



**Central Minnesota Educational Research and Development Council**

July 12, 2021

Hello cmERDC Customers:

Approximately six months ago I was hired as the cmERDC Executive Director. During December of 2020, I witnessed the final stage in development of the 2021 Board approved budget. Since January, I've been asking, listening and learning a lot about the many cmERDC programs, products and services. Many of which I was aware as a customer during my tenure as Paynesville School Board Director, Saint Cloud Public Schools Special Education Teacher, STRIDE Academy Principal and Executive Director then seven years directing the Central Lakes' Regional Center of Excellence.

The previous paragraph covers an almost 30-year footprint. Just think of the many changes and impacts within our respective organizations and our personal lives during that timeframe. Reflect for a moment doubling that timeframe and know that cmERDC was created as a Joint Powers organization almost 60 years ago. cmERDC has always been and continues today to be a consistent provider of highest quality programs, products and services. The secret ingredient to cmERDC continuous improvement and sustained performance is cmERDC employees.

My tenure at cmERDC is just beginning, yet I understand fully that your success is a team lift and cmERDC appreciates being a valued service provider on your team. We stand alongside you in service to your community's district and school administrators, educators, families and (most importantly) our scholars – our children.

Within the next few months cmERDC will utilize its linked team structure and intentional feedback loops to generate our collective commitments based upon shared values and beliefs. Teams will co-create respective business unit missions and visions then the cmERDC Leadership Implementation Team will draft an overarching mission and vision in service to our business units which are in direct service to you. It will be great to have these housed together in our website.

You deserve the best and where we can be best in class we will continue to serve. Where we cannot be best in class we will guide you to solutions where you will be best served. That's the purpose in adding a lighthouse to our logo – to provide or guide a solution that meets your need.

As a result of a comprehensive needs assessment, cmERDC is realigning resources with your success in mind. cmERDC is more than who we are its what we do and why. I'm looking forward to quarterly communications beginning January 2022 regarding our why, what and how. Also, learning from you cmERDC impacts while continuously improving our collaborative experience of best in service to equitable education.

Respectfully,

*Lowell Haagenson*