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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### TEACHER ATTENDS WRITING INSTITUTE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK

**Ashwaubenon, WI – September 6, 2011** – Ashwaubenon School District Literacy Coach, Chris Cherney, recently attended a week long writing institute in New York City on the Columbia University campus. The Writing Institute was designed for educators who are committed to turning classrooms into richly literate reading and writing workshops. Cherney was awarded the funding through the Ashwaubenon Education Foundation, which is a newly organized structure to support innovation within the Ashwaubenon schools.

During the five-day institute, Cherney was involved in small and large group sections. The sessions tackled topics such as: the central role of curriculum development and planning in the teaching of writing, units of study in writing workshop, helping students write well about reading, genre studies in reading and writing memoir, methods of holding students accountable for doing their best work, using literature to help students craft their writing, and classroom structures that support inquiry and collaboration. Cherney said, “I was asked to place myself into the role of the student as a writer. Each day I was involved in mini-lessons and asked to write, just as we would ask students to do. Each evening I had reading and writing homework. It was intense, but so worthwhile.”

Cherney will provide numerous staff development opportunities for teachers within the Ashwaubenon School District. “The entire conference was amazing! I have so much to share with staff. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend this institute.” She admits, “On the last day I was in tears! I was so emotional about being a part of such a great learning community. Knowing that our district has a strong focus on writing this year, I knew this was well worth the investment for the foundation.”

For more information, please contact Chris Cherney, Literacy Coach and Writing Coordinator, Parkview Middle School, at 920-492-2940 or ccherney@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us.

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