

24th Annual National Conference



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November 28 - December 1

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2023

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Lucy Hart Paulson

LETRS Co-Author and Literacy Expert



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24th ANNUAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE WALT DISNEY WORLD, ORLANDO FLORIDA

Greetings 2023 National Conference Attendees!

We are excited to welcome you to the 24th Annual Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence (BRSE) Conference. We thank you for joining us on what will undoubtedly be an exciting, engaging, and magical learning experience for all. We invite you to create your own dynamic learning path and choose from almost one hundred sessions focusing on highly effective practices.

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 them 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 every student. Our Blue Ribbon Lighthouse Schools and the 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 endeavor 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, BRSE President and Founder

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

Scott Stewart, BRSE Board Chair

**24th ANNUAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE
SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

**DAY ONE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023**

11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

REGISTRATION

LOCATION: East Registration Counter

1:00 PM - 5:30 PM

PRE - CONFERENCE SESSIONS

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) II

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

**EXHIBIT HALL OPENING AND FIREWORKS PRE-PARTY WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
MICKEY, MINNIE, AND DOOR PRIZES**

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H

10:00 PM

FIREWORKS VIEWING FROM THE PORTE COCHERE (ON YOUR OWN)

LOCATION: Disney's Contemporary Resort, Porte Cochere

**DAY TWO
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023**

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

REGISTRATION

LOCATION: East Registration Counter

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST AND VISIT EXHIBITORS

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

OPENING SESSION

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS A

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM LUNCHEON FOR ALL ATTENDEES

LOCATION:

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

VISIT EXHIBITORS

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS B

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS C

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION D

DAY THREE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2023

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

REGISTRATION

LOCATION: East Registration Counter

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST AND VISIT EXHIBITORS

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS E

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS F

11:30 AM - NOON

VISIT EXHIBITORS

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom

NOON - 1:15 PM BEACON LUNCHEON FOR ALL ATTENDEES

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS G

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS H

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION I

DAY FOUR
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023

7:30 AM COFFEE SERVICE

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Lobby

8:00AM - NOON

REGISTRATION

LOCATION: East Registration Counter

8:00 AM - 9:00AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS J

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS K

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

LIGHTHOUSE CELEBRATION BRUNCH FOR ALL ATTENDEES

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom

DAY ONE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023

11:00 AM - 7:00 PM REGISTRATION

LOCATION: East Registration Counter

1:00 PM - 5:30 PM PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Six Strategies to Increase Student Proficiency Rates in 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 Board Member and Senior Assessor, North Carolina.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) II

2:45 PM - 3:45 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 NASSP National Principal of the Year; Educational Consultant; Leadership Coach/Trainer; and Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, BRSE, Vice Board Chair and Senior Assessor, Florida.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) II

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Lead to Achieve.* This special leadership session will focus on the obstacles that confront principals each day. The presenter will share specific strategies to overcome these roadblocks so that leaders can move their buildings forward. He will use his many years of leadership and his time training school leaders to provide a road map to achieve success.

PRESENTER: Scott Stewart is a highly regarded educational leader, widely recognized for his impactful work with school administrators across the United States. As the founder and CEO of Leverage Leaders, he leads an organization dedicated to improving schools through leadership development. Scott serves as the Board Chair for Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, BRSE, South Carolina. Contact Scott at scott.stewart@escco.org. Scott will be joined by Jennifer Ozgur and Hedi Marlinghaus, Co-Founders, A.T.R.A.I.L. of Conversations, Pennsylvania, and Edward Bernetich, Professor, Cleveland State University, Ohio.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) II

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

**EXHIBIT HALL OPENING WITH SPECIAL GUEST MICKEY, MINNIE, AND DOOR PRIZES
FEATURING A DESSERT RECEPTION FIREWORKS PRE-PARTY SPONSORED BY
EDUCATIONAL EPIPHANY**

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H

10:00 PM

FIREWORKS VIEWING FROM THE PORTE COCHERE ON YOUR OWN

LOCATION: Disney's Contemporary Resort, Porte Cochere

DAY TWO
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM REGISTRATION

LOCATION: East Registration Counter

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

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM OPENING SESSION

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

Special Music

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

Presentation of Colors

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Akemi Vazquez
Cadet First Lieutenant Juan Rodriguez
Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Gabriely Silva
Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Wilyer Da Silva

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

National Anthem

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome and Introductions - Dennis W. Bega, Senior Assessor, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, Georgia.

Dr. Judith W. Fields, Chief Executive Officer, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, Tennessee.

BRSE Lighthouse Legacy Award Presentation - Scott Stewart, Chairman, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, South Carolina.

Bart Teal, President and Founder, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, South Carolina.

Keynote Speaker - Donna Hayward, 2023 National Principal of the Year, Connecticut.
"Where Do We Go from Here?"



Donna Hayward began her professional career as a high school mathematics teacher after earning her bachelor's and master's degrees from Smith College. Inspired by her own high school principal, Donna completed her Sixth Year through UCONN and served as Assistant Principal/ Principal of Rocky Hill High School for a decade. During this time, she markedly increased Advanced Placement opportunities and standardized test scores and reduced discipline, leading to her presentation of effective strategies at the State's annual data conference and the ASS 's national conference. She was honored as the Connecticut Assistant Principal of the Year in 2006. Donna then served as Principal of Suffield High School for six years, during which time she opened a new Agriscience center and led her school to exceed prior academic performance in all areas. She now serves as Principal of Haddam Killingworth High School which earned the National Blue Ribbon in her fourth year. Donna was named the Connecticut Principal of the Year in and is the ASS 's ational rincipal of the ear for .

Invented for life

BOSCH

Create a SAFER learning environment

- Sense:** Detect something is happening
- Alert:** Notify the right people
- Fortify:** Activate fortification systems automatically
- Engage:** Target communications to mitigate threats
- Respond:** Empower responders with information and communications

Sense: Video and audio analytics

Alert: SIP-based alerts and audio notifications

Fortify: Intrusion & access control

Engage: Commercial, professional audio and SIP phone integration

Respond: Radio dispatch and app-based alerts

BOSCH

Electro-Voice

TELEX

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS A - WEDNESDAY

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 and 2022 received the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Lighthouse Award. 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. You will be taught “step by step” how to develop, create and implement successful Student Driven Enrichment Clusters. 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 G E A S S 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 C’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, TAOTS, New York.

LOCATION: Fantasia A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Engage, Empower, Achieve - Strategies for Implementing Close Reading and Text Analysis.* The Close Reading Protocol strategy asks students to read and reread a text carefully and purposefully. When students “close read,” they focus on what the author has to say, what the author’s purpose is, what the words mean, and what the structure of the text tells us. This approach ensures that students really understand what they’ve read. We will examine strategies for students to carefully investigate a text to make connections to essential questions about history, human behavior, and ourselves. Skillful close reading is also an important foundation for helping students develop the ability to justify their claims in class discussions and writing assignments with specific evidence. Analysis will be done on close reading activity that use some or all the steps of (1) Read Aloud Text: The teacher or a confident student reader can read the text aloud. Students should follow along with the reading. Students will be asked to circle unfamiliar words as they listen. After the read-aloud, as students share these words with the class, the group may decide which words to define immediately to limit confusion and which definitions you want students to uncover through careful reading for their students. (2) The group will then proceed to analyze how students then may read silently and note specific word or phrases that jump out to them for any number of reasons to then develop into questions the teacher may ask students to think about from what they have read. (3) Teachers will be giving information on how to arrange small groups, have students read the text in chunks and answer a set of text-dependent questions. Text-dependent questions are those that can be answered based only on careful analysis of the text itself. (4) Ideas on having students create a visual image of what the essence of the text is about, and (5) then create a gallery walk of those images, and lastly, (6) lead discussions of text and collaborate on the information gathered from the previous 5 activities.

PRESENTER: Randall Kincaid, Supervisor of Instruction for Elementary Grades Pre K-4, Sevier County Board of Education, Tennessee.

LOCATION: Fantasia B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *K-12 Instruction Using STEM Career Pathways... A Real-World Example.* Woz ED was created through the vision of Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple. It is an educational company focused on STEM and science. Woz ED offers STEM kits in the areas of Drones, AR/VR, Coding, Animation, Mobile App Development, Robotics, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Engineering/3D Printing. They also offer science kits in grades K-8 aligned to state standards. The goal is to create an engineering mindset in students and expose them to STEM career pathways starting at the PreK level through graduation. It is no secret that every school is either creating, or wants to create, a STEM program for their students. The problem is that it is not an easy task and requires time that no one has. Woz ED provides that instant solution! With the help of Randolph Central School District, we will explore ways in which to incorporate these STEM and science programs into your K-12 program.

PRESENTERS: Kristy Carlson, Principal and Kevin Hind, STEM teacher, Gail N. Chapman Elementary School, New York; Kaine Kelly; Superintendent, Randolph Central School District, New York; and Jim Klubek, Educational Consultant, Woz ED, New York.

LOCATION: Fantasia C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Encouraging Movement with Technology to Increase Learning.* How can encouraging movement with technology increase learning in your classroom? During this session we will explore meaningful technology activities, focusing on movement through assessment and delivery for the innovative classroom. Participants will leave with engaging, differentiated activities ready for implementation in their learning environment. This session will utilize technology to increase movement in the 21st century classroom.

PRESENTERS: Jessica Moore, Challenge Teacher and Cassie Anderson, Resource Teacher, Buena Vista Elementary School, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Fantasia D

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Soarin', Transforming a Big School into Smaller Houses.* Attendees will come away with practical strategies to transform their school into a more connected, personal, and engaging place. Delaware Hayes High School is in year eight of implementing our 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 smaller feeling, more personal and connected learning community. If you are looking for ways to enhance your school culture and provide more opportunities for student and teacher leadership, you are in for a magical ride! Come and soar with us! We will take attendees through a step by step implementation process from conducting a needs assessment to how to divide the school into Houses. We have a playbook that provides school leaders the tools necessary to easily replicate our best practice.

PRESENTERS: Ric Stranges, Principal and Rex Reeder, Assistant Principal, Delaware Hayes High School, and Ted Backus, President, Delaware City School District, Ohio.

LOCATION: Fantasia E

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Leading with a Clear Vision and Strategy*. In this session, participants will learn how to recognize the extent to which their leadership reflects inherited strengths and vulnerabilities from previous generations and understand the inherited strengths and vulnerabilities of the schools they lead. This session will share practical strategies and tools with participants to uncover the hidden dynamics in their schools to help them become more effective and resilient leaders. This session examines the moral and ethical reasons behind using data to improve academic excellence for all students. We will explore a variety of assessment tools and best practices for using those in your schools while focusing on developing the social emotional response to student learning. Finally, we will consider the idea that assessment does not occur in a vacuum and the importance of hastening learning as we navigate the long-term effects of disrupted learning.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Michael Bratcher, Director of Accreditation Services and Dr. Annette Melton, Senior Regional Director, Cognia, Georgia.

LOCATION: Fantasia F

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *A Conversation with Award Winning National High School Principals*. ASS 's ational rincipal of the ear program recogni es 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, issues, and hot topics to an informal session with **three national awarding-winning high school principals**.

PRESENTERS: Donna Hayward, 2023 National Principal of the Year, Connecticut; Dr. Akil Ross, 2018 National Principal of the Year, South Carolina; and Jayne Ellspermann, 2015 National Principal of the Year, Florida.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Early (PreK-2) and Continuing Literacy (3-12). How to Prevent and Mitigate Reading Performance Gaps for Grades PreK-12*. Facilitated by national authority on instructional leadership and district effectiveness, Donyall D. Dickey, Ed.D., this session will orient and assess participants understanding of the body of knowledge necessary to build student knowledge and capacity to meet and exceed developmental expectations relative to print concepts, phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, phonics, spelling, fluency, vocabulary, background knowledge, oral language skills, and comprehension skills. This diagnostic and prescriptive approach to improving student outcomes is centered around the strategic calibration of instruction through the lens of foundational reading skills and knowledge-based competencies at each organizational tier (e.g., teachers, teacher leader, school-based leaders, central office leaders). Participants will leave with a concrete blueprint for preventing and mitigating gaps in teachers, leaders, and ultimately student capacity.

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

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *From Vision to Reality: One District's Journey in Bringing Deep Learning to Life!* The content shared in this workshop will provide the participants with a comprehensive plan of how one district effectively made their vision become their reality by bringing Deep Learning to life. For this session, participants will first learn from the presenters the Logic Model change process used to shift from a traditional way of teaching and learning to a learning community that embraces meaningful Deep Learning opportunities. Next, the presenters will share with the participants tangible Deep learning projects at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. In particular, the presenters will share how once traditional units of study have taken on a whole new life through rich Deep Learning projects that embrace critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, character, and citizenship. Finally, using the Zoom platform, the participants will hear from the students themselves. Students will virtually share with the participants how the Deep Learning projects have transformed the way they have taken an active role in their learning and shifted away from being passengers of teaching/learning, to students being conductors of their own knowledge.

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

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) III

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“Ensuring equitable access to instruction of the highest quality is priority #1.”

Scan this code to learn more about visiting our booth, attending Dr. Dickey's breakout sessions, and joining us at our sponsored dessert fireworks party!



Educational Epiphany

Donyall D. Dickey, Ed.D.
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
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11:30 AM - 1:00 PM LUNCHEON

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom

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

Greetings - Scott Stewart, Board Chair, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, South Carolina.

Keynote Speaker - Caleb Campbell - *From Crisis to Courage — Accessing Your Inner Strength for Breakthrough Leadership*



Caleb Campbell is a dynamic keynote speaker, coach, and mental health advocate known for his authentic and transformational message on high-capacity leadership, whole-person success, and emotional well-being.

In 2008, Caleb graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army. However, Caleb's path took a unique turn as he was also selected in the 2008 NFL Draft making him the second player to ever be drafted out of West Point and the first player, under a new Department of Defense policy, given the permission to serve and play simultaneously. Little did he know at the time, but Caleb was about to fight his own inner battle and it would almost cost him his life.

Now, fueled by his personal journey and commitment to emotional wellness, Caleb is on a mission to inspire leaders to live and lead with authenticity and courage. With his captivating storytelling and infectious energy, Caleb shares his powerful experiences from West Point, the NFL, and beyond to help leaders strengthen resilience, sustain high-performance and enhance well-being.

Far from offering clichéd "do better, be better" advice, Caleb skillfully guides his audience through discussions on courage, emotional intelligence, and heart-centered leadership. Caleb's life mission is to continually demonstrate how facing our fears, embracing change, and staying authentic will make us stronger, even in our weakest moments.

When not on stage or working with leaders, Caleb can be found at home with his partner, Kara, and their daughter, Sophie London, trying to convince Kara that their daughter needs a Bernese Mountain Dog puppy. While he hasn't succeeded yet, Caleb remains determined to keep trying.

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM VISIT EXHIBITORS

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom

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

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *High Capacity Leadership: How to Harness Your Stress to Fuel Your Success.* Most education leaders have been doing as much as possible for as long as possible and they feel maxed out. This is a real leadership challenge that we are facing. Because when we as leaders outstretch our capacity, it directly impacts our relationships, our performance, and our overall sense of self. But, what if there's another way? What if, instead of perpetually pushing past your limits, you could tap into a wellspring of untapped potential within, transforming your stress into a powerful ally for achieving success? The 'High Capacity Leadership' workshop offers a framework that will help you recalibrate your mindset, regain balance, and enhance your innate leadership capabilities empowering you to manage your responsibilities more effectively while enhancing your overall well-being.

PRESENTER: Caleb Campbell, Keynote Speaker, After Party Session, High Capacity Leadership, Tennessee.

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *The PASSWORD is...Relationships.* The fast-paced game show format will engage participants in this session. Join the Lawrence County Career Technical Center team to learn about a school culture built on relationships and our successful bid to become a Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Lighthouse School. The cornerstone of educational practice at Lawrence County Career Technical Center is building relationships. These relationships with community, staff, parents, and students have built our supportive school culture and yielded positive academic results.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Tina Blankenship, Lawrence County Schools Career Tech Liaison; Dr. Robby Vinzant, CTE Director and Principal; and Callie Terry, Assistant Principal and Counselor, Lawrence County Career Technical Center, Alabama.

LOCATION: Fantasia A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Are Your Students Future Ready? EVERFI's Free Blended Resources for K-12.* Are your students equipped with the critical life skills they need to thrive beyond the classroom? During this presentation, we will discuss tips and tricks for blended learning to enhance student engagement through EVERFI. EVERFI provides educators with engaging, online learning resources in topics such as financial literacy, digital literacy/citizenship, STEM readiness, entrepreneurship, career readiness, and more. Each course is standards-aligned and free of charge to schools. Participants will learn how to integrate EVERFI's no-cost, online courses, and offline lessons together, to enhance current curriculum and student engagement.

PRESENTER: Cassandra Soulis, Senior Implementation Manager- NYS, EVERFI, New York.

LOCATION: Fantasia B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Be a Light in Your Community by Becoming a Beacon School.*

Becoming a Blue Ribbon school is an endeavor that requires a team. Reaching the top of the Lighthouse to light the Beacon of excellence means becoming a school that meets the required criteria in the nine performance areas of high-performing schools. The process of becoming a Beacon school involves documentation and open collaboration to make positive changes within your school. This workshop will discuss how to work as a team and develop a vision as a whole community. Our goal is to help you strive to become a Beacon school.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Dawn Cobb-Fossnes, Principal; Jennifer Duffy, Teacher; Samantha Mancuso, Teacher; Avery Matysik, Teacher; Dariakna Reyes-Yencer, Teacher; and Marc Sweet, Teacher, Ocean Academy Charter School, New Jersey.

LOCATION: Fantasia C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Transforming Learning.* Are you ever tired of your same old classroom environment Eager to switch it up, but it's not the end of the year o worries, we have the answer for you! Join us to learn about transforming your learning environment in ways you never imagined increasing engagement and leave your students captivated. Classroom transformations are not just about the changing of environment, but also about increasing rigor and taking your lessons to the next level. We will share ideas and resources specific for elementary that can easily be adapted to upper grade levels.

PRESENTERS: Jessica Biggert, Reading Intervention Teacher; Cassie Heinz, 5th Grade Teacher; and Jackie Powlis, 4th Grade Teacher, Buena Vista Elementary School, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Fantasia D

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Delaware's "Flight of Passage" Utilizing Priority Standards and Proficiency Scales to Transform the New American High School.* Following our Blue Ribbon Assessment, we developed a framework to improve academic performance, reduce failures, increase student engagement, and build a system for school improvement. We are working with school across the country, and 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. Whether you are a teacher, a principal, or a central office administrator, join us and launch your school on a passage of transformation. This flight is for you! All aboard!

PRESENTERS: Ric Stranges, Principal and Rex Reeder, Assistant Principal, Delaware Hayes High School, and Ted Backus, President, Delaware City School District, Ohio.

LOCATION: Fantasia E

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Create an Out-of-This-World Student Leadership Event.* This presentation will provide step-by-step instructions for educators to empower today's student leaders by creating an Out-of-This-World-Leadership event. The event aims to bring together middle or high school students from different schools with great minds and attitudes to better prepare them for leadership in their world. When given the opportunities, often, students will step up and take positive roles in their education, communities, and futures. Allowing students to work together, share their ideas, build bridges with other schools, and unite with other student leaders will create a world of acceptance and respect. It also allows students to give their input into their own education and provide a platform for student leadership to accelerate. The presenters will open this world of student leadership by sharing out-of-the-box strategies to effectively guide students into leadership. Attendees will enjoy the interactive planning and organizing of a student leadership event and walk out with a blueprint for their own Out-of-This-World Leadership event.

PRESENTERS: Anita Whitlock, Teacher and Tristan Goodwin, Teacher, Good Hope High School, Alabama.

LOCATION: Fantasia F

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *A Recipe for School Success: Strategies That Will Make a Difference in Improving Your School's Culture.* 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? Learn the common sense, research based strategies that this three-time National Blue Ribbon School and Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Lighthouse School used to improve student achievement while also creating a kid friendly, teacher friendly culture. Strong school culture is the key to making schools more constructive and instructive places. One major challenge for today's educators is building strong emotional and social connections with students. Strategies for planning, designing, and creating environments that foster maximum student learning and development will be discussed to show how to assist students in their paths to academic, social, and emotional success.

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: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Demystifying and Supporting Writing Within and Across the Content Areas.* Far too many students grapple to communicate effectively through writing, but there is a solution. Facilitated by national authority on curriculum, instructional, and school improvement, Donyall D. Dickey, Ed.D. will orient participants to the gold standard model for composition from sources aligned to statewide expectations with attention to: (1) the four types of informational writing; (2) the six text structures that students must consider before and during the composition process; (3) and the role that thesis statements, topic sentences, and supporting evidence play in standards-informed writing. Participants will leave with a concrete blueprint to plan, facilitate, and support writing instruction tightly aligned with universal expectations for composition.

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

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Even Broken Crayons Still Color: School-wide SEL Strategies that Changed a Building's Culture.* Participants will learn about trauma responsive practices such as Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Conscious Discipline, yoga and mindfulness, student voice, and celebrations. These strategies will maximize student learning and belonging at school and reduce disciplinary referrals, as well as provide strategies to increase student attendance rates at school. The presentation is woven with specific student stories that helped to address trauma in the classroom at a Pre-K to 8th grade Title I school.

PRESENTER: Amy Mason is the founder of www.Aim2Educate.com and serves as a senior assessor for Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence. She was the principal at Madison County Elementary, a PK-8th grade Title I school in Gurley, AL from 2015-2022 and recognized in 2021 as AES 's National Distinguished Principal for Alabama.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) III

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

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Conscious Discipline: Creating Emotionally Intelligent Schools Where Social and Academic Skills Soar.* Conscious Discipline is a comprehensive, adult-first, trauma-responsive approach to self-regulation, wellness, and classroom management that is practiced by 20 million adults worldwide. This transformational program is designed to develop awareness, shift mindsets, and build fundamental skills in teachers, school staff, and parents so they can effectively instill these same skills in children. As adults learn to change their perceptions and responses, they can create an environment of safety and connection that fosters learning and problem-solving. Conscious Discipline's field-tested best practices have been cultivated over more than 25 years to provide lasting results for achievement, self-regulation, community-building, and teacher retention. This workshop will give participants an overview of Conscious Discipline and the phases of implementation that lead to fidelity and sustainability.

PRESENTERS: Ashley Dwyer, Senior Manager, Partner Development and Heidi White, Senior Manager, Partner Development, Conscious Discipline, Florida.

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Developing Relationships from Bottom to Top.* Relationships are the key to any successful school and positive relationships must be fostered at every level of a school operation. These relationships must be developed throughout the building, as well as throughout the community, the central office, and all levels of government--local, county, state, and federal. There is not a cookie-cutter approach to the development of these relationships, but there are certain attributes that are essential for these relationships to flourish and to create the best school environment and ultimately, the best school and educational environment possible. Creating the best environment possible should not only be the goal of every school but also of any institution that wants to be successful. There are several attributes that must be developed and/or possessed to reach success. This list includes but is not limited to trustworthiness, integrity, consistency, ethics, love, knowledge, humility, enthusiasm, and commitment. In an environment where people work together and mutually respect one another, goals are more likely to be reached. Achieving goals ensures success for students and personnel.

PRESENTERS: Micah Smothers, Principal, Addison High School and Morgan Blankenship, Chief Financial Officer, Winston County Schools, Alabama.

LOCATION: Fantasia A

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 1st 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 20 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.

PRESENTER: Andrew Anderson, Principal, Barrington Middle School, Rhode Island.

LOCATION: Fantasia B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Reaching Hearts and Changing Minds.* Our thoughts, perceptions, and emotions shape our reality and the same is true for our students. Do you have students with fixed mindsets? This session is for you. It is my hope you will leave this session emotionally and intellectually equipped to shape your students' mindsets through the power of love. In an immersive, cooperative, brain-friendly workshop, we will cover multiple mindsets that affect our students such as Mediocrity, Insecurity, Quitter, Powerless, and Abandoned/Unloved. Then provide research based strategies that help grow these mindsets to Achieving, Self-Confident, Gritty, Empowered, and Belonging/Loved. Strategies used include, Class-building Circle (Restorative Practices), Kagan Cooperative Learning activities, Collaborative Grouping/Teambuilding, and more!

PRESENTER: Corey Throckmorton, Principal, Concord High School, Arkansas.

LOCATION: Fantasia C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *The Role of Whole World & Whole Child in Our Small, Rural School.* 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. 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 Perrell Bell Award winning principal shares the school's journey from a school with seemingly insurmountable problems to a School of Innovation and a 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 school year.

PRESENTERS: Pam Hogue, Principal; Maggie Hogue, Former Student; and Gavin Smith, High School Student, Weiner Elementary School, Arkansas.

LOCATION: Fantasia D

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Grant Writing - Keys to Being Competitive.* For many educators and administrators, the mention of grant writing instills fear. The prospect of writing a grant is daunting. This workshop is intended to be an overview and provide you with confidence to begin your own grant writing journey. You will gain insight into the funder's perspective. After all, they are the ones with the money. And a process for determining whether you should apply for a grant or not will be examined. Finally, an overview will be presented to provide insight into what makes a grant proposal competitive. Time will be provided for questions and answers.

PRESENTER: Debbie Edwards, Grant Consultant, Mesa Public Schools/Consulting Services of D and J, Inc., Arizona.

LOCATION: Fantasia E

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Building a School Culture that Assures Dignity at Work*

Identifying, understanding, and eliminating workplace bullying in K12 to assure dignity for all staff. National Workplace Bullying Coalition experts will help participants to understand and define workplace bullying and its effects on teachers, staff, and students. Presenters will explore the common types of workplace bullying in schools. Presenters will also offer solutions at the personal, organizational, and societal level to prevent, detect, remedy, and eliminate workplace bullying to assure dignity for all workers in education.

PRESENTERS: Jennifer Ozgur and Heidi Marlinghaus, Co-Founders, *A T.R.A.I.L. of Conversations*, Pennsylvania, Dr. Jerry Carbo, President, and a panel of experts from National Workplace Bullying Coalition, New Jersey.

LOCATION: Fantasia F

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *That Is, It! We are Turning This School Around.* The release of scores from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) provides a jarring reminder of the pandemic's impact on academic achievement. Many students are not where they should be, both academically and emotionally. We are not facing just an achievement gap; an achievement chasm is opening. Educators and school leaders can actively close these gaps now before they widen into chasms by supporting educators to develop teaching strategies and processes that can make a difference to close the learning gaps among students and accelerate learning for all students. School turnaround is designed to address urgent needs and produce immediate, impactful change. School turnaround is double-digit achievement gains in two years or less. This session will provide educators with effective, scalable, and evidence-based strategies to provide academic help to an unprecedented number of struggling students.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Dawn Cobb-Fossnes, Principal, Ocean Charter Academy School, New Jersey and Nancy Guzman, Literacy Specialist/Consultant, School Turnaround Expert, and BRSE Board Member and Senior Assessor, North Carolina.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Promoting Student Achievement through Common Instructional Knowledge, Language, and Tools.* Facilitated by national authority on instructional leadership and district effectiveness, Donyall D. Dickey, Ed.D., this session will expose participants to a finite and manageable set of actionable, measurable, and replicable practices that have transformed student achievement in urban, suburban, and rural schools/districts throughout the United States (before, during, and since the pandemic). Balanced by theory and practicality, Dr. Dickey will delineate processes for aligning daily instruction with the nuanced expectations of standards and high-stakes summative assessments necessary to drive and sustain academic achievement in the core content areas. This diagnostic and prescriptive approach to improving student outcomes is centered around the strategic calibration of instructional knowledge, language, and tools at each organizational tier (e.g., teachers, teacher leader, school-based leaders, central office leaders). Participants will leave informed, energized, and equipped with a concrete blueprint for integrating literacy practices into instruction in all grades and content areas characterized by support and accountability.

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

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Coffee House Coaching.* One of the struggles as an administrator is to coach teachers without losing instructional time or asking teachers to give their time before or after school. In this session, you will learn how we implemented collaborative school-wide coaching with buy-in from our faculty and staff. This presentation will provide the tools to implement school-wide coaching without teachers sacrificing their planning periods and time before or after school. We will also discuss the collaborative nature of the coaching sessions and strategies to make this work in your school. These coaching sessions assisted faculty, staff, and administration to become better focused on our instruction, assessments, classroom management, better communicators, and becoming more culturally responsive.

PRESENTERS: Mr. Tony Bonds, Principal and Dr. Monica Moon, Assistant Principal, Russellville Middle School, Alabama.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) III

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM COOKIES AND LEMONADE BREAK

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Lobby

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS D – WEDNESDAY

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Let's Turn That Data into Gold!* In today's educational landscape, tailored instruction and data-driven methodologies have become pivotal in ensuring student success. Acknowledging the diverse needs of learners, our presentation aims to explain how we have established a small group instruction program that prioritizes data-driven insights to create specific and focused lesson plans, effectively targeting individual student needs. Our approach is to implement a daily schedule that includes a comprehensive small group instruction period that utilizes real-time data to identify learning gaps, tailor instruction accordingly, and foster a conducive environment for accelerated student growth and achievement. We will present information on how we dive deep into the data about our students, employing a diverse array of progressive assessments that grant us comprehensive insights into their progress. As we continue our journey of data-driven and student-focused instruction, our unwavering commitment is to ensure that every student flourishes academically and grows holistically in our learning environment.

PRESENTERS: Maria Strongilis, Assistant Principal; Ming Chin Lin, Assistant Principal; Agatha Paduano, Teacher; Annie Li Teacher; and Monique Jutt, Teacher, P.S. 170, The Ralph A. Fabrizio School, New York.

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Building Relationships in a Virtual World.* Virtual best practices are crucial to your success as an educator. It makes no difference if you are a member of a virtual school, a hybrid model, or a traditional brick and mortar school, as maximizing the impact of virtual communication and meetings is crucial to school success. In this session, Alicia Hughes, the Executive Director of the largest public school in the state of South Carolina will share the time tested ways she has utilized all available communication platforms and modes to build a strong school culture to drive success.

PRESENTER: Alicia Hughes, Executive Director, South Carolina Connections Academy, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Fantasia A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *The Arts as a Driving Force for Academic Success.* This presentation will provide an overview of how arts-integrated teaching and learning can support the growth, development, and academic motivation of high school students. Presenters will offer connections to research on the arts and everyday learning at their school to highlight how students use their passions and strengths to meet academic and artistic outcomes and goals. The Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts has always known the secret. When students love what they do and are passionately involved in artistic study, their creativity and learning skills transfer to academics. It is true. It is proven. Our successful students are happy, engaged, and ready for the future. The arts are academic!

PRESENTERS: Christina Lincoln, CEO and Jennifer Levernier, Principal, Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts, Pennsylvania.

LOCATION: Fantasia B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Level Up! Engaging Students in a Gamified Classroom.* This is a session about creating a gamified classroom and its positive effects on student engagement in an ELA classroom. Jacy will share how she built an app for her students that increases participation, encourages teamwork, and rewards students without changing her curriculum. Best of all, it takes very little time away from instruction! All the session participants will leave with an array of resources for adapting their game plan to fit their specific grade level and subject. Jacy will provide ideas and resources for conceptualizing a year-long or semester-long gaming theme and will share insights on working with an educational gamification and storification research project headquartered in Finland.

PRESENTER: Jacy Douglas, Teacher, Priceville Elementary School, Alabama.

LOCATION: Fantasia C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *SEL is the Plate.* SEL isn't "ust another thing" added to teachers' plates, but instead is the plate everything else rests on. he "go slow to go fast later" mindset with SEL - It's not simply a block of time at the beginning of the day, but rather a mindset that SEL is the foundational element in which the curriculum is built on top of. Without a strong SEL foundation throughout the day, the lessons are not as effective, efficient, or purposeful. We will discuss goal setting, implementing student self-assessments, morning meetings & restorative circles (& the difference between the two), how to explicitly teach empathy, strategies children can implement for mood regulation, & communication techniques (student to student & teacher to student).

PRESENTER: Tracy Bailey, First Grade Teacher, Madison County Elementary School, Alabama.

LOCATION: Fantasia D



SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Take Me to a Higher Ground.* Developing exceptional and well-informed faculty and staff starts with purposeful and effective professional development. Instruction must incorporate a variety of current strategies for students' course delivery and effectively motivate and maximize learning. To become an expert at anything requires practice, practicing correctly makes perfect. To become an expert in education one must be an ongoing learner. The face of education is changing college students' selection of majors or career choices often do not include the field of education. Therefore, as educators or administrators we must make sure our PD programs are meaningful, specific, and relevant. This session will offer suggestions for effective PD from the book *Platinum Principals Making Your School A #1 Hit*. The session will include tips and handouts for successfully implementing effective and useful Professional Development. Recognitions include National Blue Ribbon School, Lighthouse Blue Ribbon School, and Alabama Banner School. Additionally, the distinguished Terrell Bell Award in Leadership was presented to Ms. Alexander by the United State Secretary of Education during her tenure as principal.

PRESENTER: Hattie Alexander, retired Principal and Educational Consultant, Mobile County Public School System, Alabama.

LOCATION: Fantasia E

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Future of Education: Integrating Hands-On STEM, AI, and CS Skills Into Core Classes.* Current Computer Science programs ask students to "sort these random numbers using a for loop" or "move this turtle 2 steps up and to the right". This doesn't feel real-world and relevant to many students and zaps their interest. Students who graduate from an AP Computer Science class don't have several critical skills (like interacting with 3rd party data sources) to make a useful product. Nikil Ragav, winner of the University of Pennsylvania's President's Innovation Prize and founder of inventXYZ, discusses an alternate approach where students design, build, and code real-world products with technical support from real-world experts. This session will show you how students can learn how to:

- Recreate a historical empire as a video game using Unreal Engine in World History. This is the same tool used to create Fortnite.
- Build and code electronic music instruments in Algebra, where they realize that imaginary numbers and sine waves are useful!
- Use cameras and AI in Physics to analyze the forces and torque on their joints as they play sports to improve their technique. Similar techniques are used in the NFL and in sports medicine for injured athlete-recovery team programs.
- Use data science and an industry tool called Tableau in Language Arts to visualize trends across 100,000 data points on topics they care about (such as sneaker sales, social media influencers, crime, housing prices) and then write a blog article using interactive data visualizations to substantiate their claims.

All-in-all, each of these experiences are designed to introduce students to a tool and use-case from industry and prepare students for jobs that pay \$100k-\$220k/yr.

PRESENTER: Nikil Ragav, CEO/Founder, inventXYZ, Texas.

LOCATION: Fantasia F

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Learning Beyond Boundaries - Technology that Makes a Difference.* Students can go beyond the confines of the classroom and make a real difference in their local and global communities using technology. For over 20 years, the GeoTech Lab at Bishop Dunne Catholic School partners with community partners from local to international organizations utilizing geospatial technologies. Our top researchers (our students) will share projects and how they make a difference. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the technology tools used and take part in small group sessions to brainstorm projects for their own school communities.

PRESENTERS: Christine Voigt, Director of Curriculum and Instructional Technology; Brad Baker, GeoTech Lab Director; and GeoTech Student Research Team, Bishop Dunne Catholic School, Texas.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Rolling into STEM.* Decatur City Schools in Alabama is the most diverse district in the state of Alabama. In the past several years, they have invested millions of dollars in STEM projects to ensure that every student can code, create, and be prepared for life after graduation. Learn about some of the district initiatives created for students including: the STEAM Engine-the district's mobile STEAM lab, Greenpower Racing, a multimillion dollar Career Academy for students, drone racing, and elementary STEAM initiatives.

PRESENTERS: Faith Plunkett, Instructional Technology Coach and Dr. Michael Douglas, Superintendent, Decatur City Schools, Alabama.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Building Bridges through Relationships.* When relationships are present, bridges are built! Relationships within all stakeholder groups are important in creating a positive school culture and have been proven to have an above average effect on student achievement. Students want to know that their teacher genuinely cares for them as a learner AND as a person. To create a positive culture built through relationships we must collaborate, receive feedback, and make the time to get to know the community in which we serve. In this session, we will explore meaningful ways teachers and administrators can build relationships with their students, fellow staff members, and families.

PRESENTERS: Amanda Kubbs, Principal; Jacque Pollard, Assistant Principal; and Erica Joefreda, Math Interventionist, Doby's Bridge Elementary School, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) III



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November 29, 2023
1:30-2:30 PM
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The graphic features a lightbulb icon with a colorful filament, a box containing the event details, and the EVERFI logo with the tagline 'from Blackbaud'. The background is light blue with abstract shapes at the bottom.

DAY THREE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2023

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM REGISTRATION

LOCATION: East Registration Counter

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

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS E - THURSDAY

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Parental Engagement Investing, "Maximum R.O.I"*. There is substantial evidence to support the idea that parent's involvement in children's learning (e.g., discussing children's schoolwork, attending parent-teacher conferences, collaborating with teachers on how to best support their child) facilitates children's learning and ultimately their success (Pomerantz & Moorman, 2010). Parent involvement must be clearly defined for parents and teachers to eliminate the gap in understanding what involvement looks like at the school level. The schools and district team must begin to develop an Action Team Partnership to initiate a plan for volunteers (Epstein et al., 2018). Mapp et al. (2017) found parents are more receptive to engagement when they feel fully implored to get involved through intentional methods that demonstrate the school's willingness to include parents in the school. A framework must be established to develop a comprehensive plan to bring the school and community together. By the end of this session, participants will have: an understanding of parent engagement; know how to build connections with parents/families; have tools to support the implementation of Parent Engagement Framework; know how to support teachers in building collaborative relationships with families; have strategies in your toolbox to support parent engagement; have ideas on how to collect data on your current state of engagement; have strategies to support you with creating a welcoming environment for all families; develop parent engagement goals for your school community, and learn about early literacy resources to support families.

PRESENTER: Dr. Lutashia Dove, Director of Elementary and PreK Programs, Edgecombe County Public Schools, North Carolina.

LOCATION: Fantasia A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *I Believe in Inquiry*. Participants will learn how to implement high-yield inquiry-based strategies in their schools! Learn how inquiry-based instruction can be infused into relationship-building as well as rigorous teaching. Participants will be given time and space to engage in hands-on learning engagements that are being used in an IB PYP school but can easily be a part of any classroom. Inquiry-based instruction has been the primary instructional strategy for Park Magnet, an IB World School. This has led to Park being a three-time National Blue Ribbon School! Students are encouraged to ask questions, explore, inquire, and reflect through transdisciplinary teaching and learning. Park Magnet remains in the top 10 Best Schools in Arkansas.

PRESENTERS: Kristal Brandon, Principal and Marissa Burton, Assistant Principal and IB PYP Coordinator, Park Magnet, an IB World School, Arkansas.

LOCATION: Fantasia B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *I Don't Teach Language Arts. How Do I Teach Literacy?* Learn how instructional leaders can support 9-12 teachers to effectively plan and implement literacy strategies. This session will equip you with the tools and information you need to support and lead your teachers to leverage literacy to engage students across all subject areas. Participants will experience specific strategies to help students speak, listen, read, and write in the classroom. Additionally, the session will include best practices for leading literacy-focused professional learning.

PRESENTERS: Matt Stratemeyer, Principal and Lucie Ausburn, Assistant Principal, East Jackson Comprehensive High School, Georgia.

LOCATION: Fantasia C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *S.O.S - Supporting Our Students: Riding the Wave to Success!* In this session, we will share how to transform your school to one that fosters student growth through a comprehensive, multi-faceted system of supports. By deliberately instituting strategies that enhance our student achievement, two schools in our district have been awarded National Blue Ribbon recognition and three others have ranked in the top of the state's schools. Learn how to target each specific subgroup to increase student success and build professional capacity. From tiered interventions focused on academics and social-emotional wellness to reorganizing our district structures to focus on student growth, our district has created a tidal wave for student success. You will leave our session with numerous strategies and resources that are sure to have a purposeful, effective, and lasting impact on your students and school community, so you may ride your own wave to success.

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

LOCATION: Fantasia D

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *The Resilient Leader.* The job description for principals has changed since Covid-19 entered our world. According to Education Weekly magazine, over 40% of our principals have indicated they have thought about leaving the job and changing careers. This session will emphasize how school leaders can become more productive in their schools. Scott Stewart will share simple ways to become more efficient as a school leader, while managing the day to day expectations of the job. This session will provide insight on how to accomplish goals and motivate people.

PRESENTER: Scott Stewart - Since Scott stepped down from the Principalship at nationally acclaimed New Albany High School in Ohio, he has been training and developing school leaders throughout the United States. Scott is the CEO and Founder of his own LLC company, Leverage Leaders. He is the Chairman of the Board for Blue Ribbon of Excellence and as well as a Senior Assessor. He also serves as the Director of the Principals Resource Network in Central Ohio. Additionally, he serves as Principal Coach for the South Carolina State Department of Ed. Scott has mentored some 75 Principals in Midwest and Southeast and has presented to hundreds of educators throughout the United States, China, and Germany.

LOCATION: Fantasia E

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Parents and Teachers Talking Together Is a Two Way Street: Positive Communication is the Fuel for All Relationships!* This session will focus on two questions families and teachers will seek to answer; 1) What do we want for our students and 2) How do we get what we want? Participants will be introduced to this two-way conversation model as a tool for building trusting relationships between families and schools. The PT3 conversation has been a successful strategy in schools across Kentucky. Implementation begins with identifying and training facilitators to lead the PT3 conversation. The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence provides training, coaching, and support to new facilitators. The facilitator manual includes preparation instructions, supplies needed, and a detailed agenda to host the event. Please see the Table of Contents (prichardcommittee.org)

PRESENTERS: Laura Beard, Director of the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership, Prichard Committee; Brooke Gill, Vice President for the Kentucky Collaborative for Families and Schools, Prichard Committee; and Melody Brooks, Finances and Human Resources Manager, Prichard Committee, Kentucky.

LOCATION: Fantasia F

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *“Guarantee Student Success” - The Secret is in Your Values as a Leader.* Being a principal is one of the loneliest jobs, which is why I love when we come together, because nobody knows what it's like to be in our shoes, like we do. How would you love to learn a technique to guarantee student success this year? What if you could find what really motivates your staff, especially those who are not performing at their best. In this session, I will model for you and take time to practice how to find out what drives and motivates you and your staff to show up every day. Knowing this can make or break your student and school success. When you leave this session, you will have the tools to implement your own values elicitation not only for yourself, but also with your admin team and staff. Get ready! This session will change your life forever as a school leader! North Star Elementary School (National Blue Ribbon School, 2021)

PRESENTER: Dr. Karin Jakubowski, Principal, North Star Elementary School, Delaware.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Giving to Get: A Gracious Educator's Path to Learning, Learning On, & Leveraging Emotional Intelligence.* There exists no shortage of advice for educators who, daily, are called on to resolve conflict. Most of what we hear and read erroneously treats the desire to understand and accommodate those who think differently as a zero-sum game with a gracious educator all too often finishing as—you guessed it—the big loser. Seek out this subject matter in your local bookstore, online, or via social media, and you will find throngs of experts and pseudo-experts encouraging their audience to believe those who operate this way are fundamentally flawed and must commit to being fixed. But what if there is nothing wrong with this default, especially among educators? What if emotionally intelligent teachers and school leaders--sometimes labeled people-pleasers--don't suffer at all from “the disease to please” or if the label “approval junkie” doesn't aptly capture their motivation? And what if their ability to meet their stakeholders' needs without sacrificing their own peace and purpose is an integral part of what makes them great? Join me for a different look at the impact this prevalent personality trait has on the conflict resolvers themselves and on those with whom they interact. We will explore ways such educators can leverage their emotional intelligence through a series of empowering mindsets, moves, and messages. A lifelong people-pleaser and now PK-12 principal, author Lisa Parry shares what she has learned in her 30 years as an educator who strives to prioritize her students, their families, and her staff.

PRESENTER: Lisa Parry, PreK-12 Principal, Arlington Elementary School, South Dakota.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) II

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, District 5 of Lexington and Richland Counties, 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: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) III

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS F - THURSDAY

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Implementing STEAM with Mindfulness.* This presentation will provide strategies on how to establish and maintain culturally responsive teaching and community engagement through mindfulness activities with a STEAM focus. The presentation will address STEAM centered mindfulness strategies that connect with student, staff, and community initiatives to support social-emotional learning. Specific examples will include cross-curricular activities that can be done at home and at school to increase student engagement. This presentation will provide specific examples of how the entire school community can work as a team, support teaching and learning, and increase student engagement for all learners with a mindfulness approach.

PRESENTERS: Andrea Prola, Principal; Amanda Longtin, STEAM Teacher; Andrew Griffith, Science Teacher; and Shelley Rokos, Science Teacher, Brook Forest Elementary School, Illinois.

LOCATION: Fantasia A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *How Does the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence (BRSE) Process Bring Magic to a School District?* Is your school district just average when it comes to data, culture/climate, active teaching and learning, or parent & community support? Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence can transform your district from being "Good to Great"? The BRSE process covers nine categories that can change a school system just by going through the assessment process. If you want answers to becoming a Blue Ribbon School District, then this session is for you! Attend this session and you will find out how the BRSE process moved other school districts forward. In this session, you will see how a district moved from a C to an A on the state report card along with schools moving from a D to an A for accountability. After attending this session, you will be able to align the Blue Ribbon Blueprint to your district strategic plan or the continuous improvement plan. Also, this session is all about funding a school or school district school improvement process and recognition program. Don't miss out on the ways to get your district a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence School District!

PRESENTER: April Stansberry, Director of Sales, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, Florida.

LOCATION: Fantasia B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Relationships Through Circles: Using Restorative Practices to Build School Community.* Restorative practices aim to foster a sense of community and responsibility within Dows Lane Elementary School by promoting healthy relationships, reconciliation, and addressing conflicts in a supportive and inclusive way. This approach to discipline and conflict resolution emphasizes the importance of understanding and focusing on the impact of actions, rather than a punitive response. By creating an environment where students, staff, and faculty feel heard, valued, and supported, restorative practices help increase a sense of community and belonging in the school. This ultimately leads to a more positive and productive learning environment.

PRESENTERS: Thomas Chickery, Assistant Principal, Dows Lane Elementary School, and Dr. Gail Duffy, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Human Resources, Irvington School District, New York.

LOCATION: Fantasia C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Leading Learning Walks and Instructional Rounds in Your School and District.* Learning is visible! To identify exemplars, bright spots, or even barriers to student learning, you must visit classrooms and target areas of high return. Let us share effective protocols for leading learning walks and instructional rounds to help school and district administrators provide strategic, actionable, and valuable feedback to principals, school leadership teams, and teachers. You will hear from school leaders who have leveraged the protocols to effect double-digit percentage point gains in student proficiency in 2021 and 2022!

PRESENTER: Dr. Susan Stevens, Principal, Director of Early Intervention and Elementary Academics, Greenville County Schools, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Fantasia D

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *The Missing Pieces: Gain 4 Pieces to the Puzzle of Multilingual Learner Success.* This session will provide participants with strategies that can be easily implemented in any school setting with a multilingual learner population. During the session, participants will learn how to connect with teachers by providing a monthly ML strategy and building speaking and writing skills within the general education classroom. Participants will also learn how to provide impactful family night events and build school to home communication. Suggestions for scheduling, grouping for instruction, and lesson planning will also be included.

PRESENTERS: Brenda Blue, Principal and Malinda Kennedy, Multi-Lingual Teacher, Pritchardville Elementary School, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Fantasia E

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Igniting the SPARK: Speaking to the Potential, Ability and Resilience in ALL Kids.* Regardless of their circumstances, there is a SPARK within every human being that cannot be damaged (yes, even after 2020). This SPARK is the birthplace of resilience, well-being, commonsense, intelligence, solutions, creativity, and innovation. This presentation will explore how innate resilience is uncovered through a simple understanding of the mind and the stress resistance needed to overcome trauma is naturally formed.

PRESENTERS: Brooke Wheldon-Reece, Chief Executive Officer and Ashley Hunt, Vice President of Learning and Program Development, Spark Initiative, Florida.

LOCATION: Fantasia F

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Create a SAFER Learning Environment with Integrated Security and Communications Solutions.*

Fostering a nurturing environment for students is essential to promoting learning in schools and on campuses. Maintaining safety and security while keeping buildings and grounds easily accessible to students, teachers, and staff is an ongoing challenge. Technology-based solutions help to mitigate risks and increase operational efficiency, while preserving a welcoming atmosphere that is so important to student and staff performance. The SAFER approach uses integrated solutions to increase overall security, enable faster responses to potential risks, and promote a sense of safety among the school or campus community. It covers the ability to: **S**ense - Detect something is happening; **A**lert - Notify the right people; **F**ortify - Activate fortification systems automatically; **E**ngage - Target communications to mitigate threats; and **R**espond - Empower responders with information and communications. This session will explain how combining video surveillance, intrusion detection, access control, and communications technology improve security and safety while minimizing the complexity of operations – enhancing student, teacher, and staff outcomes in educational facilities.

PRESENTER: Craig Oberschlake, Business Development Manager, SLED, Bosch Security Systems, LLC.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Dealing with Angry Ducks 2.0: Positive Leadership in the Most Challenging Circumstances.*

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, Executive Director of Middle & Secondary Education, Fort Mill School District, and Caryn Scroggs, Assistant Principal, Gold Hill Middle School, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Accelerating Student Impact through Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).*

P.S. 249 has remained on a steady pathway to success, closing the achievement gap for a previously underserved student body and transforming a failing school to one of the highest performing schools in all of New York City. Proudly a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School, one of the key attributes to this success has been creating and strengthening our commitment to academic excellence for all students. One approach to this is our MTSS framework that is built on a foundation meant to accelerate impact. Through quick intervention, daily targeted small group instruction, and ongoing progress monitoring, our educators can focus on academic achievement and help all students thrive. In this session, explore strategies for positioning your school on a trajectory to long-lasting success through an MTSS lens.

PRESENTERS: Elisa Brown, Principal; Ana DeJesus, Assistant Principal; Julie Jay, Kindergarten Teacher; Tiffany Kourouos, 2nd Grade Teacher; Yadira Hans, Teacher; and Gillian Shotwell, Teacher, P.S. 249, The Caton School, New York.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) III

11:30 AM - NOON VISIT EXHIBITORS

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom

NOON - 1:15 PM BEACON LUNCHEON

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom

Moderators - Dennis W. Bega, Senior Assessor, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, Georgia and Jennifer Ozgur, MEd and certified Appreciative Inquiry Practitioner, Pennsylvania.

Special Remarks - Pam McAuley, Vice President of Partnerships, Just Right Reader.

General Session: *Interactive Lunch and Learn: Excellence Exchange for Sustainable Success.*

Join robust conversations about the workshops you attended and the ones you *didn't!* You'll have an opportunity to connect with rich content by sharing your key takeaways, and you'll benefit from learning about the "Ah-ha" moments from others at your table. This strategic lunch and learn allows for a rich exchange of ideas to amplify your conference experience and share valuable insights and strategies for sustainable successes in your school systems. We know that the more you talk about a topic, the more likely you are to implement the principles; so, enjoy this informal yet informative session for maximum benefit.

Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, Beacon Schools

*Alex Green Elementary School
Christa McAuliffe Middle School
Greenwood Elementary School
Hazelwood Elementary School
Hidden Cove STEAM Academy
Leisure Park Elementary School
Little Fort Elementary School
South Dale Middle School
Spicewood Park Elementary School
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1:30 PM - 2:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS G - THURSDAY

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Good to Great: Making positive impacts on your school culture, climate, and morale!* Finding ways to build staff morale can be challenging in today's educational climate. In our building, we use specific strategies to build a positive culture that supports and grows positive staff morale. This presentation will share strategies we utilize daily that can be implemented immediately at any school site. As leaders we know that teacher morale affects EVERYTHING! Teachers are overwhelmed with more and more demands from the district and state as well as the ever changing landscape with parent and student needs. Finding ways to support and build a positive culture and climate is essential. As building leaders we set the tone and are responsible for growing and supporting the needs of our teachers. By focusing on our teachers, their attitudes and outlook we can affect every aspect in the building. Happy teachers create happy classrooms and positive teacher retention rates.

PRESENTERS: Janet Dotson, Principal and Angie Waymire, School Counselor, Leisure Park Elementary School, Oklahoma.

LOCATION: Fantasia A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *There's No Place Like Data Teams, There's No Place Like Data Teams.* It doesn't take a wizard to figure out the secret to data teams. Come follow the yellow brick road to high student achievement through the implementation of effective data teaming, research based small group instructional strategies, and consistent progress monitoring. (Examples of each will be shared during the presentation.) When these three entities are combined, we can successfully meet the ever-changing needs of all students. It takes courage, brains, and heart! 2022 National Blue Ribbon School recipient, Blair Oaks Elementary, is excited to share their HOW, WHY, and WHAT of data teams. Watch the magic happen when students move from below level benchmark to on/above level benchmark.

PRESENTERS: Tara Bishop, Principal and Adrienne Koester, Teacher, Blair Oaks Elementary School Missouri.

LOCATION: Fantasia B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Invigorate Your Online Learning.* Shifting from in person to online professional development presents unique challenges, but it is undeniably a convenient and less expensive solution for remote learners and those who need flexible options. When The Collaborative Center for Literacy Development (CCLD) shifted their summer institutes from face to face to online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic, directors feared the teachers attending the workshops would find the experience less effective than in previous years when PD was held face-to-face. Surprisingly, this was not the case at all! Teachers still found the workshops relevant and valuable. This session presented by CCLD trainers will share how the organization effectively delivered high quality professional development remotely and provide tips and advice on how to keep your learners engaged even when they are not in the same room.

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

LOCATION: Fantasia C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *I've Got the Magic in Me!* Feeling burned out, exhausted, tired?? Teaching just isn't what it used to be for you? Come to this session to help reignite that fire and find the MAGIC in YOU! We'll talk about practical and easy ways for you to be a ROCKSTAR educator. Be intentional, find your tribe, and make magic happen! See you there! Topics Included: being intentional, inner voice, choices, finding your tribe with Instagram/Twitter hashtags, collaboration, Canva, whole brain teaching, student dignity, and making educational magic!

PRESENTER: Sara Kirkpatrick, NBCT, Educators in Training Instructor, Cullman Area Technology Academy, Alabama.

LOCATION: Fantasia D

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Road Map to Success: Multilingual Learner Success on High Stakes Tests.* This session will provide a roadmap to the destination of student success by focusing on preparation and strategies for English Language Proficiency assessments and State standardized assessments. This includes a bootcamp model, general education strategies, relaying parent information and rewards for success. Participants will also learn about after school test preparation programs, groups, and shared test prep lesson plans.

PRESENTERS: Brenda Blue, Principal and Malinda Kennedy, Multi-Lingual Teacher, Pritchardville Elementary School, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Fantasia E

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Ensuring Inclusion and Equity in the Classroom through Technology.* We all learn differently. However, many schools approach learning with a one-size-fits-all mentality and have struggled to incorporate new information about learning and how the brain works. This session will help you understand learning differences, help you cultivate a growth mindset, and show you how technology can help you support personalized learning. Participants will need a smart device during the session with internet access. Outcomes: 1.

Review and understand learning differences to ensure access for all students. 2. Introduced to the growth mindset idea. 3. Practice with technology that will assist access for all in the classroom.

PRESENTER: Dr. Ashley Kazery, Professor, University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi.

LOCATION: Fantasia F

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Cultivating a Culture of Excellence in Education.*

"Wilson School later known as Wilson High School was the first public high school in Florence, SC established in 1866. At first a private school for black children, it was established by the New England Branch of the Freedmen's Union Commission. Wilson High School became a public school after the South Carolina Constitution of 1865, which authorized a system of free public schools. Because of its rich historic history, Wilson High School continues to cultivate the importance of student academic achievement through its vision statement of "Knowledge, Skills, and Character". Our presentation will focus on how culture and community support positively impact student success."

PRESENTERS: Dr. Eric Robinson, Principal; Sarhonda Wilkes, Instructional Coach; and Alex Sims, Staff, Wilson High School, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Soarin', Transforming a Big School into Smaller Houses.*

Attendees will come away with practical strategies to transform their school into a more connected, personal, and engaging place. Delaware Hayes High School is in year eight of implementing our 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 smaller feeling, more personal and connected learning community. If you are looking for ways to enhance your school culture and provide more opportunities for student and teacher leadership, you are in for a magical ride! Come and soar with us!

PRESENTERS: Ric Stranges, Principal and Rex Reeder, Assistant Principal, Delaware Hayes High School, and Ted Backus, President, Delaware City School District, Ohio.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Caught in the Middle: Creating the Ideal Middle School Culture.*

The concept of "middle school" has evolved since the first ones were built in the early 's. That evolution continues in the aftermath of Covid, culture wars, and tough economics. The Association of Middle Level Educators (AMLE), formerly the National Middle School Association, has based its mission around their 1982 position paper "What We Believe". AMLE believes that "the true middle school is one that has been planned and organized to address the developmental and cultural needs of students of ages 10 to ." Does that really happen very often, or do numbers and dollars drive middle school design? While many people believe it's hard to love a middle school kid, we'll discuss some reasons why we love them. A 25-year veteran, award-winning middle school principal shares his observations, experiences, and conclusions.

PRESENTER: Edward Bernetich, Professor, Cleveland State University; two-time U.S Department of Education Blue Ribbon Principal; Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School Principal; International Distinguished Principal - Xian, China (2006); and BRSE Senior Assessor, Ohio.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) III

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS H – THURSDAY

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Mind Over Matter: Critical Thinking Skills for Today's Middle School Students.* Critical thinking skills are more important than ever in today's environment of information overload. Students spend many hours of the day memorizing information, and many more hours receiving information via technology. To encourage higher ordering thinking skills, students need to know how to creatively analyze and evaluate information. In this session, we seek to encourage you to embrace the art of teaching students to think critically. Join us as we explore the brain of a middle school student and present evidence-based information regarding how to teach the middle school mind to think critically.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Dawn Cobb-Fossnes, Principal, Ocean Academy Charter School, New Jersey and Dr. Bunnie Claxton, Director of Applied Research Liberty University, Virginia.

LOCATION: Fantasia A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Expecting EXCELLENCE...Achieving EXCELLENCE...* Enjoy this adventure exploring academic EXCELLENCE by joining two spirited veteran educators for an interactive session on reaching the needs of every student and teacher in an urban setting. This session will take current best practices and integrate them with tried-and-true proven practices to move your school to excellence. We will provide you with the tools to make Learning the Greatest ADVENTURE FOR ALL as we uncover strategies to create an environment that nurtures excellence, promotes Collective Teacher Efficacy, and fosters academic achievement. Your presenters come to you with vast experience as classroom teachers, literacy coach, Assistant Principal, District Supervisor, Building Principals, Educational Consultant, and National Blue Ribbon school recipients. When you expect EXCELLENCE, you achieve EXCELLENCE.

PRESENTERS: LuAnn Jacobs, Elementary Principal, Omaha Public Schools Wilson Focus, and Nanette Beller, Educational Consultant, US Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Recipients, Nebraska.

LOCATION: Fantasia B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Chat Your Way to Engaged Students: Revolutionizing Education with Chatbots in the Classroom.* In this exciting and innovative presentation, we'll explore the world of chatbots and their potential to transform the way we teach and learn. Chatbots have already made their mark in the world of business and customer service, but now they are poised to revolutionize education as well. Come join us as we explore the exciting world of chatbots and discover how they can help us to create engaged and motivated students who are eager to learn! New Hope Elementary School was a 2022 BRSE Lighthouse School.

PRESENTER: Dr. Jamie Burton, Principal, New Hope Elementary School, Alabama.

LOCATION: Fantasia C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Twisting Strategies for a Successful Title I School.* The Fairfield Magnet School for Math and Science team embraces a commitment to doing whatever it takes through this year's theme-T.W.I.S.T. ("Together We Inspire Students and Teachers to do whatever it takes to cultivate brilliance in every student"). Ongoing efforts for best practices and family engagement have led to exceptional growth for students and have resulted in the school being named a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School and a 2022 National ESEA Distinguished School. Presenters will share their TWISTed strategies for success in a Title I school!

PRESENTERS: Carlene Unangst, Instructional Facilitator and Gale Whitfield, Principal, Fairfield Magnet School for Math and Science, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Fantasia D

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *You Matter.* You matter will share insights and strategies to support educators in their pursuit of reigniting the flame. By learning about the impact of mental health on teaching and learning, educators will be equipped with tools to better support scholars and themselves. You matter will help educators re-commit to their calling as educators and be encouraged to never give up, even when times are tough.

PRESENTER: Logan Taylor, Co-CEO, YBNormal?, Tennessee.

LOCATION: Fantasia E

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *UDL for PD: A Practical Guide for Professional Development.*

Learn about the Universal Design for Learning guidelines as they apply to adult learners. Participants will explore ways that UDL can be used to create professional development sessions, and teachers will be provided with multiple means of engagement, representation, and implementation. This presentation will serve as a guide for implementing the UDL guidelines in PD sessions by presenting background information about UDL, examples of implementing UDL in PD, and practice for presenters to integrate UDL into future PD sessions fully. Participants will leave passionate about ensuring that all students can succeed, regardless of age.

PRESENTER: Ashley Kazery, Professor, University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi.

LOCATION: Fantasia F

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Empower, Elevate, and Enact Student Voice to Build a*

Community of Learners and Leaders. Can you imagine spending seven hours a day not having a voice, opinion or say in what is happening around you? What if someone asked how you would like to shape your educational experiences? Students who are supported in using their voice become proactive learners who explore their interests and develop critical, collaborative skills that extend beyond the walls of high school. Empowered students whose voices are elevated through contribution to decision making processes become resilient through adversity and develop skills to understand problem solving and perspective. Join us to learn how Deerfield High School (3-time Blue Ribbon Award winner) has cultivated student respect for their education through encouraging student voice in the classroom, extracurriculars, and the school community. Join the presenters and fellow colleagues to learn how to empower, elevate and enact student voice in your school. This session will enable you to reflect on your own practices, learn from others, and build a plan for increasing student voice at your school.

PRESENTERS: Kathryn Anderson, Principal; Brian Verisario, Activities Director; and Nikki Lazzaretto, Dance Teacher and Golden Apple Award Winner 2022, Deerfield High School, Illinois.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Best is the Standard - Setting the Stage for Success with Honest and Targeted Leadership.*

Small changes can create immeasurable gains for your school! At our school we promote and believe, "Best is the Standard," and this is grounded in our culture and our actions. Whether it is having a difficult conversation, analyzing, and refining instructional strategies, or addressing the entire culture of the school, sometimes we (as leaders and educators) must be vulnerable and humble ourselves to see the change we hope to usher in. Join us as pull back the curtain from a cultural and instructionally fractured school to a Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School of Excellence.

PRESENTERS: Adam Coats, Principal and Emily Wilson, Assistant Principal of Instruction, Starr-Iva Middle School, South Carolina.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *RedZone - Focusing on PLC Collaboration and Student Intervention and Acceleration at the Secondary Level.* In the fall of 2020, the Hazel Green High School (HGHS) administration looked to overhaul the ‘skinny block’ in the schedule. In the past, the HGHS skinny block was for athletics and some credit-bearing year-long classes. The thought was how HGHS could support all tiers of learners - students needing intervention and acceleration beyond the Tier 1 curriculum. HGHS wanted to cultivate a culture of supporting students using PLC collaboration with a data-focused approach. RedZone evolved from these discussions, a block of time protected for PLC collaboration and student intervention and acceleration. Over the next three years, HGHS modified and refined RedZone. HGHS sees RedZone as an ongoing commitment to our students that requires looking at it critically and revising as we go. HGHS shares its journey of successes and stumbling blocks in building an intervention and acceleration block within the school day. We will show how we developed, created, and implemented a successful RedZone. We will share scheduling, budgeting, and tapping our resources to make RedZone successful. We will honestly share our struggles and successes with developing RedZone.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Quinn Headen, Principal, and Stacy Shamlin Junjulas, Assistant Principal, Hazel Green High School, Alabama.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) III

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM COOKIES AND LEMONADE BREAK

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Lobby

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSION I – THURSDAY

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Enhancing Learning Through Multi-Sensory Engagement: A Path to Student Success.* In this presentation, we embark on a journey to explore the vital realm of student engagement, focusing on the power of multi-sensory learning strategies. We'll delve into the rich tapestry of techniques that cater to diverse learning styles, igniting students' passion for learning. Discover how multi-sensory approaches invigorate the classroom by leveraging sight, sound, touch, and movement, allowing students to absorb and process information in a way that resonates with them personally. We'll showcase practical examples and proven methods that educators can incorporate to promote active participation, critical thinking, and lasting knowledge retention. Join us in unraveling the transformative impact of multi-sensory learning strategies and how they can foster a more inclusive and vibrant educational environment.

PRESENTERS: Marlo Lee, Elementary Principal and Susan Weeks, Dean of Students, Ketchum Elementary School, Ketchum, Oklahoma ~Grand Lake O' the Cherokees.

LOCATION: Fantasia A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Creating a System that Supports Learning for ALL.* As public schools see an increase in behavior challenges and a decrease in academic rigor, creating a system that supports learners at every level is more vital than ever before. In this session, learn how strategic system changes can empower both teachers and students. Educators want the best for their students, but are they working in a system that truly supports ALL? Walk away with easy to implement behavior and academic system changes that are research-based and work with ALL students.

PRESENTER: Blake Clark, Executive Director, George Washington Academy, Utah.

LOCATION: Fantasia B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Great Minds Don't Think Alike! A Strengths-based Approach to Addressing Learner Variability.* Managing learner variability has always been a classroom challenge, but the large variations in student knowledge after returning from the pandemic and the brighter spotlight on equity has made it clear that understanding and addressing learner variability is more important and complicated than ever before. The presenter will share how improved performance by measuring students' cognitive strengths and then focused instruction to build on each student's strengths. We adopted a whole class approach to learner variability based on the science of learning with the MindPrint Learning solution. The presenter will share how we re-defined learner variability and what really drives it. The presenter takes a deep dive into cognitive variability and discusses how data on students' differences in complex reasoning, memory, executive functions, and processing enabled them to adjust instruction that lead to achievement gains for low and high performing students. The presenter will drill down on examples of specific students, what I did differently based on the MindPrint data and strategy recommendations, and what changed as a result.

PRESENTERS: Stephanie Bisher, Intermediate Lead Teacher, Kilgour School, Ohio and Nancy Weinstein, CEO/Founder, MindPrint Learning, New Jersey.

LOCATION: Fantasia C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *The Patronus Charm to Discussing Social Emotional and Reproductive Health in the Classroom.* Theresa Barbale and Kyle VanDuser are exciting presenters who aid educators in difficult topics. We are going to share our tips and tricks to creating a comfortable environment for the best social emotional learning. With collected twenty-five years of experience in adolescent education and mentoring, in both the teaching, coaching, and ministry realms Kyle and Theresa give insights to educators to bring a level of confidence to difficult topics. The social emotional needs of our youth with relationships and how to interact with one another has been drastically impacted post-covid pandemic. We have new tips to share and an entirely new reproductive health program. The magic behind teaching the tools to good healthy relationships is seen in the communities at large. The benefits of healthy emotional learning are the secret ingredient to socially- adaptive kids and happy students.

PRESENTERS: Theresa Barbale, M.A.C.E., Vice President of Advancement, JPII Life Center, Florida and Kyle VanDuser, College Football Coach, Florida.

LOCATION: Fantasia D

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Living in the Land: How Going Green Helped Us Go Blue.* When a school system focuses on environmental sustainability education, it results in deep effects on the way students approach learning. This session will look at the connection between teaching sustainable practices and improved student, academic and social emotional outcomes.

PRESENTER: Sonya Price, Director of Exceptional Education, Gulf Shores Elementary School, Alabama.

LOCATION: Fantasia E

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Being Successful After the Loss of Teachers.* When a teacher unexpectedly passes away, you think about how to move forward and continue to be a successful school. What happens when two teachers within three months of each other unexpectedly pass away? This is what happened at our school, and this is the journey we took to grieve and continue for a successful year. How do you tell the faculty and staff? How do you tell the students and their families? What do you do to assist the community in moving forward and continuing to have students learn and thrive? There is no manual to do this and there is no best practice. As the leader of the school, I had to work with our administration to figure out what to do and how to move forward. This included the communications with faculty, staff, parents, media, students, and community. This also involved assisting our entire building on restarting school and grieving the loss of the two teachers.

PRESENTER: James Callahan, Principal, Sowams School, Rhode Island.

LOCATION: Fantasia F

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *If West Alabama Had a Hammer.* In this presentation, the presenter will review the program *If I Had a Hammer*, ideas for establishing Hammer Hubs in local junior colleges, present the Hammer Curriculum and The Big Inch, and describe how *If I Had a Hammer* can be used in junior high and high schools to help close the COVID-19 learning loss, particularly with fractions and measurement. HammerMath is an online curriculum that provides real-world fraction application and flips math teaching by making sure students understand fractions first! The HammerMath program not only helps students understand the importance of fractions but relates it to career readiness and allows students to visualize the math through high-quality manipulatives. Schools receiving the HammerMath curriculum can use it for RTI in junior high and high school, and it is great for before school, after school, and summer school programs.

PRESENTER: Chet Nicklas, Black Belt STEM Institute Director, The University of West Alabama, Alabama.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Thinking Outside the Box.* In this presentation, teachers will learn ways to create engaging and relevant learning experiences daily, across all content levels, to help bring their classrooms to life! Also included in this presentation will be tips and tricks for dealing with those hard to handle challenging behaviors. Every student has a different skill set and background knowledge, so creating learning experiences instead of just lessons, will help bridge those gaps between your students and make them eager to learn. Thinking outside the box is an unconventional way to reach your students. Being creative and going above and beyond to reach all the learners in your classroom will be demonstrated in this session! Teachers will walk away with not only amazing ideas for instruction and behavior, but also with a take home activity to use in the classroom! This session will best benefit primary school teachers in their quest to make learning contagious and fun in a well-managed classroom!

PRESENTER: Rebecca Detzel, Interventionist, Caywood Elementary School, Kentucky.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *1, 2, 3 Counting Purposefully: Using Counting Collections and Quality Questioning with Little Learners.* Number sense in early math development provides the foundation for more complex mathematical thinking. Counting collections provide rich opportunities to practice developing number sense and counting skills. Young children need problems to solve and latitude to construct their own strategies for self-assessment. This session will explore the practice of cardinality through counting manipulatives using one-to-one correspondence, thereby building a concrete foundation for future experiences in math. Join us for an exciting, interactive workshop where you will be able to observe in real time early learners demonstrating their ability and knowledge to work with counting collections while we use quality questioning strategies to strengthen and enhance their understanding.

PRESENTERS: Amanda Pendergrass, Chair, Department of Teaching and Learning; Early Childhood Program Coordinator; Associate Professor of Elementary Education; University of West Alabama, Alabama. Other panelists include Sue Noah, First Grade Teacher, Athens, Alabama; Amelia Evans, Instructional Assistant Principal, Madison County Schools, Madison, Alabama; Anna Lynn, Thomas and Sadie Pendergrass, Elementary Students, Demopolis City Schools, Demopolis, Alabama and Levi Ray, Elementary Student, Rutherford County Schools, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) III

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DAY FOUR
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023

7:15 AM - 8:00 AM COFFEE SERVICE

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Lobby

8:00 AM - NOON REGISTRATION

LOCATION: East Registration

8:00 AM - 9:00AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS J - FRIDAY

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Robust Family Community Engagement through A T.R.A.I.L. of Conversations.* Just as hikers wear a path that marks the way most-traveled, every school interaction makes an imprint on its culture- one conversation at a time. Unfortunately, the pandemic damaged a lot of relationships that schools are still trying to repair, and robust family community engagement strategies provide opportunities for trust-building among the various constituents in schools. Please join Heidi and Jennifer, authors of *A T.R.A.I.L. of Conversations: Curious Leadership through Appreciative Inquiry in K12* as they unpack their T.R.A.I.L. framework that fosters trusting relationships with students and their families; with faculty and staff; and with leaders among the community. You'll first-handedly experience this innovative strengths-based organizational development and change management technique, specially adapted for school systems- by educators, for educators. Leaders will gain an understanding of the five qualities necessary to create productive dialogues and will leave with a roadmap for facilitating events resulting in sustainable positive school cultures.

PRESENTERS: Heidi Marlinghaus, MEd and Jennifer Ozgur, MEd and certified Appreciative Inquiry Practitioner, Pennsylvania.

LOCATION: Fantasia A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Transforming STEM Into STEAM Lessons: What Can Arts Integration Offer?* You don't have to be an artist to enjoy this fun and interactive workshop! Participants will engage in hands-on activities for elementary students integrating art into the math and science classroom. Participants will create fascinating projects and activities using inexpensive materials. Young people who participate in the arts for at least three hours on three days each week are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement and three times more likely to win an award for school attendance!

PRESENTERS: Dr. Sallie Harper, Professor of Elementary Education; Dr. Amanda Pendergrass, Associate Professor of Elementary Education; and Dr. Courtney Vick, Assistant Professor of Elementary Education, University of West Alabama, Alabama.

LOCATION: Fantasia B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *The Science of Reading in Practice*. The "science of reading" has been given a lot of attention over the past few years in education, but what does it mean, and more importantly, what does it look like in classroom practice? Common misconceptions about the science of reading will be addressed and examples as well as non-examples of evidence-based reading instruction will be provided. Issues and considerations for school and district-wide implementation will be discussed, as well as teacher preparation and professional development.

PRESENTERS: Emily Binks-Cantrell, Clinical Associate Professor and Dr. Ramona Pittman, Professor of Advanced Literacy Studies, Texas A & M, Texas.

LOCATION: Fantasia C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Leveraging Student and Educator Agency*. During this interactive session, we will discuss how agency can be leveraged to increase opportunities for all students. Participants will discuss how to create and sustain collective educator agency and incorporate it into their existing educational systems. In addition to increased understanding and connections, participants will leave with an action plan for improving their agency for adults and students.

PRESENTER: Travis Beverly, Program Manager, AVID, North Carolina.

LOCATION: Fantasia D

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Game Changing Graduation Rate Improvement*. Broome High School had one of the lowest graduation rates in SC 5 years ago. We were just recognized as having one of the highest graduation rate improvements in SC. Our on time graduation rate has improved from 75% to 91%. The presenter will share how building relationships, focusing on students' success, and addressing the individual needs of students has changed our school. We now have the highest graduation rates in school history. The presenter will share several initiatives we developed to help our student's become college and career ready.

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

LOCATION: Fantasia E

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Low Performing to Blue Ribbon*. This presentation will focus on schools that have traditionally been viewed as high poverty, low achieving schools and the journey towards excellence using Blue Ribbon Strategies and determination. The presentation will focus on how the quest to become Blue Ribbon School improved schoolwide practices that led to the school exiting priority status through achievement and growth using the parameters of Blue Ribbon as a guide.

PRESENTERS: Robyn Beard, Principal and April Greene, Curriculum Specialist, Alex Green Design Technology Magnet School, Tennessee.

LOCATION: Fantasia F

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Practically Perfect in Every Way: Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement in High School.* Dual enrollment and Advanced Placement programs in high schools are common; however, many times these programs compete against each other for student enrollment. Both have unique benefits and challenges. In this session, we will discuss ways to ensure both dual enrollment and AP programs in your school are thriving. By providing practical, real-world experience in making both programs a success, we will explore what is needed to make this happen. From relationships with your local college or university in providing dual enrollment options, to diploma pathways to make AP even more inviting, learn strategies in tips on what works. Come learn with us as we work to make the dual enrollment and AP partnership "practically perfect in every way!"

PRESENTERS: Dr. Brad Cooper, Principal; Mr. Jake Miles, Assistant Principal; Mr. Daniel Cooper, Teacher; Mrs. Suzanne Mizell, Teacher; and Mrs. Ally McCaghren, Teacher; Hartselle High School, and Erica Griffin, English Content Director for A+ College Ready, Alabama.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Using Data to Drive Small Group Instruction. Literacy Assessment and Practice to Accelerate Reading Achievement with the Science of Reading Brought to You by Just Right Reader, Part I.* If creating small groups with reading levels is not supported by the Science of Reading, then how DO you determine groupings for small-group instruction? This presentation will discuss the inability of assessments of reading levels to provide useful information about reading skills and will demonstrate diagnostic assessments and a decision-making framework that can be used instead. The focus will be on kindergarten through second grades, but the approaches have been validated with older students as well.

PRESENTER: Dr. Matthew Burns, University of Florida Literacy Institute, Florida.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *The 3 P's: Go Beyond the Classroom with Experiential Learning.* Come learn how one district focuses on making experiential learning POSSIBLE, PRIORITY and POWERFUL for all students K-12. Walk away with a practical framework for how to start making experiential learning POSSIBLE, PRIORITY and POWERFUL in your building and/or district. We will share how our award winning program, Warriors BEyond, continues to expand and amplify learning at little to no cost. Don't have time? Don't have the budget? Don't have the vision? Let us bust all those myths for you and see what is beyond your own expectations. Warriors BEyond is a comprehensive, award-winning, K-12 initiative that allows the students of Mariemont City Schools the opportunity for experiential learning outside the confines of the traditional classroom setting. Warriors BEyond seeks to foster passion exploration through hands-on, interest-based courses that encourage students to investigate new ideas, subjects, theories, and activities beyond the traditional curriculum. The following programs comprise the Warriors BEyond initiative: (K-4) Mission BEyond (5-6) Explorations (7-8) Expeditions (9-12) Intersession, Masterclass and Travel.

PRESENTERS: Brent Wise, Assistant Superintendent; Steven Estep, Superintendent; and Brian Sugerman, Coordinator of Experiential Learning, Mariemont Junior High School, (Mariemont City Schools), Ohio.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) III

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS K - FRIDAY

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Ask a Grant Writer: An Open Discussion.* It is not uncommon for administrators and teachers to be asked to write a grant. While on the surface it may seem simple enough, once you get started you realize you are "just a little lost." This workshop is designed to provide those interested in writing grants the opportunity to ask questions of an experienced grant writer who not only understands education (she has held teaching certificates in two states and been a tenured college instructor) but has a demonstrated success rate working on small and large grants. Debbie Edwards has over 25 years of grant experience securing funding for the non-profit industry, state/county agencies, K-12, post-secondary/technical and corporate education. For the past 17 years she has been the primary consultant for Mesa Public Schools, the largest school district in Arizona, generating over \$60 million in competitive grants. Her success rate is over 94% and for 17 years has achieved 96% Return on Investment. Ms. Edwards developed the internal/virtual grant support office for MPS and works closely on grant compliance. She also worked for a NY grant writing company and has written grants for clients in numerous districts across the United States. There will not be a set program, but simply a few introductory comments. From there participants will control the conversation.

PRESENTER: Debbie Edwards, Grant Consultant/President, Mesa Public Schools/Consulting Services of D and J Inc., Arizona.

LOCATION: Fantasia A

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *The Journey from Good to Great is Just Around the River Bend.* How do you take a good school and push it to greatness? Learn the nuts and bolts of fueling your momentum to fine tune your school and tap into its highest potential. This session will discuss how to take what is considered a good school and make it better by supporting both teachers' & students' social emotional health and unmet student learning needs. It s the story of walking into what looks from the outside like a "good" school - Is considered an A school by state standards (but barely an A at 90%) which is arguably a harder place to start from than a failing (turnaround) school because the possibility of falling is huge - especially with too many "new items like new curriculum and new school system. Your goal as an administrator is to keep the good stuff while deleting the waste to push the entire organization higher. This is accomplished by addressing the personal social emotional needs through Leader in Me (LIM) and the academics through Precision Teaching for learning. LIM gives a voice and personal control over their successes, builds self-efficacy, positive attitude, decreases discipline, improves attendance, and improves overall performance for both students and teachers. Precision teaching using data, solid curriculum, and creative scheduling to revise the RTI process, introduce Walk to Intervention, dedicated Reading block, integrate Math foundation standards into hands on STEAM and Green lessons. All these pieces work together to give teachers and students the tools they need to push students from high to higher.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Alicia Early, Principal and Sonya Price, Assistant Principal, Gulf Shores Elementary School, Alabama.

LOCATION: Fantasia B

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *From Priority School to Reward School: How Innovation and Exposure Contributed to Warner Arts Magnet's Amazing Turnaround.* In 2019, Warner Arts was one of the lowest-performing schools in the state of Tennessee. In just two years, it achieved reward school status and more than doubled its enrollment. The story was captured in the nationally renowned NPR podcast, *The Promise*. Instrumental in Warner's turnaround was SA Grant Coordinator, Jon Wren. In this session, we will hear Jon tell the story of Warner and its innovative Spanish language and culture program (Meg Languages). As part of the session, the audience will take part in a live Spanish lesson where they'll be virtually transported to the streets of Colombia. Vamos!

PRESENTERS: Jon Wren, Magnet School Assistance Program, Metro Nashville Public Schools and Matt Gambatese, Director of School Success, Meg Languages, Tennessee.

LOCATION: Fantasia C

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Creating an Exceptional Learning Environment Schoolwide.* Teachers strive for excellence in their classrooms, but do they all have the right tools to excel? During this interactive session, we will go over a simple yet reliable way to give educators the right tools for their toolkit. You'll develop an action plan for how to implement skill building options on your campus right away. Participants will experience a positive learning environment and leave knowing how to make every human interaction, safe, fun, and memorable.

PRESENTER: Travis Beverly, Program Manager, AVID, North Carolina.

LOCATION: Fantasia D

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Changing the Culture in a Complacent School in a High-Performing District.* What does it take to change the environment of the lowest-performing school in a district that considers average ok? It begins with a leader that possesses emotional intelligence. Pushing through the consistent acceptance of mediocrity. Crucial conversations and constant positive feedback from the leader while telling your school's excellence story on social media. We will look at real-life strategies that can change your school's entire climate this school year. Mrs. Chaney is the principal of a rural school in Mississippi. A Title I school that was complacent and pleased with a "C" state rating has now turned into THE school to be in our district and will have an "A" rating in the upcoming school year. We are now training teachers from all over the state and sending our staff out to host professional development in our district and state.

PRESENTER: Brittney Chaney, Principal, Southeast Lauderdale Middle School, Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, Mississippi.

LOCATION: Fantasia E

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *We Know Our School Can Do Better - What Are We Missing?* This session is designed to help schools identify small shifts in instructional practice that will yield huge gains in student performance. When student learning is maximized student motivation and teacher satisfaction increases. Discipline issues decrease, attendance for both students and teachers increase, which support student learning gains. We will examine the key things to have in place to focus on learning and look at how to leverage the power of the brain to support learning and belonging. Participants will come away with actionable practices that will support academic achievement and positive school culture.

PRESENTER: Jayne Ellspermann, 2015 NASSP National Principal of the Year; Educational Consultant; Leadership Coach/Trainer; and Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, BRSE, Vice Board Chair and Senior Assessor, Florida.

LOCATION: Fantasia F

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Unleashing Potential: Transforming Education with a Coaching Culture.* This session will explore ways of leading a school and community through a coaching mindset. We will dive into the best practices that'll maximize teacher effectiveness, student potential, school, and community morale, directly translating to success in academics, extracurricular activities, and athletics as a unitary model of excellence.

PRESENTERS: Jason Jordan, Principal; Shannon Edwards, Teacher; Amy Lucas, Teacher; and Christopher Lucas, Teacher, Cape Fear High School, North Carolina.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) I

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *How to Appropriately Teach Big Words to Young Readers (K-2): Decoding, Understanding, and Spelling Multisyllabic, Multimorphemic Words. Literacy Assessment and Practice to Accelerate Reading Achievement with the Science of Reading brought to you by Just Right Reader, Part II.* Think that your phonics instruction is over once students can blend short words? Think again. High quality literacy instruction "closes the deal" teaching students to decode and understand "big words," right from the start. This pivotal "under the radar" skill is essential for reaching the levels of comprehension that are expected in the intermediate grades. Participants will leave this session equipped with a) information about how word parts of big words work (syllables and morphemes); b) a scope and sequence for teaching word parts, with special attention to addressing appropriate parts, K-1; c) strategies and techniques for teaching the many different word parts that advance students' decoding and understanding (e.g., inflections, derivational morphemes, bound roots, compounds, affixes). Significant emphasis will be placed on appropriate practice that "adds in" elements without replacing high quality phonics instruction in single syllable words.

PRESENTER: Dr. Heidi Anne Mesmer, Professor, Literacy, School of Education, Virginia Tech, Virginia.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) II

SESSION DESCRIPTION: *Aiming for Excellence through Rigor, Relevance and Relationships.* Early College High School (ECHS) is a dual enrollment high school partnered with Coastline College. We serve the students and families who reside in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District representing the communities of Costa Mesa and Newport Beach as a college preparatory school of choice option. ECHS was founded on the pillars of Rigor, Relevance and Relationships in 2006. However, the last 5 years provided our team an opportunity to enhance these pillars through several mechanisms employed to further enrich our student support systems, school culture, and partnerships with our families and community. The result has been several California state awards reflecting our ability to reduce achievement, opportunity, and school connection gaps as well as increasing student academic accomplishments and community engagement.

PRESENTER: Dr. Dave Martinez, Principal, Early College High School, California.

LOCATION: Sorcerer's Apprentice Ballroom (SAB) III

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM LIGHTHOUSE CELEBRATION BRUNCH (For All Attendees)

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

Keynote Speaker - Patrick Briggs, Northeast Area Director for AVID.



Patrick is a dedicated educator with over a third of a century of experience in teaching and administration. He strongly believes that any perceived achievement gaps can be addressed by closing the opportunity and expectation gaps through collaborative efforts of adults. Patrick's passion lies in helping all students achieve at high levels, and he firmly advocates for preparing them to be college and career-ready after completing high school.

Patrick Briggs currently serves as the Northeast Area Director for AVID, having previously held the position of Southern Area Director. Prior to his tenure at AVID, Patrick spent 15 years working as an educator and administrator in Texas. Patrick is passionate about ensuring that all students achieve high levels of academic success, thereby enabling them to be prepared for college and career opportunities after completing high school. He firmly advocates for providing high-quality education to all students, empowering them to make informed choices that will lead to success in college, career, and life. With his extensive experience and captivating stage presence, Patrick shares a wealth of knowledge and inspiring stories with fellow educators who aspire to make a meaningful impact in their classrooms.

"We change the trajectory of the lives of children who have not been born yet. You as a teacher have that much power!"

Patrick H. Briggs

LOCATION: Fantasia G-H Ballroom



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Burton Magnet Elementary School
Caledonia Elementary School
Cape Fear High School
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Danville High School
Decatur High School
Doby's Bridge Elementary School
Double Springs Middle School
Early College High School
East Jackson Elementary School
Falkville Elementary School
Fort Mill Middle School
Gold Hill Middle School
Good Hope Elementary School *Two-Time
Good Hope High School *Two-Time
Gulf Shores Elementary School
H.R. McCall Elementary School
Hanceville Middle School *Two-Time
Hanceville High School
Harmony School *Two-Time
Hartselle High School *Three-Time
Hatton High School
Holly Pond K-8 School *Two-Time
Hope Middle School
John F. Kennedy Elementary School
Ketchum Elementary School
Kilgour School
Liberty Magnet High School
Madison County Elementary School *Two-Time
Madison County High School *Two-Time
Madison Cross Roads Elementary School *Three-Time
Moulton Elementary School
Moulton Middle School
Ocean Academy Charter School
Priceville Junior High School *Two-Time
Random Lake Elementary School
Random Lake Middle School
Random Lake High School
Riverchase Elementary School *Two-Time
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Russellville Middle School
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Sparkman Elementary School
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