



Let the Magic Begin!

Here at Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, we are busy making final preparations for our 20th National BRSE Conference - December 12-15 at Disney's Yacht Club Resort, FL. This conference is a truly MAGICAL event and we can't wait to see you all there! This will be an opportunity for learning and sharing best practices for improving education. Educators from around the world will be in attendance. The agenda is jam-packed with sessions for everyone - whether you are a low performing school looking for turn around programs and strategies or an award-winning school willing to share your experiences and expertise. This conference provides the chance to discover new ideas from other educators to take back to your school. Discover innovative, creative strategies that yield results!

"Do what you do so well that they want to see it again and bring their friends." -- Walt Disney

A big THANK YOU to our session presenters for your willingness to share your expertise with other educators!

Session Highlight >>>

Enrichment for All. The Academy of Talented Scholars (TAOTS) "Brooklyn's Best Kept Secret." PS 682, The Academy of Talented Scholars (TAOTS) was the recipient of the 2015 National Blue Ribbon School Award and in 2017 received The Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Lighthouse Award. Today, TAOTS will share their ideas and secrets of success on how they provide ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES for their entire student body. You will learn how your school can incorporate the School-wide Enrichment Model of education. Specifically, you will be taught "step by step" how to develop, create and implement successful Student Driven Enrichment Clusters. In addition, you will learn about scheduling, budgeting and tapping into resources. You will walk away feeling knowledgeable and full of practical ideas to bring back to your school. TAOTS provides enrichment opportunities for ALL students by growing students' ideas, tapping into their interests and cultivating their talents resulting in GREATNESS for ALL students. TAOTS is a NYC public elementary school educating a diverse group of students from the Bensonhurst/Bay Ridge area of Brooklyn, New York. TAOTS continues to thrive because of the strong foundation that was created and laid out by the school's founding principal, Josephine Sportella-Giusto, in her 2008 NYCDOE New School Proposal. TAOTS has become one of NYC's most sought after public elementary schools. Every year TAOTS receives over 500 kindergarten applications with only 50 seats to offer.

Presented by: Josephine Sportella-Giusto, Founding Principal, and Stacy Butsikares, Assistant Principal, The Academy of Talented Scholars, New York.

Get It Done. "Whatever we accomplish belongs to our entire group, a tribute to our combined effort." -Walt Disney. As a small school in a rural setting we need to work as a team to ensure student success. With limited resources, we found a way to develop a program to prepare our highest needs students for graduation followed by career and college readiness. The program was designed to support and facilitate the success of at risk students. Working as a team with Administration, PPS, Guidance and SPED, the program has helped numerous students meet state and common core standards, pass high stakes tests, and be college and career ready.

Presented by: Jacqueline Hill, Principal; Sarah Loszynski, Special Education Teacher; and Teresa Hebert, Guidance Counselor, Maple Hill Junior/Senior High School, New York.

Dealing With Angry Ducks: The Art of Positive Parent-School Interactions. Discuss strategies and supports to help teachers, counselors, and school leaders deal with difficult conferences and situations in a positive, student-focused manner. Referencing current texts, the presentation will provide insight into how a

proactive approach and a calm, confident response can help avoid the potential pitfalls that lead to ineffective school conferences and interactions. This presentation will equip participants with strategies to share, model, and role-play with their staffs to build stronger conferencing and conflict mitigation skills.

Presented by: Gales Scroggs, Fort Mill High School, South Carolina, and Caryn Scroggs, Assistant Principal, Gold Hill Middle School, South Carolina.

>>> Stay connected with conference attendees and colleagues back home on social media - and don't forget to tag us! #BRSE #EmpowerInspireConnect

Not 1, not 2, but 3 National Award-Winning Principals!

A Conversation with Award Winning National High School Principals. NASSP National Principal of the Year program recognizes outstanding middle level and high school principals who have succeeded in providing high quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession. This is an opportunity to bring your current challenges and issues to an informal session with **three national award-winning high school principals**.

Presented by: Dr. Lucas Clamp, 2019 National Principal of the Year, South Carolina; Dr. Akil Ross, 2018 National Principal of the Year, South Carolina; and Jayne Ellspermann, 2015 National Principal of the Year, Florida.



Dr. Marcia Tate, Developing Minds, Inc., will deliver the Friday luncheon keynote – “*Worksheets Don’t Grow Dendrites – 20 Instructional That Engage the Brain*”. “If students don’t learn the way we teach them, then we must teach them the way they learn.” Experience 20 brain-compatible strategies that maximize understanding and memory. Use music, metaphor, and movement to increase academic achievement for all students. Explore research that shows why these strategies are preferable to others. Ensure that brains retain key concepts, not only for tests but also for life!

Dr. Tate is the former Executive Director of Professional Development for the DeKalb County School System, Decatur, Georgia. During her 30-year career with the district, she has been a classroom teacher, reading specialist, language arts coordinator, and staff development executive director.



Mr. Dave Beal will be our luncheon keynote speaker on Saturday, December 14. “Mr. Dave Beal is a passionate educator who believes that emotional well being is at the core of a successful student, classroom and school. After attending Mr. Beal’s workshop I felt energized and wanted to hear and learn more about his ideas and strategies regarding “Brain Power 10,” an approach he developed to motivate students to use their full brain potential to achieve high levels of academic, social and emotional achievement. His approach involves engaging students through movement and mindfulness which also involves using a students’ multiple intelligence.

“You will feel great and truly inspired once you walk out of Mr. Beal’s session” – Josephine Sportella-Giusto

EMPOWER.INSPIRE.CONNECT

Strategic Partners - Thank you for your support!

We are pleased to announce our **Strategic Marketplace** this year. Strategic partnerships benefit everyone!

All of our vendors offer services and solutions that support our BRSE Network Schools in moving forward. Be sure to visit with our fantastic partners in the exhibit hall during your time at the conference!



Conference attendees and guests get special pricing on Disney park tickets! Go to the [BRSE event page](#) and click "Tickets & More"

A screenshot of the Walt Disney World website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "Home", "Places To Stay", "Tickets & More" (which has a red arrow pointing to it), "Plan Your Visit", "Parks", "More to See and Do", and "Additional Services". Below the navigation bar is a large banner image showing several people smiling and laughing together. Overlaid on the banner is some text: "Nothing compares to hosting a private affair against the stunning backdrop of Disney Resorts and entertainment venues." On the right side of the banner, there are two circular arrows, one pointing left and one pointing right, suggesting a scrollable image.

If you would like to share the excellent things your school is doing, send content to candice@blueribbonschools.com.

Stay connected with us on social media!

Thanks for reading and stay tuned for next month's newsletter!