



# 2022-2023 Three-Credit Hour Course: Creating Your Personalized Learning Network (PLN)

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- ▶ **Audience:** Active West Virginia Teachers/Educators
- ▶ **Type:** Self-Paced with Rolling Enrollment
- ▶ **Enrollment:** September 1, 2022 - April 14, 2023
- ▶ **Duration:** September 1, 2022 - May 19, 2023

**Description:** As educators you already have some type of a Personal Learning Network or PLN in place. It could be your family, students, co-teachers/ administrators, or friends. During this course you will be guided through the steps to continue to grow and build your PLN with the addition of the technology and social media to connect, collect, and collaborate.

## Course Goals:

- ▶ Understand what a PLN is and why educators would create a PLN.
- ▶ Understand who creates PLNs.
- ▶ Understand what resources and/or tools might be inherent to a PLN.
- ▶ Understand who might be part of a PLN network.
- ▶ Understand the meaning of “connected” educator.
- ▶ Explain the benefits of using Twitter as part of a PLN.
- ▶ Learn how Twitter is used effectively in education for teaching and learning.
- ▶ Understand how to build a PLN via Twitter.
- ▶ Create a Twitter account.
- ▶ Participate in a Twitter chat.
- ▶ Identify components of a PLN that may be in place currently.
- ▶ Identify tools to help organize PLN resources.
- ▶ Set goals and plan for the development of a PLN.
- ▶ Understand how blogs and webinars can become part of a PLN.
- ▶ Recognize the benefits of participating in and/or developing or contributing to blogs and webinars.
- ▶ Select an RSS feed to implement.
- ▶ Locate five blogs to follow specific to PLN goals.
- ▶ Join educators nationally, internationally, and throughout West Virginia via PLN networks
- ▶ Contribute to the WVDE Yammer network.



## Session Overviews

### ▶ **Session One – What is a PLN?**

*During this session you will learn about PLNs (Personal/Professional Learning Networks) and initiate a PLN. You will learn about tools and resources that may be accessed to build PLNs in such a way that you develop a “connected” educator network. You will join the WVDE Yammer communication/ collaboration network and create a PLN word cloud.*

### ▶ **Session Two – PLN Twitter**

*Twitter is the number one way that teachers connect with their PLN. Twitter is a place, for the purpose of this course, where teachers/ educators can read tweets from other educators, contribute to tweets, and send out their own tweets to colleagues. During this session you will establish a twitter account, choose at least 20 teachers/ educators/ education organizations to follow, participate in a twitter chat, and develop a Twitter infographic.*

### ▶ **Session Three – Building Your PLN**

*Building a PLN is a process that takes place over time. During this session you will learn how other educators have created their PLNs, the PLN tools/ resources they found helpful, tips other educators have developed to avoid PLN overload, and how to customize your PLN. Finally, you will set goals and plan for the development of your PLN.*

### ▶ **Session Four – Your PLN - Blogs and Webinars**

*Blogs and webinars provide methods by which educators can share information, collaborate, and reflect upon their learning and their teaching practices as they continue to build their PLN. During this session participants will be introduced to several blogs as well as information regarding educational webinars. Participants will select an RSS feed and implement the feed to follow at least five (5) blogs specific to their identified PLN goals. The reflection prompts for this session will focus upon the sharing of webinar information.*

### ▶ **Session Five – Your PLN - Blogs and Webinars**

*The following questions will guide participants this session: Who is in your learning network? Who do you learn from on a regular basis? Who do you turn to for your own professional development? In response to the session tasks, course participants will explore and/ or join statewide, national, and international PLN networks.*

### ▶ **Session Six – Your PLN - Curation Tools**

*Organizing information and resources to be included in a PLN can be a daunting task. The information from this session has been developed to assist participants with the process of finding, organizing, and managing information and resources on specific topics. Participants will learn the difference between simply collecting and developing a curation of resources. The curation process will be explained, and several curation tools will be featured. Participants will select one curation tool and then develop a curation of resources to meet their PLN goals established during Session Three.*

## Course Grades

All grades in the course gradebook must be a checkmark for successful course completion. A checkmark indicates that all work has been completed and the work meets the expectations for that assignment. Quiz scores must meet the minimum expectations as stated in the course.

