



**WELCOME TO THE 22nd ANNUAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OF
EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE AT WALT DISNEY WORLD!
EMPOWER – INSPIRE – ENGAGE**

We are thrilled to officially welcome you to the **22nd Annual Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence (BRSE) Conference: EMPOWER-INSPIRE-ENGAGE**. We thank you for joining us on what will undoubtedly be a magical learning experience for all. Long-time attendees know that our annual conference is more than just a great learning experience. We challenge everyone who attends to extend your network and expand your thinking.

Whether this is your first BRSE Conference or you have several under your belt, be prepared to learn, engage, and network with colleagues from across the nation. Our national conference is designed to meet the needs of today's educators by empowering you to learn, share knowledge, and gain tools to lead students into the future.

Celebrate with us as we honor schools that have achieved a new level of professional recognition in their journey to continuously improve education for each and every student. Our Blue Ribbon Lighthouse Schools and National Blue Ribbon Schools embody Disney's philosophy of always dreaming and always improving. Through the Blue Ribbon process, schools have engaged their entire community to identify and build on strengths and overcome challenges. This is how schools continue to grow and excel. Blue Ribbon school leaders are committed to sharing their experiences and supporting all educators along the improvement journey.

Don't forget to set aside some time to discover the latest education solutions being showcased in the Main Ballroom / Exhibit Hall. While you are there, stop by the BRSE booth to learn more about our nationally recognized program and process.

We strive to create an incredible conference experience for every educator who joins us, and we hope this event provides you with everything you need and more. Enjoy your time in this magical setting.

Bart Teal, President and Founder, BRSE

Dr. Judy Warden Fields, Chief Executive Officer and National Conference Chair, BRSE

Dr. Mike Hall, Board Chair, BRSE

**22nd ANNUAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE
EMPOWER – INSPIRE – ENGAGE**

**SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE
Tuesday, November 30, 2021 – Friday, December 3, 2021**

**DAY ONE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021**

**11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
REGISTRATION
LOCATION:** Cape Cod Registration Desk

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS**

**7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
EXHIBIT HALL OPENING WITH SPECIAL GUEST MICKEY MOUSE
LOCATION:** GH Ballroom South and North

**8:30 PM
WALK TO EPCOT
LOCATION:** Meet Outside the GH Ballroom South and North

**9:00 PM - 10:00 PM
EPCOT PRIVATE FIREWORKS AND DESSERT PARTY
LOCATION:** Isle de France, Epcot
**Entrance is included in registration. Group departs at 8:30 pm.*

**DAY TWO
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021**

**7:30 AM - 3:45 PM
REGISTRATION
LOCATION:** Cape Cod Registration Desk

**8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
BREAKFAST AND VISIT EXHIBITORS
LOCATION:** GH Ballroom South and North

**9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
OPENING SESSION**

**10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
CONCURRENT SESSIONS A**

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM POINTS OF LIGHT LUNCHEON

“New England Buffet”

LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

VISIT EXHIBITORS

LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS B

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS C

DAY THREE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021

7:30 AM - 3:45 PM

REGISTRATION

LOCATION: Cape Cod Registration Area

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST AND VISIT EXHIBITORS

LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS D

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS E

11:30 AM - NOON

VISIT EXHIBITORS

LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

NOON - 1:15 PM BEACON LUNCHEON

“Italian Buffet”

LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS F

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS G

DAY FOUR
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2021

7:30 AM COFFEE SERVICE
LOCATION: Cape Cod Lobby

8:00AM - NOON
REGISTRATION

8:00 AM - 9:00AM
CONCURRENT SESSIONS H

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM
CONCURRENT SESSIONS I

10:30 AM - NOON
LIGHTHOUSE CELEBRATION BRUNCH
LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

DAY ONE
TUESDAY, November 30, 2021

11:00 AM - 7:00 PM REGISTRATION

LOCATION: Cape Cod Registration Desk

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Six Strategies to Increase Student Proficiency Rates in^[1]Low Performing Schools.* School turnaround is a process that includes the implementation of six specific strategies. The educator should identify specific reading and math deficits for each individual student, and provide additional daily instruction and support through small, skills-based instructional groups to remediate each student's deficits. This session will share information that describes the six strategies, and the procedures for implementing each strategy that will result in high student proficiency rates in low-performing schools. The presenter will demonstrate how to improve grade-level core instruction in reading and math to provide structured, rigorous instruction that is based on scientific research.

PRESENTER: Nancy Guzman, North Carolina and South Carolina Distinguished Principal, National Blue Ribbon Principal, and BRSE Senior Assessor, North Carolina.

LOCATION: GH Salon I

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *How Your School Can Become a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.* How does your school measure up to the highest performing schools in the nation? Where do you start and what can you expect? If you would like to become a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence this is the session for you. Find out what is a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and learn about the process to become one. We will share all the details from the application process to being named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Interested in the Blue Ribbon School of Excellence process, but you are concerned because your school is not high performing. Come to this session and you will put your concerns aside. Find out how the process works for all schools.

PRESENTER: Jayne Ellspermann, 2015 National Principal of the Year, Educational Consultant, Leadership Coach, and Trainer, BRSE Vice Chair, Florida.

LOCATION: GH Salon II

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM EXHIBIT HALL OPENING WITH SPECIAL GUEST MICKEY MOUSE

LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

8:30 PM WALK TO EPCOT

LOCATION: Meet Outside in the GH Ballroom South and North Lobby

9:00 PM - 10:00 PM EPCOT PRIVATE FIREWORKS AND DESSERT PARTY

LOCATION: Isle de France, Epcot

**Entrance is included in registration. Group departs at 8:30 pm.*

THANK YOU TO THE EPCOT PRIVATE FIREWORKS AND DESSERT PARTY SPONSOR - DR. DONYALL DICKEY AND EDUCATIONAL EPIPHANY.

Dr. Dickey and his national consulting team is in partnership with urban, suburban, and rural school districts in 40+ states across the nation. Dr. Dickey and his team are a leading provider of standards-informed instructional materials for early and continuing literacy, the core content areas, as well as targeted professional development for teachers, school leaders, central office personnel, superintendents, state departments of education, and professional associations.

DAY TWO
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021

7:30 AM - 3:45 PM REGISTRATION

LOCATION: Cape Cod Lobby

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM BREAKFAST AND VISIT EXHIBITORS

LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM OPENING SESSION

Master of Ceremony - Dennis W. Bega, Senior Assessor, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence

Special Music

Celebration K-8 School, Wind Ensemble, Osceola County School District
James K. Cochran, BSME, MME Band Director

Presentation of Colors

Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy R. Soles, USAF (Ret), and Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, Celebration High School

National Anthem

Celebration K-8 School, Wind Ensemble, Osceola County School District
James K. Cochran, BSME, MME Band Director

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome - Dr. Judy Warden Fields, CEO and Conference Chair, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence

Purpose – Bart Teal, President and Founder, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence

Keynote Address - Kerensa Wing, 2020 NASSP National Principal of the Year

Kerensa Wing celebrates her 30th anniversary of serving Gwinnett County Public School children. She first joined the school district in 1990 to teach social studies, serving at Shiloh High School and Collins Hill High School. In 2001, she was a finalist for the Gwinnett County Teacher of the Year title. In fall of 2002, she became an assistant principal at Collins Hill, a position she held until she was named as the first principal of Lanier High School in 2010. In February of 2014, she returned to Collins Hill High School as its principal. Mrs. Wing earned her bachelor's degree in History and Education from Oglethorpe University, going on to earn a master's degree in Social Studies from Georgia State University and a specialist's degree in Educational Leadership from Lincoln Memorial University. She is a graduate of the school district's 2008 Quality-Plus Leader Academy Aspiring Principal Program, Leadership Gwinnett Class of 2014, a member of the 2016 Harvard PELP team, 2019 State Principal of the Year for Georgia, and the NASSP 2020 National Principal of the Year.



10:45 AM - 11:45 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Moving the Academic Needle: Utilizing Priority Standards and Proficiency Scales.* Following our Blue Ribbon Site Visit, the feedback we received helped us to develop a framework to improve academic performance, reduce failures, increase student engagement and build a system for school improvement. We will provide attendees with the methods, skills and takeaways to replicate our successes in their own schools and districts. Schools today are faced with far too many standards for students to master. We have developed priority standards and proficiency scales across disciplines and have seen remarkable gains in academic success, student engagement and teacher ownership. If your school is facing similar challenges, this is the session for you!

PRESENTERS: Dr. Ric Stranges, Principal, and Rex Reeder, Assistant Principal, Delaware Hayes High School, Ohio.

LOCATION: Newport A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Powerful Presentations Powered by Pixie Dust!* Powerful presentations require sophisticated strategies and techniques in order to engage attendees and provide the impetus to move from great idea to successful implementation. This session will provide attendees with the magical blue pixie dust that advances professional development in schools. These powerful presentation techniques will be provided by professional educators with an excellent track record of success in teaching these techniques to other educators. Attendees will learn by doing during this fast-paced, invigorating session. These presenters have provided successful presentations at state and national conferences as well as our district's Learning Center. The effectiveness of these presentations has been determined by session evaluations and follow-up observation of attendees implementing these teaching and learning strategies and techniques.

PRESENTERS: Krista Pottier, Assessment and Curriculum Coordinator; Shenae Stein, Assessment and Curriculum Coordinator; and Jennifer Reed, Assistant Superintendent for Learning Services, Haysville USD 261, Kansas.

LOCATION: Newport B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *How to Meet the Needs of the All Learners in Your School By Creating and Implementing an Effective Child Study Team.* We know that every school and educator want to make sure each child receives what they need to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. As we know, these goals are not easy to achieve. Today we will share how our school successfully meets the needs of our learners through our Child Study Team. PS 682 in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn is a unique school with a diverse population of learners. Each classroom is set up as an ICT (Collaborative Team Teacher). This means that 30% of our student population with special needs is dispersed within each of our school's 19 classrooms. During today's presentation we will take you through our Child Study Team process, step-by-step. You will learn about our collaborative systematic approach and you will walk away with the tools needed to create and set-up a successful Child Study Team or improve your own school's Child Study Team. After today's session, you will be empowered to create or improve your school's Child Study Team so that your school is equipped to meet the needs of all learners.

PRESENTERS: Josephine Sportella-Giusto, Founding Principal; Stacy Butsikares, Assistant Principal; Grancaric Sandro, Assistant Principal; and Konstan Karen, Guidance Counselor, The Academy of Talented Scholars, New York.

LOCATION: Newport C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *School Based Mental Health and Its Importance.* Academics are just one piece of creating a successful learner. Teachers are also responsible for shaping the whole child that includes their social and emotional well being. Join us to learn about the journey Ohio County Schools took to bring mental health to the forefront of whole child instruction. A description of how a school district combines federal, state, and local funding, collaboration with the community partnerships, and outside contracts to provide mental health awareness and services to meet the social emotional needs of the students in our schools.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Kimberly Miller, Superintendent; Leah Stout, Director of Special Education; and Raquel McLeod, Director of Special Education, Ohio County Schools, West Virginia.

LOCATION: Cape Cod A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Flexible Programming: Making the Most of Your Day!* We will be presenting on Small Group Instruction (SGI) and flexible programming. During SGI teachers have the opportunity to provide additional lessons to their students for intervention as well as enrichment needs. Flexible programming of the schedules of our special education students provides them with the opportunity to receive their education to the maximum extent appropriate in classrooms and activities with their peers that do not receive special education services. We decided to invest in human resources in order to provide teachers with the additional period for SGI. During the SGI period, a social studies or science teacher teaches the whole class while the classroom teacher provides instruction to a small group of students, based on the needs of the group. Flexible programming allows for a special education program to be designed for an individual student in the 12:1:1 or ICT setting to meet the student's unique needs while adhering to LRE (least restrictive environment classroom) guidelines. The School Implementation Team studies and evaluates a student's academic performance, behavioral characteristics, teacher evaluation and recommendations. Then, the least restrictive environment is considered in order for the student to receive the best practices of instruction and additional support needed to progress.

PRESENTERS: Tony Wu, Principal and Maria Strongilis, Assistant Principal, P.S. 170, The Ralph A. Fabrizio School, Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, New York.

LOCATION: Cape Cod B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Expanding Social Emotional Leadership in Every Student.*

Are you being your best self? Are you doing your best work? Our social emotional leadership system sparks a transformation in how our students, staff and families communicate.

Participants are empowered to reflect on personal and academic habits, daily attitude, and the skills necessary to manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel, and show empathy for others, establish, and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Attendees will learn how to expand leadership capacity by empowering students to become advocates for change by increasing self-esteem, inspiring confidence, and strengthening inner purpose in a fun, interactive way.

PRESENTERS: Kris Menon, Co-Founder, Ignite Nation, Washington and Vickie Evans, Director of Let's Gear Up Grant, Lufkin ISD, Texas.

LOCATION: Cape Cod C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Changing School Culture Using Brain Compatible Learning: A Recipe for School Success.* Do you want your students to enjoy school while also being challenged and engaged in their work? Do you want them to achieve at higher levels than ever before? Then consider brain compatible learning! Learn the common sense, research based strategies that this three time National Blue Ribbon School and Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School used to improve student achievement while creating a kid friendly, teacher friendly learning environment. The challenge for today's educators is to plan, design, and create environments that foster maximum student learning and development. This session will discuss changing a school's culture and the implementation, benefits, and success of brain compatible learning environments.

PRESENTER: Johnny Calder, Three - Time National Blue Ribbon School Principal, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Principal, and Senior Assessor, Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, South Carolina.

LOCATION: GH Salon I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Teacher Evaluation as a Growth Process.* True growth and improvement happen when the organization is fostering and supporting individual growth of employees based on collected evaluation data. Employees who feel that their input and service is valued are more likely to strive for improvement of performance. As educational leaders, we must ensure that feedback is meaningful, not only for individual employee improvement, but for the success of our schools as a whole. Are we analyzing trend evaluation data to drive professional development? Are we analyzing evaluator data to ensure that they are consistently providing appropriate feedback? When these criteria are met, we increase our chances of providing meaningful, intrinsic feedback for teachers and ultimately improving schools for our students.

For evaluation to be an exercise in professional growth, data must be collected and reviewed with the teacher so the administrator can provide support with transparency. This culture also places urgency on the teacher evaluation process that has been historically absent. We include practical tips for creating this culture and maximizing opportunities for feedback, and examine traditional methods of evaluation and why these fell short in giving meaningful feedback to teachers. We will share innovative trends in teacher evaluation, and how these can be utilized to drive teacher growth, ultimately leading to improved student achievement.

South Vermillion Community Schools' Superintendent Dave Chapman states, "After having an SFS facilitator spend the morning with our administrators and myself, the principals were very positive in their feedback. They felt they had a better grasp of what they needed to do to effectively evaluate their staff. It was time well spent."

PRESENTER: Dr. Dianna Whitlock, Chief Operations Officer, Standard for Success, Indiana.

LOCATION: GH Salon II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Taking Awesome to the Next Level: Closing the Achievement Gap by Transforming School Culture.*

In this session, we will share how to transform your school to one that fosters a collaborative culture centered on student success. By executing a deliberate strategic plan where administration and staff focused on strategies to attain results, we increased academic achievement across the district and closed the achievement gap for identified subgroups. You will leave our session with your own personal toolkit that is sure to have a purposeful, effective, and lasting impact on your district/classroom. In our session, we will model the instructional practices, collegiality, and collaborative learning we have come to expect in our buildings across the district. Our presentation begins as soon as the participants enter the door by modeling culture-building activities. We will begin our session by summarizing our journey, and we will discuss how we were able to inspire the district through a sense of urgency. Then, we will discuss how our journey now continues through a cultural transformation of extensive administrative and teacher collaboration and teacher-led initiatives. We will then briefly discuss how our district has evolved since embarking on this journey which included the implementation of an effective Response to Intervention model thus increasing student achievement, building teacher capacity, and transforming our district culture.

PRESENTERS: Jayme Orlando, Principal, Clark Mills School; Melissa Foy, Principal, John I. Dawes Early Learning Center; Dr. Rebecca Seery, Principal, Wemrock Brook Elementary School, and Jodi Pepchinski, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Human Resources, Manalapan-Englishtown Regional School District, New Jersey.

LOCATION: GH Salon III

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *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 **four national awarding-winning high school principals.**

PRESENTERS: Kerensa Wing, 2020 National Principal of the Year, Georgia; Dr. Luke 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.

LOCATION: GH Salon IV

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM POINTS OF LIGHT LUNCHEON

LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

Master of Ceremony - Dennis W. Bega, Senior Assessor, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence

Keynote Speaker – Dr. Donyall Dickey

Transforming Student Achievement Through a District-Wide Approach to Common Instructional Knowledge, Language, and Tools. This dynamic keynote speech will expose participants to a finite set of high-yield actionable, measurable, and replicable practices that have expeditiously transformed student achievement in urban, suburban, and rural schools/districts from coast to coast. Balanced by theory and practicality, Dr. Dickey delineates processes for aligning daily instruction with the nuanced expectations of the state standards and high-stakes summative assessments necessary to drive and sustain academic achievement in the core content areas.

Donyall D. Dickey, Ed.D. is a nationally recognized authority on curriculum, instruction, organizational development, and district improvement. Unparalleled levels of student achievement and school improvement distinguish Dr. Dickey’s 20+ year career as an educational leader. Dr. Dickey is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Loyola University—Maryland, and George Washington University—D.C., where he earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership & Policy.

Dr. Dickey has led at just about every level in public education. After a decade of successful site-based leadership, Dr. Dickey served as Assistant Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer of the nation’s eighth largest school district and later as Chief Schools Officer and Chief Academic Officer of a prominent school district in the Southeast. In each case, his leadership resulted in record gains in student outcomes and state assessment scores, as well as significant improvements in organizational effectiveness.

Currently, as the Chief Executive Officer and Lead Consultant for Educational Epiphany, Dr. Dickey and his national consulting team is in partnership with urban, suburban, and rural school districts in 40+ states across the nation. Dr. Dickey and his team are a leading provider of standards-informed instructional materials for early and continuing literacy, the core content areas, as well as targeted professional development for teachers, school leaders, central office personnel, superintendents, state departments of education, and professional associations.



1:00 PM - 1:30 PM VISIT EXHIBITORS

LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Creating A Concrete Action Plan for Accelerating Achievement in the Core Content Areas.* The nationwide disruption to education caused by the pandemic has affected all students, creating gaps in access to core content instruction in literacy, mathematics, social studies, and science. District and school leaders must have an action plan for making up for lost time and accelerating new learning. Donyall Dickey, Ed.D., national expert on literacy, leadership, and school improvement will provide participants with a roadmap for developing an instruction-centered plan necessary to ensure that both students and staff rebound and thrive.

PRESENTER: Donyall D. Dickey, Ed.D. is a nationally recognized authority on curriculum, instruction, organizational development, and district improvement.

LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Actionable Logic- A Deep Dive into Root Cause Analysis: “The Past Can Hurt. But the Way I See It, You Can Either Run from It, or Learn from It.” Walt Disney.* The strategies in the change toolbox will provide the user with a comprehensive plan that considers all aspects of the change process. For this session, the participants will take a deep dive into root cause analysis to reach a theory of action. Additionally, the participants will learn how to use the change toolbox to evaluate their current reality and the alignment of that reality to their organization’s mission and vision. An honest reality check of the current situation is absolutely paramount for the foundation of any real and sustainable change. The partnerships and stakeholders audit will provide the participants with an analysis of who is, who is not, and who should be at the table to support the change process. In order for any organization to move forward, the organization needs to rely on its stakeholders to support and lead the change. Using the best practice Theory of Action, or If-Then statement, participants will begin to identify possible actions and solutions to their defined obstacles to move from their current reality to their desired mission and vision. Finally, participants will gain the skill of continuous program evaluation and revision through the Plan Do Study Act cycle of continuous improvement. Participants will leave this session with strategies and tools that they can immediately use to engage in improvement efforts within their own organizations.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Paula Dillon, Assistant Superintendent, Barrington Public Schools and Dr. Andrew Anderson, Principal, Barrington Middle School, Rhode Island.

LOCATION: Newport A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *The DFHS Story: Promoting Equity and Access in the IB Program.* Dobbs Ferry High School was the first public high school in Westchester County, NY to be authorized as an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (DP) school in 1998, and our shared belief in “IB for All” served as the driving force behind obtaining authorization to the IB Middle Years Program in 2016. In this session, we share the story of how we have accomplished “IB for All” in a small, diverse suburban public school district. In doing so, we discuss how we have promoted equity and access for all students by focusing on leadership, teacher empowerment, special education, subgroups, professional development, technology, service learning, and most recently the Covid-19 pandemic. Our belief in this philosophy has propelled all students to engage successfully with the IB Diploma Program, and it has further promoted a “think globally, act locally” mindset into all aspects of our school.

PRESENTERS: Dr. John Falino, Principal, and Candace Reim, Assistant Principal, Dobbs Ferry High School, New York.

LOCATION: Newport B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Enrichment for All at PS 682, 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. With an overall student population of 400 students, TAOTS receives over 500 kindergarten applications yearly with only 50 seats to offer.

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

LOCATION: Newport C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *My X’s and O’s: Making the Plays Work FOR You and Not AGAINST You.* Is inappropriate student behavior taking up valuable teaching time and sapping your energy? What could be accomplished if student discipline challenges decreased by 90%? Let me introduce you to research and evidence-based classroom management “Plays,” plays you can bring to your Blue Ribbon Excellence schools! These “Plays” will help you effectively respond to low-level behaviors – “Plays” you can easily implement in your classroom tomorrow! In this session, teachers will learn how to reclaim precious instructional time leaving administrators free to address issues other than discipline. Be forewarned: This session does NOT present a “program,” but rather a philosophy on how to treat students with dignity and respect and receive the same in return. Attendees will discover overwhelming staff, student, and parent buy-in of these evidence-based strategies and will walk away with a playbook chock full of tangible tools they can implement the day they return to their campuses.

PRESENTER: Dee Dee Vicino, Retired Administrator, Hollywood Academy of Arts and Science, Florida.

LOCATION: Cape Cod A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *An Equity Solution.* This session will feature work of EOS school districts and first-hand experiences from EOS district partners. The first part of the program will be conversation on the topic of equity and excellence in American high schools. The second part will provide an overview of the data-driven survey tools used by schools to develop outreach to underrepresented students, engage staff to collaborate on equity of enrollment of students in AP course work, and the development of support structures and instructional change to support first-time course takers. Finally, the third part will be conversation about the topic of equity and change management.

PRESENTER: Nicholas Wahl, Regional Director, Partnership Development, Equal Opportunity Schools, Washington.

LOCATION: Cape Cod B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Fostering Future Educational Leaders.* Calling on leaders who want to foster growth and potential of future leaders! All of us who are currently educational leaders were able to be successful because of someone who took the time and energy to mentor and support us in our aspirations to become a leader. Our presentation will focus on specific best practices that current leaders can do to ensure that teachers and administrators can achieve their professional career goals. We will discuss ways to provide hands-on experiences, interview preparation, and coaching on how to handle challenges that will arise. Your district and school will benefit from fostering future leaders. The field of education will greatly benefit from providing education and mentorship so that when a person becomes an educational leader for the first time, he/she will have the necessary knowledge and skills to be successful. It is essential for leaders to use their current position and knowledge to share with others so that the future leaders will shine.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Katie Kashmanian, Principal, George Washington Middle School and Danielle Wood, Supervisor of Special Education, Ridgewood Public schools, New Jersey.

LOCATION: Cape Cod C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Using Data to Drive Instruction and Improve School Culture.* In this session you will learn how our school groups students for maximal instructional impact, and provides additional time and support for struggling learners into their daily instructional schedule. The school-wide instructional schedule acts as a foundational component on which this practice is built. This instructional system involves all teachers in a grade-level taking ownership of the success of all students across the grade. It includes ongoing data collection, pre-assessing and grouping for instruction across classes, maintaining the fidelity of the instructional schedule, and collaborative planning of focused standards-based lessons. The instructional schedule also includes a 30-minute "Power-Up" block that allows for the targeted instruction of students needing additional support. Grade level teachers and specialists implement evidence-based intervention, and data is collected weekly and shared on the electronic data notebook.

PRESENTERS: Brenda Blue, Principal; Mary Beth Roulston, Assistant Principal; and Michelle Parisi, Literacy Coach, Pritchardville Elementary School, South Carolina.

LOCATION: GH Salon I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Leading with Purpose.* Walt Disney said "Every leader is telling a story ... about what he or she values." What is your story? During our time together we will reflect on our own personal leadership story as we examine how we use our time, make decisions, and support the people who work with us. Leading with purpose allows you to enhance the positive culture of your school while encouraging all stakeholders to strive toward high performance.

PRESENTER: Jayne Ellspermann, 2015 National Principal of the Year, Educational Consultant, Leadership Coach, and Trainer, BRSE Vice Chair, Florida.

LOCATION: GH Salon II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Virtual Schooling: Lessons learned from the Pandemic.* Before the pandemic, virtual schools held a precarious position in the educational landscape. But, following the pandemic, many families have found that working from home and homeschool is the preferred path forward. This shift in our national enrollment base has forced many schools to consider new virtual pathways. In this session, you'll hear from Paramount Schools of Excellence, a 2018 National Blue-Ribbon Award-winning organization, as they share lessons learned during the pandemic along with critical academic and cultural resources supporting the launch of their first virtual academy. The Paramount Online Academy utilizes a unique approach designed to reduce academic disproportionality through a collaborative approach to lesson planning, curriculum, instructional delivery, student opportunity, and educational supports between the on-campus schools and the virtual school in the network. Participants will have the opportunity to explore this method of collaboration and understand fresh perspectives from these virtual/non-virtual partnerships.

PRESENTERS: Tommy Reddicks, CEO; Jessica Monk, COO; Kyle Beauchamp, CAO; Dr. Brandalyn Hayes, School Director; Megan Bouckley, Academic Coordinator; and Justin Braun, Director of Technology, Paramount Online Academy, Indiana.

LOCATION: GH Salon III

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Build a Culture that Inspires, Adapts, and Succeeds.* This unique session will inspire you as a leader to build a school that can do anything! Dr. Rob Carroll is a 22-year veteran who helped lead a school from the bottom of a state to consistent national prominence. He now teaches future teachers and principals how to do the same.

Cassidy Carroll (his daughter) attended that amazing school as a child and now successfully teaches in a middle school in the same district. Combined, they will bring you a unique perspective on what to do not do, and much more! Creating a culture that inspires students and teachers without making any excuses is they key! We will show you how!

PRESENTERS: Dr. Rob Carroll, Assistant Professor, University of Southern Indiana, Indiana and Cassidy Carroll, Teacher, South Middle School, Kentucky.

LOCATION: GH Salon IV

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Transitioning to High School - How a Structured Mentoring Program Helps Incoming Freshmen and Your Entire School.* Here at Florida SouthWestern Collegiate High School, we offer our incoming freshmen a student-centered approach that includes a targeted support course for all freshmen and a structured peer-mentoring program. We focus on our school's core values that we call "Buc PRIDE" and incorporate these expectations and goals into our daily activities, weekly recognition, and monthly award luncheons. We utilize our upperclassmen students to form caring and positive relationships with our freshmen as their peer mentors and they develop and present monthly topics of interest to help our ninth graders tackle common challenges in high school.

PRESENTERS: Michelle Wier, Principal; Amber Foster-Vasile, School Counselor; Teresa Palmer, Personal, Career, and School Development Teacher, Florida SouthWestern Collegiate High School, Florida.

LOCATION: Newport A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *We Help You Make S.T.E.M. / S.T.E.A.M. Relevant for Your Students in Today's World.* Our programs and curriculum can be used as a plug in to the S.T.E.M. curriculum that you are using now. We can help you teach your students how math, science and technology are used to develop and execute real life areas like: 1) Cell phone, satellites, and the internet. 2) How rockets are made and launched into space. 3) How the space station stays in orbit. 4) Climate Change and Solar power. 5) Drone and Jet technology including Stealth technology. And more. Let us help you, "Inspire your students to Reach for the Stars".

PRESENTER: Bill Kohan, New Ascent, Vice President of Sales and Business Development, Florida.

LOCATION: Newport B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *A Whole New World with Positive Changes For A Successful School Climate!* In the last ten years, Marion Elementary School has transformed from being just a school to a welcoming environment that has placed the well being of each student in the forefront by incorporating new and innovative ideas to help shape the students to be successful in and out of the classroom. With poverty and at-risk issues rising and the decrease of family support found in the district, changes have to be made every year in order to be assured each student is getting their needs met. From relationships to community connections, come learn how and why Marion Elementary has made the decision to be the difference at the elementary level and beyond!

PRESENTERS: Justin Wasmuth, Principal, and Kris Burkholder, School Counselor, Marion Elementary School, Kansas.

LOCATION: Newport C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Culture Shock.* Learn how I led our school to a complete school culture, climate and morale turnaround. This presentation will give attendants a look into our success and present strategies and tools for implementation in their own schools. This program is one that empowers teachers, develops leaders, ensures teamwork and makes teaching and learning more fun and challenging for all. This program is centered on the love and well being of our students and one another. The target area is our leaders, teachers and especially the students. As a result we were just recognized as a Model School for 2020

PRESENTER: Chris Hawkersmith, Principal, Decherd Elementary School, Tennessee.

LOCATION: Cape Cod A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *How to improve Graduation Rate.* Our on-time graduation rate was 78% in 2017. We have attained growth each year and this year we reached an all-time high at 91.9%. To drastically improve our graduation rate, we had to be intentional in addressing individual student needs. Attendance, academics, social and emotional issues, and community support were critical to our improvements in this area. The most important part of our increased graduation rate is the climate and culture that we have built at Broome High School. All staff are responsible for improving our graduation rate. Student/Staff connections are a critical piece to the puzzle.

PRESENTER: Rodney Graves, Principal, Broome High School, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Cape Cod B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Reaching the Whole Child through Relationship, Rigor and Relevance.* The road to success for this Blue Ribbon Elementary School centers on creating a social/emotional foundation throughout the school, combined with balanced literacy in Tier I instruction, and robust individualized Tier II support. How the school combined rigor and relationships while maintaining all individual student core instruction, creating a teacher-lead, trauma-informed environment, will be outlined in this workshop. Discovery was designated as a Capturing Kids Hearts National Showcase School, while being named by the Mackinac Center as an “A” top ranking school for three consecutive years. Join us as we share this holistic approach to data-driven and student empowered school success! The focus of this presentation demonstrates how rigor and relationships create a foundation for success. Topic areas will include data driven-decision making, participatory leadership, positive behavioral support, and trauma-informed instruction. All of these best practices create a blueprint of how to differentiate instruction to enable students to hold themselves accountable to higher standards behaviorally and academically.

PRESENTERS: Debra McNally, Former Principal; Jessee Bays, Dean of Students; Pamela Bird, Academic Support Coach; Jean Rock, Academic Support Coach; and Katie Smith, Resource Room Teacher, Discovery Elementary, Michigan.

LOCATION: Cape Cod C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *The HUB - An Organizational System that Creates a Culture for Success at Your School.* In this session you will learn how one school’s administration set up a HUB for important instructional information and data in one location. This one-stop-shop allows everyone in the school full transparency and creates a culture of involvement and success. The HUB represents the central touch point for the organization of instruction such as standards-based lesson plans, pacing guides, the instructional schedule, professional development schedule, and data notebooks. It is an easily accessible location for key components of a highly successful school. Learn how to create a HUB for your school to optimize organization, and build a culture of collaboration. This is a starting point you can build on as your school comes to expect this as the standard.

PRESENTERS: Brenda Blue, Principal; Mary Beth Roulston, Assistant Principal; and Michelle Parisi, Literacy Coach, Pritchardville Elementary School, South Carolina.

LOCATION: GH Salon I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Empowered to Grow! Creating Effective learning environments for all students.* Under the right conditions, all children can grow academically and social emotionally. This session provides educators and school leaders with a framework for creating three (3) growth conditions shown to help students improve academically and increase self-confidence. The alignment of purpose, skills and outcomes are at the core of any successful process. Attendees will be able to identify, apply, measure, and refine growth strategies to help historically disadvantaged children reach their maximum potential.

PRESENTER: Dr. Akil Ross, Superintendent, Lexington-Richland School District Five and 2018 NASSP National Principal of the Year, South Carolina. Dr. Ross is also a National Blue Ribbon School Principal and Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Principal, South Carolina.

LOCATION: GH Salon II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Collaboration Education: Embedding Public-Private*

Partnerships into Your School Community. A. J. Whittenberg Elementary was specifically designed as an elementary school of engineering where teachers address state standards and district curriculum through the unique lens of the engineering design process. Through a variety of public-private partnerships, the school engages with engineering-focused companies in the region to bring professional engineers into the STEM labs to present real-world engineering projects as an extension of classroom curriculum. This cohesive approach to learning brings engineering to life for learners to ignite a thirst for education and encourage future STEM-focused career paths. Focused and strategic collaboration with local and national organizations allows for targeted educational implementation. Grade levels implement engineering units to engage students in all subject areas. In younger grades, these units are often literacy based while upper grades design engineering units as a springboard from science or social studies units. Through intentional and strategic alignment of community and business resources, student engagement and academic achievement are increased across multiple content areas.

PRESENTER: Dr. Susan Stevens, Director of Early Intervention and Student Support, Greenville County Schools, South Carolina.

LOCATION: GH Salon III

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Virtual Health Education.* This is a presentation of an all-new, fully virtual streaming online video Authentic Abstinence Education course that fulfills the requirements for mental-emotional health, drug avoidance, sexual risk avoidance, and alcohol use. This program aids parents and schools in the success of their students. We help youth make better life choices through education. Our pilot study in Collier County, Florida increased graduation rates and decreased the school truancy rate. Statistics show these results in Collier County (where an extended pilot study was done) since CCAP workbooks were implemented. • 63% decrease in the number of births to unwed mothers ages 15-19 (FL Dept. of Health, 2006-2018) • Collier County schools had the lowest student absentee rate 5.3% of 66 Florida counties reporting. (FL Dept. of Education 2016-2017) • Collier County had a 19.4% increase in high school graduation rate (FL Dept. of Education 2011-2018). We are excited to introduce a school managed application system for mental-emotional health development with our fully encompassing one of a kind program.

PRESENTERS: Theresa Barbale, Executive Director, and Kyle VanDuser Teacher and Coach, Authentic Abstinence Virtual Program and My Mentor integration, Florida

LOCATION: GH Salon IV

DAY THREE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021

7:30 AM - 3:45 PM REGISTRATION

LOCATION: Cape Cod Lobby

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM BREAKFAST AND VISIT EXHIBITORS

LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS D

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Addressing the Most Critical Academic Issue Facing our Students K-12: Reading Ability.* Participants will be oriented to the "what" and "how" of 9 elements for radically improving reading ability in grades K-12: (1) Tier I Words, (2) Tier II Words, (3) Tier III Words, (4) Decoding, (5) Creating Meaning, (6) Critical Thinking, (7) Effective Writing, (8) Encoding, and (9) Expressing Meaning.

PRESENTER: Donyall D. Dickey, Ed.D. is a nationally recognized authority on curriculum, instruction, organizational development, and district improvement.

LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Making Teachers Better Not Bitter: Supporting, Nurturing and Creating Expert Teachers in Every Classroom.* Teachers and administrators alike want the evaluation model in a district to be a model of growth and inspiration. In Hamilton School district we have implemented the Teacher Expertise model as a way to help teachers be more reflective, set more meaningful goals and grow in identified areas. This teacher-designed opportunity allows for teachers to form cohort groups of educators within their building. Each cohort completes a 6-week cycle of video self-reflection, peer observation, reflective journaling and collaborative conversations. The teachers in the Hamilton School District have embraced this model! It has allowed them to have a voice in not only their evaluation but more importantly in their growth and professional development. This session will layout the components of the teacher expertise model that can be adapted to any district model. Teachers will share their experience and insight into this successful model!

PRESENTERS: Michele Trawicki, Principal, and Kim Zabel, Teacher, Marcy Elementary School and Dr. Paul Mielke, Superintendent, Hamilton School District, Wisconsin. Michele Trawicki is the 2019 National Principal of the Year, Wisconsin.

LOCATION: Newport A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Purposeful PLCs...Celebration Matters!* Who says Professional Learning can't be magical? Join us to learn ways in which you can "Celebrate the Small Stuff, the Big Stuff and Even the In-Between Stuff" through PLCs. In this session, you will learn practical strategies that will help you empower teachers to work collaboratively to increase success for all students. Within every individual and on every campus, there are untapped resources waiting to be developed. Learn how to maximize teacher talent that will directly impact student achievement. If you want to learn more about how to turn your school into an effective Labsite for Learning this session is for you!

PRESENTERS: Jennifer Stanley, Principal and Leisa Clamp, Assistant Principal. Lake Murray Elementary School, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Newport B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Impactful Instructional Reading Strategies for K-3.* Dr. Rhonda Booth, principal of Mt. Carmel Elementary School, and Dr. Rachel Evans, Instructional Technology Specialist for Madison County Schools (AL), teamed up for a joint research project for Samford University. They aimed to discover which instructional practices and strategies have the highest impact on reading achievement in kindergarten through third grade. To do so, they identified high-performing Title I elementary schools throughout the state of Alabama. Dr. Booth and Dr. Evans surveyed the educators at these high-performing, high-poverty elementary schools to determine which instructional practices work best for students facing the challenges of poverty. The data showed major trends that will impact teaching and learning in elementary schools for all who attend.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Rachel Evans, Instructional Technology Specialist, Madison County School District and Dr. Rhonda Booth, Principal, Mt. Carmel Elementary School, Alabama.

LOCATION: Newport C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Outdoor Education with a Project Based Learning Twist!*

Planning, designing and implementing an outdoor education model, with emphasis on student led and project based instruction. Including local partnerships and connection to key student learning standards. Participants will explore and learn critical steps in creating and implementing outdoor instruction and student activity through the use of a project based learning model. Engaging students in outdoor-based learning through a project based learning model. Students are directly involved in research, design, and implementation of specific outdoor student experiences and stations. These learning experiences are aligned to specific student learning targets across grade levels. Several key components are: Student Collaboration, Student peer-to-peer communication, Highly engaging and real-life experiences, Hands-on, outdoor experiences expand student experiential knowledge, Outdoor activity may decrease stress and student physical well-being, and Exposure of student awareness regarding nature and local community.

PRESENTERS: Sarah Greb-Plummer, Principal, Mulberry Elementary School and Minna Espy, Principal, Boyd E. Smith Elementary School, Ohio.

LOCATION: Cape Cod A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Charting the Course with Brain-Based Learning.* Chart the Course with us as we take you on a journey to discover how and why our brain-based school-wide framework has been lighting the way in student achievement over the last 22 years. Along the course, we will explore how to create a nurturing, calm environment, provide collaborative opportunities and integrate choice and movement into lessons that are anchored in brain-based research. By implementing these best practices, Bookman Road has created a culture that focuses on personal character, academics, and community service.

PRESENTER: Dr. Kendra Hill, Principal, Bookman Road Elementary School, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Cape Cod B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Engaging All Your Stakeholders in Creating a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.* This session will feature two principals from a large district in Florida, who have created outstanding leadership teams to guide their school through the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence (BRSE) process. Bart Teal, Founder and President of Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, has engaged with these two schools to lead them through the evidence phase of the BRSE process. The two school leaders will describe their journey working with Bart Teal through their action plan. Through months of engagement, the schools have moved to a higher performance level, despite the distractions of a global pandemic and students learning virtually at times. These school leaders have demonstrated outstanding leadership, created a positive culture, and maintained a focus on ALL students. They have guided students to own and understand standards that increased the test scores in their schools. Come listen to their journey to excellence for ALL students.

PRESENTERS: Bart Teal, Founder and President, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, South Carolina; Ginger Collins, Principal, and Hannah Boyd, Testing Coordinator, Lee Middle School; and Billie Jo Fintel, Principal, and Susan Johnson, School Coordinator, Palmetto Elementary School, Florida.

LOCATION: GH Salon I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *A.C.T.I.V.E. Leadership Model.* This session will share clear insight on the leadership skills needed to succeed going forward as a school leader. The sessions will include in depth discussion on strategies for improving leadership skills and ultimately improving your school or district. Scott has developed a program (ACTIVE) that has proven to be successful for school leaders. The session will include easy to learn strategies for changing the school culture through real plans of action, which include ways to implement full proof school initiatives and goals. Scott Stewart uses this leadership model as the framework for his Aspiring Leadership class and his course for existing Principal practitioners. Scott instructs two leadership level classes for Aspiring and existing Principals. He was a High School Principals for 17 years and has mentored over 25 Principals throughout the Midwest.

PRESENTER: Scott Stewart, Senior Assessor for Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence and Supervisor, Leadership Program, Education Service Center of Central Ohio, servicing over 50 school districts. Scott served as a Principal for three National Blue Ribbon Schools, Ohio.

LOCATION: GH Salon II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Taking STEM in the Elementary Classroom to Infinity and Beyond.* Teachers are actively working to provide students with an authentic, hands-on learning experience that will prepare them for the future. Often, this involves STEM and computer science. Come learn about how to engage Prek-5th grade students with coding, innovative teaching practices, Greenpower racecars, and more.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Wanda Davis, Director of Elementary Instruction, and Faith Plunkett, Instructional Technology, Decatur City Schools, Alabama.

LOCATION: GH Salon III

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Aim to Thrive: Responsive and Ethical Leadership that Transforms School Systems and Culture.* When students and staff members feel not only welcomed, but also wanted; not only valued, but also honored; not only trusted, but also empowered, they will not only succeed, but also thrive. In this session, you will not only discover the necessary ingredients for creating a strong, values-based, equity-minded student and staff culture, but you will also taste the award-winning recipe that led Ridgecrest Elementary to their 2020 National Blue Ribbon School Award. If a caring, positive, supportive school culture represents the heart of Ridgecrest, then the data-driven school culture represents the brain of Ridgecrest, enabling our students and staff to grow and achieve at high levels. At Ridgecrest, a variety of data collection and analysis processes are used regularly to both inform and guide administrators and teachers. Under the direction of school leadership, student data is systematically analyzed and used to guide our teaching and intervention efforts. This session focuses on the implementation of an Early Warning Intervention System (EWIS), Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Response to Intervention (RTI) systems, including on various multi-level prevention system designed to maximize student achievement and reduce behavior problems. We will discuss how universal screening, progress monitoring, data-based decision-making, and multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) for academics, behavior, social-emotional needs, and attendance/student engagement help all students grow and succeed.

PRESENTERS: Michelle Fox, Principal and Recipient of the 2020 Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership, Ridgecrest Elementary School, and John Huson, Principal, Waller Road Elementary School and (former) Assistant Principal, Ridgecrest Elementary, Washington.

LOCATION: GH Salon IV

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS E

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Black Belt Principles for Black Belt Principals and School Leaders!* The ‘Black Belt Principles’ presented in this workshop will provide the user with comprehensive and actionable strategies that are designed to have a positive impact on their learning community’s culture and climate which will ultimately yield positive results for teaching and learning. Dr. Andrew Anderson, ‘Black Belt Principal’ and the Principal of a Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, has been studying martial arts for nearly 3 decades. As a 3rd Degree Black Belt, Dr. Anderson has been applying the ‘Black Belt Principles’ to every aspect of his life, including the art of being a principal/school leader. Applying these 8 principles to his craft as an educational leader, Dr. Anderson has been able to create a positive and supportive school culture and climate focused on developing the whole child. Barrington Middle School has become a top performing school in the State of Rhode Island, as well as recognized as a leading school throughout New England. Grounded in research, best practice, and nearly 30 years of practice, Dr. Anderson will teach these ‘Black Belt Principles’ to the participants so they too can become ‘Black Belt Principals and School Leaders’ within their own learning communities.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Paula Dillon, Assistant Superintendent, Barrington Public Schools and Dr. Andrew Anderson, Principal, Barrington Middle School, Rhode Island.

LOCATION: Newport A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Mentoring All Stakeholders (Parents, Staff, Students) without Being Judgmental.* As educators, we are charged with the mission of providing guidance to our students. As administrators, we interact with members of the community, often times parents of those whom we teach. As heads of school, we are accountable to our board members and community oversight. This daunting responsibility is exacerbated by the age-old phenomena of the reticence of people to accept criticism. Human relationships flourish and must be based upon positivity. However, there always is a risk of ‘watering down the message’. Failing to make the point directly can often times lead to a continuation of problematic behavior on behalf of the person we are were trying to educate. Today’s talk will focus on effective strategies to balance these two seemingly conflicting approaches.

PRESENTER: Rabbi Zev Friedman, Dean, Rambam Mesivta High School, New York.

LOCATION: Newport B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Six Strategies to Increase Student Proficiency Rates in^[1]Low Performing Schools.* School turnaround is a process that includes the implementation of six specific strategies. The educator should identify specific reading and math deficits for each individual student, and provide additional daily instruction and support through small, skills-based instructional groups to remediate each student’s deficits. The session will share information that describes the six strategies, and the procedures for implementing each strategy that will result in high student proficiency rates in low-performing schools. The presenter will demonstrate how to improve grade-level core instruction in reading and math to provide structured, rigorous instruction that is based on scientific research.

PRESENTER: Nancy Guzman, North Carolina and South Carolina Distinguished Principal, National Blue Ribbon Principal, and BRSE Senior Assessor, North Carolina.

LOCATION: Newport C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Level the playing field with JASON Learning and Kitchen Science (Addressing Equity with the CARES Act, JASON Learning and Kitchen Science).*

The pandemic has dealt a devastating blow to education globally. As educators, we have a responsibility to accelerate student learning so we can overcome the learning loss that occurred over those long 18 months. This is a daunting task as we think about underfunded schools trying to provide staffing and resources for this very thing. In this session, we’ll discuss how CARES Act funds can be utilized to provide access to highly engaging and interactive STEM resources and address equity for underserved and disadvantaged students. You’ll experience a hands-on lesson from the amazing resources of JASON Learning! The Internet can provide access to incredibly rich resources where a textbook simply cannot. JASON’s curated lessons, labs built on kitchen science, and interactive online games and activities for early learners through 12th grade can be accessed anywhere from virtual, blended, or four walled classrooms. You won’t want to miss this engaging and exciting session!

PRESENTER: Robbie Grimes, Director of Sales Development, Standard for Success, Indiana

LOCATION: Cape Cod A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Teacher Dispositions – Critical Aspect for Student Success.* What makes a great educator? Content knowledge? Pedagogical skills? Although these are both critical elements, negative teacher disposition is a leading cause of employee turnover. Professional values, commitments, and ethics impact the daily decisions teachers make, but higher education institutes still struggle to find effective tools to foster these dispositions. Join us as we elaborate on our professional journey to transform abstract ideals into concrete, measurable behaviors that provide accurate and consistent feedback to future teachers.

PRESENTERS: Tamala Martin, Instructor, Dr. Rebecca Roach, Professor, and Shawn Justice, Instructor, Morehead State University, Kentucky.

LOCATION: Cape Cod B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Extreme Makeover: School Improvement Edition.* Do you need effective and timely strategies that can help transform your school culture and increase academic success? In this session, we will share our story of how our Title I school climbed from a D to a B letter grade and earned a National Blue Ribbon in three short years. Learn how the power of shared leadership and collective efficacy can positively impact your students' and staff's academic success, social emotional well-being, and community partnerships. School improvement doesn't need to be a long and dreaded process. We will share how we harnessed individual strengths to bring out the best in our students and staff. Come prepared to think outside of the box and take home innovative practices that your school community will be sure to love.

PRESENTERS: Shavon Jackson, Principal, National Blue Ribbon Principal and 2020 Terrell H. Bell Recipient, Nancy Madison, Instructional Facilitator, and Pam Stokes, Counselor, Crawford Elementary School, Arkansas.

LOCATION: GH Salon I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Transforming Student Engagement While Setting the Stage for Learning.* Educational leaders have the power to influence a positive school culture and student achievement through setting the stage for learning. Research shows that high student achievement will occur when teachers feel positive and empowered, parents feel connected and are supportive, and students come to school excited to learn each day. This session will focus on one school's success in increasing student achievement and engagement by transforming the learning environment and providing student choice.

PRESENTER: Dr. Grace Staniszewski, Principal; Crystal Melton, Teacher; Tiffany Pilgrim, Teacher; and Kelly Argo, Teacher, Dove Creek Elementary School, Georgia.

LOCATION: GH Salon II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Leveraging HPPLCs for School Improvement.* We will model how to use High-Performance Professional Learning Communities that serve as school improvement leadership teams and work in conjunction with local school governance teams who have parent and community members in addition to school staff. Our HPPLCs develop and monitor the school improvement process that includes multiple data sources related to student performance. By incorporating a continuous improvement cycle, the teams are tasked with setting goals, implementing initiatives, monitoring progress, and evaluating success. Our process can be replicated no matter size of the school or demographic diversity.

PRESENTERS: Hillary Meeler, Principal, Morgan County Middle School; Jennifer Evans, Instruction Coach, Morgan County Elementary School; Teressa Dickinson, Governance Team Member, Middle County Middle School; Hillary Stapp, Teacher, Morgan County Primary School; Chip Meyer, Strategy, Innovation and Accountability Coordinator; Susan Tolbert, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Morgan County Charter School System, Georgia.

LOCATION: GH Salon III

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Give a Little Whistle...What a Vision for Teaching the Whole Child Looks Like in Action.* No matter the season, one cannot walk around their local school without noticing the magical sights, and especially the sounds, of athletes gearing up for competition. This soundtrack of trills from the whistle spurs players into action, and rings in the momentous adventure of competition. This is especially exciting considering the current climate. In this spirit of Jiminy Cricket, I would urge you to join me as I challenge the traditional version of a teacher, and animate a new, more interactive version of what a classroom educator can and should look like. The unpredictable nature of the last year has rendered the “command and control” classroom a thing of the past. How then do teachers adapt to this change? They further immerse themselves into their students’ worlds by becoming their coaches and mentors. Good Disney heroes benefit from the wizened counselor, affording him or her the benefit of their enlightenment. So, too, do our students desperately need our advice and guidance? Seeing the “whole student” is not possible without interacting with them in their environment outside the school day, and outside of the classroom. By putting on our tennis shoes like Baymax does his armor, and heading to the field of play, we find ourselves becoming better teachers by being coaches.

PRESENTER: Sarah Ochap, English and Math Departments, Seventh Grade Team Leader, The Linsly School, West Virginia.

LOCATION: GH Salon IV

11:30 AM - NOON VISIT EXHIBITORS

LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

NOON - 1:15 PM BEACON LUNCHEON

LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

Master of Ceremony - Dennis W. Bega, Senior Assessor, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence

Presentation of BRSE Beacon Awards

Bridgeport Elementary School

Electa Lee Magnet Middle School

Elm Creek Elementary School

Hanceville Elementary School

Hanceville High School

Holly Pond High School

Medio Creek Elementary School

Palmetto Elementary School

Polo Road Elementary School

P.S. 186 Dr. Irving A. Gladstone Elementary School

Ronald McNair Middle School

Sky Harbour Elementary School

Warner Arts Magnet School

Keynote Panel: *Social, Emotional, and Academic Development Through an Equity Lens*

For decades, education leaders have wrestled with ways to ensure all students receive an equal quality education. Important equity and Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) issues have invited us to explore innovative means of achieving a more balanced outcome, not always with the intended success. Data tell us that the instructional changes forced by the pandemic have impacted students in poverty and students of color and SEL patterns in a negative way. This finding leaves us with the task of redoubling our efforts to continue bridging this academic and cultural gap. By grounding SEL with a focus on equity, educators can further promote the conditions that enable all children to build on their unique assets and abilities and reach their full potential. This panel of educators, researchers, and practitioners will address the topics of Equity and SEL from practical perspectives and invite consideration of methods to accelerate student recovery and equitable academic inclusion and achievement. Panelists will also discuss the policy and legislative implications of strategies that will promote equity and student learning.

MODERATOR: Dennis W. Bega, Senior Assessor, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence.

PANELISTS: Michelle Kinley, Chief Government Affairs Officer and Chief Marketing Officer, Silverback Learning; Dr. Donna Elam, CEO, Elam Leadership Institute; Amy Mason, Principal, Madison County Elementary School and 2021 NAESP Alabama Principal of the Year; and Dr. Akil Ross, Superintendent, Lexington-Richland School District Five and 2018 NASSP National Principal of the Year.

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS F

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Making a Big School feel like "Its a Small World."* Attendees will take away real world strategies to transform their school into a more connected, personal and engaging place. Delaware Hayes High School is in year six of implementing its "House system". House has provided more opportunities for connections, interventions, clubs, leadership, mentoring and culture building. In today's educational climate, the need for more emotional support, safety and student connections is more important than ever. The House system has transformed our large high school into a more personal and connected learning community. If attendees are looking for ways to enhance school culture and provide more opportunities for student and teacher leadership, this is your session.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Ric Stranges, Principal, and Rex Reeder, Assistant Principal, Delaware Hayes High School, Ohio.

LOCATION: Newport A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Supporting ALL Students, In ALL Tiers.* The presentation will focus on how our district (CCSD 181 - Hinsdale, Illinois) and individual schools (Elm and Madison) use the MTSS+ process to support all tiers of learners - both students needing intervention, as well as enrichments, beyond the Tier 1 curriculum. We will explain our MTSS process with a focus on how to build a culture of supporting students using a collaborative and data focused approach. Although traditional MTSS models support only those struggling to meet grade level standards, our process includes students performing above grade level. Over 70% of our students achieve above the 69th percentile on nationally normed assessments.

PRESENTERS: Sara Olson, Principal, Elm Elementary School and Kim Rutan, Principal, Madison Elementary School, Illinois.

LOCATION: Newport B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *What Managing the Coronavirus Can Teach Us About Managing Food Allergies in Schools.* You have spent the last two years making and changing policy at a moment's notice, all to keep your students and staff healthy and safe in the midst of a pandemic. This year as we ease back into sitting closer to family, friends, and colleagues, we can reflect on the lessons learned from such challenging times. Many of these lessons can be applied to managing the food-allergic and chronically ill populations in our schools. According to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, 8% of school-aged children live with a life-threatening food allergy, which translates to about one in 13. During this interactive presentation, you will work through real-life situations to learn simple changes your school can make to keep food-allergic and chronically ill children safe and included while reducing the rate of bullying. You will walk away with actions you can take that will help parents of food-allergic and chronically ill students feel more confident leaving their child in your school's care. Participants will be able to: (1) Understand the impact that food allergies and other chronic illnesses have on students and staff; (2) Craft and implement effective policies and procedures to accommodate and protect students with food allergies; (3) Implement strategies to improve communication between staff and parents around food allergies and other chronic illnesses; and (4) Craft effective and straightforward accommodations to keep all students safe and included.

PRESENTER: Leah Robilotto, M.A., Founder and CEO, Food Allergy Institute, Georgia.

LOCATION: Newport C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *When Pedagogy Drives Design of Learning Environment.* The power of a symbiotic relationship is when the architects and the educators come together to understand the vision and goals of the school community. We will explore how River Oaks Baptist School and Jackson & Ryan Architects propelled our traditional school into an innovative community whose new physical environment matched our student-centered pedagogy. River Oaks Baptist School (ROBS) had a vision from the beginning. We wanted the learning environment to become a tool in the teacher's toolbox. We wanted to design a space that focused on students (which means it wasn't teacher-focused and that caused some angst along the way). Of course, we had teachers in mind because we were designing a teaching and learning space, but we knew it was time to push our teachers out of their comfort zone in order to get them to move out of their silos. We wanted a design that was supported interdisciplinary collaboration, democratic leadership (shared responsibility for learning between teacher and student), a rotating schedule that allows for double the number of electives (given them opportunities for exploration), a sense of community, and more freedom to become self-directed learners. We wanted: Open floor plans; Large spaces; Outdoor/Indoor learning spaces; An increased focus on Fine Arts; Comfortable and flexible furniture that could be moved around easily; State of the Art technology – but the technology that we would use - not for show; We wanted the library to be a focal point throughout the building – the ribbon running through it; We wanted something special for our 8th graders; However, we had no idea what it would look like. We traveled all over the world looking for something to copy. We couldn't find it. We could find pieces of it, but no one had designed an entire building the way we wanted to design ours. Our Head of School remembers thinking there is no way that JRA was going to be able to create a conceptual design because we don't know how to tell them what it looks like. Fortunately, we had a team of architects that traveled and researched alongside us. The first time we saw the conceptual drawings (and they changed a lot over the design course), we were like...THAT'S IT! We will share more about the process as we during the presentation.

PRESENTERS: Leanne Reynolds, Head of School, River Oaks Baptist School; Janann Pittman, Principal, Jackson & Ryan Architects; and Dr. Todd Herauf, Associate Head of School for Academics, River Oaks Baptist School, Texas.

LOCATION: Cape Cod A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Dealing with Angry Ducks 2.0: Positive Leadership in the Most Challenging Circumstances.* This session goes beyond the basics of navigating difficult conversations to look at what positive leaders do differently during the most difficult circumstances. From consequential conversations with faculty and staff members to dealing with the most contentious parents, positive leaders take the high road by staying anchored in tried-and-true behaviors that make the difference. We will examine the characteristics of effective leadership in the face of conflict, and how leaders can share these skills school-wide.

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

LOCATION: Cape Cod B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *From Grow to Glow: Reducing the Negative Effects of Poverty in the Classroom.* While research shows poverty can have drastic negative effects on student learning, it shouldn't serve as a barrier to student success. Join teachers and administrators from Crawford Elementary that transformed a school once known as "the high-poverty school" to a school now known for its high growth and achievement. In this session, participants will gain a better understanding of the negative impact poverty has on the brain and learning. We will also share specific strategies that provide targeted support for students struggling academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally as a result of poverty. Teachers and administrators will learn how to make meaningful connections, create positive learning environments, and set high expectations that allow all students to maximize their potential. We will share how our staff and stakeholders collaborated to transform our practices from grow to glow and how we moved from a D letter grade to a National Blue Ribbon in three short years by implementing best practices for all learners. You will walk away from this session with practical ways to use job embedded time to build meaningful relationships, teach students how to self-regulate, build toolkits that support SEL in the classroom, and provide optimal learning spaces for students with high and low magnitude behaviors.

PRESENTERS: Jessica Baggett, 3rd Grade National Blue Ribbon & NBCT Teacher; Pam Pilgram-Smith, Kindergarten National Blue Ribbon Teacher, and Shavon Jackson, National Blue Ribbon Principal and 2020 Terrel H. Bell Recipient, Crawford Elementary School, Arkansas.

LOCATION: GH Salon I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Leading by Reading: 20+ Ways to Transform the Reading Culture in Your School.* Are you frustrated with reading programs that bore both teachers AND students? Is your class spending too much time on mind numbing worksheets? Are you ready for a change? We will share our story of how we not only boosted the reading culture in our building but also watched our achievement scores soar. Many of the ideas can be implemented immediately for little or no cost at all. Come with an open mind and leave with the power to make a reading transformation. Our presentation includes a photographic and anecdotal journey through our hallways, classrooms, and years of building this reading passion in order to achieve an intrinsic love of reading. It breaks down each objective in an approachable way. Attendees will leave with immediate take-aways to implement in their own classroom and school as well as lots of excitement to get started. With over 20 ideas included in our presentation, there is sure to be something for everyone.

PRESENTERS: James Bailey, Principal, Nicol Howald, Instructional Coach, and Kelly Hendrick, Third Grade Teacher, Hemmeter Elementary School, Michigan.

LOCATION: GH Salon II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Equitable Practices that Impact Achievement!* Dr. Donna Elam and Silverback Learning are teaming up to help school leaders systemically infuse equity and equitable practices into all aspects of the school day; increasing student achievement outcomes for all students. Join this session to gain a solid understanding on the actions needed to create equitable educational environments including how to understand the disparities and patterns in student data with concrete examples on how to address them through sound practices that benefit all. Questions the team has effectively addressed and tackled in schools and school districts: Are there common definitions for equity, diversity, equality, and civil rights? How are the data teams currently operating? Is there a protocol for addressing inequities in teaching and learning in the district? Have equitable practices been systemically infused into daily practices? Is equity aligned with literacy throughout each school in the district? Are teachers scaffolding based on the needs of all groups of students? Are staff members intentionally getting to know all groups of students as learners as well as individuals based on their cultural backgrounds and lived experiences? Does administration promote a philosophy for equitable outcomes? Are teachers supported with the knowledge and skills to positively impact students' learning? Are there any barriers that impact effective instruction? Does the curriculum reflect the populations served? Are parents and community members communicated with effectively? Are the data sets being analyzed for maximum student achievement paths? What educational technology is currently in place to support these practices?

PRESENTERS: Dr. Donna Elam, Director, Elam Leadership Institute, New York and Michelle Kinley, Chief Government Affairs and Andrew Klingman, Vice President of Sales, Silverback Learning Solutions, Idaho.

LOCATION: GH Salon III

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Systematically Aligning Curriculum to “jump start” and Target Students Experiencing Loss of Learning “LOL” due to the Global Pandemic.* Students' “loss of learning” is the hot topic of discussion among educators as the 2020-2021 pandemic has been unprecedented in our global society. How do we get back to normal and what is normal as it relates to primary, elementary and secondary education of students in America? We will explore the idea of jump-starting students' instruction by identifying concepts that student did not retain which caused gaps in their learning. This will be emphasized through connections that aligned to curriculum and embraces student's creativity and ingenuity. Additionally, target instruction will be organized while moving on with the necessary skills to stay on task for the present school year's pedagogy. The presenters will address the topic from multiple perspectives that of a primary, elementary and secondary administrator facilitating the charge to address students' needs. The presentation will be in the form of a PowerPoint presentation with interactive protocols, discussions and survey data from veteran teachers, students and parents to help drive the curriculum alignment. Diagnostic and standardized data will be addressed but will not drive the narrative for this process. The use of an informal inventory, vivid instructions, specific concepts, pictures and data to show that schools that work collaboratively with teachers, parents and students will start the process of closing the academic gaps moving forward post pandemic. The presentation will provide the educational perspectives of administrators of two different states; however, the pedagogical content knowledge for each subject will be adheres to for specific levels of instruction.

PRESENTERS: Michael Alexander, Jr., Principal, and Brandon Thompson, Assistant Principal, Dr. Martin Luther King High School; Dr. Tiffany Brown, Browns Mill Middle School; Dr. Thomas Glanton, Southwest DeKalb High School; and Terrance Harvey, Salem Middle School, Georgia and Hattie Alexander, Author, Educational Leadership Consultant, 2021 Retired National Blue Ribbon Principal, Terrell Bell Winner, and BRSE Lighthouse Principal, Alabama.

LOCATION: GH Salon IV

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS G

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *4 Domains of Resilience with Dynamics of Building Personal/Organizational Success and Legacy.*

1. 4 Domains of Resilience combined with ideas of 4 Leadership Intelligences. Discuss Mind – Body – Spiritual – Social aspects of resilience aligned with principles of leadership intelligences. Seminar stems from a 5-year U. S. Navy study on improving resilience to combat suicide and improve performance.

2. Dynamics of Building Personal and Organizational Success and Legacy. Using my Compass Leadership Circle of Success, discuss 6 Essentials of Personal and Organizational Success and Legacy – Personal Identity/Core Values; Vision and Mission Statements; Goal Setting; Plan of Action; and Daily Agenda for Sustainability. Learning Organizations: Visionary leadership practices for student productivity and motivation will be reviewed.

PRESENTER: David McCuiston, Former Senior Naval Science Program Manager & Instructor at Cocke County HS, Newport, TN; Owner-Director, Compass Leadership, Florida.

LOCATION: Newport A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *What Gap? Strategies for Closing the Achievement Gap.* Do the disparities that contribute to the achievement gap have you bemused? Are you frustrated because year after year your efforts to counteract the achievement gap were to no avail? Well, this is the session for you. You will learn strategies and accountability measures that have been tested and proven to help counteract the performance disparity resulting in the closing of the achievement gap for all students. The best practice that had the greatest impact on student success is our school is our “WIN” time. “WIN” time is a dedicated block of time at the top of the day for students to focus on "what they need" as it relates to state standards. Students spend approximately one hour refining skills or working on concepts that show as areas of opportunity based on campus and district assessments.

PRESENTERS: Gail Wright, Principal; Dashonda Millner-Perkins, Assistant Principal; Shamaro Roberts, Teacher; and Alterice Sadler, Teacher, West Main Elementary, Texas.

LOCATION: Newport B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *A Joyful Culture, Recipe for Success School Organization and Culture.* When trying to describe the school culture and organization of Dows Lane Elementary School, our thinking starts with Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory. Maslow states that certain needs, often depicted as hierarchical levels in a pyramid, must be satisfied before an individual can partake in the higher levels. When considering our success, fostering an extraordinary culture is the most basic need that we create, continually tend to, and cultivate. And then, everything else finds its place in our culture of joy. Developing an extraordinary culture does not happen by accident nor happen overnight. Our staff and students are committed to helping each other, showing kindness, and having a common sense of purpose that is the heart of our community. Every morning, students are greeted at the main entrance by staff members who are happy to see them. This warm greeting starts our day and adds to our general welcoming atmosphere. This sense of warmth and belonging is infused in everything we do and when guests visit our school, they comment on the welcoming feeling too. When we are involved in the hiring process, as we speak with potential candidates, we are looking for individuals who will enhance our community, continue to grow with us, have a passion for teaching and love for children. Staff members infuse a joy of learning, joy for teaching, and joy for a welcoming and inclusive culture in their classrooms and the school as a community. Our positivity, grit, and passion for teaching and learning are contagious and our students grow and thrive.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Kristopher Harrison, Superintendent, Irvington Union Free School District and Dr. Andrea Kantor, Principal, Dows Lane Elementary School, New York.

LOCATION: Newport C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Cultivating 21st Century Learning Via Alternative Assessments.* What is Alternative Assessment? Why is it important in the 21st century classroom? How do I implement it within my discipline? This presentation will answer all of these questions and provide various examples of hands-on, skills-based alternative assessments across a wide range of content areas. The session will culminate with an opportunity for attendees to craft an alternative assessment that they can use in their own classrooms.

PRESENTER: Michelle Midgley, Archmere Academy, Delaware.

LOCATION: Cape Cod A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *The Little Things Make the Difference.* At Guin Elementary School, we hold our faculty, students, and community to high expectations. We meet in teams every month to look at data and to discuss goals and results. The targeted areas that are addressed include increasing the number of students who are proficient in reading and math, improving attendance, and closing the achievement gap of our special populations. The principal looks at attendance, proficiency, and discipline and charts this data on an easy to read graph for students to see where their class stands in comparison to the other classes. The Reading Coach keeps data charts updated with every student's name and proficiency level for reading and math. Teachers also display a classroom/student data chart for STAR and Successmaker progress. Similar charts are included in each student's data binder. The benefits of these best practices are that the students take ownership of their academic achievement and the entire community focuses on school wide goals. Students complete a data binder that includes daily attendance, daily Successmaker scores, Accelerated Reader scores, and monthly STAR scores. Students are motivated to reach weekly, quarterly, and yearly goals by charting their progress on graphs that they color.

PRESENTERS: Josh Weatherly, Principal, Jessica Johnigan, Counselor, and Angie Jeffreys, Reading Specialist, Guin Elementary School, Alabama.

LOCATION: Cape Cod B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Afterall, it is NOT a Small World!* In 2014, Weiner Elementary, a small rural school in Arkansas, was faced with challenges like many small schools. School enrollment dropped and our high school was closed. At the same time, student demographics were changing --with many children now living in poverty. The community, which always supported the school, grieved when the high school was consolidated, leaving only the elementary school. The staff at Weiner Elementary set out to transform their remaining school into an exemplary environment that was innovative, effective, honored the multidimensional *21st Century Whole Child*, and re-energized the entire community. This process would be no gradual trickling in of change, but rather a deliberate and complete change to the school's culture and, ultimately, climate. The overarching goal of that change was enabling children to be excited about their future, to feel "part" of the world and not "apart" from the world. It is not, in fact, a "small, small world"!

While test scores remained an important focus of that, the school branched out, giving just as much emphasis to creativity, communication skills, character education/community service, world cultures, learning a second language, and command of technology as a tool for learning and sharing. The school tore down barriers, honoring the belief that each child deserves the opportunity to live the life they choose --not a life determined by their circumstances. This presentation, led by Weiner Elementary's 2016 Terrell Bell Award winning principal shares the school's journey from a school with seemingly insurmountable problems to a School of Innovation and a 2016 Blue Ribbon School. The presentation also shares the school's approach to learning during the pandemic and strategies and resources that worked in the 2020-2021

PRESENTERS: Pam Hogue, Principal and Maggie Hogue, Former Student, Weiner Elementary School, Arkansas.

LOCATION: GH Salon I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *The Recipe for Deeper Learning in Online Professional Development.* When designing online professional development for teachers we all become master chefs. Deeper learning can only occur when the right mixture of resources, activities, and community interaction come together in a perfectly balanced course. To start we must select the cuisine and identify the relevant topics such as racial justice, equity, social and emotional learning our teachers will order up. Next, we must consider the palate of each teacher in the design so they will find meaning and value in the work. Join us for the secret recipe to whip up deeper learning in your online professional development. For just desserts, each attendee will get a free course to digest.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Steve McCammon, President and CEO, George Thompson, Former President and Director of Strategic Partnerships, and Kat Crawford, Executive Director of Digital Innovation, Schlechty Center, Kentucky.

LOCATION: GH Salon II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Making Ordinary Kids Extraordinary through Technical Education and Career Dual Enrollment.* Recognizing the need for workforce development, most high schools offer their students educational coursework in career and technical education (CTE). CTE courses allow students to see if a career pathway is a good fit for them without a financial commitment. CTE courses often provide students with the opportunity to excel and express themselves outside of their core academics. It engages students on a different level of relevancy and rigor. CTE programs contribute to the overall school culture through to higher graduation rates, engaging at-risk students, increasing student retention, and strengthening relationships with the community at large. When most people hear “dual enrollment” they automatically think about academic courses offered to high school students through state colleges and universities, usually limited to high achievers due to the strict testing and GPA requirements. But why limit students' choices to the academic realm? Student interests are as diverse as they are, and many are disenchanted with the typical roster of course selections. Why not allow high school students to take a concentrated study in a career pathway in an area they are passionate about? Career Dual Enrollment (CDE) is the answer. Career Dual Enrollment gives high school students the opportunity to jump-start their careers through enrolling in a postsecondary technical program at a technical college/center earning both credit for high school graduation and postsecondary articulated college credit - possibly free of charge depending on your state. Whether taken while still in high school through CTE/CDE, or immediately following high school graduation, technical programs are motivating for all students. Career education follows approved state frameworks and provides hands on preparation in a high demand field of study such as medical, IT, manufacturing, and hospitality. Learning in the real world provides opportunities for development through hands-on education, internships, and job shadowing, leading to a fulfilling career, all while limiting or even eliminating high college debt. This session will provide an overview of Career and Technical Education, including Career Dual Enrollment, and it's benefits to students, schools, and communities, and tips on getting CDE on your campus.

PRESENTERS: Vicky LaPorte, Assistant Director; Rebecca Miller, Career Technical Education Advisor; and Hallema Collier, Career Dual Enrollment Liaison and Magnet Coordinator, Atlantic Technical College and Technical High School, Florida.

LOCATION: GH Salon III

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Developing Successful Partnerships between School and the Community.* Preparing students for success after high school is a goal for all educators and a team effort between the school and the community. There is a wealth of knowledge and resources available in all communities ready and able to support student learning. In this presentation, you will learn the steps one district made to connect business, industry, and education. High school representatives will share the processes necessary to seek out successful partnerships and creative strategies to maximize external resources for students and teachers. Included will be steps to connect with the local workforce organizations and opportunities for student internships and exploratory learning.

PRESENTER: Barry Flicker, Principal, Kutztown Area High School, Pennsylvania.

LOCATION: GH Salon IV

DAY FOUR
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2021

7:15 AM – 8:00 AM COFFEE SERVICE

LOCATION: Cape Cod Lobby

8:00 AM - NOON REGISTRATION

LOCATION: Cape Registration Desk

8:00 AM - 9:00AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS H

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Design and Implement Engaging Work in Challenging Digital Learning Environments.* Now more than ever, the ability to get students to learn and exceed at higher levels and subsequently retain what they have learned is a challenge that classroom teachers face every day. Are they in-person, hybrid, learning digitally? How do schools keep it all straight? This session will focus on ways to engage students and ensure they are learning even more. We will explore ways in which teachers at three different levels in a JK-Level 8 school help students to learn creatively and to build and maintain healthy, growth-producing relationships with their classmates all while learning at high levels. The presenters will integrate the principles of learning in all areas of instructional design while gaining insight and practical strategies to redesign lessons into personalized learning experiences for hybrid or in-person environments. Participants will walk away with several ideas of fun and engaging lessons that they can bring back to their classrooms/ schools.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Michael Bratcher, Head of School and Principal; Nicole Hubbs, NBCT and Kindergarten Teacher; Adele Koch, NBCT and Librarian and Julie Satterly, NBCT and 7th Grade Math Teacher, Sacred Heart Model School, Kentucky.

LOCATION: Newport A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *A Flex Mod High School Schedule – Lessons Learned and Reflection.* River Bluff High School, Lexington, South Carolina, first high school to design and implement a Flexible Modular Schedule in 2013 has now learned over its 8-year history. Join this session to learn their story and process for establishing one of the biggest flex mod schools in the USA. During this session Dr. Clamp will discuss their student outcomes, impact on teachers, and lessons learned over the years of flex mod implementation.

PRESENTER: Dr. Luke Clamp, Secondary Schools Director, Lexington County School District One, Former Principal, River Bluff High School, and 2019 NASSP National Principal of the Year, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Newport B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Making Cross Curricular Connections Through Literacy and Visual Arts in the Early Childhood Classroom.* You don't have to be an artist to enjoy this fun and interactive workshop! Participants will engage in hands-on visual arts activities for early childhood students that integrate children's literature, math, science, and social studies. Participants will create fascinating projects and activities using inexpensive materials. The purpose of this interactive workshop is to expand the knowledge and teaching methods of early childhood educators with hands-on activities to take back to classroom to integrate art, children's literature, math, science, and social studies.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Amanda Pendergrass, Associate Professor of Elementary Education; Dr. Sallie Harper, Professor of Elementary Education; Dr. Lynn Kelley, Associate Professor of Elementary Education; Ms. Linda Paparella, Clinical Supervisor, University of West Alabama and Anna Lynn Pendergrass, Second Grader, and Thomas Pendergrass, Kindergarten, Westside Elementary School, Alabama.

LOCATION: Newport C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Rams Run Together: Creating a Collaborative Culture and Structure Within a Multi-division School Campus.* Strategic collaboration between middle school and high school administrators and faculty promotes a culture that is supportive and critical to operational vitality. At Oratory Preparatory School, all-boys, 7-12, Catholic school in suburban New Jersey, this formula has proven to be central to our dynamic community. As middle and high school division heads, collaboration and integration of all aspects of the school day and program has remained essential amidst the pandemic planning. "Rams Run Together" has been the informal motto used by our community to reinforce the concept of strength in unity. We hope to share our experiences and strategies for developing tools that will transfer to your own organization.

PRESENTERS: Elizabeth Acquadro, Head of Upper School and Guidance Services, Oratory Prep School and Dr. Lori Arends, Head of Middle School and Special Services, Oratory Prep School, New Jersey.

LOCATION: Cape Cod A

Session Description: *Full STEAM Ahead!* Just before the pandemic hit, we embarked on our journey to becoming a STEAM certified school. We are glad to be back on track towards certification this year and pouring our energy and enthusiasm into creating interdisciplinary units for our students that creates meaningful learning experiences. Join us as we share the nuts and bolts of our design process and see how we are cultivating 21st Century ready students. When presented with a scenario or problem, our students are now ready to take good ideas and turn them into creative solutions! We will also take a peek into some of our STEAM units of study that have been created school wide and across various grade levels so you can see them in action.

PRESENTERS: Linda Cooper, Fourth Grade Teacher; Tanya Hinzman, Fourth Grade Teacher; Marilyn Naughton, Kindergarten Teacher; Jessica Tiller, First Grade Teacher, and Jennifer Whitaker, Principal, High Shoals Elementary School, 2020 Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Lighthouse and 2021 National Blue Ribbon School, Georgia.

LOCATION: Cape Cod B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Be the Wild Card with Classroom Transformations.* This engaging and fun session will help you step out of your comfort zone and be an educator Wild Card! See easy, practical ways to transform your classroom, include multiple standards, increase rigor, play games, and have a ton of fun! You can make magic happen everyday! Let us show you how! This presentation will show educators how to begin the process of a classroom transformation. We will discuss how to increase rigor in an engaging and interactive way for students. Ideas will be shared on several different room transformations with Mrs. Kirkpatrick highlighting how she transforms her classroom into Jurassic Park, covering multiple standards at the same time including science, reading, and writing standards. Mrs. Martin will highlight how she transforms her room into everyone's favorite coffee shop, Starbucks, and the engaging way she encourages students to complete writing projects.

PRESENTERS: Sara Kirkpatrick, 3rd grade teacher and Melody Martin, 5th Grade Teacher, Good Hope Elementary School, Alabama.

LOCATION: GH Salon I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Strategic Change Agenda – Why Would You Use a Standardized Process to Create a Customized Solution?* Despite the emphasis on being strategic, strategic planning in schools more often results in plans focused on compliance and solving tactical problems rooted in the past. The Schlechty Center's Strategic Change Agenda is an approach that engages the community, staff, and students in a customized, future-oriented process that results in schools and districts moving beyond strategic planning. The process recognizes the changing context in which organizations operate. It is a better fit for schools and districts seeking to capitalize on lessons learned and opportunities for change and innovation created as a result of the pandemic.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Steve McCammon, President and CEO, George Thompson, Former President and Director of Strategic Partnerships, and Kat Crawford, Executive Director of Digital Innovation, Schlechty Center, Kentucky.

LOCATION: GH Salon II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Boosting Student Success.* Our Jump Start program is designed for freshman students who have the lowest scores on our placement exam. This week long program takes place in August before the start of the school year and provides a firm foundation of academic expectations for the 25-30 students who are required to participate. The department chairs present and review organizational strategies, note-taking skills, time management, and resources for academic assistance.

The biggest benefit that we have seen, using data, is student success and retention. In addition, students are school ready from day one and have the tools necessary to be successful.

PRESENTERS: Susie Sullivan, Principal, and Jennifer Christen, Assistant Principal, Marian High School, Nebraska.

LOCATION: GH Salon III

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Expanding Social Emotional Leadership in Every Student.*

Are you being your best self? Are you doing your best work? Our social emotional leadership system sparks a transformation in how our students, staff and families communicate. Participants are empowered to reflect on personal and academic habits, daily attitude, and the skills necessary to manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel, and show empathy for others, establish, and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Attendees will learn how to expand leadership capacity by empowering students to become advocates for change by increasing self-esteem, inspiring confidence, and strengthening inner purpose in a fun, interactive way.

PRESENTERS: Kris Menon, Co-Founder, Ignite Nation, Washington and Vickie Evans, Director of Let's Gear Up Grant, Lufkin ISD, Texas.

LOCATION: GH Salon IV

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *How Your School Can Become a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.* How does your school measure up to the highest performing schools in the nation? Where do you start and what can you expect? If you would like to become a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence this is the session for you. Find out what is a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and learn about the process to become one. We will share all the details from the application process to being named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Interested in the Blue Ribbon School of Excellence process, but you are concerned because your school is not high performing. Come to this session and you will put your concerns aside. Find out how the process works for all schools.

PRESENTER: Jayne Ellspermann, 2015 National Principal of the Year, Educational Consultant, Leadership Coach, and Trainer, BRSE Vice Chair, Florida.

LOCATION: GH Salon II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Students Connecting to Opportunities in a Virtual World.* Join Tallo's Director of Education, Emily Todd, to learn about Tallo, an online platform that students, ages 13+, can use to build a digital portfolio, organize what they do in and outside of the classroom, and earn digital badges from partner organizations such as HOSA, FIRST Robotics, and AVID. On Tallo, students can connect to colleges, showcase their skills to companies, and apply for opportunities like scholarships, virtual career and college fairs, and internships. Secondary schools that partner with Tallo can longitudinally track current students and alumni. Digitally mentor students as they create their digital portfolios, develop and manage digital badges for their students, and gather valuable analytical data on current and former student populations related to the Individual Graduation Plan process. Educators can use Tallo's classroom resources, lesson plans, and videos to incorporate Tallo into their school programs and classrooms.

PRESENTERS: Emily Todd, Director of Education and Crystal Barkley, Education Coordinator, Tallo, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Newport B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Preparing Teachers for Inclusive Rural Classrooms.* Educator preparation programs usually separate candidates into three different types of certification areas. These future teachers are ill prepared to provide adequate instruction and services in rural inclusive classrooms to diverse learners and students with disabilities. This presentation will provide insight into the challenges and changes in a teacher training partnership between a rural university and its related charter school to support all learners in the general education classroom. Programs and strategies to build the capacity of teachers to meet the needs of diverse learners in rural environments will be shared with the attendees.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Kimberly Griffith; Dr. Erica King, and Dr. Jodie Winship, Associate Professors of Special Education and Dr. Amanda Pendergrass, Associate Professor of Elementary Education, University of West Alabama, Alabama.

LOCATION: Newport C

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

PRESENTERS:

LOCATION: Cape Cod A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Are You a Coffee Bean? Transform Your School from the Inside Out.* Learn how the faculty and staff at G.W. Trenholm Primary School became change agents for children. This presentation will give attendants a look at our success strategies and how leadership and culture play an important role in leading a school from good to great. This program will demonstrate how to create a culture of collaboration and a shared perception of best instructional practices through high quality leadership practices. Come learn how being a “Coffee Bean” can transform your school culture.

PRESENTER: Veronica Bayles, Principal, G.W. Trenholm Primary School, 2021 BRSE Lighthouse School, Alabama.

LOCATION: Cape Cod B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Help! I Teach at an EL (English Learner) School, and I DON'T Speak Spanish.* West Decatur Elementary is a small, family oriented, high poverty school with a 64% Hispanic population where parents and students speak little or no English. Despite these barriers, the faculty, and staff at WDES have torn these walls down by transforming their mindsets. We accomplished this by creating a paradigm shift that all students can learn, and language is not a deficit. Come learn ways to grow a diverse population by leaps and bounds culturally, socially, emotionally, and academically. Join us as we share the recipe to produce academic growth in ACCESS scores from 24%-64% in one year. That recipe includes: 1) Gaining knowledge of each individual student and then adding a daily cup of love, 2) Building a strong culture and climate, 3) Implementing instructional strategies and resources that are consistent, 4) Getting parents Involved 4) Assessing students, and 5) Having FUN! “Children learn best when they like their teacher and when they think their teacher likes them.” Gordon Neufeld

PRESENTERS: Jennifer Edwards, Principal; Dr. Tamera Lowe-Preer, Assistant Principal; Susan Blake, Literacy Specialist; Shannon Posey, Fifth Grade Teacher; Audrey Johnson, Fifth Grade Teacher; Beth McHugh, Fourth Grade Teacher; Kathy White, Second Grade Teacher; Beth Lacy, First Grade Teacher; LaToya Patton, EL Specialist; and Kristie Beamon, Media Specialist; West Decatur Elementary, Alabama.

LOCATION: GH Salon I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Are You a Kid-Connector?* The main goal of an innovative principal should not be to incorporate new technology, devise new patterns to the school day, or even create new lesson structures. The main goal should be to provide kids with opportunities to connect with the school. If we want to design schools that promote student ownership of learning, one underlying principle must come to the forefront: relationships are essential for learning. Too often, students feel as if an impersonal education machine is processing them. As administrators, we cannot lose focus on relationships and the importance they have in driving the outcomes. Administrators should - Learn to model as administrators by making daily emotional deposits; Establish school-wide connections (something for everyone); Develop, recruit and retain kid-connectors; Over-celebrate; Power of the swag; Meaningful/motivating PD; Cooperative learning structures; Connect that subgroup organically; and Trust, significance & belonging. In the end kids may not remember what you taught them, but they never forget how you treated them.

PRESENTER: Anthony Scorsone, 9th Grade Administrator, Nation Ford High School, South Carolina.

LOCATION: GH Salon II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Winning Over Your Parents, Students, and Community.* This presentation is directed at those who wish to build strong relationships with their parents, students, and the school community in general. Relationship building is essential to a high-functioning and successful classroom. Students benefit when their parents and teachers have good lines of communication. They feel comforted and more confident when they see that their parents and teachers are working together. Teachers who have strong relationships with parents often have greater insight into the child's life at home, which allows them to modify classroom learning to best help the student. The benefits of positive relationships and culture are numerous. When teachers are working with the children, parents, and community, they will have more resources at their disposal, a healthier climate that is more conducive to learning, and a sense of peace that will reduce stress and make them more productive.

PRESENTER: Robert Detzel, Principal, St. Lawrence School, PK-8, Indiana.

LOCATION: GH Salon III

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Successful Implementation of an SEL Collaborative.* Presenters will detail the school's overall PLC initiative, including how they organized weekly collaborative meetings and corresponding SEL lessons with students. Representatives from the classroom, counseling, and admin will explore the benefits of creating an interdisciplinary coalition dedicated to SEL. Examples of achievement data over the three years since inception will outline how a purposeful approach to SEL has positively impacted student behavior, disciplinary concerns, learning gaps, and mental health.

PRESENTERS: Jennifer Whitt, Supervisor of Student Services, Madison County, AL Schools; Kristen Bell, Principal; Dr. Amanda Lemons, Assistant Principal; Stephenie Smith, Instructional Coach, SEL Team Leader; Machiah Fuqua, Instructional Coach; Amber Saunders, Behavior Interventionist; Amy Deweese, Guidance Counselor; and Sarah Wildes, Classroom Teacher, Digital Learning Partner, Sparkman Middle School, Alabama.

LOCATION: GH Salon IV

10:30 AM – NOON LIGHTHOUSE CELEBRATION BRUNCH

LOCATION: GH Ballroom South and North

Master of Ceremony - Dennis W. Bega, Senior Assessor, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence

2020 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE – LIGHTHOUSE RENEWAL SCHOOLS

*Curry Middle School *Two-time awardee*
*Malcom Bridge Elementary School *Two-time awardee*
*High Shoals Elementary School *Two-time awardee*
*Mt. Carmel Elementary School *Two-time awardee*

2020 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE – LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOLS

Austin Middle School
Austin Junior High School
Braden River Middle School
Cold Springs High School
East Limestone High School
George B. Weatherbee School
Hartselle Junior High School
Meek High School
Tara Elementary School
Veazie Community School
Vinemont Elementary School
Vinemont High School

2021 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE – LIGHTHOUSE RENEWAL SCHOOLS

*Fairview Middle School *Two-time awardee*

2021 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE – LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOLS

Bookman Road Elementary School
Creekside Elementary School
Creekside Primary School
Dove Creek Elementary School
Eva School
Fort Mill High School
G.W. Trenholm Primary School
Hazel Green High School
Pritchardville Elementary School
Rainbow Elementary School
South Iredell High School
West Decatur Elementary School
West Point Middle School

2021 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE - SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOGNITION

Superintendent - Dr. Dee Dee Jones, Hartselle City Schools, Alabama

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