SUCCESS WITHIN REACH: STRATEGIES FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

FEB 15-18 2015

2015 AT-RISK YOUTH NATIONAL FORUM

visit www.dropoutprevention.org for more information
On behalf of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network and its partners:

Welcome
to the 2015 At-Risk Youth National FORUM
Dear FORUM Participants,

Thank you for joining us in Myrtle Beach, SC, for the 2015 Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM! It is my pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (NDPC/N) and our partners.

This year’s FORUM has been carefully constructed by the Planning Committee to provide a valuable professional development experience that will enhance your effectiveness as an at-risk youth practitioner. Our staff, along with representatives of our partner agencies, has worked hard to provide an event that will make a lasting impact in your work.

This year, we are especially pleased about the inception of the National Dropout Prevention Specialist Certification Program. Enrolled practitioners track their exposure to a broad range of effective dropout prevention strategies and interaction with other professionals through NDPC/N conference attendance; demonstrate and document their experiences through field project reports; and become recognized as being informed, experienced, connected, and current in the field of dropout prevention. This certification program makes a strong statement to peers, employers, and the local community. Through this program, NDPC/N will identify and recognize an army of practitioners who are fighting to solve the dropout crisis across our nation.

Every year at the FORUM, it is our privilege to honor an individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement of dropout prevention initiatives in the state of South Carolina. The Governor and Mrs. Richard W. Riley Award of Excellence in Dropout Prevention honors someone who exhibits strong leadership and accomplishments for effective dropout prevention strategies directed to initiatives in South Carolina and/or work that furthers the mission of the Center/Network. In our Tuesday General Session, Dr. Larry Allen, who served for eleven years as the Dean of the College of Health, Education, and Human Development at Clemson University, will be presented this award. Dr. Allen has worked tirelessly to include issues of community, health services, and recreational programming in the discussion of dropout prevention.

On behalf of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network and our partners, including South Carolina Department of Education, Communities In Schools of North Carolina, Communities In Schools of South Carolina, the UNC Wilmington Watson School of Education Dropout Prevention Coalition, Coastal Carolina University, the Citadel, and T.O.O.L.S. Training Associates, thank you for participating in this year’s FORUM. We know it will be a rewarding and enriching professional learning experience.

We look forward to our time together and learning how we may be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Sandy Addis
Interim Director
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
As a professional in the field of dropout prevention, you put your heart into your work to make a difference for young people, providing hope, opportunity, and support.

As a certified National Dropout Prevention Specialist, you can also make a statement to your peers, employers, and community—you are informed, experienced, current, and connected.

Professionals in the field of dropout prevention may apply to the National Dropout Prevention Specialist Certification Program. Applicants who are accepted into the program receive a one-year individual membership to the National Dropout Prevention Network, discounts toward NDPC/N events and products, and receive special opportunities through NDPC/N. Certification is earned through attendance at 12 designated sessions at NDPC/N events that address dropout prevention and effective strategies and demonstration of practice through a field project. Certification is valid for three years and can be renewed through continued professional learning at NDPC/N events and sustained NDPN membership.

At each NDPC/N event, concurrent sessions that count toward the certification are marked with the program logo and designation of the corresponding strategy or topic. The markers shown below and next to the sessions identify the effective strategy or topic that corresponds with the session.

Effective Strategies

1. Active Learning
2. After-School/Out-of-School Opportunities
3. Alternative Schooling
4. Career and Technical Education (CTE)
5. Early Childhood Education
6. Early Literacy Development
7. Educational Technology
8. Family Engagement
9. Individualized Instruction
10. Mentoring/Tutoring
11. Professional Development
12. Safe Learning Environments
13. School-Community Collaboration
14. Service-Learning
15. Systemic Renewal

Key Topics

A. The Most Effective Strategies to Increase Graduation Rates
B. Leading Graduation Rate Improvement In Your School and Community

Through the National Dropout Prevention Specialist Certification program, NDPC/N is identifying and recognizing an “army of practitioners” in the work of dropout prevention. These individuals will be recognized on the NDPC/N Web site and have potential of being involved in NDPC/N projects, events, and opportunities in their area.

For more information, scan the code at right or check at the registration table.
For a listing of all FORUM events, arranged by starting time, see the “FORUM at a Glance” on the following page. All sessions will begin promptly, so make every effort to be on time! The program listing includes the meeting location, topic, speakers, and a description of the session.

The formats for all FORUM sessions are as follows:

- Pre-FORUM Workshops—Participants must preregister and prepay for Pre-FORUM workshops.
- Concurrent Sessions—Participants may choose one topic each session.
- Carousel Session—Participants may choose two table topics.

For guests of the Embassy Suites Hotel, breakfast is included in the cost of the hotel room and is available in the hotel lobby. For guests in the Kingston Plantation villas, condos, and off-site locations, a complimentary continental breakfast is provided by the FORUM. The continental breakfasts will be located in Cambridge Hall on Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

**2015 FORUM PLANNING COMMITTEE**

We offer a special thank you to the following people who served on the 27th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM Planning Committee:

- Dr. Sandy Addis
- Rev. Dr. Clifford Barnett
- Mr. Christopher Capel
- Mr. Mark Cheatham
- Mrs. Peg Chrestman
- Ms. Olivia Coleman
- Mrs. Iris Crawford-Long
- Mr. John Gailer
- Mr. Mark Cheatham
- Mrs. Denise Gianforcaro
- Mrs. Debbie Hall
- Mrs. Linda Harrill
- Dr. Stephenie Hewett
- Mr. John Lane
- Dr. Gregory Geer
- Mr. Billy Marsh
- Mrs. Debbie Hall
- Ms. Deloris Rhodes
- Dr. Janna Robertson
- Mr. John Peters
- Ms. Deborah Williams
- Mr. John Lane
- Mr. John Peters
- Dr. Janna Robertson
- Mr. David Smalls
- Ms. Sara Van Marel
- Ms. Deborah Williams
- Mrs. Cairen Withington

**CAROLINA OPRY**

*(Optional Activity)*

Plan to join fellow FORUM participants at the Carolina Opry on Monday, February 16, 2015. The pre-show begins at 6:45 p.m., show begins at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy two hours of high energy entertainment that blends humor and dancing with everything from rock ‘n roll, Broadway and country to classic hits, pop melodies, and gospel. Year after year, The Carolina Opry is voted the Best Show by readers of the *Myrtle Beach Sun News*, a Knight-Ridder newspaper. Special rates of $32.00 per adult and $19 per child have been arranged for conference participants.

For advance reservations, please call Margaret Wallace at 800-633-1508 or locally at 843-913-1450; or you can bring your voucher to the box office to take advantage of this special group rate. Check with conference registration for further details.
Deb Sofield: 15 Rules for the Road

Deb Sofield is a dynamic keynote speaker; author of the book, *Speak Without Fear: Rock Star Presentation Skills to Get People to Hear What You Say*; Radio Talk Show Host; and President of her own Executive Speech Coaching Co., which trains women and men for success in speaking, presentation skills, media, and message development in the U.S. and abroad. Sofield has been recognized for her work for improving the lives of others and her contribution to the state of South Carolina through many awards, including the Leading Women Award, the Legacy of Leadership Award, and the Strom Thurmond Excellence in Public Service Award. She was named “Communicator of the Year” and won the prestigious Toastmasters District 5 Communication and Leadership Award for the state of South Carolina. Ms. Sofield is a visiting professor, teaching public speaking at Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, and on the faculty of the Woman’s Campaign School at Yale University; she has worked at Loyola University School of Mass Communications, the University of South Carolina’s School of Mass Communications, and Clemson University.

Daniel Cardinali: Changing the Picture of Education: Meeting the Needs of Today’s Students

Dan Cardinali is president of Communities In Schools, Inc. Under Cardinali’s leadership, the organization has developed and embraced an evidence-based model of integrated student service provision and has launched a national growth strategy to increase the organization’s impact on improving public education. Cardinali serves as a trustee for America’s Promise, a director on the board of Peace First, Independent Sector and Child Trends. In May 2011, Dan Cardinali was appointed by President Barack Obama to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. Trained as a community organizer in Guadalajara, Mexico, Cardinali served on a team organizing a “squatter” community of 120,000 to secure land rights, running water, and public education.

Joe Hendershott: Reaching the Wounded Student

Joe has an extensive background dealing with difficult and troubled youth in the school system. He has been a school assistant principal, head principal, alternative school principal, and principal at Boys’ Village School (residential treatment facility). Joe is currently the Director of Field Experiences at Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio. As president of his own consulting firm, Joe has presented at national educational conferences as well as staff trainings in the area of alternative education and the wounded child. His workshops are designed to educate and empower anyone working with the wounded and how to get them to achieve through various programs that include esteem building and emotional development.

Victor Woods: Making the Connection

Victor Woods is a nationally recognized speaker and founder of The Victor Woods Corporation. Mr. Woods is the author of his autobiography entitled, *A Breed Apart: A Journey to Redemption*, published by Simon and Schuster in 2005. He is the author of two more books entitled, *A Breed Apart: Successfully Achieving Your Vision*, Volumes I and II. Mr. Woods has spoken at colleges, businesses, schools, juvenile detention centers, prisons, and various organizations across the United States. Mr. Woods has appeared on CNN, The O’Reilly Factor, and many other news programs. His story has been shared in several publications including *The Chicago Sun Times, The St. Petersburg Times, the Oklahoma City Herald*, and many more. Mr. Woods is dedicated to working with youth, men, and women who aspire to beat all the odds and dare to be the star of their own destiny.
## FORUM AT A GLANCE

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<td>FORUM Reception <em>(Coastal Bar and Vista I and II)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Monday, February 16, 2015</strong></td>
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<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
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<td>Registration/Exhibit Hall Open</td>
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<td><em>Keynoter: Ms. Deb Sofield</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch <em>(On your own.)</em></td>
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<td>Featured Session</td>
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<td><em>Daniel Cardinali, Communities In Schools, Inc.</em></td>
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<td><em>Keynoter: Mr. Joe Hendershott</em></td>
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<td><em>Keynoter: Mr. Victor Woods</em></td>
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Directory of Exhibitors: 22
Directory of Presenters: 25
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
FORUM REGISTRATION
Location: Cambridge Hall

Pre-FORUM Workshops
(Must be preregistered.)
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
PFW1. REACHING AND TEACHING EVERY STUDENT, ESPECIALLY THE RELUCTANT LEARNER
Location: Eton
Presenters: Dr. Judith Pauley and Mr. Joseph Pauley, Process Communications, Inc., Potomac, MD

In this fun-filled interactive session participants will learn how to include something in each class period that will appeal to every student, especially the reluctant or disinterested, so that every student will want to attend class and learn. They will learn research-based and time-tested strategies that will enable them to individualize the way they communicate with and motivate six different types of students so that every student will want to attend class, learn the subject matter, and improve their lives.

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
PFW2. HOW TO HAVE A CREATIVE CLASSROOM AND STILL SCORE HIGH ON STANDARDIZED TESTS
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Ms. Deb Sofield, debsoffield.com, Greenville, SC

Today’s top executives and educational administrators have a lot more in common than mastering the boardroom and the bottom line. The most elite in the field—those we read and hear about—have learned the art of mastering the media. In our high-tech, high-speed, media age of Twitter, blogs, Facebook, Tivo, and 24-hour up-to-the-minute news cycles, either you move quickly and decisively to define yourself, your product, and your company—or you allow others to define you. Deb will show you how to craft a meaningful message and keep one step ahead of a frenetic media in her cutting-edge seminar for busy executives.

PFW3. THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK
Location: Winchester
Presenters: Mr. Chris Capel and Ms. Fallon Brewington, Communities In Schools of NC, Raleigh, NC

What is cyberbullying? What does cyberbullying mean to us? What strategies are available for us to deal with cyberbullying? What is the difference between traditional face-to-face bullying and cyberbullying? The goal of the workshop is to inform participants of the tragic effects of cyberbullying and detail strategies for preventing and responding to this form of abuse. This workshop is designed for school administrators, counselors, social workers, psychologists, and other professionals who desire a comprehensive action plan to deal with cyberbullying, sexting, and unsafe social networking.

PFW4. GET A GRIP: GRADUATION RATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN STRATEGIES YOU CAN USE NOW TO SEE IMMEDIATE RESULTS
Location: Pembroke
Presenter: Mr. David Riegel, Irmo High School, Columbia, SC

This session will examine the factors that affect high school completion, including truancy and systems of academic support. Concrete strategies for improving graduation rates in the short and long term will be presented. Participants will discuss clerical and administrative issues that affect graduation rates and learn long-term and short-term strategies for improvement of graduation rates. Participants will plan action items for implementation in their schools.

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
REFRESHMENT BREAK
Location: Cambridge Hall

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
FORUM Reception
Location: Coastal Bar and Vista I & II

Come meet fellow FORUM participants and enjoy soft drinks and snacks as you network with your colleagues before heading out to explore the many fine dining opportunities in the Myrtle Beach area.
TEACHING POVERTY
Strand: Interacting With Specific Populations
Location: Kensington C
Presenter: Ms. Saville Williams, Urban League of the
Upstate, Spartanburg, SC

How does poverty affect your program or school? This interactive workshop is designed to bring awareness to the critical layers of poverty that hinder academic and social development. Participants will explore, discuss, brainstorm, and develop tools and resources to leverage these barriers to academic success and social development for many of America’s youth placed at risk due to socioeconomic factors. Together we will address developmental gaps for youth from low-income households and strategic programming and partnerships to address these critical needs. Once we peel back the layers, we will move into ways to improve outcomes for youth as well as practical tools we can implement into our programs today! If you believe that ALL youth can succeed this is the workshop for you!

SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH A SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING-BASED FRESHMAN SEMINAR
Strand: Career and Transitional Preparation
Location: Eton
Presenter: Mr. R. Keeth Matheny, Austin Independent
School District, Austin, TX

MAPS, a social and emotional learning (SEL) based course offered by Austin Independent School District is garnering national attention for its positive effects on ninth-grade students. Over a 4-year span this program has helped to reduce class failures (41%), dropouts (30%), and discipline referrals (71%) at a large urban high school (Austin H.S., TX). Hear and experience how Mr. Matheny uses student engagement strategies to implement a research-based SEL curriculum. Session will include student interviews and example lesson components/activities.

HERE’S HOW TO REACH AND TEACH ME
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Oxford
Presenters: Dr. Judith Pauley and
Mr. Joseph Pauley, Process
Communications, Inc., Potomac, MD

A seventh-grade teacher in an alternative school used the concepts of Process Communication to establish relationships with her students. Thirty of 31 students improved their grades and/or significantly decreased their disruptive behaviors. One boy stopped fighting. Two girls stopped cutting themselves and no longer thought about committing suicide. Participants will learn these concepts.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2015

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

POWERFUL STRATEGIES PROVEN TO ENHANCE BOTH DISCIPLINE AND ACADEMICS!
Strand: Behavioral Support
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Dr. Pamela Bouie, Accelerating Excellence, Fayetteville, GA

This interactive session will present highly effective strategies that have been proven to decrease discipline concerns, improve academic achievement, gain parental support, and empower teachers. These research-based techniques are practical, powerful, and can be implemented immediately to enhance the learning environment and support continuous academic growth for learners!

PRE-K TO COLLEGE: EARLY COLLEGE STRATEGIES FOR ALL
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Pembroke
Presenters: Mr. Kevin Smith, Dr. Austin Obasohan, and Ms. Nicole Murray, Duplin County Schools, Kenansville, NC

Participants in this session will learn how Duplin County Schools, located in rural eastern North Carolina, has partnered with James Sprunt Community College and NC New Schools to assure that all students from pre-K to college receive the support and skills they need for success in college and careers before high school graduation. Presenters will share how the districtwide early college model implemented over the last three years has helped create seamless transitions for progressing students by addressing innovative school design, innovative instructional practices, and increased college opportunities. After hearing the Duplin story, participants will have the opportunity to work together in developing action steps for their schools/districts as they plan for better student transitions from secondary to postsecondary opportunities.

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

TEN STRATEGIES PROVEN TO INSPIRE AND ENGAGE EVERY STUDENT
Strand: Behavioral Support
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Mr. Hans Magleby, WhyTry, Provo, UT

Learn strategies to build resilience, strengthen relationships, and inspire every student. These strategies have helped students in over 16,000 schools/organizations in areas of academic success, dropout prevention, and classroom management. Engage students using visual metaphors, videos, music, and activities.

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

REFRESHMENT BREAK
Location: Cambridge Hall

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

POWERFULLY ENGAGING YOUTH TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM AND IMPROVE OUTCOMES
Strand: Juvenile Justice and Law Enforcement
Location: Somerset
Presenters: Ms. Debbie Wilde, Insights to Impact, Inc., Glenwood Springs, CO; and Ms. Maia Zohara, Insights to Impact, Inc., Silicon Valley, CA

Each year the lifelong cost of youth disengagement exponentially increases both in dollars and lost youth potential. Learn how powerful questions and strength-based measurements can move youth offenders from “at-risk” behaviors to “at-choice” partnerships, reducing recidivism and improving youth outcomes.

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

REFRESHMENT BREAK
Location: Cambridge Hall
OPENING GENERAL SESSION
(All are invited to attend.)

10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Kensington DEFG

WELCOME, REMARKS, AND INTRODUCTIONS
Dr. Sandy Addis, National Dropout Prevention Center, Clemson, SC

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Mr. David Smalls, Communities In Schools South Carolina, Charleston, SC

15 RULES FOR THE ROAD
Keynoter: Ms. Deb Sofield, debsofield.com, Greenville, SC

Fear of public speaking is the number one phobia in the nation, according to Advertising & Marketing News’ Book of Lists. Yet there is probably no business skill more important than the ability to speak to an audience of any size. The rules are changing and this refresher course is all you need to bring you up-to-date on what works in today’s fast paced, 24/7 Twitter infused marketplace. Deb’s 15 Rules provides a tool kit and a wide range of guidelines and tips for your success—everything from personal presentation to communication and strategy for those who want to craft their speaking skills for rock star status. Join nationally known speaker and trainer Deb Sofield and relearn at least 15 Rules for the Road that will keep your audience awake as you make your next presentation or class memorable.

Closing Remarks, Announcements
Dr. Sandy Addis

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

NOTE: During the time period of 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. participants have a choice of formats:

1. Choose one concurrent session.
   
   OR
   
2. Choose the Carousel Session and attend two roundtable discussions.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
(Participants choose one.)

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

INNOVATIONS IN PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: BUILDING LEADERSHIP CAPACITY IN RURAL WV
Strand: Leadership and Policy
Location: Kensington A
Presenters: Dr. Terry Cash, Cash Educational Consulting Services, Clemson, SC; and Dr. Anthony Annunziato, St. John’s University, Queens, NY

An interdependent form of leadership development is required to significantly improve the probability of successful change efforts and sustain them over time. This workshop will describe an evolving view of leadership as a social process that produces outcomes of direction, alignment, and commitment, and will provide pertinent process and program evaluation tools that will be relevant to those seeking to build their school’s/district’s leadership capacity. The foundation for the workshop will be current research findings, as well as the US DOE funded West Virginia School Leadership Development Program being implemented in three rural WV low-performing counties. Some of the concepts to be addressed include: developing principal leadership skills through a problem-based learning (PBL) approach; measuring leadership capacity through a 360° Educational Leadership Inventory (ELI); what it takes to lead; understanding the Interstate Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) domains of effective leadership and how they can be used as a leadership growth model; strategies for developing a strategic, schoolwide approach to leadership development; and how to effectively measure leadership development outcomes.

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

LUNCH (On your own.)
ME A STATISTIC? I THINK NOT!
Strand: Interacting With Specific Populations
Location: Eton
Presenter: Mrs. Angela Coaxum-Young, Favor Academy of Excellence, Inc., Atlanta, GA

This session will identify barriers that are often cited by teenage parents as deterrents from educational completion. The session will focus on key needs for teenage parents in pursuit of education, successful program designs, the importance of mentorship, and holistic support methods. A brief mini-documentary will be shown that reveals the vulnerabilities of teen parents and the diligence toward pursuit of their diploma. The implications for practice is to decrease teenage parent dropout rates by encouraging academic pursuit and designing a supportive, well-rounded program for this demographic.

TEACHING THE “UNTEACHABLE” THROUGH VIRTUAL LEARNING
Strand: Digital and New Ways of Learning
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Ms. Kelly Ray, East Wake High School, Wendell, NC

Participants will learn about the credit recovery program at East Wake High School. Students who have habitually failed are being academically successful utilizing this program. These students are catching up on credits and oftentimes are graduating on time. The key to a successful program is changing the students’ behavior patterns, teaching self-motivation, and making the students set personal academic goals. The students use virtual learning to complete course work that needs to be recovered.

USING A BEHAVIORAL RUBRIC AS A TEACHING TOOL
Strand: Behavioral Support
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Mrs. Kristin Jackson, Lake Forest Academy, Wilmington, NC

Need a quick and easy way for students to self-assess their behavior? This behavioral rubric, which doubles as a token economy system, will have students self-assessing their behavior in less than 30 seconds—perfect for the general and special education classroom. Learn how to integrate the rubric with your schoolwide PBIS, as well as adding individual student goals. The presentation will teach you how to choose your goals, teach the students to self-assess, gather behavioral data for meetings, and communicate with parents.

ALTERNATIVE TEACHING MODELS: USING PERSONAL STYLE AND FLAVOR TO TEACH WITH ATTITUDE
Strand: Behavioral Support
Location: Pembroke
Presenter: Hotep, Hustle University, Stone Mountain, GA

The traditional teaching model is simply outdated. Many educators are still using analog teaching styles for children who live in a digital world. It’s time to update our operating systems! This workshop provides several different teaching models that educators can use to bring life, personality, and authenticity back into the classroom environment. By thinking out of the box, teachers will learn how to transform the climate of their classroom into one that is uniquely their own, bustling with energy, and easily manageable.

DROP OUT RECOVERY: CREATING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS TO ENSURE STUDENT SUCCESS
Strand: Interacting With Specific Populations
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Dr. Eurmon Hervey, Catapult Learning, Camden, NJ

There is indeed much discussion concerning dropout prevention. However, not as much attention is given to dropout recovery—the strategies that create pathways for youth to return to formal education and employment training. Through interactive activities, participants will understand the importance of dropout recovery for individuals, families, communities, and the nation. The most promising practices, which often involve public and private partnerships, will be discussed and considered.

IT’S NOT ABOUT CHANGE; IT’S ABOUT IMPROVEMENT
Strand: Digital and New Ways of Learning
Location: Somerset
Presenter: Mr. Franklin Schargel, School Success Network, Albuquerque, NM

Organizational change is inevitable. Schools change all of the time. The question is: Do they improve? Schools frequently measure change and believe they are measuring improvement. Change without improvement is meaningless; improvement without change is nearly impossible.
CAROUSEL SESSION
(Participants choose two.)

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Kensington DEF

The room will be arranged in roundtables (seating eight/table) with a number and presentation title posted at each table. Each participant will choose a table and be seated; the carousels will then begin. During the remaining time, each carousel presenter will make two 30-minute presentations.

STUDENTS OF COLOR AND GRADUATE EDUCATION
Strand: Career and Transitional Preparation
Location: Table 1
Presenter: Dr. Dianne Mark, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC

For students of color this journey through a postbaccalaureate program could be a daunting experience. At this session trend data on enrollment and degrees awarded, as well as challenges faced by students of color, entering and matriculating through graduate schools will be provided. Highlighted programs designed to support students of color pursuing graduate education will be presented.

CLOSING THE GAP BY BUILDING COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG UNIVERSITIES, SCHOOLS, AND FAMILIES
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Table 2
Presenter: Dr. Jamia Richmond, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC

Coastal Carolina CEC will share experiences of collaborating in the community to build relationships with at-risk students, families, and schools. Fund-raisers that were used to create awareness of community events supporting at-risk students and their families will be shared. Ideas for building effective relationships will be provided.

DID YOU KNOW THAT EXCLUSION, ISOLATION, AND BULLYING ARE A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROBLEM?
Strand: Career and Transitional Preparation
Location: Table 3
Presenter: Ms. Heather Beaven, The Foundation, Flagler Beach, FL

Kids want to blend in, but the world needs standouts. The research is clear that strong social skills, confidence, and kindness are key to college and career success. In fact, Nova Southeastern University, Department of Marriage and Family Therapy, concluded that when a person is isolated, excluded, teased, or bullied during their formative years, it is very difficult to overcome the damage done. These early experiences can be so damaging that, according to the University of South Carolina, victims are more likely to abuse substances and spend time in prison.

STOP—THINK—SOLVE! A METACOGNITIVE APPROACH FOR SOLVING MATH WORD PROBLEMS
Strand: Interacting With Specific Populations
Location: Table 4
Presenter: Ms. Latreicia Allen, Cumberland County Schools, Fayetteville, NC

Stop—Think—Solve! is a strategy designed to help students think metacognitively while solving math word problems. The strategy encourages students to think about the information that is provided in the problem, determine the best strategy needed for computation, decide on a process for completing the computation, and find a solution.

SIS: STAY IN SCHOOL
Strand: Juvenile Justice and Law Enforcement
Location: Table 5
Presenters: Dr. Rosella Wamser, St. Clair County Regional Office of Education, Belleville, IL; and Dr. Matt Feldmann, Goshen Education Consulting, Inc., Edwardsville, IL

The Stay In School (SIS) project serves students who are already in the juvenile justice system, live in poverty, or have special needs. These services include: school-based probation officers, online credit recovery, out-of-school suspension monitoring, special needs transitional coaches, and parent liaisons. All the SIS staff use Check & Connect strategies, which is a comprehensive student engagement intervention model.

AT-RISK READERS AND THE COMMON CORE: THE TOP FIVE SHIFTS IN LITERACY INSTRUCTION
Strand: Literacy for Life Success
Location: Table 6
Presenter: Dr. Carolyn Carlson, Washburn University, Topeka, KS

Literacy instruction is changing in all grades as a result of the Common Core. This presentation examines the top five shifts impacting literacy instruction. Teachers, administrators, tutors, and others who work with at-risk readers need to be aware of how the Common Core will impact literacy instruction.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2015

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

(Participants choose one.)

**2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**

**CHASING AND REENGAGING YOUTH AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL**
Strand: Interacting With Specific Populations
Location: Kensington A
Presenters: Mr. Dominick Correy and Mr. Carlos Cruz, Learning Works Charter School, Pasadena, CA

Our Chasing model provides a fresh start to the most high-risk youth through Learning Works Charter School. Participants will learn about how Chasers, who are each partnered with a teacher, literally “chase” their students back to school to complete coursework and access support services through coaching, mentoring, and tutoring.

**THE CAREER-BASED INTERVENTION (CBI) PROGRAM IN OHIO: A DROPOUT INTERVENTION STRATEGY**
Strand: Interacting With Specific Populations
Location: Kensington B
Presenter: Dr. Patrick O’Connor, Kent State University, Kent, OH

This presentation examines the CBI dropout intervention program in Ohio. The session includes background information on the program, a profile of various program models, and a review of the program outcomes for middle and high school students in Ohio.

**COFFEE: COMBINING ACADEMIC AND OCCUPATIONAL LEARNING IN AN ALTERNATIVE SETTING**
Strand: Behavioral Support
Location: Kensington C
Presenters: Mr. Kevin Wells, Ms. Rita Haley, and Mr. Rich Maliff, COFFEE Alternative High School, Oxford, MA

COFFEE has successfully combined academic and occupational learning in an alternative high school setting since 1979. Participants will gain an understanding of the program and its evolution through the years. The presentation will highlight the elements that positively impact student performance (hands-on learning, structure, rewards/consequences, relationships, etc.), and participants will gain an understanding of the elements necessary to implement the program in their district.

**URBAN YOUTH WALKING UNDER THE GUN WITH PTSD (POST-TRAYVON STRESS DISORDER)**
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Eton
Presenter: Dr. Joshua Kirven, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH

Often, race relations programs and activities focus on awareness, knowledge about, and behavior toward persons of color. And some of these programs focus on the treatment of, and attitude toward, a single racial or ethnic group. This workshop will explore narratives and proposed solutions of urban youth and their families sharing their fears, concerns, expectations, and dreams. Target areas of participatory research is based on living in Cleveland, Ohio, and Sanford, Florida.

**DECENT BEHAVIORAL DATA—NEED IT, WANT IT, BUT HOW TO GET IT?**
Strand: Behavioral Support
Location: Oxford
Presenters: Dr. Mariam Azin, PRES Associates, Jackson, WY; and Dr. Krystal Ayres, BrightBytes, San Francisco, CA

Most schools and districts are implementing strategies to provide behavioral support and promote a positive school climate. But is the accompanying behavioral incident data accurate and effective? And how can educational leaders access that data to make the best decisions for their students? This session will explore opportunities and barriers for collecting quality behavioral data, and the infrastructure needed to support data gathering. Walk away with strategies for collecting, sharing, and promoting the use of such data.

**ELIMINATING READING PROBLEMS: FOUNDATIONAL FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS**
Strand: Literacy for Life Success
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Dr. Dee Tadlock, Central Washington State University, Shelton, WA

Helping all students easily and comfortably obtain information from print has been a perennial challenge. Why is this so? This presentation will explore a paradigm shift in the field of reading that can answer this important question and will offer suggestions for what can be done to transform struggling readers to excellent readers.
GOALS, RELATIONSHIPS, ENVIRONMENT:
KEYS TO GRADUATION
Strand: Leadership and Policy
Location: Pembroke
Presenters: Mr. Rick Kriesky and Ms. Dawn Poole,
Lexington City Schools, Lexington, NC

In 2006, Lexington Senior High School had the worst graduation rate in the state of North Carolina (43.7%). In 2013, the school’s graduation rate had climbed to 86.1%. The school system was recognized by the state as having the largest percentage increase of any system in North Carolina. This session will describe a three-prong approach to reducing dropouts. Specific strategies will be discussed that include community, teachers, administrators, and school board collaboration. Most, if not all, of the strategies are replicable.

UNDERSTANDING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH STUDENT VOICES
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Dr. Eurmon Hervey, Catapult Learning,
Camden, NJ

For over 20 years, the presenter has been engaged in developing dropout prevention, dropout recovery, and college access programs. Participants will hear from and engage with “successful” young adults who were former students in various dropout prevention programs and are now college students, college graduates, entrepreneurs, and even those simply “just trying to make it” in life.

EMERGING DIRECTIONS IN STRENGTH-BASED ASSESSMENT IN JUVENILE JUSTICE
Strand: Juvenile Justice and Law Enforcement
Location: Somerset
Presenter: Dr. David Robinson, Orbis Partners Inc.,
Manotick, Ontario, Canada

Assessment and intervention with high-risk youth was traditionally driven by deficit-based models focusing on risk. The situation was particularly apparent in the context of juvenile justice services. This presentation focuses on employing assessments that incorporate strengths to promote a more collaborative case work style with at-risk youth.

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
REFRESHMENT BREAK
Location: Cambridge Hall

FEATURED SESSION
(All are invited to attend.)

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Kensington DEFG

INTRODUCTION OF FEATURED SPEAKER
Mr. Eric Hall, Communities In Schools of North Carolina

CHANGING THE PICTURE OF EDUCATION: MEETING THE NEEDS OF TODAY’S STUDENTS
Keynoter: Mr. Daniel Cardinali, President, Communities In Schools, Inc.

With the realizations that more than half of our nation’s students live in poverty and that, for the first time ever, minority students outnumber (non-Hispanic) whites, public education must embrace strategies that offer the opportunity of achievement to a new kind of student. Every day 4,700 passionate Communities In Schools professionals reach out to at-risk youth in the school building, offering to connect them with whatever they need to succeed in school and life. Our model, which currently serves 2,400 schools and 1.48 million students in 26 states and the District of Columbia, has been proven effective across ethnic and cultural populations, school settings, and grade level. CIS president Dan Cardinali will share stories of CIS success and what is possible when CIS partners with school districts to change the picture of education.

7:00 p.m - 9:30 p.m.

Carolina Opry (Optional Activity)
2014 NDPN CRYSTAL STAR AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE INDIVIDUAL WINNER

MR. KELLY TONSMEIRE
ALASKA STAFF DEVELOPMENT NETWORK, DOUGLAS, AK

At the 2014 National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in Louisville, KY, last November, the National Dropout Prevention Network presented the 2014 Crystal Star Awards of Excellence to Individual and Programs. Mr. Kelly Tonsmeire was the recipient of the Individual Award but was unable to be present to accept it.

Kelly has consistently provided strong statewide leadership in facilitating collaborative interagency dropout prevention efforts. He is the director of the Alaska Staff Development Network (ASDN), a nonprofit education organization providing staff development services to all of Alaska’s K-12 teachers, professional and paraprofessional staff, and administrators. Over the past three decades, Mr. Tonsmeire has written and directed U.S. Department of Education and private grants totaling more than 50 million dollars. These added grant dollars have targeted improving student achievement in Alaska’s most persistently low-performing schools and districts. In addition, Mr. Tonsmeire directed the Rural Alaska Principal Preparation and Support (RAPPS) program, designed to support and educate the principals of Alaska’s most remote districts. This program has demonstrated Kelly Tonsmeire’s excellent leadership capacity in facilitating interagency collaboration addressing objectives that school districts, the state, Mr. Tonsmeire, and other partners share in common. Kelly Tonsmeire has also directed the Graduation and Academic Improvement for Native Students (GAINS) project, a four-year program in the Bering Strait School District, aimed at identifying potential dropouts and assisting them to graduation. The GAINS project has increased the graduation rate of the district by nearly 42%. Kelly Tonsmeire and ASDN have consistently and successfully used a continuing process of evaluating goals and objectives to provide an organizational structure that allows each school to develop a learning environment that ensures quality education for all students.

GOVERNOR AND MRS. RICHARD W. RILEY
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DROPOUT PREVENTION

DR. LAWRENCE R. ALLEN
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY, CLEMSON, SC

Lawrence R. Allen currently serves as Professor in the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism. Dr. Allen served as Dean of the College of Health, Education, and Human Development at Clemson University, from May 2003 until his retirement in July 2014. He received his PhD from the University of Maryland in recreation with a specialty area in counseling, and his undergraduate degree in education from West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Allen has been an active leader in education for the past 34 years. Along with colleagues at Clemson University, he has authored several articles and manuals revolving around the development and implementation of an outcome-based model (Benefits-Based Programming) of youth program delivery that enhances the youth’s ability to overcome and cope with the stress and pressures they face in today’s social environment.

During his tenure as Dean of the College of Health, Education, and Human Development at Clemson, Dr. Allen exerted significant influence on the practice of dropout prevention. He was a solid supporter of the National Dropout Prevention Center, helping the organization to secure funding for research and national service and initiatives. Under Dean Allen’s leadership, the National Dropout Prevention Center initiated new research, expanded to address the needs of students with disabilities, and offered over 30 national dropout prevention conferences and training events. In recent years, Dr. Allen spoke and wrote extensively on the importance of out-of-school factors on school completion and helped the National Dropout Prevention Center call attention to the importance of family and community support for school success and graduation. By highlighting the importance of out-of-school risk factors and out-of-school solutions, Dr. Allen has made a significant contribution to the work of dropout prevention practitioners.
**General Session**
(All are invited to attend.)

**8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**
Location: Kensington DEFG

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
Dr. Janna Robertson, University of North Carolina, Wilmington, NC

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**
Dr. Sandy Addis, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson, SC

- **Crystal Star Individual Award of Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention, and Prevention**
  Mr. Kelly Tonsmeire, Alaska Staff Development Network, Douglas, AK

- **Governor and Mrs. Richard W. Riley Award for Excellence in Dropout Prevention**
  Dr. Lawrence Allen, Clemson University, Clemson, SC

**INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
Dr. Janna Robertson

**REACHING THE WOUNDED STUDENT**
Keynoter: Joe Hendershott, Hope 4 the Wounded, Ashland, OH

Through his research and experience, Joe Hendershott shares strategies and ideas with educators who work with wounded students—students who are beyond the point of “at risk” and who suffer from hopelessness. He will discuss tips, strategies, and insights to understand, teach, discipline, and motivate these students. This address will empower and encourage educators to give hope to all students and direct them on a path to academic and life success.

**CLOSING REMARKS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Mr. John Gailer, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson, SC

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**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

**8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**
Location: Cambridge Hall

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**10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**

**REFRESHMENT BREAK**
Location: Cambridge Hall

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**Concurrent Sessions**
(Participants choose one.)

**10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.**

**INCREASING STUDENT SUCCESS, CREATING SAFER SCHOOLS: A POSITIVE APPROACH TO YOUTH INTERVENTION**
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Kensington A
Presenters: Ms. Debbie Wilde, Insights to Impact, Inc., Glenwood Springs, CO; and Ms. Maia Zohara, Insights to Impact, Inc., Silicon Valley, CA

How do you engage troubled students and intervention stakeholders to reduce dropout rates, increase safety, and ensure student success? With nearly 1.3 million students dropping out of high school each year, growing student success and turning the curve on youth-at-risk statistics requires new approaches. Learn how radical collaboration can help you create unprecedented turnaround.

**ORGANIC LITERACY: OPENING THE DOOR TO THE INNER WORLD OF THE LEARNER**
Strand: Interacting With Specific Populations
Location: Kensington B
Presenters: Ms. Lora Crowley, UNC-Wilmington, Wilmington, NC; Ms. Alexandra Mays, Jacksonville High School, Jacksonville, NC; Ms. Ashli Edwards, Snipes Academy, Wilmington, NC; and Ms. Beth Peddle, New Hanover County Schools, Wilmington, NC

Ensuring daily time and space for organic literacy opportunities is particularly relevant in classrooms where language, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic, and other factors differ between teacher and child. Four current teachers in a graduate program will present K-12 organic literacy practices for all levels of classroom teachers.
10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

I AIN'T IN IT TO WIN IT — HOW SCHOOL LEADERS CAN MAKE SCHOOL RELEVANT TO STUDENTS WHO BELIEVE OTHERWISE
Strand: Behavioral Support
Location: Kensington C
Presenters: Dr. Eddie Price and Mr. Bennett Jones, South Johnston High School, Four Oaks, NC

In this practical and real-world presentation, attendees will learn about what school leaders can do to recognize the presence of gang activity in their school. Additionally, a behavior intervention strategy will be presented that has proven to be effective in changing a toxic school culture into a positive environment where both students and staff can be successful. Data evidence will be given highlighting the impact of how both intervention and relationship-building strategies have facilitated this change in culture in a traditional high school.

CREATIVE STRATEGIES FOR AT-RISK YOUTH WITH THE BRAIN IN MIND
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Eton
Presenters: Dr. Carmen White, Dramatic Solutions, Inc., Glenn Dale, MD; and Mr. Lennie Smith, University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC

In this session, you will learn to engage difficult students with easy to learn creative dramatic strategies to help increase attention, retain content, build relationships, and decrease boredom. You will learn how to apply these activities for collaborative learning and brain-based learning strategies.

STICKS MAY BREAK YOUR BONES, BUT NAMES WILL HARM
Strand: Juvenile Justice and Law Enforcement
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Mr. Franklin Schargel, School Success Network, Albuquerque, NM

Can you remember the schoolyard jingle that went, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me?” Obviously that was not and is not the truth. Both physical and nonphysical forms of bullying can happen anywhere in the school, and even online.

POWERFUL STRATEGIES PROVEN TO ENHANCE BOTH DISCIPLINE AND ACADEMICS!
Strand: Behavioral Support
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Dr. Pamela Bouie, Accelerating Excellence, Fayetteville, GA

This interactive session will present highly effective strategies that have been proven to decrease discipline concerns, improve academic achievement, gain parental support, and empower teachers. These research-based techniques are practical, powerful, and can be implemented immediately to enhance the learning environment and support continuous academic growth for learners!

THE MOST EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO INCREASE GRADUATION RATES
Strand: Leadership and Policy
Location: Pembroke
Presenter: Dr. Jay Smink, Professor Emeritus, Clemson University, Clemson, SC

This presentation will discuss the school dropout issue using national and state information and statistics useful for developing K-12 dropout prevention plans. It will focus on evidence-based risk factors useful for designing prevention, intervention, and recovery programs in schools or community-based organizations. A discussion of the 15 most effective strategies for increasing graduation rates will be provided with illustrations of model programs in local districts and communities from across the nation.

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FAMILY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM FOR INCREASING ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN THE HORRY COUNTY (SC) SCHOOL DISTRICT
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Hampton
Presenters: Dr. William H. Quinn and Dr. Julia Sharp, Clemson University, Clemson, SC

The Family Solutions Program (FSP) is a multiple family group intervention program for juvenile first offenders, truant students, and youth with behavior problems offered in multiple states and agencies (www.families4change.org). Families attend weekly two-hour evening sessions for 10 weeks. FSP Leaders are certified and fidelity checks for program integrity are monitored. Family engagement, coping skills, and academic support are emphasized in this best practice, evidence-based program (Promising Program by the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention). Discussion will provide a summary of the implications for FSP as an alternative intervention for truancy.
PLUGGING THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE: INTERAGENCY COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENTS
 Strand: Juvenile Justice and Law Enforcement
 Location: Somerset
 Presenters: Dr. Janna Robertson, UNCW, Wilmington, NC; Hon. Julius Corpening, Chief District Court Judge, Wilmington, NC; Ms. Judy Stubblefield and Ms. Lisa Burriss, New Hanover County Schools, Wilmington, NC

What happens when a judge wants to stop incarcerating nonviolent youth? He or she collaborates with schools, social services, mental health, and law enforcement leaders to develop an interagency agreement that encourages prevention and intervention, rather than suspension, expulsion, and incarceration for youth. Similar programs around the country will be discussed.

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

NETWORKING LUNCHEON

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(Participants choose one.)

12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

USING TECHNOLOGY FOR ACADEMIC GOAL SETTING AND DEVELOPING STUDENT, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
 Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
 Location: Kensington A
 Presenters: Mr. Reg Gabriel, SKoolAide, Inc., Charlotte, NC; and Dr. Hezekiah Massey, Blue Eagle Academy, Clover, SC

This presentation will follow the process of building a community support program which uses SKoolAide to track and support the progress of high school students. Each student within the school has a district issued Apple device. The school struggled with motivating students to complete their virtual classes on-time along with other school assignments and generally to keep students on task within the alternative setting. The school developed a comprehensive program where community sponsors and school officials work collectively to support students throughout our building and within the after-school program in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. This presentation will describe the development process and detail how other schools can follow the same model to improve their students’ success rate.

TEACH LIFE SKILLS AND CHANGE OUR WORLD!
 Strand: Behavioral Support
 Location: Kensington B
 Presenter: Ms. Sandy Brossard, Community for Education Foundation, Columbia, SC

The National Dropout Prevention Center presented Overcoming Obstacles with its 2013 Crystal Star Award of Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Prevention, and Intervention. Educators implementing Overcoming Obstacles see grades improve, classrooms and schools become safer, more students who are prepared for college, and fewer students who are likely to become dropouts. The program is appropriate for middle and high school students. Participants in this session will (a) gain an understanding of and be given free access to Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills curricula, (b) learn how Overcoming Obstacles is being implemented in other communities, and (c) become informed about training and support available at no cost.

COMBATTING COMPASSION FATIGUE IN EDUCATION
 Strand: Leadership and Policy
 Location: Kensington C
 Presenter: Dr. Joe Hendershott, Hope 4 the Wounded, Ashland, OH

This session is valuable for school leaders and educators alike. Given the current demands in the education profession, inclusive of the extenuating circumstances that affect many students, educators are experiencing incidences of compassion fatigue. This session will define compassion fatigue and the negative impact it can have on educators’ overall well being. This presenter will examine ways to assist educators with the emotional demands that are required in today’s classrooms and school climates through various methods of self-care and coping strategies.

TEN WAYS TO MEASURE AND TRACK STUDENT BEHAVIORS
 Strand: Behavioral Support
 Location: Eton
 Presenter: Dr. Pamela Bruening, Progressive Bridges, Naples, FL

Teaching and collecting behavior data doesn’t need to feel like a three-ring circus! Learn 10 simple ways to measure appropriate or inappropriate student behaviors without skipping a beat in your classroom instruction! Participants will use a variety of tools to measure student behaviors and translate student behavior data into increased student engagement and achievement.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015

12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

THE EVOLUTION OF EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS: ONE STATE’S JOURNEY
Strand: Leadership and Policy
Location: Oxford
Presenters: Mrs. Michele Blatt, West Virginia DOE, Charleston, WV; Dr. Steve Paine, BrightBytes, San Francisco, CA; and Dr. Mariam Azin, PRES Associates, Jackson, WY

Dropping out is a process not an event. Recognizing the importance of early identification and intervention, many states and districts have implemented early warning systems that utilize research-based predictors of dropout. This session outlines one state’s journey from a checklist approach to the use of predictive analytics.

WE CAN’T STOP HERE: HELPING AT-RISK STUDENTS SEE GRADUATION AS A WAYPOINT, NOT A DESTINATION
Strand: Career and Transitional Preparation
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Ms. Rebekah Richards, Graduation Alliance, Salt Lake City, UT

Even as graduation rates rise, individuals with a diploma alone are finding it increasingly difficult to find steady work and achieve economic stability. Learn how to help at-risk students transition to even greater educational and career training goals.

UNCOVERING BULLYING: LISTENING TO STUDENTS’ EXPERIENCE AND CREATING CHANGE
Strand: Behavioral Support
Location: Pembroke
Presenters: Dr. Robert Smith, UNCW, Wilmington, NC; and Ms. Kayce Smith, Brunswick Middle School, Southport, NC

While bullying has been identified as a serious issue and all schools have supporting statements of a safe and orderly school, the increased attention has often led people to naively assume that bullying is no longer a problem. This session shows the importance of hearing directly from students about their experience with bullying so that schools have data which is unique to their school to inform decisions about prevention and intervention.

TALKING VITALITY: COMING SOON TO A SCHOOL NEAR YOU
Strand: Leadership and Policy
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Dr. Hal Holloman, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

Honest conversations about burnout and vitality are critically important if we want to radically transform the climate in our schools. This presentation will provide a clear overview of what burnout is, what causes it, and what we can do and SAY to promote vitality throughout the school community!

CAN SPELLING BE REMEDIATED? YES! IT REQUIRES A CONSTRUCTIVIST APPROACH
Strand: Literacy for Life Success
Location: Somerset
Presenter: Dr. Dee Tadlock, Central Washington State University, Shelton, WA

Spelling ability seems to be something that students either have or they don’t have. Attempts to improve spelling through memorizing word lists or studying word origins have little effect. Learn about an innovative, constructivist-based approach that works quickly to remediate spelling problems and how you can implement it in your classroom.

1:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

REFRESHMENT BREAK
Location: Cambridge Hall

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

TPACK, SAMR, AND TIM—OH MY! THREE GUIDES TO USE IN LEADING TRANSFORMATION OF INSTRUCTION THROUGH THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY
Strand: Digital and New Ways of Learning
Location: Kensington A
Presenters: Mrs. Lisa Burleson, LSB Consulting, LLC, Lawrenceville, GA; and Dr. Lisa Stueve, Dordean Services, LLC, Atlanta, GA

Teachers and instructional leaders will engage in facilitated discussion around the use of the TPACK (Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge), SAMR (Substitution, Augmentation,
Modification, Redefinition), and Florida’s TIM (Technology Integration Matrix) to guide transformation of instruction through the use of technology. Participants will reflect on current practices and discuss enhancements to lesson plans and learning activities with a focus on using best practices to improve learning in both regular and blended learning classrooms.

**REACHING THE WOUNDED STUDENT, PART II**
Strand: Interacting With Specific Populations
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Dr. Joe Hendershott Hendershott, Hope 4 the Wounded, Ashland, OH

This session is designed for those who would like to dig a little deeper into the subject of today’s keynote address. Dr. Hendershott will describe programs and methods for alternative discipline to keep students in the classroom, build self-esteem, change behavior, increase achievement, and graduate from high school. Time for questions and discussion will also be included in this important session.

**LEVEL UP! DIGITAL LEARNING THROUGH GAMIFICATION**
Strand: Digital and New Ways of Learning
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Mrs. Debra Rook, Chowan Middle School, Hertford, NC

Incorporating digital tools and principles of gamification into academic programs gives students the power to differentiate, collaborate, and master content. This workshop presents action research results from real students, demonstrates digital resources for any content area, and provides templates for “gamifying” that motivate young people through the power of play.

**CREATING COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS-BUILDING CAPACITY**
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Pembroke
Presenter: Mr. Hiawatha Bouldin, Self Employed, Oklahoma City, OK

This session will include creative activities designed for the most fun you’ve ever had while pushing your comfort zone to the limit. Discover what it’s really like to get to know someone new. Discover human interactions that create barriers to building real relationships. Interactive games and activities are included throughout this presentation.

**BREAKTHROUGH LEADERSHIP—**
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

BREAKTHROUGH RESULTS
Strand: Leadership and Policy
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Dr. Reginald Williams, Sr., Shelby County Schools, Memphis, TN

Tipping Points, a book by Malcolm Gladwell, discussed how an epidemic could spread quickly across a city, state, or even country. This epidemic can be of a negative or positive influence. See how the principal at Kirby High School put Malcolm Gladwell’s book to use at a school he inherited on November 26, 2006. Putting parameters in place to address those “Tipping Points” allowed the “New” Kirby High as he affectionately calls it make AYP in his first full year. School officials must know how to de-escalate situations not escalate them. A PowerPoint, handouts, and illustrations will be included.

WHAT DO SUCCESSFUL LEADERS OF AT-RISK LEARNERS DO TO RAISE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVE SCHOOL CULTURES?
Strand: Leadership and Policy
Location: Somerset
Presenter: Mr. Franklin Schargel, School Success Network, Albuquerque, NM

Educators are aware that some schools support a culture that is not only hostile to learning but is toxic to students, parents, and staff. We contacted 300 high-performing, high-minority, and high-poverty schools and asked the school leaders how they were transforming a hostile culture into a supportive learning environment.

3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

BECOME A SCHOOL PAR EXCELLENCE THROUGH USE OF THE PAR (PROGRAM ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW) PROCESS AND SERVICES.
Strand: Leadership and Policy
Location: Kensington A
Presenters: Dr. Lisa Stueve, Dordean Services, LLC, Atlanta, GA; Ms. Lisa Burleson, LSB Services, LLC, Lawrenceville, GA; and Ms. Sheila Hilton, Ms. Ansley Jones, and Ms. Veta New, Anderson School District Five, Anderson, SC

Engage in an interactive session centered on a Program Assessment and Review (PAR), a comprehensive professional service provided by the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (NDPC/N). A brief overview of the multistep process, along with supporting documentation and sample recommendations, will be presented. The discussion will also highlight the pivotal role of the school’s Leadership Action Team working in partnership with NDPC/N in planning aligned next steps in the process that focuses on keeping all students engaged in school.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE: GIVING OUR YOUTH THE CHANCE THEY DESERVE
Strand: Behavioral Support
Location: Kensington B
Presenters: Mrs. Marlena Johnson and Mr. Milton Montgomery, SC Youth Challenge Academy, Eastover, SC

This presentation will provide a brief history of the South Carolina Youth Challenge Academy and review the practices of this program for at-risk youth, ages 16-18, who need a second chance by earning a GED; or if they qualify, a high school diploma. More information can be found at www.scyouthchallenge.com

PROBATION AND TRUANCY TO COLLEGE CAMPAIGN: BUILDING A STEM WORKFORCE WITH DISENGAGED YOUTH THROUGH OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING
Strand: Juvenile Justice and Law Enforcement
Location: Kensington C
Presenters: Mr. Ronald Russell and Ms. Nakita Bowman, Youth Building Success Enhancement, Houston, TX
American educators and mentors for future generations can use STEM as a way to develop a U.S. workforce capable of competing in the global economical landscape. This presentation shows techniques of how to get students on probation and disengaged or truant students on a path into society that will allow them to participate as productive citizens by engaging them in out-of-school STEM programming.

**EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS LESSONS LEARNED**

**Strand:** Leadership and Policy  
**Location:** Eton  
**Presenters:** Ms. Amy Peterson and Ms. Alexandra Anastos, American Institutes for Research, Waltham, MA

This session will focus on sharing lessons learned from evaluations of implementation of early warning intervention and monitoring system (EWIMS) processes to support dropout prevention. Prior to discussing the EWIMS implementation process, the presenters will discuss a possible framework for thinking about how early warning systems work connects to both high school graduation as well as college readiness and college persistence.

**USING FLIPPING CLASSROOM TECHNIQUES TO TEACH DIGITAL NATIVES**

**Strand:** Digital and New Ways of Learning  
**Location:** Oxford  
**Presenters:** Dr. Rose Skepple, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY; and Mr. Michael Hefling, Kentucky Dept. of Education, Lexington, KY

Presenters will share flipping classroom activities such as chalk talk, jigsaw classroom, wiki, and Web sites designed to engage the “Nintendo generation” learner. Participants will leave with a list of resources and techniques such as TED, EdTech, Blogs, Zaption, eduCannon, videos, twitter, and hashtag accounts about flipping suited for P-12 classrooms.

**A HIGH SCHOOL SAFETY NET PROGRAM THAT WORKS!**

**Strand:** Interacting With Specific Populations  
**Location:** Winchester  
**Presenter:** Mr. Matt Bland, Success Program  
Chesterfield County VA, Richmond, VA

The Success Program in Chesterfield County, VA, believes that all students can be successful if they are provided the resources to meet the high expectations that are placed upon them. The program is a cost-free, safety net that can easily be duplicated at any high school that has a willingness to improve grades, test scores, and improve school climate.

**SERVING YOUTH ON PROBATION**

**Strand:** Juvenile Justice and Law Enforcement  
**Location:** Pembroke  
**Presenters:** Mr. Carlos Cruz and Mr. Dominick Correy, Learning Works Charter School, Pasadena, CA

Gang-involved and probationary youth have many barriers to education. We founded Learning Works Charter School six years ago where the dropout is the customer. One year later, we began our alliance with Homeboy Industries offering the same program at a satellite site. With the goal of a diploma at its core, our school focuses on relationships and facilitating access to what students need, including a mental health team approach, the arts, and more.

**PRACTITIONER’S GUIDE TO PROVIDING PROGRAMMING TO INCREASE THE SUCCESS OF STUDENTS WITH AND AT RISK FOR EBD**

**Strand:** Behavioral Support  
**Location:** Hampton  
**Presenters:** Dr. John Delport and Dr. Jamia Richmond, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC

Participants will review the EBP and Dispositions assessment tool developed to assess their current programming and environments to identify potential strengths and areas that need attention. Participants will be introduced to the ways in which this tool can be used for self-assessment as well as systemic review by administration and team members to address gaps and build on strengths.

**SEAMLESS LEARNING FOR ALTERNATIVE ED STUDENTS**

**Strand:** Digital and New Ways of Learning  
**Location:** Somerset  
**Presenter:** Mr. Scott Lobdell, Edmentum, Minneapolis, MN

When students move to an alternative education program for a time—whether temporary or permanent—it is critical to ensure that learning continues uninterrupted. With a quality online learning program, students can transfer in and out of alternative programs without skipping a beat or losing credits in the process. Learn how schools and districts are using this cost-effective solution that helps students save their credits and stay on course for graduation.
2015 NATIONAL FORUM ON DROPOUT PREVENTION FOR NATIVE AND TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

MYSTIC LAKE® CASINO HOTEL
PRIOR LAKE, MINNESOTA
APRIL 26 – 29, 2015

PRE-FORUM WORKSHOPS:
• Reaching and Teaching Every Student, Especially the Reluctant Learner
• Understanding and Reaching Wounded Students
• Establishing a Graduation Coach Program in a Native Context
• Check and Connect: An Effective Approach to Engaging American Indian Youth

CONFERENCE STRANDS INCLUDE:
• Addressing the Opportunity Gap
• Instructional Strategies to Increase Learning
• Behavioral Supports
• Family and Community Engagement
• School Climate: Safety and Student Wellness
• Service-Learning and Restorative Justice
• Digital Communication and Engagement
• Reengagement and Recovery Strategies
• Culture and Language

PRESENTED BY:
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
National Indian Education Association
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Alaska Staff Development Network
Minnesota Dept of Education
South Dakota Dept of Education
Iowa Dept of Education
North Dakota Dept of Public Instruction
Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction
South Dakota Board of Regents
University of Minnesota, Institute of Community Integration
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
National Johnson O’Malley Association

www.dropoutprevention.org
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Location: Cambridge Hall

8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
REGISTRATION
Location: Cambridge Hall

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
MY FUTURE PALM BEACH: A SCHOOL DISTRICT AND COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Kensington A
Presenters: Ms. Nancy Reese, Dr. Dana Godek, and Mrs. Maureen Carson The School District of Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach, FL; and Dr. Peter Barbatis and Ms. Erin McColskey, Palm Beach State College, Lake Worth, FL

My Future Palm Beach is a system of tools developed by the School District of Palm Beach County and Palm Beach State College that deliver efficiencies in student advising, connect school counselor and college advisor workforce groups, maximize technology, and deliver community engagement results. These tools foster rigorous college-and-career-going preparation.

THE AHA OF URBAN EDUCATION
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Kensington B
Presenter: Ms. Danita Jones, The Human Experience Orlando, Orlando, FL

The Aha is a secret place where rigor meets respect and students are willing to go the extra mile because they see relevance in their assignments. Parents will support your efforts in the classroom because children are productive, they feel accomplished, and it is reflected in the home.

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
( Participants choose one.)

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
CONSTRUCTING COUNTER-NARRATIVES: HOW TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Eton
Presenter: Mr. Terrance Smith, Mobile Area Education Foundation, Mobile, AL

In this session participants will learn how the careful implementation of narrative storytelling can help garner support/increase funding for their programs, schools, systems, and nonprofit organizations.

WHY DO I HAVE TO LEARN THIS ANYWAY?
Strand: Interacting With Specific Populations
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Dr. Stephenie Hewett, The Citadel, Charleston, SC

This entertaining but informative session will help educators and program staff to provide encouraging but honest responses to the tough questions and comments made by students about education. The presenter will provide examples of supportive responses and the participants will share their experiences and responses. Be prepared to share and laugh!

USING STEM AND CAREER PLANNING AS A BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION TECHNIQUE
Strand: Behavioral Support
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Ms. Nakita Bowman, Youth Building Success Enhancement, Houston, TX

Many students who have become disengaged or drop out of school find no value in a path that leads to nowhere: school. Teaching students how to “plan your work and work your plan” can be the turning point needed in a student’s life that will help them to craft their own future. As Martin Luther King, Jr. proclaimed, each child must “reach down to the inner depths of his own being and sign with the pen and ink of assertive manhood his own Emancipation Proclamation.” STEM activities and career planning are effective tools to achieve this end.
All students have unique dreams and skills. This session teaches educators how to integrate student interest and long-term goals into daily instruction. Students will create the “Personal Playbook,” a detailed life plan built around their passions, talents, and goals. Exploring career paths and empowering students with a straight path from point A to Point B and beyond.

READING STRATEGIES FOR AT-RISK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
Strand: Literacy for Life Success
Location: Eton
Presenter: Ms. Kristina Florea, John T. Hoggard High School, Wilmington, NC

Too many students get to high school without the foundation they need to succeed. These students are the ones at risk for dropping out. They lag behind their peers or act out when they don’t understand the material. This presentation will provide an overview of strategies to help students overcome these barriers. In addition, it will showcase how to make the content culturally relevant by using high-interest material that will engage these learners.

EDUCATING THE “UNIQUE URBAN CHILD”
Strand: Behavioral Support
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Dr. Reginald Williams, Sr., Shelby County Schools, Memphis, TN

Legendary Leadership and Legendary Service is essential in educating the “Unique Urban Child.” Administrators, educators, parents, and staff members alike will learn strategies on how to transform a school and community. Every stakeholder job is important. The secretaries, the custodian staff, the special education department, the cafeteria staff, and others must play an integral part in educating the “Unique Urban Child.”

LEADING GRADUATION RATE IMPROVEMENT IN YOUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY
Strand: Leadership and Policy
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Dr. Sandy Addis, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson, SC

This presentation will address strategies by which school and system leaders can effectively communicate about and address the dropout issue in their schools and communities. The presenter will focus on research findings, trend data, and effective intervention strategies that will focus educator and community attention on the issue, generate increased local support for dropout prevention efforts, and mobilize local resources to improve graduation rates.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015

MCKINNEY-VENTO IN THE REAL WORLD: TRANSLATING LEGAL MANDATES INTO SUCCESS FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS
Strand: Interacting With Specific Populations
Location: Pembroke
Presenter: Ms. Jan Moore, National Center for Homeless Education, Greensboro, NC

This highly interactive session will examine the most critical components of the McKinney-Vento Act through the lens of practical application. It will provide a glimpse into the world of homeless students, the challenges they face at school and beyond, and how McKinney-Vento and other federal laws can help them overcome barriers. Participants will leave with strategies to help their youth access school and community services that will increase student success in secondary as well as postsecondary education.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2015 National Forum on Dropout Prevention for Native and Tribal Communities

April 26-29, 2015
Mystic Lake® Casino Hotel
Prior Lake, MN

CLOSED GENERAL SESSION
(All are invited to attend.)

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: Kensington DEFG

WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS, AND INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Ms. Cairen Withington, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson, SC

MAKING THE CONNECTION
Keynoter: Mr. Victor Woods, Victor Woods Corporation, Bloomingdale, IL

As teachers and administrators struggle with measurable outcomes in moving their schools and districts forward in an effort to prepare students to succeed, not only in school but in life, administrators are often overwhelmed with the challenges of trying to combat the negative influences that today’s students are faced with. This presentation will focus on prevention and how to identify students who are at risk for this type of behavior, and what to do with students who already exhibit the signs of this behavior. This session will explore ways that teachers and administrators can connect with all students, particularly those with special needs. This presentation will also include discussion on school violence and what can be done to prevent further tragedies before they happen. Victor Woods is a living example of what can happen when teachers and administrators refuse to give up on a student. Mr. Woods will share his personal experiences and the wonderful, talented, and caring people that assisted him on getting on the right track and winning in life.

CLOSING REMARKS
Dr. Sandy Addis, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson, SC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Apex Learning</strong></td>
<td>Apex Learning is the leading provider of blended and virtual learning solutions to the nation’s schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brianna Bell</td>
<td>1215 Fourth Ave., Suite 1500 Seattle, WA 98161 206-489-1046 <a href="mailto:brianna.bell@apexlearning.com">brianna.bell@apexlearning.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dramatic Solutions, Inc.</strong></td>
<td>The exhibitor will be offering their newly published book, <em>50 Dramatic Engagers for Learning Performance</em>. This book is a guide on active and collaborative strategies aligned with the brain’s natural way of learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen White</td>
<td>6409 Cosmos Ct. Glenn Dale, MD 20769 202-438-7031 <a href="mailto:dramadoctor@verizon.net">dramadoctor@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Edmentum</strong></td>
<td>Edmentum is a leading provider of online learning solutions designed to drive learner achievement for academic success, offering innovative solutions to empower 21st century learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cari Lienhart</td>
<td>5600 W. 83rd Street Ste. 300/8200 Tower Bloomington, MN 55437 952-832-1570 <a href="mailto:cari.lienhart@edmentum.com">cari.lienhart@edmentum.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GEM Educational Art</strong></td>
<td>Artist George Miller creates art that inspires the spirit of Learning. He hides positive words and messages in his art to activate the subconscious mind. George was selected by Florida Governor Rick Scott for Black History Month Artist of 2015. His artwork will be displayed in the Governor’s Mansion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George E. Miller II</td>
<td>3750 Silver Bluff Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32065 904-521-4059 <a href="mailto:george@gemartstudio.com">george@gemartstudio.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hustle University</strong></td>
<td>Hustle University’s MAKE A WAY program primarily works with Title 1 schools and educators that serve at-risk youth. Services include: staff trainings, youth presentations, and highly RELEVANT curriculum materials that provide educational strategies to build stronger RELATIONSHIPS and bring RESULTS!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotep</td>
<td>4156 Kings Troop Rd. Stone Mountain, GA 30083 404-294-7165 <a href="mailto:hustleuinc@gmail.com">hustleuinc@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Insight to Impact, Inc.</strong></td>
<td>The Insight to Impact® Solution is an early warning indicator and intervention tool for schools, juvenile justice, and nonprofit youth service organizations seeking evidence-based success and exponentially improved outcomes for youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Wilde</td>
<td>1004 Grand Avenue Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 970-945-9082 <a href="mailto:dwilde@insighttoimpactinc.com">dwilde@insighttoimpactinc.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>National Dropout Prevention Center/Network</td>
<td>Stop by and learn the benefits of membership in the National Dropout Prevention Network. Review the research publications published by the Center regarding at-risk youth. Publications will be available on mentoring, alternative schooling, early childhood development, and service-learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orbis Partners Inc.</td>
<td>Our organization provides Risk/Need Assessment and Case Planning for at-risk youth, e-training for youth programs, specialized programming for at-risk girls (‘Girls…Moving On’), research, and consulting services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearson</td>
<td>GradPoint is a web-based program for grades 6-12 that offers a full catalogue of courses to enhance virtual learning opportunities for each student—including core curriculum, credit recovery, electives, state and national test prep, honors, and Advanced Placement® (AP®) courses—and delivers them on a web-based and award-winning learning platform. Students have successfully mastered content and accrued and recovered credits resulting in improved academic performance and graduation rates with Pearson’s award-winning solution, GradPoint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read Right Systems, Inc.</td>
<td>READ RIGHT, breakthrough reading methodology with an impressive track record, eliminates student reading problems much faster than other available programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC Youth Challenge Academy</td>
<td>The exhibit will consist of a display board of pictures of past and present cadets of our program from field trips they have taken and opportunities they have earned. There will be a prize wheel for patrons to spin and win a water bottle or t-shirt. Brochures will be available for patrons to take as well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield College</td>
<td>Information on the bachelor’s and master’s degree programs in Human Services, offered in a weekend and online format in Charleston, SC, will be showcased. Complete degree can be earned in 16-24 months.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you for attending the 27th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM. We hope to see you at the 28th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM
February 14 - 17, 2016
Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
DIRECTORY OF PRESENTERS

A
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