VCSU hosted the first of three Valley Partnership New Teacher Summer Academies on Friday, June 28, 2013. A dozen new graduates attended the day-long event designed to help prepare them for their first days in their new classrooms. Area K-12 teachers and administrators assisted the new graduates with the session activities providing the participants an opportunity to work alongside their more experienced colleagues.

NDSU graduate assistant, Angela Brant provided arriving participants with a smile and resource materials at the registration table.

Academy facilitator, Carol Beaton (middle) welcomed new graduates Alyssa Johnson (left) and Alyssa Hummel (right) during morning coffee and registration.
VCSU new teacher support program coordinator, Kathleen Bennett Zaun (standing in back) shared information with new teachers (L-R) Amber Ard, Susan Matzke, Melissa Mering and Shana Wolff about the visits she would be doing with them in their new schools.

Dave Bass (VCSU) welcomed participants, K-12 teachers and administrators to the day's event.
K-12 teachers (Waylon Starr is in front) worked with the new teachers in an activity designed to help them identify strategies for organizing their new classrooms.

Participants enjoyed the roundtable discussions that provided an opportunity for them to question K-12 teachers about specific topics of concern as they begin teaching.
Kathleen Bennett Zaun (standing in back) facilitated the K-12 teacher Q & A panel discussion. L-R: Waylan Starr, Heidi Eckart, Kathy Lentz, Cindy Creviston, Vanessa Kocka and Jay Kocka

K-12 administrators participated in a panel discussion to address participant concerns about hiring and new teacher evaluations. L-R: Cindy Creviston, Chris Eckart, Brian Kriewald, Ralph Dyrness and Waylan Starr
Carol Beaton (standing) assisted VCSU new teacher participants as they envisioned ways to provide new students with a welcoming environment in their first classrooms.

Dave Bass (VCSU) shared a special "thank you" with Chris and Heidi Eckart in appreciation for their dedicated service to education and VCSU.