Dear Educator,

Many of us express gratitude to active and retired men and women who have served in the armed forces. We say, “Thank you for your service.” We are grateful for the sacrifices they have made on behalf of all of us. And we believe that educators should also receive similar expressions of thanks from members of the public. As a teacher or administrator, you have dedicated your life to cultivating our most precious resource—other people’s children. So let us be the first to say, “Thank you for your service.” As a member of a caring profession, you have devoted your energy, creativity, and, at times, heartache to ensuring that children and adolescents thrive in your presence. No one got into this profession because he or she thought it would be an easy ride.

But it is also unfair to somehow expect that working harder is the answer to accelerating student learning and teacher professionalism. The solution is to work wiser. Although we can’t take away all the toil, we designed PLC+ to equip professional learning communities with the tools they need to work more wisely.

This Playbook was designed to be an accompanying resource to the companion book PLC+: Better Decisions and Greater Impact by Design. It should serve as an aid in bringing the PLC+ framework to life. The modules in this Playbook are linked to the ideas and concepts discussed in the chapters of the book, and the activities have been designed to engage team members in deeper learning around those. Tools to support implementation of the PLC+ framework are embedded throughout the Playbook, and the four PLC+ crosscutting values are a common through line explored in each section. It is not expected that every team engaging in becoming a PLC+ will complete each activity in the Playbook. Rather, teams can find their appropriate entry point and use the applicable tools to help continue to develop their PLC+.

Once again, thank you for your service. You make an immeasurable difference in the lives of the students you teach, the colleagues you collaborate with, and the communities you serve.

With gratitude,

Doug, Nancy, John, Karen, and Dave