In the 2017 Legislative Session, funding was temporarily suspended to meet state fiscal needs. NDCEL was
19 specifically asked to keep NDLEAD essential functions going as best as we could with the intent to hopefully
20 replenish funds. NDCEL is not asking for any dollars for NDLEAD directly. Just as we did last session, we
21 are here to advocate for dollars for the ND Administrator Mentorship program organized and operated by
22 NDLEAD. Much like ESPB operates the Teacher Mentor program, NDLEAD does this essential function for
23 administrators. In 2017, the funds for administrator mentorship flowed through directly from the NDDPI
24 budget to NDLEAD. NDLEAD does NOT keep any of those dollars for administrative costs as the
25 administration of the program is done pro-bono. Instead that appropriation flows directly through and pays the
26 mentors for their stipend for being mentors. NDLEAD has operated the administrator mentorship program for
27 6 years.

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29 In 2019 the same request was made, however, rather than directly flowing to NDLEAD, it was held by NDDPI
30 and restructured as a scholarship program for leaders. Administrators could apply for \$500 scholarships to help
31 defer costs of a cadre of different items, one of them being administrator mentorship. When asked by school
32 district superintendents, overwhelmingly for both overall impact, school district cost, and elimination of
33 additional red tape, districts are asking that if there is an honored appropriation this session that it is

*NDCEL is the strongest unifying voice representing and supporting administrators and educational leaders in pursuit of quality education
for all students in North Dakota.*

Executive Director: Aimee Copas-----Assistant Director: Russ Ziegler

specifically allocated to the purpose of administrator mentorship (paralleling teacher mentorship) and that those dollars flow to the NDLEAD center so it can be directly used for mentor stipends. Again, no dollars would be used for administrative costs.

Why support the program and funds?

- Data shows at a national level that behind teachers in impact for student success, school leadership has the next largest impact.
- Quality of educational leaders ability has a direct impact on teacher retention and growth.
- Our ND Data through our partnership with UND clearly indicates a better trained administrator. Respondents indicate deep appreciation for the ability to have the experience, data shows a higher level of ability to provide feedback to teachers, training that is not provided in any other venue, ongoing reassurance in taking on new tasks and doing so with ongoing supervision.
- Administrator Mentorship
 - Development of mentor training
 - Partnered with National Associations to develop such training and subsequent mentor program.
 - This past year due to COVID admin has asked to remain in program for 2nd year as well as requests to join as a newbie in their second year.
 - Focus on school leaders (Superintendents, Elementary Principals and Secondary Principals, Special Education Directors, CTE Directors)
 - Working with EduTech to build Tech Director Mentorship
 - Request to offer business manager mentor program

We ask for your kind consideration of replenishing the grant funding of \$200,000 for the biennium for the NDLEAD center specifically for the administrator mentor program.