TAKE A STAND
FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

OCT 25 – 28, 2015
WYNDHAM SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK HOTEL
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

SPONSORED BY

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CENTER/NETWORK

www.dropoutprevention.org
We want to thank our 2015 Planning Committee and Partners for their support in making this conference a success.

Betty Merchant
David Thompson

Kelly Kravitz
Christine McCormick
Julie Wayman

Sandy Addis • Annette Bassett
Mark Cheatham • Peg Chrestman
Jennie Cole • John Gailer
Denise Gianforcaro • John Peters
Sara Van Marel • Anna Wilson
Cairen Withington

Carol Harvey

Deborah Parizek
Shawn Wilson

Randy Cavazos

Sara Moseley
Christopher Throm

Jocelyn Kuhn
Shawn Petty
Nellie Reyes

Curtis Clay

Samantha Gellgos

Johnny Veselka

Kathryn Houston
Holly Vinella

Tori Austin

Jessica Weaver
October 2015

Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Texas for the 2015 National Dropout Prevention Network Conference: "TAKE A STAND For Student Success!" You have gathered here in San Antonio for an important cause in public education; strengthening interventions among school, community, and families working together to support students in at-risk situations. I commend you for your efforts. We in the Lone Star State stand with you in your commitment to student success.

Our Texas public schools, like public schools across the country, work hard every day to assure that every student makes it to the finish line. While we are making great strides with increasing graduation rates and closing the achievement gap, there is still much work to be done. We know that far too many students struggle with academic, social, emotional or other barriers to educational achievement. As advocates for student success, we must be persistent in our efforts and hold ourselves accountable until every student graduates from high school ready to succeed in college or a career.

This week you will focus on enhancing your knowledge and leadership skills to promote success for all students. You will have opportunities to learn from national research, promising practices and from each other. I invite you to visit some of our Texas public schools that are participating in the conference program. While in San Antonio, I encourage you to explore the culture of this great city, network with your colleagues, refresh yourself, and enjoy your stay on the Riverwalk.

We are honored to host you in the great state of Texas. Welcome and have a great conference!

Sincerely,

Michael Williams
Commissioner of Education

MW/jw
The NDPN appreciates their Innovation Partners, who sponsor their efforts throughout the year. We are pleased to have them in San Antonio, and trust you will take the time to get to know them.

AdvancePath Academics’ mission is “To Enrich Lives and Improve Society Through Education—One Student at a Time.” AdvancePath offers educators a high-quality blended learning program; communities a well-educated and productive workforce; and students an appreciation for education, encouragement for personal growth, better employment opportunities, and the foundation for a productive life and good citizenship.

BrightBytes’ main goal is to improve the way the world learns. BrightBytes’ motivated group puts students at the center of everything they do. Their team of researchers work to power a business intelligence program called Clarity. Clarity provides educational leaders the data to make informed decisions about students, staff, stakeholders and systems; and drive learning outcomes.

Catapult Learning Inc. has dedicated its time to improving the academic achievement for all students through its suite of innovative, technology-enabled K-12 programs. Catapult Learning’s experts work tirelessly to ensure students receive the best possible instructional support and that educators receive personalized, professional development needed to transform their instruction and create more opportunities for student learning.

Vizitech USA is a cutting-edge technology company with services that include curriculum and course development, live filming for 2D and 3D projects, Computer Generated Imaging (CGI), and many more. Vizitech USA’s breakaway technologies have made them national leaders in many areas such as CGI Modeling, Interactive Manipulation, Logic Replication and countless others.

NDPC/N’s Innovation Partners

The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network’s Innovation Partners are providers of creative and high-quality products and services that merit consideration by educators who are striving to improve graduation rates. We encourage you to meet our innovation partners at conference events and learn more about how their innovations may help you to address the needs of your students. For information on becoming an Innovation Partner with NDPN, please contact Sandy Addis at NDPC@clemson.edu or stop by the NDPN booth.
October 25, 2015

Dear Conference Participants and Special Guests:

Welcome to the Lone Star State and the historic city of San Antonio! We are glad that you have joined us for our 2015 National Dropout Prevention Network Conference, Take A Stand For Student Success. With more than 100 breakout sessions addressing ten strands or key topics, this year’s conference promises to be an exceptional professional development opportunity. We appreciate our partners and members of the planning committee, listed on the inside front cover, for their work in making this event a tremendous success.

The United States Department of Education has selected this event to highlight findings and lessons learned from an 18-month dropout prevention project targeting 14 rural states. Monday afternoon’s featured session will present a panel discussion of insights and findings gleaned from the project, and 14 breakout sessions will highlight the work done in each state.

This year, we are featuring student groups in a variety of settings. In addition to the student groups who will open each general session and perform at Monday evening’s reception, our Research Fellows will be working with local students to document student engagement at the event. Several presentations involve student panels and presenters, and we encourage you to support their involvement.

We encourage you to stop by our table and explore involvement with the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network through membership and our National Dropout Prevention Specialist Certification Program. You can also discover many resources that are provided to practitioners at no cost.

Please take the time to visit with all of our exhibitors who are located in the pre-function areas. These individuals represent agencies who are partners in our mission to increase graduation rates in our communities. We also want to thank our sponsors for the conference. Their donations and involvement help make this event a success.

Thank you especially to our headline sponsor, the Ford Motor Company Fund. We encourage you to stop by their booth and visit with them and the representatives from the Michigan Department of Education. They are happy to provide insight into the 2016 National Dropout Prevention Network Conference, which will be held in Detroit, Michigan, October 2-5, 2016.

On behalf of all of us at the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, we thank you for your attendance and for all you do each day to ensure that our students graduate from high school ready for college or career.

Sincerely,

Sandy Addis
Director, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
Take a Stand for Student Success

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK BOARD

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Dr. Steven Paine
Educational Innovation Leader
BrightBytes
Hurricane, WV

Take a Stand for Student Success
15 Years of
“Making the Dream Work”

www.callmemister.clemson.edu  mister@clemson.edu
SITE VISITS

In order to attend a site visit, participants must be preregistered. On-site registration is available at a cost of $45.00 per site visit.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015
10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Site Visit #1
Anson Jones Academy
Anson Jones Academy challenges students to advance from fifth grade to eighth grade in 15 months. It’s daunting but possible through an accelerated instruction model at Anson Jones Middle School that focuses on incoming sixth graders who have been retained at least once during the elementary grades. The Academy model was created after instructional leaders realized that Anson Jones Middle School had the highest percent of overage students in the district, approximately 40% of incoming sixth graders.

Site Visit #2
Young Men’s Leadership Academy
The Young Men’s Leadership Academy (YMLA) is San Antonio’s first all-boys public school and will represent SAISD’s expansion of this single-gender model of education. It is backed by research that indicates that boys and girls learn differently. YMLA will help boys in grades 4-8 build the kind of strong internal foundation that is necessary for external success. This single-gender environment allows boys the freedom to openly express themselves and the space needed to develop positive self-esteem and sense of self-identity.

Site Visit #3
Ed White Middle School – Project Connect and Restorative Discipline
Ed White Middle School experienced an 84% drop in off-campus suspensions in the first year that administrators began using “Restorative Discipline” as an alternative to “zero tolerance” to deal with conflicts among students. Since its inception in 2012, the first-of-its-kind in the state of Texas pilot program has gained recognition for decreasing suspensions, reducing office referrals, and increasing student achievement scores. Restorative Discipline is a prevention-oriented approach that fosters consensus-based decisions to resolve school conflict such as bullying, truancy, and disruptive behavior.

12:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Site Visit #4
Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design
Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design is a uniquely situated school—sharing facilities with the historic Alameda Theater (currently undergoing restoration), the school is officially housed in the renovated Casa de Mexico building. Participants will view learning spaces that leverage underutilized resources within the community, interact with students who learn within this space and out in the community itself, and observe works in progress at this nationally award-winning school focused on the fine and performing arts.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015
2:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Site Visit #5
Sidney Lanier High School & Good Samaritan Community Services
Youth Development Services (YDS) provides extraordi

nary opportunities that help economically disadvantaged youth acquire the life and academic skills necessary for personal success. Built on nationally proven best practices and industry research for youth development and out-of-school-time, YDS programs offer services to youth ages 6-18.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Site Visit #6
Academy of Creative Education (ACE)
ACE is an innovative, nationally recognized high school in the North East ISD for students at risk of dropping out. The focus of the site visit/tour will allow educators to observe ACE in action. Groups will be guided by ACE students to see the set-up of classrooms and interactions between teachers and students. A panel of students will be available to share information on their backgrounds, why ACE works for them, program specifics, and answer questions posed by visitors.
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. Fundamentals of Effective Strategies to Increase Graduation Rates
- B. Special Topics

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.
# OVERVIEW OF CONFERENCE

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WE’RE COMMITTED TO HELPING STUDENTS EARN THEIR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Catapult Learning’s Catapult Academy is dedicated to helping young people achieve in school and in life. Serving students who are struggling in high school, at risk of dropping out, or have already dropped out of school and want to earn their high school diploma, Catapult Academy provides the support, tools, and life skills needed to stay on track to graduation and beyond.

DON’T MISS OUR PRESENTATIONS

Title: Dropout Recovery: Creating Effective Partnerships To Ensure Student Success
Date: Monday, October 26, 2015
Time: 3:30–4:30 PM
Location: Executive Salon 4

Presented by Dr. Eumon Hervey and Mr. Stuart Udell, Catapult Learning

Title: Understanding Student Success through Student Voices
Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2015
Time: 10:00–11:00 AM
Location: Lone Star Room

Presented by Dr. Eumon Hervey, Catapult Learning; Mr. Collin Akintade, United States Navy; Mr. Paul Brown, Rehab Care Group; Ms. Cheryl Green, Consultant

For more information, please contact Dr. Eumon Hervey, Jr.
202.765.6066 • Eumon.Hervey@catapultlearning.com
Pre-Conference Workshops - 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Must be preregistered. On-site registration is available)

**PCW 1. The Most Effective Strategies to Increase Graduation Rates**
*Presented by Dr. Jay Smink, Professor Emeritus, Clemson University, Clemson, SC*
*Location: Executive Salon 2*

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.

**PCW 2. The Impact of a Quality Afterschool Program**
*Presented by Ms. Shanya Dean and Ms. Jocelyn Kuhn, Edvance Research, Inc., San Antonio, TX*
*Location: Executive Salon 3*

Join two afterschool professionals as they share the positive impacts of a quality afterschool program. These impacts include improved academic results, less disciplinary incidents, and positive attendance gains. Learn how to develop or improve your afterschool program to be used as an effective dropout prevention strategy.

**PCW 3. Reaching the Wounded Student**
*Presented by Dr. Joe Hendershott, Hope 4 the Wounded, LLC*
*Location: Executive Salon 5*

Based on the presenter’s book, *Reaching The Wounded Student*, this program will look at ways to assist students in becoming academically successful. This practitioner will describe programs and methods for alternative discipline to keep students in the classroom, build esteem, change behavior, increase achievement, and graduate from high school.

**PCW 4. Design Thinking: Connecting School to Real Life for Student Success**
*Presented by Ms. Deborah Parizek, supported by local superintendent, Jessica Sanchez, and students from Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design*
*Location: Executive Salon 1*

Young people need bold, progressive learning options. In this hands-on immersive session, participants will explore “Design Thinking,” a creative problem-solving process and personalized approach to learning that equips students to uncover real-life challenges, develop empathy, and work with others to devise possible solutions for community challenges.
12

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST/NETWORKING WITH THE EXHIBITORS
Location: Texas Ballroom

Please come and enjoy a continental breakfast to be served in the Texas Ballroom. This will allow time for all participants to visit the booths and talk to exhibitors about the many products and programs that they have to offer.

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
EXHIBIT HALL OPEN/REGISTRATION
Location: Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area and Third Floor

8:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
GENERAL SESSION
Location: Texas Ballroom

OPENING RECEPTION
Monday Night, October 26, 2015
5:00 – 8:00 PM
The Plaza Club, Frost Bank Tower Building

Join fellow conference participants for a time of networking at the Plaza Club in the Frost Bank Tower Building. Located on the 21st floor of the Frost Bank Tower at the corner of Houston and North Main, the Plaza Club is only minutes from the Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel, River Walk, and The Alamo. The Club offers a setting rich in tradition, and one of the finest dining and business centers in the San Antonio area. You will enjoy spectacular panoramic views of downtown San Antonio through the floor-to-ceiling windows, which showcase the city’s rich history and its vibrant future.

Entertainment for the reception will be provided by the San Marcos String Quartet, a varsity ensemble that serves students who are developing advanced skills on their respective instruments. The San Marcos High School orchestra program boasts two award-winning ensembles. They serve the community as ambassadors of orchestral education through performances at various locations. They are under the direction of Mr. Christopher T. F. Hanson.

Directions to the Plaza Club in the Frost Bank Tower Building:
Leave the hotel and turn left on Soledad Street and walk two blocks. Cross Houston Street and turn right on sidewalk and cross North Main Avenue. Entrance to the Frost Bank Building Tower will be on your left at 100 West Houston. Take the hotel elevator to the Plaza Club entrance on the top floor of the Tower.
Dr. Willard R. (Bill) Daggett is recognized worldwide for his proven ability to move education systems toward more rigorous and relevant skills and knowledge for all students. He has assisted a number of states and hundreds of school districts with their school improvement initiatives, many in response to No Child Left Behind and its demanding adequate yearly progress (AYP) provisions. Before founding the International Center for Leadership in Education in 1991, Dr. Daggett was a teacher and administrator at the secondary and postsecondary levels and a director with the New York State Education Department. There, he spearheaded restructuring initiatives to focus the state’s education system on the skills and knowledge students need in a technological, information-based society. Dr. Daggett has collaborated with education ministries in several countries, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the National Governors Association, and many other national and global organizations.
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

**Concurrent Sessions**

*(Participants choose one.)*

**What Do Successful Leaders of At-Risk Learners Do to Raise Academic Performance and Improve School Cultures?**

Strand: Leadership and Policy  
Location: Texas Ballroom A  
Presenter: Mr. Franklin Schargel, School Success Network, Albuquerque, NM

Next to high-performing teachers, successful leadership is the key to increased academic achievement and higher graduation rates. We asked high-performing, high-minority, high-poverty (90/90/90 schools) successful leaders in urban, rural, and suburban schools why they were successful when most schools dealing with at-risk learners are failures, and how they were able to change the school’s culture.

**Managing School Climate by Measuring Resiliency Skills of Students**

Strand: School Climate  
Location: Texas Ballroom C  
Presenter: Leah Rodgers, AdvancePath Academics, Williamsburg, VA

This session will help participants see the benefits of assessing students’ social and emotional skills and using the results to help strengthen a school’s climate. Participants will learn how to use resiliency results to evaluate their existing schoolwide programs and initiatives and identify gaps where staff can contribute to the development of a positive school culture. Learn about the benefits of identifying and responding to the social and emotional needs of your students to improve student achievement!

**College and Career Readiness: Developing a True Measure of On-Time Progress**

Strand: Data Assessment & Continuous Improvement  
Location: Director Room 2  
Presenters: Mrs. Mary Kay Gianoutsos and Dr. Warren Roane, Humble ISD, Humble, TX

How do you measure students’ on-time progress towards college and career readiness at every grade level? Humble ISD worked through a process to assess the on-time progress of every individual student by carefully examining existing data sources, developing performance targets based on four key factors, monitoring for continuous progress, and implementing a districtwide strategic focus. Join us to learn the ups and downs of a quest to measure real student progress.

**Rural Dropout Prevention Technical Assistance Group**

*(By invitation only.)*  
Location: Executive Salon 1

**The Opportunity to Speak, and Be Heard: The Arts as an Emancipatory Tool to Recognize and Celebrate Student Success**

Strand: Student Support Services  
Location: Executive Salon 2  
Presenter: Mr. Christopher Hanson, San Marcos Consolidated ISD, San Marcos, TX

The presenter discusses the pedagogical structures and devices inherent in the arts classroom to contextualize the importance of identity and community in arts education and its correlation to student achievement and retention.

**Strategies for Increasing Student Success: The Texas Experience**

Strand: Leadership and Policy  
Location: Executive Salon 3  
Presenters: Mrs. Julie Wayman, Ms. Cindy Swain, and Ms. Kelly Kravitz, Texas Education Agency, Austin, TX

Join this interactive session to learn more about Texas student success strategies. The panel will share examples of state-specific policies, resources, and replicable tools designed to promote high school completion, college, and career readiness for all.

**Simon Youth Foundation Meeting**

*(By invitation only.)*  
Location: Executive Salon 4

Take a Stand for Student Success
Every child deserves to stand tall, to stand proud…

to reach beyond whatever holds them down and meet their future, head on.

That’s why we’re here.

**AdvancePath’s Services**

Using our 20 year, research-validated, non-cognitive assessment, we survey ALL of your students, identify those at-risk, why they are at-risk and what interventions are required to rebuild their Resiliency and Academic Skills.

In-Class, In-School or In-District solutions to meet individual students’ needs - from Teacher PD and Student Resiliency Curriculum to programs for long-term academic deficient and suspended/expelled students requiring extensive wrap-around services.

Ongoing Surveys to identify progress or continuing/shifting student issues

Ongoing Placement - students move up/down service continuum based on need

Ongoing PD – based on needs (provided by District or AdvancePath)
IN-SCHOOL YOUTH COURTS MODEL
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
Strand: Juvenile Justice and Truancy
Location: Executive Salon 5
Presenter: Dr. Kathryn Atman, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

The blueprint for an in-school youth court identifies in-school and out-of-school support systems to uphold students as they change their behavior.

PREPARING STUDENTS TO BE COLLEGE AND CAREER READY
Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: San Antonio Ballroom
Presenter: Dr. Bill Daggett, International Center for Leadership In Education, Rexford, NY

To successfully meet the growing demand to make all students college and career ready, K-12 educators must overcome a series of challenges. Schools will be required to make a fundamental shift in both what is taught and how it will be taught. Students will be assessed on standards that are far more rigorous and much more applied than in the past; therefore, teachers will need to match their instruction to those higher levels of rigor and relevance. Dr. Daggett will lay out why these changes are being made, the impact they will have on curriculum and instruction, and ways that the nation’s most rapidly improving schools have developed and used a blueprint to meet these challenges successfully.

A FRAMEWORK FOR LIFE READINESS AND A SUSTAINABLE MODEL FOR SUCCESS: GIVING A CAREER-READINESS FOCUS FOR AT-RISK LEARNERS
Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Lone Star Room
Presenters: Mr. Joseph Goins, WIN Learning, Kingston, TN; and Mr. Rory Gesch, Navasota Independent School District, Navasota, TX

The goal for high school students in the U.S. is “career and college ready.” However, for at-risk students, this can be a daunting task and often a difficult situation for students with a lack of interest or engagement that leads to added school dropout. Research underscores the impact that a career pathway and alignment of career interest to the realities of local economic demand can yield a future ready learner. Join this session to learn how to transform your program with an emphasis on integrating local industry, business, and workforce support with relevant K-12 academic and expanding CTE programs.

THE GRAND BALANCING ACT—ACCOUNTABILITY VS. ADAPTABILITY
Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Fiesta A
Presenters: Mr. Jerry Keepers, Mr. Artie Dietz, Mr. Jeff Snyder, Ms. Susan Kennedy, and Ms. Mary Pat Sexton, Jefferson County High School, Louisville, KY

Learn how Jefferson County High School’s 30-year-old program continues to serve at-risk students in an era where accountability and budget austerity trump adaptability. We will discuss logistics, curriculum, and pedagogy as well as strategies to protect autonomy and funding in the face of increased oversight and budget cuts.

FOSTER CARE 101: AN OVERVIEW OF CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND COURTS
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Fiesta B
Presenters: Mrs. Jamie Bernstein, Children’s Commission, Austin, TX; and Ms. Kristine Mohajer, Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin, TX

This presentation will provide educators with a greater understanding of the child welfare and court systems and strategies for coordination to promote school stability and dropout prevention for students in foster care. The discussion will include an overview of a child’s journey in foster care, who is involved in planning for the child’s future, the importance of confidentiality and educator sensitivity, and the challenges facing students in foster care.
Place a career readiness guidance plan in the hands of every student with WIN.

Research shows that career planning and family engagement are key factors in reducing dropout for young learners. Helping students find their career path and guidance to get there is at the core of what we do.

Visit WIN Learning at Booth #20 & #21 to learn about our Career Readiness programs that are ideal for your future ready learners.

Learn more at www.winlearning.com
Joseph Goins | jgoins@winlearning.com | 865.414.0033
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE TRUANCY DIVERSION PROGRAM
Strand: Juvenile Justice and Truancy
Location: Fiesta C
Presenter: Mr. Matt Smith, Williamson County Juvenile Services, Georgetown, TX

Research has shown that truancy is one of the strongest predictors of delinquent behavior. The link between truancy, dropout, and later adult problems has also been established. Robust truancy diversion is a strategic, data-driven approach to dropout prevention and delinquency prevention. This session focuses on the key components of an effective truancy diversion program.

STUDENTS LIVING IN HOMELESS SITUATIONS? EFFECTIVE PRACTICES FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS
Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Fiesta D
Presenter: Mr. Patrick Lopez, Texas Homeless Education Office, Austin, TX

Homelessness in the U.S. is persistent and pervasive—you are probably already working with homeless students whether or not you are aware of it. This presentation will feature effective school and classroom practices for students experiencing homelessness and include an introduction to the McKinney-Vento Act.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015

TAKE A STAND!
FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

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We look forward to hosting the 2016 NDPN Conference in Detroit!

2016 NDPN Conference, Oct. 2-5, Detroit, Michigan
Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center

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GOING THE DISTANCE: KEEPING AT-RISK STUDENTS ON TRACK FOR LIFELONG SUCCESS

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Texas Ballroom C
Presenter: Ms. Rebekah Richards, Graduation Alliance, Salt Lake City, UT

Helping at-risk students overcome the obstacles that keep them from graduation can be a challenge. But the work doesn’t end when a student earns a diploma. How do you help students find opportunities in postsecondary education or career tracks? What methods work best to help students make and achieve long-term goals? Learn how counselors and school leaders can help students find the appropriate postsecondary path to bright futures.

ARE YOUR STUDENTS BUBBLE WRAPPED?

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Director Room 2
Presenters: Dr. Rhonique Jefferson and Mr. Pedro Flores, Cypress Lakes High School, Katy, TX

“Bubble wrapping” students identified as at-risk is a comprehensive approach which ensures students are receiving services to be successful in high school. As students transition to high school, the campus Academic Achievement Team is in place to provide academic and behavioral support. Administrative interventions and professional development are also arranged for campus staff based on achievement data. The Academic Achievement Team keeps graduation as the focus for the campus.

FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE: WHY YOU NEED TO HAVE IT ALL

Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 1
Presenters: Ms. Jacinda Goodwin, Maine Department of Education, Augusta, ME; and Mrs. Teri Dary, Manhattan Strategy Group, Waupun, WI

Rev up dropout prevention efforts by learning to leverage state policy to affect change. Participants will engage in meaningful dialogue about policies that create a critical infrastructure to support priorities for change grounded in current research. Gather ideas for revamping or expanding on existing efforts by implementing nonadversarial supports and interventions to strengthen adult-student relationships and improve school climate, student engagement, and effective discipline practices.

Can you remember the schoolyard slogan that went, “sticks and stones will break my bones, but names 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, on the way to and from school, and even online. “Over 13 million American kids will be bullied this year, making it the most common form of violence experienced by young people in the nation” (Hirsch, 2012). According to the FBI, “Bullying remains one of the largest problems in schools, with the percentage of students reportedly bullied at least once per week steadily increasing since 1999.” Additionally, cyberbullying has become more rampant and has contributed to the suicides of multiple children. The Internet has unleashed meanness to a degree unseen before.
Featured Session
Monday, October 26, 2015, 12:45-2:00 pm
Texas Ballroom

OPENING REMARKS
Dr. Sandy Addis, Director, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
Clemson University, Clemson, SC

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF PANEL MODERATOR
Dr. George Petersen, Dean, Eugene T. Moore School of Education, Clemson University, Clemson, SC

Panel Moderator:
MR. JOAQUIN TAMAYO
Special Assistant
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education

Panel Discussion:
DROPOUT PREVENTION IN RURAL AMERICA

The panel representing all levels of leadership from diverse states and school systems will be led by a U.S. Department of Education official to explore the unique qualities, challenges, and solutions for dropout prevention in rural contexts. Attendees will learn how rural contexts differ from state to state across the nation and how the United States Department of Education is supporting rural dropout prevention. Panelists will provide firsthand descriptions of models and interventions that are improving rural graduation rates.

Panel Members:
• Ms. Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
• Dr. Darron Edwards, Superintendent, West Tallahachie School District, Mississippi
• Mr. Brad Billings, School Recognition and Support Administrator, Alaska Department of Education
• Mr. Art Ellison, Administrator, Bureau of Adult Education, New Hampshire Department of Education

STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE RURAL DROPOUT PREVENTION PROJECT AND PRESENTATION TIMES

ALASKA, Wed., 8:30-9:30 am, Executive Salon 5
ARKANSAS, Wed., 9:45-10:45 am, Executive Salon 1
IOWA, Tues., 10:00-11:00 am, Executive Salon 1
MAINE, Mon., 2:15-3:15 pm, Executive Salon 1
MISSISSIPPI, Wed., 8:30-9:30 am, Executive Salon 1
MONTANA, Tues., 11:15 am-12:15 pm, Executive Salon 5
NEBRASKA, Tues., 11:15 am-12:15 pm, Executive Salon 1
NEW HAMPSHIRE, Mon., 3:30-4:30 pm, Executive Salon 1
NORTH CAROLINA, Tues., 1:30-3:00 pm, Executive Salon 5
NORTH DAKOTA, Mon., 3:30-4:30 pm, Executive Salon 5
OKLAHOMA, Tues., 1:30-3:00 pm, Executive Salon 1
VERMONT, Mon., 2:15-3:15 pm, Executive Salon 5
WEST VIRGINIA, Tues., 10:00-11:00 am, Executive Salon 5
WYOMING, Wed., 9:45-10:45 am, Executive Salon 5

ORGANIZATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP FOR THE RURAL DROPOUT PREVENTION PROJECT

U.S. Department of Education, High School Graduation Initiative Program
American Institutes for Research
Manhattan Strategy Group
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

WRAPAROUND: COLLABORATING SYSTEMS TO BUILD POSITIVE SCHOOL OUTCOMES FOR STRUGGLING YOUTH
Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Executive Salon 2
Presenters: Mrs. Erin Oehler, Texas Department of State Health Services, Austin, TX; and Mrs. Bonnie Evans, Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health, Austin, TX

Gain an understanding of how the Wraparound approach can bridge the gap between mental health professionals and schools in working together to help children with complex needs achieve success at home, at school, and in the community.

REACHING THE WOUNDED STUDENT
Strand: School Climate
Location: Executive Salon 3
Presenter: Dr. Joe Hendershott, Hope 4 The Wounded, LLC, Ashland, OH

Based on the presenter’s book, Reaching The Wounded Student, this program will look at ways to assist students in becoming academically successful. This practitioner will describe programs and methods for alternative discipline to keep students in the classroom, build esteem, change behavior, increase achievement, and graduate from high school.

A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO DROPOUT PREVENTION: FROM IDENTIFICATION TO INTERVENTION
Strand: Leadership and Policy
Location: Executive Salon 4
Presenters: Dr. Mariam Azin, BrightBytes, San Francisco, CA; and Mrs. Cairen Withington, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson, SC

Development of a comprehensive approach to dropout prevention means embedding systems spanning the entire continuum. Presenters will cover critical components of a comprehensive dropout prevention plan and the continuum of dropout prevention, including how elements build off one another in a way that can either promote maximum positive impact(s) or undermine the efforts of any school or district.

FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION
Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 5
Presenters: Mr. Thomas Alderman, Vermont Agency of Education, Barre, VT; and Dr. Jeannette Hassin, Manhattan Strategy Group, Bethesda, MD

Vermont’s first line of defense against dropout is a proactive model based on flexibility and personalization. Through legislative action, Flexible Pathways Initiative of 2013, the state established the expectation that all students will have the opportunity to be active co-developers of their learning experience. This session addresses the development and evolving implementation of the policy environment established by statute and rule. Resources and examples specific to professional learning related to this policy shift are provided.

FROM STATE AND FEDERAL COMPLETION RATES TO HOUSE BILL 5: SHOULD CHANGES IN OUR LEGISLATURE CHANGE OUR FOCUS?
Strand: Student Support Services
Location: San Antonio Ballroom
Presenter: Mrs. Deborah Acosta, Midland ISD, Midland, TX

The answer will be provided in this session. Attendees will leave with the understanding that dropout prevention begins in elementary and continues on to high school. Attendees will recognize the importance of implementing a strong RTI model to target “potential dropouts.” I will share initiatives our district has put in place to help keep our students in school and walking across the stage at graduation on or soon after their cohort.

CREATING COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS—BUILDING CAPACITY
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Lone Star Room
Presenter: Mr. Hiawatha Bouldin, Self-Employed, Midwest City, OK

Create open and non-threatening social environments. Learn techniques for establishing relationships with varied populations of varied ages and cultures in order to enhance community capacity. Discover innovative approaches that create positive results for closing “social silos” and connecting one another.
IDENTIFY AT-RISK STUDENTS EARLY AND WITH 2X THE ACCURACY
when compared to traditional flag-based systems

The BrightBytes Early Warning module pinpoints at-risk students and allows you to intervene early to ensure students graduate on time.

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THE SIX ELEMENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL TRANSFER SCHOOL: A PRESENTATION ON SERVING OVERAGE AND UNDER-CREDITED STUDENTS IN NYC

Strand: School Climate  
Location: Fiesta A  
Presenter: Mr. Thomas McKenna, Eskolta School Research and Design, Inc., New York, NY

Over the last five years, Eskolta has worked with 35 transfer schools in NYC serving overage and under-credited high school students at risk of dropping out. Eskolta will share stories of success and struggle in serving this population in the largest school district in America. Eskolta will also share the basics of the Eskolta model, which has proven highly successful in NYC.

FOSTER CARE AND STUDENT SUCCESS: TEXAS SYSTEMS WORKING TOGETHER TO TRANSFORM EDUCATION OUTCOMES OF STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE

Strand: Leadership and Policy  
Location: Fiesta B  
Presenters: Ms. Kelly Kravitz, Texas Education Agency, Austin, TX; Ms. Jamie Bernstein, Supreme Court of Texas, Permanent Judicial Commission For Children, Youth, and Families (Children’s Commission), Austin, TX; and Ms. Kristine Mohajer, Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin, TX

Texas is engaged in comprehensive multidisciplinary statewide reform efforts to improve the education outcomes and school experience of students in foster care. A panel discussion with members from the education, judicial, and child welfare systems will provide information on state-level initiatives, state and federal law, lessons learned, and tools/resources to inspire local and state efforts. Policy and practice strategies the education system has implemented will be highlighted and shared.

MINDSET AND GRIT: PROMOTING SKILLS THAT LEAD TO ACADEMIC TENACITY

Strand: Student Support Services  
Location: Fiesta C  
Presenter: Ms. Amy Moritz, Center for Schools and Communities, Camp Hill, PA

Why is it that the smartest people are not necessarily the most successful? Research repeatedly shows us that there are noncognitive factors that can have a far greater impact than IQ on both academic and long-term success. These factors include students’ beliefs about their intelligence and abilities and their habits of self-control. Come learn relatively simple psychological interventions that target these factors and can transform students’ achievements in school and in life.

CHECK & CONNECT: A COMPREHENSIVE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT INTERVENTION

Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement  
Location: Fiesta D  
Presenter: Ms. Jana Hallas, Institute on Community Integration, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

This session will provide an introduction to implementing Check & Connect, a structured mentoring intervention designed to enhance student engagement at school and with learning for disengaged K-12 students. Participants will be provided with an overview of the program and an understanding of how Check & Connect can be used at their site to increase student engagement.

TRANSITION/BREAK

Location: Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area and Third Floor
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

**Build It and They Will Come, Preparing Every Student for College, Career, and a Global Economy**
- **Strand:** Out-of-School Time
- **Location:** Texas Ballroom A
- **Presenter:** Mr. Dan Sifuentes, Outside the Box Dropout Prevention, Austin, TX

This information-packed session provides step-by-step strategies on how to tap into community resources to develop out-of-school tutoring projects. Participants will learn the art of partnering with service-leaning volunteers to ready all students for college and knowledge-based careers, while providing volunteers rewarding teaching experiences.

**Involving Fathers in Their Child’s Education: A Two-Generation Approach**
- **Strand:** Student, Family, & Community Engagement
- **Location:** Texas Ballroom C
- **Presenter:** Mr. Nigel Vann, ICF International, Silver City, NM

The National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse provides free resources for fathers and fatherhood programs. Join us for a discussion of how lessons learned from community-based fatherhood programs, literacy programs, and two-generation approaches can help schools work in partnership with fathers and community support services to enhance child well-being.

**The Powers and Duties of Attendance Officers and Their Role in Dropout Prevention and Recovery**
- **Strand:** Juvenile Justice and Truancy
- **Location:** Director Room 2
- **Presenters:** Ms. Amy Blackwell and Mr. Joe Trevino, Cypress Fairbanks ISD, Houston, TX

This presentation will outline the best practices and steps taken by Attendance Officers to aid dropout prevention and truancy. Texas requires school districts to employ Attendance Officers to enforce school attendance. Cypress Fairbanks ISD, the third largest district in the state of Texas, has an enrollment of over 113,000 students.

**The New Hampshire Story—Rural High Schools with No Dropouts**
- **Strand:** Rural Dropout Prevention Project
- **Location:** Executive Salon 1
- **Presenter:** Mr. Art Ellison, New Hampshire Department of Education, Concord, NH

This session will highlight the video story of the successful dropout prevention effort in New Hampshire and in particular two outstanding high schools serving students from rural areas. Key elements from that effort that would be useful in other states will be highlighted.

**Ideas and Solutions: Staff Development to Assist the Ex-Offender Reenter the School Community**
- **Strand:** Student Support Services
- **Location:** Executive Salon 2
- **Presenters:** Dr. Lynn Hemmer and Dr. Israel Aguilar, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, TX; and Dr. Michael Watson, Hays Consolidated ISD, Buda, TX

In this workshop we blend together ideas and solutions for building cultural responsive capacity in staff development as a way to assist students as they adjusts to the emotional and social effects of reentering the school after an out-of-school suspension, a discipline alternative education program, or juvenile justice alternative education program placement.

**iGrad: Increasing Graduation Rates One Student at a Time**
- **Strand:** Student Support Services
- **Location:** Executive Salon 3
- **Presenters:** Ms. Christy Boes and Mrs. Sara Donathen-Smith, Community Education Coalition and Ivy Tech Community College, Columbus, IN

Learn about iGrad, a local initiative to increase graduation rates by supporting students who have been identified as at risk of dropping out. Students are matched with graduation coaches imbedded in the secondary schools in Bartholomew County, Indiana, to ensure they receive academic, social, and other support needed to successfully graduate.
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

DROP OUT RECOVERY: CREATING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS TO ENSURE STUDENT SUCCESS
Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Executive Salon 4
Presenters: Dr. Ermon Hervey, Mr. Stuart Udell, and Mr. Andrew Post, 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 be engaged in understanding the importance of dropout recovery for individuals, families, communities, and the nation.

NORTH DAKOTA DROPOUT PREVENTION: NATIVE AMERICAN ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS
Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 5
Presenter: Mrs. Lucy Fredericks, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, Bismarck, ND

During this session, the presenter will provide background information on the Native American Essential Understandings that were created for the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and the connection to dropout prevention efforts in North Dakota. The presenter will also share information about the annual Indian Education Summit that has occurred in the past two years.

EIGHT BARRIER BUSTERS TO INCREASE STUDENT LEARNING
Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: San Antonio Ballroom
Presenter: Dr. Pamela Bruening, National Alternative Education Association, Naples, FL

Looking for ways to bust barriers keeping your students from fully engaging in your classroom instruction? Bust academic, motivational, and behavioral barriers with these research-based strategies to empower your students to reach their learning potential. Participants will experience these portable strategies in session.

BUILDING EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY-BASED PARTNERSHIPS TO FIGHT THE DROPOUT CRISIS
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Lone Star Room
Presenter: Mr. Paul Smith, Education Reform Advocates, LLC, Baltimore, MD

Partnering with local community-based organizations, nonprofits, and government agencies can yield impressive results in student retention and performance. In this session, with evidence informed by the Department of Education’s High School Graduation Initiative, we will examine best partnership practices and participants will develop a customized partnership planning guide for their own district.

ENHANCING STUDENT PERFORMANCE THROUGH BASIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND RESOURCES
Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Fiesta A
Presenters: Mr. Tim Stahlke, Texas Homeless Education Office, Austin, TX; and Ms. Jana Burns and Mr. David Ray, Region 10 Education Service Center, Richardson, TX

Highly mobile and homeless students in school communities have very unique needs. This interactive session will improve participants’ awareness and ability to understand students’ needs, increase student engagement, and expand existing supports in order to provide a stable learning environment for them.

FOSTER CARE AND STUDENT SUCCESS—GUIDANCE FOR TEXAS SCHOOL DISTRICT FOSTER CARE LIAISONS, 1
Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Fiesta B
Presenter: Ms. Kelly Kravitz, Texas Education Agency, Austin, TX

This track is specifically designed for Texas School District Foster Care Liaisons and Education Service Center Foster Care Champions. The “Foster Care Liaison” track will provide beneficial and necessary information for Foster Care Liaisons working to fulfill statutory requirements and provide educational supports to students. Effective practices, training strategies, lessons learned, available tools/resources, and state requirements will be shared.
RESTRICTURING SCHOOLS WITHOUT BLINDERS ON

Strand: Leadership and Policy
Location: Fiesta C
Presenters: Mrs. Betsey Smith and Mr. Brad Skelton, Research and Curriculum Unit, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

This session will engage participants on the implementation of the restructuring process Mississippi is going through at all high schools with less than 80% graduation rate. Using proven principles from an innovative model along with the National Dropout Prevention Center’s 15 effective strategies, participants will gain valuable insight on how to approach dropout/restructuring.

IMPROVE YOUR GRADUATION RATE! COLLEGE AND CAREER READY CULTURE PLUS DROPOUT PREVENTION TOOLS

Strand: School Climate
Location: Fiesta D
Presenters: Dr. Veta New, Anderson 5 School District, Anderson, SC; and Dr. Sandy Addis, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson, SC; and School Board Member, Anderson 5 School District, Anderson, SC

This session will examine how a college- and career-ready culture fully supports each student and guides system and school-based planning for “graduation success.” In collaboration with the National Dropout Prevention Center at Clemson University, the Anderson 5 School District is focused on being “college AND career ready” and supports the earning of certificates and credentials prior to graduation from high school. The message is inspiring and motivational while it offers techniques and tools that provide a springboard for continued action to prevent dropouts and increase the number of on-time graduates. The presenters will provide information from the most recent research, which identifies strategies that work and more importantly, the ones that yield the greatest return.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
OPENING RECEPTION
Location: The Plaza Club, Frost Bank Tower Bldg.

See Directions in the Opening Reception ad on page 12.

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28

Take a Stand for Student Success

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST/NETWORKING WITH EXHIBITORS
Location: Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area

Please come and enjoy a continental breakfast to be served in the Exhibit Hall. This will allow time for all participants to visit the booths and talk to exhibitors about the many products and programs that they have to offer.

7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
EXHIBITORS' SHOWCASE
Location: Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area and Third Floor

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION
Location: Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area

8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.
GENERAL SESSION
Location: Texas Ballroom
There is much talk about the need to innovate within the education industry today. The technology sector embraces a mindset which has led to rapid growth and innovation. A group of Silicon Valley leaders, Tech Entrepreneurs, and Educators will discuss how developing a “Silicon Valley Mindset” can benefit education. Additionally, in partnership with the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network and Henry Ford Learning Institute, Ford will announce Ford STEAM Lab, an innovative, free, blending learning curriculum for K-12 students. Ford STEAM Lab utilizes the tech industry practice of “Hacking” to spark student’s passion for careers in STEM and Tech Entrepreneurship.
9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

TRANSLATION/BREAK
Location: Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area
and Third Floor

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
(Participants choose one.)

PERSONALIZING COLLEGE AND CAREER PREPARATION THROUGH THE SENIOR MASTERY PROCESS
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Texas Ballroom A

Postsecondary preparation experiences should be as individual as students themselves. Learn about a program that enables high school upperclassmen to explore personal career interests and related college pathways, develop job-seeking skills, build a professional workplace-based relationship with an adult supervisor, and present their empirical research to their evaluation committee.

THE MINDSET REVOLUTION:
LIFE-CHANGING STRATEGIES
FOR AT-RISK YOUTH
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Texas Ballroom C
Presenter: Mr. Scott Shickler, The 7 Mindsets, Roswell, GA

Scott Shickler and his team researched the world’s most successful people and discovered they had 7 Mindsets in common. Unfortunately most at-risk youth have the opposite mindsets. Learn about the 7 Mindsets and how schools use them to improve culture, reduce behavior issues, and enhance performance. Scott will share games, activities, videos, and a methodology that can immediately be put to use by all attendees. You will be inspired and empowered. Free book for all attendees.

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW:
BEHIND THE SCENES
Strand: Data Assessment and Continuous Improvement
Location: Director Room 2
Presenter: Ms. Tiffany Anderson and Mr. Leonard Galloway, Anderson 5 School District, Anderson, SC

In an effort to increase graduation rates, the Anderson 5 School District (SC) engaged the National Dropout Prevention Center in a Program Assessment and Review (PAR). This session highlights the journey of a school and district through the preparation stages, the week of evaluation, and the next steps. Insights will be shared regarding the process, benefits, and necessary preparation for this effective tool. Lessons regarding the response to feedback from the PAR team and implementation of suggested strategies in our schools that have impacted real positive changes will be discussed.

DROP OUT PREVENTION IN IOWA
Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 1
Presenters: Mrs. Susan Walkup, Iowa Department of Education, Des Moines, IA; and Ms. Jenny Scala, American Institutes for Research, San Mateo, CA

This session will begin by introducing participants to the six-step process created as part of the Iowa Safe and Supportive Schools grant. Following that overview, presenters will then provide an overview of materials created through the Rural Dropout Prevention project that can support dropout prevention in Iowa, including a 20-minute video highlighting how authentic adult-student relationships have supported dropout prevention efforts in Iowa.

COMBATING COMPASSION FATIGUE
Strand: School Climate
Location: Executive Salon 2
Presenter: Dr. Joe Hendershot, Hope 4 The Wounded, LLC, Ashland, OH

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 schools through various methods of self-care and coping strategies.
Many young people today carry wounds with them as they head out to school each day, interact with friends and family, and experience life in their communities. These wounds are the result of trauma, many times experienced in the form of poverty, abuse, violence, loss, and family dysfunction. Research shows that this trauma has a direct effect on cognitive function, emotional health, and interpersonal capacity. Educators, counselors, administrators, and youth practitioners can implement trauma-informed policies and approaches to their work that not only move wounded youth toward healing, but have a positive effect on overall student achievement and performance.

**Featured Speakers**

- **Judge Steven Teske**  
  Juvenile Court of Clayton County, GA

- **Mr. Hershell Hargrave**  
  Singer/Songwriter  
  Creston, OH

- **Dr. Susan Bon**  
  University of South Carolina  
  Columbia, SC

- **Mrs. Sandi Redenbach**  
  Educator, Author, Consultant  
  University of California-Davis  
  Davis, CA

- **Mr. Maurice Clarett**  
  Entrepreneur, Public Speaker, Consultant  
  NCAA Football National Champion

- **Dr. Joe Hendershott**  
  HOPE 4 The Wounded, LLC  
  Ashland University, Ashland, OH

- **Mr. Maurice Clarett**  
  University of South Carolina  
  Columbia, SC

- **Mr. John Gailer**  
  National Dropout Prevention Center  
  Clemson University, Clemson, SC

- **Mr. Maurice Clarett**  
  University of South Carolina  
  Columbia, SC

- **Mr. Hershell Hargrave**  
  Singer/Songwriter  
  Creston, OH

- **Dr. Susan Bon**  
  University of South Carolina  
  Columbia, SC

- **Mrs. Sandi Redenbach**  
  Educator, Author, Consultant  
  University of California-Davis  
  Davis, CA

- **Mr. Maurice Clarett**  
  Entrepreneur, Public Speaker, Consultant  
  NCAA Football National Champion

- **Dr. Joe Hendershott**  
  HOPE 4 The Wounded, LLC  
  Ashland University, Ashland, OH

**Breakout Sessions** sharing resources and effective strategies  
**Pre-Conference Sessions** allowing deep discussion and learning  
**Networking** and sharing opportunities with fellow practitioners

### Who Should Attend?

School/District Administrators, Teachers, Counselors, Community and Faith-based Youth Practitioners

**Conference brought to you through a partnership of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network and HOPE 4 The Wounded, LLC.**

- National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson University, Clemson, SC  
  www.dropoutprevention.org

- HOPE 4 The Wounded, LLC Educational Seminars, Ashland, OH  
  www.hope4thewounded.org
CLOSING THE ATTITUDE GAP
Strand: School Climate
Location: Executive Salon 3
Presenter: Mr. Baruti Kafele, Principal Kafele Consulting, LLC, Jersey City, NJ

In this high-energy session, Principal Baruti Kafele will assert that the greatest difficulty to closing the various gaps in achievement is the assumption that achievement is in fact, the problem. He says that underachievement is a consequence of the failure to adequately address the attitude gap that continues to persist in American classrooms. Kafele makes this assertion for students across racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines. Principal Kafele will provide attendees with strategies for closing the attitude gap toward the ultimate elimination of under-achievement in their classrooms and schools.

CIS OF TEXAS MEETINGS
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Executive Salon 4
Presenter: Mrs. Sara Grunerberger, Texas Education Agency, Austin, TX

CIS of Texas Executive Directors, Program Coordinators, and Data Specialists will meet to discuss the current school year and possible TQS 2.0 changes. This is part one of a two-session meeting.

HOW WEST VIRGINIA IS USING DATA AND INNOVATION TO ENSURE ALL STUDENTS ACHIEVE
Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 5
Presenters: Ms. Rebecca Derenge, West Virginia Department of Education, Charleston, WV; and Ms. Amy Peterson, American Institutes for Research, Washington, DC

West Virginia has implemented a series of interconnected statewide strategies to support dropout prevention. These strategies promote innovation, data use, attendance, career and technical education, responsiveness to individual student needs, and school and community partnerships. Presenters will provide examples that highlight how these approaches have been implemented to improve graduation rates within rural schools and districts.

STUDENT EXPERIENCES, INSIGHTS, AND STRATEGIES TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: San Antonio Ballroom
Presenters: Dr. Terry Pickeral, Cascade Educational Consultants, Bellingham, WA; and students and faculty from Ray D. Corbett JHS, Shertz, TX

Students will share their experiences and strategies that create their sense of connectedness and belonging. They will demonstrate how teachers, administrators, staff, and community partners support their development by supporting their participation, and engagement. They will share strategies that engage each student and connect their world outside of school to their education experience.

UNDERSTANDING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH STUDENT VOICES
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Lone Star Room
Presenters: Dr. Eunmon Hervey, Catapult Learning, Camden, NJ; Mr. Collin Akintade, United States Navy, Jacksonville, FL; Mr. Paul Brown, Rehab Care Group, Austin, TX; and Ms. Cheryl Green, Consultant, Memphis, TN

With over two decades of direct mentoring experience with both rural and urban youth, the presenter has assembled a cast of former students in dropout prevention and dropout recovery programs who are current professionals and college students. This panel of achievers will discuss motivation, persistence, family involvement, school climate, and other issues to help identify successful strategies.

IMPROVE ATTENDANCE, ATTITUDE, AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS
Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Fiesta A
Presenter: Dr. Mickey Garrison, Educational Support Services, Roseburg, OR

Positive relationships between adults and students in a climate of shared concern are key elements in keeping students in school. This session examines a formalized, easy-to-follow feedback and monitoring process called Connections. The dropout prevention system helps
disconnected students become connected—to adults, other students, and their families.

**FOSTER CARE AND STUDENT SUCCESS—GUIDANCE FOR TEXAS SCHOOL DISTRICT FOSTER CARE LIAISONS, 2**

Strand: Student Support Services  
Location: Fiesta B  
Presenter: Ms. Kelly Kravitz, Texas Education Agency, Austin, TX

This track is specifically designed for Texas School District Foster Care Liaisons and Education Service Center Foster Care Champions. The “Foster Care Liaison” track will provide beneficial and necessary information for Foster Care Liaisons working to fulfill statutory requirements and provide educational supports to students. Effective practices, training strategies, lessons learned, available tools/resources, and state requirements will be shared.

**HELPING HOMELESS STUDENTS GET TO COLLEGE**

Strand: Student Support Services  
Location: Fiesta C  
Presenters: Mr. Patrick Lopez, Texas Homeless Education Office, Austin, TX; Ms. Reina Gallegos, Bastrop ISD, Bastrop, TX; and Ms. Teresa Cuevas, Seguin ISD, Seguin, TX

What does it take for homeless students to get to college? This presentation will feature successful strategies and practices from Texas school districts. Although the focus will be on high school, it will also address considerations for elementary and middle school. It will include information about FAFSA and homelessness.

**DOES YOUR DROPOUT PREVENTION INITIATIVE FOCUS ON STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE? HOW CAN WE COLLABORATE TO MEET THEIR NEEDS?**

Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement  
Location: Fiesta D  
Presenter: Dr. Pamela Bell, Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk at UT Austin, Austin, TX

Dr. Bell will provide an overview of data that describe students in foster care, a rationale for prioritizing their needs, and describe academic and social challenges they face in school. These children, particularly adolescents, have experienced trauma and have many adults from different professions in their lives. Participants will collaborate to identify priorities and plan “next steps” to reach out to other service providers to address these students’ needs in dropout prevention efforts.

**11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.**

**TRANSITION**

**11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**  
*(Participants choose one.)*

**DETERMINING INDICATORS OF GRADUATION RATES OF CTE STUDENTS AND TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC STUDENTS**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Texas Ballroom A  
Presenters: Dr. Sean Owen and Ms. Betsey Smith, Research and Curriculum Unit/Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

Join us to learn more about the findings of a state-funded research project that explored the impact of career and technical education programs and student demographics on the four-year graduation rate for of CTE and academic students entering secondary public school programs in Mississippi during the 2007-2011 academic years.

**REACHING AND TEACHING THE RELUCTANT LEARNER**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Texas Ballroom C  
Presenters: Dr. Judith Pauley and Mr. Joseph Pauley, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Potomac, MD

Students who get their motivational needs met improve their motivation to learn, stop their disruptive behaviors, and stay in school. In this fun-filled presentation participants will learn internationally acclaimed, research-based concepts that have been used by thousands of educators to establish positive relationships, motivate students, and improve academic achievement and behavior. The presentation includes research and content and shows how educators use the concepts to reach every student.
ViziTech USA presents Virtual STEM Labs

**Zspace** is an *individual or team* workspace designed to create hands on 3D manipulation, design, creation and learning opportunities. Zspace machines can be combined to create a complete STEM lab, as a part of a coordinated lab with other equipment, and with a Teacher Station that allows the instructor to show the images on a large TV screen enabling the class to see the manipulations being performed properly.

Products can be purchased using STEM Grants, SIG Funding, Title One Funding, Race to the Top Grants, and many other grants and funding sources. Let us help you create a funding program for your school.

“I have been in Education for over 40 years, and I have never seen anything like this.”
Superintendent, Ga.

“I completely understand, now that I can see the image virtually.”
Medical Student, Technical College

“This is THE MOST FUN way to learn.”
Sixth Grader, Tennessee

“I held a Heart in my hand.”
Fifth Grader Florida
MOTIVATING, EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING THE BLACK MALE LEARNER

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Executive Salon 3
Presenter: Mr. Baruti Kafele, Principal Kafele Consulting, LLC, Jersey City, NJ

The crisis of the Black male learner continues to pose major challenges for educators throughout the U.S. Principal Baruti Kafele contends that this crisis is much deeper than deficiencies in math and reading. With a national graduation rate of only 47% coupled with staggering suspension rates and chronic underachievement, he contends that clearly, educators have failed to identify the true essence of the problem. In this high-energy session, Principal Kafele will share proven strategies he’s used over his 21 year “mission” as a public school teacher and principal which inspired thousands of his Black male learners to consistently soar academically.

SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION MEETING
(By invitation only.)
Location: Executive Salon 4

GRADUATION MATTERS MONTANA: INCREASING GRADUATION RATES THROUGH SCHOOL-COMMUNITY COLLABORATION
Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 5
Presenter: Ms. Deb Halliday, Montana Office of Public Instruction, Helena, MT

Learn about state and local change strategies employed in Graduation Matters Montana. Participants will receive toolkits to guide the locally designed change process that engages schools, communities, businesses, and families in a focused effort to increase the number of students who graduate prepared for college and careers. Gain valuable insights from lessons learned, interact and share effective strategies in this participatory session.

ADDRESSING NEIGHBORHOOD EFFECTS TO REDUCE DROPOUTS
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Executive Salon 2
Presenter: Dr. Ruby Payne, aha! Process, Inc., Highlands, TX

This session will identify an approach to address poverty and dropouts in a community that involves both the resourced and the underresourced. As a result, schools will be able to have a more cohesive community, greater parental involvement and support, and more stable households. This in turn promotes higher achievement and fewer dropouts.
SEVEN WAYS TO TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF WOUNDED STUDENTS
Strand: School Climate
Location: San Antonio Ballroom
Presenter: Dr. Joe Hendershot, Hope 4 The Wounded, LLC, Ashland, OH

Based on the presenter’s next book to be released in 2015, this session is intended for those who are ready to redesign their school environment to meet the needs of children who are wounded due to abuse, neglect, and/or emotional trauma. This session will focus on transforming school culture to reach all children and move away from the acceptance of our children falling victim to a throwaway society.

ASSESSING RESILIENCE TO PREDICT ACADEMIC OUTCOMES, IMPROVE TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS AND GRADUATION RATES, PLUS IMPROVE SCHOOL CLIMATE
Strand: Data Assessment and Continuous Improvement
Location: Lone Star Room
Presenter: Ms. Leise Roberts, ScholarCentric, Williamsburg, VA

Longitudinal research of nearly 10,000 middle school students demonstrate that student resiliency data can be used to accurately predict high school academic performance and graduation rates much earlier than traditional signs of disengagement present. In addition to an overview of the research, participants will learn about tools and strategies for identifying these key early warning indicators, and how to shape their RTI/MTSS frameworks to address the instructional and behavioral needs of their students with more relevant interventions. Multiple district data analytics usage will be cited.

CIS OF TEXAS MEETINGS
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Fiesta A
Presenter: Mrs. Sara Grunberger, Texas Education Agency, Austin, TX

CIS of Texas Executive Directors, Program Coordinators, and Data Specialists will meet to discuss the current school year and possible TQS 2.0 changes. This is part two of a two-session meeting.

FOSTER CARE AND STUDENT SUCCESS—GUIDANCE FOR TEXAS SCHOOL DISTRICT FOSTER CARE LIAISONS, 3
Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Fiesta B
Presenter: Ms. Kelly Kravitz, Texas Education Agency, Austin, TX

This track is specifically designed for Texas School District Foster Care Liaisons and Education Service Center Foster Care Champions. The “Foster Care Liaison” track will provide beneficial and necessary information for Foster Care Liaisons working to fulfill statutory requirements and provide educational supports to students. Effective practices, training strategies, lessons learned, available tools/resources, and state requirements will be shared.

IMPLEMENTING AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM
Strand: Data Assessment and Continuous Improvement
Location: Fiesta C
Presenters: Mr. David Blumenthal and Ms. Jenny Scala, American Institutes for Research, San Mateo, CA

This seminar will introduce American Institutes for Research’s data-driven, seven-step Early Warning Intervention Monitoring System process. Developed under contract with the U.S. Department of Education, this continuous improvement process enables schools to match students to interventions that best meet their needs within a tiered system of support.

PROJECT CONNECT—TRUANCY INTERVENTION PROGRAM
Strand: Juvenile Justice and Truancy
Location: Fiesta D
Presenters: Ms. Rebecca Martinez, Ms. Emily Martinez, Mr. Gilbert Perez, Ms. Cynthia Gonzales, and Mrs. Elida Robledo, Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department, San Antonio, TX; and Mrs. Jessica Weaver, Communities In Schools, San Antonio, TX

Project Connect is a collaborative truancy prevention program that involves four partner entities: the Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department, Communities In Schools, Southwest Key Family Keys Program, and North East Independent School District.
12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

NETWORKING LUNCHEON
Location: Fiesta Pavilion and Third Floor

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
(Participants choose one.)

DESIGN THINKING: CONNECTING SCHOOL TO REAL LIFE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Texas Ballroom A
Presenters: Ms. Deborah Parizek and Ms. Jessica Sanchez, Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design, Houston, TX

Young people need bold, progressive learning options. In this hands-on immersive session, participants will explore “Design Thinking,” a creative problem-solving process and personalized approach to learning that equips students to uncover real-life challenges, develop empathy, and work with others to devise possible solutions for community challenges.

TURN YOUR SCHOOL INTO A 90/90/90 SUCCESS
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Texas Ballroom C
Presenter: Mr. Franklin Schargel, School Success Network, Albuquerque, NM

Westinghouse High School was a typical, inner-city, Title I school with a high dropout rate; a demoralized faculty; and uninvolved parents. Several years later, the school had become a 90/90/90 success. Find out how we did it. Find out how you can do it!

RURAL DROPOUT PREVENTION IN OKLAHOMA: ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION
Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 1
Presenters: Ms. Jennifer Wilkinson, Oklahoma Department of Education, Oklahoma City, OK; and Dr. Richard M. Krise, NDPC/N, Clemson, SC

The presentation will establish the rural dropout prevention context of Oklahoma. It will highlight the statewide plan to reduce the dropout rate, the special obstacles faced by rural school districts in implementing the legislative mandated plan, and a video which shows how several students were supported in reaching their goal to graduate—thanks to the flexibility of Oklahoma’s plan and the dedication of the leaders and staff of the alternative schools in Oklahoma.

FLIPPING THE SWITCH: KEYS TO CREATING A RESILIENT SCHOOL CLIMATE
Strand: School Climate
Location: Executive Salon 2
Presenter: Mr. Christian Moore, WhyTry, Provo, UT

Drawing from the vital skills of resilience in WhyTry Founder Christian Moore’s book, *The Resilience Breakthrough: 27 Tools for Turning Adversity into Action*, this engaging presentation empowers participants to learn resilience and to deliver these skills to students of any background and learning style, enabling them to thrive both in school and in life.

SERVING HOMELESS STUDENTS: WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD
Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Executive Salon 3
Presenters: Ms. Jan Moore, National Center for Homeless Education, Greensboro, NC; and Ms. Jacinda Goodwin, Maine Department of Education, Augusta, ME

National and state level homeless education staff will examine federal laws related to serving homeless students through the lens of practical application, providing a glimpse into the challenges these students face and how state and school district staff can help students overcome barriers. Participants will leave with new ideas and strategies to promote collaboration and increase student success.
Dropping out is a process, not an event. Students at risk of dropping out typically exhibit signs for several years before the actual event occurs. This session provides an overview and demonstration of the next generation of Early Warning Systems, utilizing a predictive analytics framework and a district’s or state’s own historical data on students who have previously graduated or dropped out.

More than 700,000 North Carolina students attend rural schools. This session will highlight efforts the state has undertaken to improve graduation outcomes for all students, particularly those enrolled in rural schools. Presenters will share how the state (a) connects dropout prevention efforts and other state and local initiatives, (b) promotes networking and the dissemination of practices and lessons learned, and (c) encourages data use to inform dropout prevention interventions and supports.

MAPS, a social and emotional learning (SEL) based course offered by Austin School District is garnering national attention for its positive effects on 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. Experience how Mr. Matheny uses student engagement strategies to implement a research-based SEL curriculum. Session will include student interviews & example lesson components/activities.
TEXAS SCHOOLS, BULLYING, AND THE LAW
Strand: School Climate
Location: Fiesta C
Presenter: Mr. Curtis Clay, Texas School Safety Center/Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

Texas school districts are required to have policies and procedures in place to address the issue of bullying. This presentation will look at Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code to discuss those mandates. The presentation is also an interactive session that provides participants with effective strategies to deal with bullying on their campuses and helps to create a safer environment.

UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH DROPOUT PREVENTION: HARRIS COUNTY COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Fiesta D
Presenters: Ms. Jeanne Stamp, Texas Homeless Education Office, University of Texas, Austin, TX; Mr. Gary Grier, Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, Houston, TX; Ms. Deb Murphy, Montrose Counseling Center, Houston, TX; Mr. Dave Schrandt, Cypress Fairbanks ISD, Cypress, TX; and Mr. Joel Levine, Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults, Houston, TX

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY) have a 25% graduation rate. They “couch surf” with friends, and worry school administrators who must account for attendance, promotion, graduation rates, and students’ welfare. This session identifies federal and state laws in educating UHY and highlights Harris County collaborations that involve governmental, youth serving agencies, and schools, in an organized, focused and replicable initiative to ensure positive educational and life outcomes.

2:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

SITE VISIT 5
Location: Meet in Hotel Lobby

For complete descriptions of site visits, refer to page 7.

3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

FEATURED SESSION
Location: Ballroom AB

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Join us for the next National Dropout Prevention Center/Network TV Webcast
November 10, 2015
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time

“Capacity Building: STEM to STEAM in South Carolina”

presented by

Dr. Cassie Quigley

Dr. Danielle Herro

By 2018, an estimated 81,000 STEM jobs will need to be filled in South Carolina. Despite an increase in STEM majors, however, students are not choosing STEM fields. Instead, they are selecting more “transdisciplinary” fields that include the arts. An innovative educational practice called STEAM (where “A” represents the arts) is helping students see the creative and imaginative parts of STEM and increasing their engagement in STEM fields. The development of an interdisciplin ary STEAM ecosystem—including schools, families, businesses, and community members—is being led by a team of Clemson University faculty. The effort aims to increase the participation of South Carolina students in STEM fields, beginning in elementary school.

It costs nothing to join this radio webcast and no registration is required. On the day of the webcast, sign on early to ensure your connection. Link to www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact the National Dropout Prevention Center at ndpc@clemson.edu or 864-656-2599.

This webcast is produced by Clemson Broadcast Productions in partnership with NDPC/N with support from Catapult Learning and Penn Foster.
OPENING REMARKS
Mr. John Gailer, Assistant Director, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
Clemson University, Clemson, SC

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr. Steven Paine, Educational Innovation Leader, Brightbytes, Hurricane, WV

MR. ARIC BOSTICK
Aric Bostick Success Training
San Antonio, Texas

FIRED UP AND ON TRACK FOR SUCCESS!
“Simple Strategies the Everyday Hero can take to keep their fire alive and help each student prepare to be college and career ready!”

Being an educator, counselor or student advocate is one of the most rewarding occupations in the world. However, it is also one of the most challenging, underappreciated, and exhausting jobs one can possibly take on. If you have ever lost your focus, lost your passion or simply felt burnout by the enormous task of being all things to all people then this workshop will be just what the doctor ordered. Get ready to be rejuvenated, refocused and fired up to make a difference once again!

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Aric Bostick is a first generation college student and former high school teacher and coach who created a life changing after school program called the Goal Setters. Due the program’s success, it was featured on local television shows in San Antonio where he taught Speech Communications. He created a summer leadership camp called the Camp of CHAMPS at which students identify their goals and dreams so they can pursue their college and career goals. He has been a full-time speaker now for 15 years and is considered among the nation’s top speakers for students and educators. He has spoken in 43 states to more than a half million students, teachers and parents!

Aric’s message for teachers gets them FIRED UP to be educators and gives them the tools to connect with even the most difficult students as well as take care of themselves to stay energized throughout the year no matter how hectic the pace. His student assemblies, leadership trainings and camps reach students on every level. His HERO ON DUTY message equips students with the tools to be campus leaders, pursue their college and career goals, and put a stop to bullying so every student on campus feels respected and encouraged!
2015 National Dropout Prevention Network Conference
San Antonio, Texas
October 25-28, 2015
Mr. R. Keeth Matheny has taught on the high school, junior college, college, and graduate school levels. He is a strong advocate for the support of all students and especially at-risk students. In his district, Keeth championed the development of a freshman support program that has had remarkable results on student achievement and positive school climate as well as a dramatic reduction in discipline issues at multiple schools. He has helped to create a safer learning environment for all students, dramatically expanded the use of active learning methods of instruction to better reach all students, and led many professional development sessions promoting best practices for teaching and working with at-risk students.

Mr. Matheny has been the driving force behind the creation, implementation, and promotion of Austin Independent School District’s MAPS program (Methods for Academic and Personal Success). The course is designed to support freshmen as they transition into high school by teaching skills to help them succeed in school, relationships, the workforce and life. Over a four-year period, the MAPS program has helped to reduce freshman course failures at Austin High School by 41%, dropouts by 30%, and discipline referrals by 71%.

Mr. Matheny has led professional development sessions for hundreds of teachers in Austin Independent School District in his support role with the AISD Dept. of Social and Emotional Learning. In addition to work training in AISD, he has trained teachers and schools in Fort Worth, Bastrop, Lexington (KY), Chicago, Santa Fe (NM), New York City, and Washoe County (NV). His work in Washoe has been very influential in helping develop SEL programs for eight high schools including more than 800 staff and serving over 15,000 students.

Mr. Matheny has also participated in events to promote national implementation of Social and Emotional Learning. He has been a speaker at many national conferences and the U.S. Congressional Briefing on Social and Emotional Learning in April of 2014.

Keeth’s energy and passion can’t be captured on paper because it lives in the hearts and minds of the groups he speaks to and students he teaches. He wears his heart on his shoulder and students quickly see his genuine love for them, which allows him to have a powerful impact in their lives.

Dr. Joseph Hendershott is an exceptional educator who focuses first and foremost on the actual individual needs of students. He understands with crystal clarity that the key to any child’s success as a student requires that schools at every level be staffed with highly trained, empathetic teachers with the skills to welcome, nurture, and guide young people with a wide range of background experiences, many of whom have come from abusive situations. Joe has an extensive background working with difficult and troubled youth in the school system. He has been a high school assistant principal, head principal, alternative school principal and principal at Boys’ Village School (residential treatment facility).

Joe has presented at national educational conferences as well as staff training/professional development events on understanding and working with wounded or at-risk students, emotional literacy, empathy, esteem, inclusive communities, and other topics relevant to today’s educational climate. He has devoted his professional and private life to the development, coordination, and implementation of programs that provide educational professionals, parents, and community groups with the training to keep dropout-prone students in school and on the road to academic success. As Director of Field Experiences for Ashland University, Joe instills passion and empathy in the lives of future teachers as well.

Dr. Hendershott has authored two books, Reaching the Wounded Student, and soon to be released, Seven Ways to Transform Wounded Students.

Joe and his wife, Dardi, are co-founders of Hope 4 The Wounded Educational Seminars, LLC. They have nine children (6 girls and 3 boys) ranging in age from 4 to 25 years old. They are also licensed foster/adoptive parents and have adopted from foster care, Ethiopia, and the China special needs program.

For years, Joe has been involved with the National Dropout Prevention Network. In recent years, he has been a featured, pre-conference, and keynote speaker at NDPC/N conferences. His message of “Reaching the Wounded Student” has impacted the lives and changed the practice of many educators nationwide. As a national speaker and trainer, Joe travels throughout the country, calling for an educational approach that will move wounded students toward the path of healing. Through his impact with educators, the ripples of his message have affected countless students.
The Owasso Ram Academy is the alternative high school for the Owasso Public School District and serves as the district’s dropout intervention/prevention/recovery program. In 2009 the Owasso Ram Academy was recognized by then Oklahoma State Superintendent Sandy Garrett and the Oklahoma State School Board “for exemplifying excellence in alternative education.”

The Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Oklahoma State Legislature require that alternative schools in Oklahoma build and maintain their programs based on 17 research-based components. Each year this program receives “highly effective” ratings from external evaluators based on these 17 criteria. On average, the Owasso Ram Academy graduates 35-45 students per school year. Students are required to earn 23 credits and meet ACE requirements by taking seven end of instruction tests and scoring proficient on a minimum of four tests. For the 2014-2015 school year, 97% of eligible students met this criteria for graduation.

The relationships between students and staff last long after graduation as evidenced by the number of graduates who continue to visit years later. Ram Academy works hard to ensure that students see and experience the connection between the classroom and the real world.

The Leader in Me program in the Vicksburg-Warren School District is an excellent illustration of school-community collaboration, the second of 15 effective strategies purported by the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network as effective in dropout prevention. The program was brought to the school district through the Vicksburg-Warren County Chamber of Commerce and continues to be funded by community sponsors.

The Leader in Me is based on the popular book, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, by Stephen Covey. The program is designed to teach children these habits and make them more successful in school and more prepared for after-school life. The 7 Habits is a synthesis of universal, timeless principles of personal and interpersonal effectiveness such as responsibility, vision, integrity, teamwork, collaboration, and renewal, which are secular in nature and common to all people and cultures. Ms. Tammy Burris, Principal of Bowmar Elementary School says, “We have created a stronger desire to lead themselves, and we’ve increased expectations for [students’] behavior. The adults also lead themselves with the 7 habits, and we’re seeing life changes. We are more than test scores at our school; we’re here to help our students become productive citizens for success in life. Because of The Leader in Me, which we started in 2012, we are seeing great results and the impact is growing.”

The Vicksburg Warren School District currently implements The Leader in Me program in seven elementary schools and is increasing support to expand the program to the junior high schools.

### Crystal Star of Excellence Awards: Requests for 2016 Nominations

A program or individual from your state could be a prestigious Crystal Star of Excellence Awards winner in 2016 but only if you make a nomination. The forms are available on the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network Web site, www.dropoutprevention.org. The deadline for nominations is July 1, 2016.

The award categories are Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention, and Prevention for Individuals and Programs; Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention, and Prevention for Individual and Programs for Students with Disabilities; and Distinguished Leadership and Service to the National Dropout Prevention Network.

All award winners will be honored at the 28th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in Detroit, Michigan, October 2-5, 2016. Winners receive an elegant, engraved Crystal Star Award; a waiver of registration fees for the conference; and a one-night complimentary room at the conference hotel, and are listed on the world’s most accessed dropout prevention resource, the Web site for the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network.
The Hope Center for Kids got started when a youth pastor, Ty Schenzel, from Trinity Church started tutoring and mentoring at a North Omaha housing project "New Jack" in 1994. While building relationships with the youth he had the vision to create a center where many children and youth could be served. In 1998, that vision became a reality as a former Boys Club building was purchased. Today, the Hope Center for Kids offers its 500+ members a place to belong, a sense of security, and a multitude of opportunities to grow into productive adults. Hope Center programs empower youth, ages 5-19, to overcome obstacles in the classroom, on the street, and in the workplace. The focus has evolved from being an afterschool drop-in center to a coordinated program that equips youth for success through faith, education, and employment.

The Center meets immediate needs of young people by serving nutritious meals daily through a Kids Café. Daily life skills instruction teaches skills such as self-esteem, personal responsibility, making healthy decisions, and effective problem solving. Hope Center programs help kids realize their full potential and identify their individual strengths through the Gallup Strength Finders curriculum. Education and employment programs at the Center give youth a protected place to succeed academically. The Hope Center partners with parents and schools to monitor grades and promote progress. Teens are also assisted with ACT/SAT preparation, scholarship research, and college applications. In addition to pursuing higher education, the Hope Center offers intensive employment skills development as well as on-the-job training. This program teaches youth how to attain and maintain a job.

In 2014, the Hope Center served 22,000 meals and reached 1,950 people through family and community events. The Hope Center served 23 elementary schools, 9 middle schools, and 12 high schools. Ninety-five percent of youth hired in the Employability program graduated from high school or received their G.E.D. Records show that 80% percent of youth attending The Hope Learning Academy three or more times per week will be on track for graduation. Over the past ten years, over 90% of Hope youth have graduated from high school.

The vision and work of Ty and Terri Schenzel have made a significant impact on the youth of Omaha, Nebraska. Tragically, Ty and Terri lost their lives in an automobile accident this past August. The impact of their lives will live on. Brenda Christensen, board president stated, “The legacy of Ty and Terri Schenzel belongs to the children and families served by staff and volunteers of The Hope Center.” She said The Hope Center for Kids intends to stay and work in the community “until we are no longer needed.”

Dr. Shanan Chappell currently serves as Research Assistant Professor and Assistant Director for Quantitative Analytics in The Center for Educational Partnerships at Old Dominion University. She holds a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from Old Dominion University, a MEd in elementary education from Regent University, and a BA in communications from Virginia Wesleyan College. Shanan is Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator on nearly $30 million in funded educational research activities, performing advanced quantitative analyses and designing quantitative research methodologies for studies occurring in schools across the nation.

Since May of 2012, Shanan has served as a Research Fellow with the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network. During that time, she has participated in the NDPC/N’s Solutions to the Dropout Crisis radio and web broadcasts (June 2012 and December 2014). In May of 2015, Shanan presented the findings of a meta-analysis and meta-regression that analyzed the impact of dropout prevention strategies on dropout and graduation rates. The results were published in a technical report that she co-authored with other NDPC/N Research Fellows and center staff, A Meta-Analysis of Dropout Prevention Outcomes and Strategies (available on the NDPC/N Web site).

Her other research experience and interests include college and career readiness initiatives, education policy studies, early childhood programs, military child and family educational issues, STEM-related projects, and educational technology initiatives.

Dr. Chappell lives in coastal northeast North Carolina with her husband and their two daughters.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

COFFEE SERVICE
Location: Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area

7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
Location: Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
(Participants choose one.)

IT TAKES A VILLAGE: SCHOOLS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS WORKING TOGETHER FOR HIGHLY MOBILE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Texas Ballroom A
Presenters: Ms. Jeanne Stamp, Texas Homeless Education Office, University of Texas, Austin, TX; Ms. Estella Garza, San Antonio Independent School District, San Antonio, TX; Ms. Marta Martinez, NISD Connections Program; and Ms. Maria Cendejas, New Braunfels ISD, New Braunfels, TX

Schools cannot meet all the needs of students living in homeless situations, some with their families but many are completely on their own. This workshop will present the “how to’s” of school/community provider collaborations by examining the best collaborative practices of three San Antonio School Districts that are exemplary in building partnerships that meet students’ needs for educational supports, mental health and social service supports, and ensure positive educational outcomes.

A LIFELINE NOT THE PIPELINE: STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF ALTERNATIVE CREDIT RECOVERY PROGRAMS AND WHAT WORKS
Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Texas Ballroom C
Presenter: Dr. Emily Freeland, Mountain Brook Schools, Mountain Brook, AL

The decision to drop out is influenced by many factors, and students who fall behind due to course failure and retention need additional academic opportunities to catch up with their grade-level peers. They also need relationships with adults who support their learning. We can learn from the perceptions of students how credit recovery programs provide motivation and hope. This information can guide the design of unique programs that will encourage students to persevere and graduate on time.

RURAL DROPOUT PREVENTION IN MISSISSIPPI
Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 1
Presenters: Ms. Toni Kersh, Mississippi Department of Education, Jackson, MS; and Dr. Sandy Addis, National Dropout Prevention Center, Clemson, SC

The presentation will establish the rural dropout prevention context of rural Mississippi including the unique historic, geographic, and economic challenges that are faced by many of the schools, districts, and communities in rural Mississippi. The presentation will inform participants of recent statewide initiatives such as state support for struggling schools, community mobilization, and provision of dropout prevention tools. The presentation will also feature examples of local graduation rate improvement efforts such as multidistrict collaboration to overcome size and resource barriers and community support initiatives to infuse dropout prevention resources into challenged schools.
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

A STATE OF EMERGENCY: THE AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM
Strand: School Climate
Location: Executive Salon 2
Presenter: Mr. Victor Woods, Success International Incorporated, Bloomingdale, IL

This in your face no holds barred presentation will focus on the challenges and often dangerous circumstances educators and administrators face every day in regards to teaching students and redirecting lives. This session will highlight success stories and proven strategies to turn around troubled students and schools.

COMPREHENSIVE TRUANCY INTERVENTION PROGRAM
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Executive Salon 3
Presenters: Mr. Barry Smith, Ms. Kimberly Mitchell-McGee, and Ms. Belinda Hobbs, Fort Worth Independent School District, Fort Worth, TX

An overview of the significant aspects of Fort Worth Independent School District’s efforts to address attendance deficiencies through early intercession and participation with campus, family, community, social service, and the utilization of restorative justice to provide continuous wraparound services.

SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION MEETING
(By invitation only.)
Location: Executive Salon 4

DROPOUT PREVENTION IN ALASKA
Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 5
Presenter: Mr. Brad Billings, Department of Education & Early Development, Juneau, AK

During this session, the presenters will show a 20-minute video explaining how rural schools and districts in Alaska are supporting dropout prevention efforts. Following the video, the presenters will provide an overview of a brief created through the Rural Dropout Prevention project focusing on residential career and technical education programs. This discussion will include successes and challenges, lessons learned, and implications for similar programs.

HOW DO YOU SPELL SUCCESS? G. R. I. T.!
Strand: School Climate
Location: Lone Star Room
Presenter: Mrs. Karen Bayer, Independent Consultant, Edmond, OK

Are you searching for common sense, inexpensively implemented, powerfully positive strategies that foster success in your campus or organization? Join Karen Bayer, former paraprofessional, elementary teacher, middle school teacher, elementary assistant principal, elementary principal, and middle school principal to rediscover timeless tools that elicit individual and collective excellence in the 21st century school setting and workplace.

8:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

CONSCIOUS ENGAGEMENT: IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?
Strand: School Climate
Location: San Antonio Ballroom
Presenter: Mr. Aric Bostick
(Note: This session is for two hours. There will not be an opportunity to break and attend a 9:45 session as well.)

Improving your student’s classroom and school experience as well as cultivating a climate and culture of togetherness amongst your staff and parents can be the single most important thing you do to improve performance, productivity and student and teacher retention! In this session, we will discuss how your conscious care and concern can leave a positive feeling with every person. Leaders will learn how to recognize if students, staff and parents are truly engaged and how we do it matters and we will all buy in the goal of students graduating and being equipped to being college and career ready everyone wins!

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

SITE VISIT 6
Location: Meet in Hotel Lobby

For complete descriptions of site visits, refer to page 7.
REACHING BEYOND THE RISK

2016 At-Risk Youth National Forum
February 14-17, 2016
Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC

Conference Partners:
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
Eugene T. Moore School of Education, Clemson University
South Carolina Department of Education
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Communities In Schools of North Carolina
Communities In Schools of South Carolina
Watson College of Education, University of NC Wilmington
UNCW Dropout Prevention Coalition
William L. Spadoni College of Education, Coastal Carolina University

Conference Strands Include:
Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math
Juvenile Justice and Law Enforcement
Community, Family, and Student Engagement
Interacting With Specific Populations
Leadership, Policy, and Governance
Lifeskills and Personal Development
School Climate
Out of School/Community Programs

Visit www.dropoutprevention.org for more information
9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.  
TRANSITION

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.  
CONCURRENT SESSIONS  
(Participants choose one.)

WALK YOUTH THROUGH THE PROCESS SO THEY CAN RUN THE SHOW  
Strand: School Climate  
Location: Texas Ballroom A  
Presenter: Dr. Robert Shumer, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

This workshop is on youth-led evaluation as a means to having youth assume a major partnering role with adults in developing and assessing dropout prevention/school programs. The youth-led evaluation program would actually serve as a dropout prevention program, itself, by engaging young people in meaningful roles to improve schools.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS IN RESOURCE-CHALLENGED COMMUNITIES  
Strand: Student Support Services  
Location: Texas Ballroom C  
Presenters: Ms. Heather Denny, Montana Office of Public Instruction, Helena, MT; and Ms. Jacinda Goodwin, Maine Department of Education, Augusta, ME

This workshop will provide attendees with a variety of best practices for meeting the needs of homeless students in both suburban and rural communities that lack resources. Attendees will gain the knowledge to build an effective program using resources that already exist in every school building and community. We will include tips for working with Native American communities, both on and off the reservation.

NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE NATURAL STATE: DROPOUT PREVENTION IN ARKANSAS  
Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project  
Location: Executive Salon 1  
Presenters: Ms. Lori Lamb, Arkansas Department of Education, Past President of NAEA, Little Rock, AR; and Ms. Cairen Withington, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson, SC

Arkansas’ law mandates that every district must provide an alternative education setting—a positive intervention program. This session will focus on some of the ways Arkansas is working to increase and improve alternative learning options. The session will also present ways that rural schools and school districts are using their natural resources (e.g., community pride, ownership and responsibility, volunteers, project-based learning opportunities, teamwork among school staff and administration, school/family relationships) and how Arkansas is supporting positive solutions through early identification and increasingly equitable and effective technology access. Tools, tips, and treasures for interventions with challenging students will be shared during this presentation filled with multifaceted diamonds and crystals from educational experiences.

BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS: MEETING THE DROPOUT CHALLENGE HEAD-ON  
Strand: Student Support Services  
Location: Executive Salon 2  
Presenter: Mr. Nelson Horine, Anne Arundel Co. Public Schools-Maryland, Arnold, MD

Presentation with discussion and examples will provide a working model for the development of evening high school, twilight school, and summer school programs to support students who are experiencing barriers to graduation including failing classes, judicial placement, and removal from comprehensive school for discipline infractions.
Take a Stand for Student Success

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORTS:
BRINGING COMMUNITY RESOURCES
INTO SCHOOLS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Executive Salon 3
Presenters: Ms. Jessica Weaver and Ms. Jessica Hannah, Communities In Schools of San Antonio, TX; Dr. Carol Harle, Harlandale ISD, San Antonio, TX; and Ms. Katherine Pena, Harlandale Middle School, San Antonio, TX

Learn how the Integrated Student Support model works from the perspective of school-based staff and school administrators in this unique panel coordinated by Communities In Schools of San Antonio. By bringing community resources into schools to help students and families, explore how students, families, and communities can all benefit.

SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION MEETING
(By invitation only.)
Location: Executive Salon 4

STRIVING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY
FOR SUCCESS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND
BEYOND: CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION
IN WYOMING
Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 5
Presenters: Dr. Linda Meloy, Manhattan Strategy Group, Muscatine, IA

CTE programming increases student engagement through hands-on learning integrated with academics, with relevance to the real world of the student and the employment opportunities within a community/region. The types of programming in WY, the establishment of relationships with businesses, and the responses of students and their teachers will be shared in this presentation.

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED: A CAREER
DEVELOPMENT APPROACH FOR YOUTH
AT RISK
Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Lone Star Room
Presenters: Dr. Patrick O’Connor, Kent State University, Kent, OH

Career development has changed over the years along with many other aspects of society, technology, and the workplace. Students today need a new skill set when preparing for careers. In particular, youth at risk have extensive needs for effective career planning. This session provides professionals with a new approach to career planning.

Post-Conference Workshop

Wednesday, October 28th, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and
Thursday, October 29th, 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
(Must be preregistered. On-site registration is available.)

REACHING AND TEACHING EVERY STUDENT, ESPECIALLY THE RELUCTANT LEARNER
Location: Executive Salon 5
Presenters: Dr. Judith A. and Mr. Joseph Pauley, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Potomac, MD

In this fun-filled interactive session, participants 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 by including something in every class period that will appeal to every student so that every student will want to attend class, learn the subject matter, and improve their lives. Participants also will receive a Personality Pattern Inventory describing their preferred modes of communication, motivational needs, early warning signs that they are beginning to get into distress, their distress behaviors, and a suggested action plan of things they can do to get their needs met positively so they can lead happier, healthier, and more productive lives.
Born and raised along the border in a small barrio in Laredo, Texas, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch overcame poverty, discrimination, and illiteracy to become the successful community leader and founder of Educational Achievement Services, Inc., she is today. Although she grew up without material wealth, Consuelo was taught by her immigrant parents that she was rich in culture, tradition, values and faith.

The values Consuelo learned during childhood were reinforced throughout her career in the United States military. After graduating from Hardin Simmons University, she entered the U.S. Army as an officer and served for two decades. While in the military, she broke barriers and set records to become the highest-ranking Hispanic woman in the Combat Support Field of the U.S. Army. In 1996, she was elected out of 26,000 candidates to assume a command post, which would put her on track for the rank of general officer. She respectfully declined the honor and retired as a 22-year veteran of the U.S. Army in order to fulfill her mother’s dying wish — for Consuelo to return to her roots and become a community leader. In realizing her dream, she founded Educational Achievement Services, Inc. with a mission to prepare tomorrow’s leaders.

Consuelo currently shares her story with people of all ages and creeds. She is doing exactly what she preaches - living a legacy. She maintains a strong dedication to saving the youth of America by mentoring students and parents across the United States. In addition to her work with American youth, Consuelo reaches audiences in the corporate, professional, nonprofit, and multicultural markets.

Consuelo is the proud mother of five daughters and currently lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, with her husband, David.
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**Take a Stand for Student Success**

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MORITZ, Amy, Center for Schools and Communities, 275 Grandview Ave, Camp Hill, PA 17011, 717-763-1661, amoritz@csc.csiu.org

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**N**

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**O**

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DIRECTORY OF PRESENTERS

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DIRECTORY OF PRESENTERS

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V

W

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WITHINGTON, Cairen, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, 209 Martin Street, Clemson, SC 29631, 864-656-2599
## DIRECTORY OF EXHIBITORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Table #</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AdvancePath Academics</strong></td>
<td>32</td>
<td>AdvancePath Academics provides award-winning solutions for recovering disengaged, at-risk youth, offering in-school academies, whole school alternative programs, consultative and design services and products, K-12, for schools and districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Werner</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lwerner@advancepath.com">lwerner@advancepath.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4125 Ironbound Rd., Ste. 201</td>
<td></td>
<td>Williamsburg, VA 23188 (757) 208-0900</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>aha! Process, Inc.</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>aha! Process is an award-winning training and publishing company, founded by Dr. Ruby K. Payne, providing workshops, publications, and consulting services to help improve lives and build sustainable success in communities, schools, and higher education. We do this by creating an understanding of the dynamics that cause and maintain poverty from the individual to systems level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alecia Chapman</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ac31bags@gmail.com">ac31bags@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 72</td>
<td></td>
<td>Highlands, TX 77562 (800) 424-9484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BrightBytes</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>BrightBytes, an educational research organization, partners with industry experts to create evidence-based frameworks and translate complex data into simple, fast actions that improve student learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elka Chamberlin/Steve Paine</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:elka@brightbytes.net">elka@brightbytes.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>490 2nd St., Suite 302</td>
<td></td>
<td>San Francisco, CA 94107 (503) 310-5896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Catapult Learning, Inc.</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Catapult Learning’s dropout recovery program serves students ages 16-21, who have dropped out of high school but who are committed to earning their diploma. Catapult Academy provides the highest level of instruction plus the guidance students need to overcome obstacles and earn their high school diploma.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Given</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:matthew.given@catapultlearning.com">matthew.given@catapultlearning.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Aquarium Dr., Suite 100</td>
<td></td>
<td>Camden, NJ 08103 (800) 3841-8730</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communities In Schools</strong></td>
<td>22 &amp; 23</td>
<td>Communities In Schools’ evidence-based approach surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelly Bosse</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:sbosse@cissa.org">sbosse@cissa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2345 Crystal Dr., Suite 700</td>
<td></td>
<td>Arlington, VA 22204 (703) 518-2599</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Families and Schools Together, Inc.</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>FAST® is a prevention/early intervention program and catalyst for positive change in the lives of children and their parents. Built on a strong platform of development and brain science FAST® is designed to make significant, long-lasting impact on child and family behaviors, communication, and decision making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angel Barajas</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mbrooks@familiesandschools.org">mbrooks@familiesandschools.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>201 International Ln., Suite 212</td>
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<td>Madison, WI 53704 (608) 210-1896</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FORD Motor Company Fund</strong></td>
<td>13 - 15</td>
<td>Stop by and learn how the FORD Motor Company Fund makes the world a better place by supporting innovative programs that strengthen our communities, help students succeed, and improve driving safety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farah Harb</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>One American Rd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dearborn, MI 48126</td>
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<td>(313) 322-0580</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:fharb1@ford.com">fharb1@ford.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hustle University</strong></td>
<td>40</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>
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<td>Hotep</td>
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<td>4156 Kings Troop Rd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stone Mountain, GA 30083</td>
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<tr>
<td>(404) 294-7165</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:hustleuinc@gmail.com">hustleuinc@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>Lightswitch Learning</strong></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>At Lightswitch Learning our mission is to help parents and students be the best they can be, and to provide the information parents need to help their children succeed socially, emotionally, and physically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominique Young</td>
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<tr>
<td>250 E. 54th St., Suite 8A</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York, NY 10022</td>
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<td>(212) 371-9199, X7197</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:dominique@lightswitchlearning.com">dominique@lightswitchlearning.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Michigan Department of Education</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Come see and learn what the Michigan Department of Education is working in partnership with the FORD Motor Company Fund and the NDPC/N as they host the National Dropout Prevention Conference in Detroit, October 2-5, 2016. You will also be able to check out the exciting things in the area surrounding the conference hotel, the Detroit Marriott at the Rennaissance Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregg Dionne</td>
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<tr>
<td>608 West Allegan St., PO Box 30008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lansing, MI 48909</td>
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<td>(517) 241-4285</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:dionneg@michigan.gov">dionneg@michigan.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>National Dropout Prevention Center/Network</strong></td>
<td>9 &amp; 10</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>Mark Cheatham</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>209 Martin St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clemson, SC 29631-1555</td>
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<tr>
<td>(864) 656-4139</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:mrc2@clemson.edu">mrc2@clemson.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>National Dropout Prevention Specialist Certification Program</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Professionals in the field of dropout prevention may apply to the National Dropout Prevention Specialist Certification Program. Certification is earned through attendance at 12 designated sessions at National Dropout Prevention Center/Network events that address dropout prevention and effective strategies, demonstration of practice through a field project, and continuous National Dropout Prevention Network membership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennie Cole</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>209 Martin St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clemson, SC 29631</td>
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<tr>
<td>(864) 656-3875</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:jecole@clemson.edu">jecole@clemson.edu</a></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (NRFC)**  
Recaan Harb  
9300 Lee Hwy.  
Fairfax, VA 22031  
(703) 225-2846  
recaan.harb@icfi.com | 18      | The National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse is an Office of Family Assistance (OFA) funded national resource for fathers, practitioners, programs/federal grantees, states, and the public at-large who are serving or interested in supporting strong fathers and families. |
<p>| <strong>Pearson</strong>                          | 4       | Pearson delivers a proven curriculum, diagnostic-prescriptive instructional tools, and highly qualified teachers on state-of-the-art learning platforms so you can create personalized online and blended learning environments. |
| <strong>RaaWee K12 Solutions</strong>             | 16      | RaaWee K12 Truancy &amp; Dropout Prevention System helps school districts improve student attendance, increase state’s ADA funding, and seamlessly comply with the HB 2398. |
| <strong>School-Connect</strong>                   | 39      | School-Connect: Optimizing the High School Experience is a 60-lesson curriculum for developing social-emotional and academic skills. Used in freshman seminars, advisory, and alternative education, and special education. |
| <strong>Southwest Key Programs</strong>           | 5       | Southwest Key is a national, accredited nonprofit providing model community-based truancy prevention programs for schools, school discipline diversion programs, and alternatives to detention. |
| <strong>The Journal of At-Risk Issues</strong>    | 8       | <em>The Journal of At-Risk Issues (JARI)</em> is published twice yearly by the NDPC/N. JARI is focused on topics related to students at risk of dropping out of school or to situations that may put students at risk. Topics may include, but are not limited to, dropout prevention strategies, research and practice, social and cultural reform, literacy, alternative education, dropout recovery, and more. |</p>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WhyTry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>The WhyTry Curriculum: Boost social-emotional competencies in every student. The Resilience Breakthrough (Book): learn vital skills to unleash the power of resilience in your life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIN Learning</td>
<td>20 &amp; 21</td>
<td>WIN is the leading provider of career-readiness solutions that help districts prepare pathways for students’ futures, whether they are college, trade school, military, or workplace bound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouthLight, Inc.</td>
<td>37 &amp; 38</td>
<td>YouthLight provides exciting books, interactive lessons, games, and other products relating to topics such as relational aggression, self-regulation, socials skills, biblio-guidance and other developmental counseling tools.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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