Providing hope and support in and beyond the classroom

26th Annual At-Risk Youth National Forum

Feb 16-19 2014

Brought to you by:
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
On behalf of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network and our partners, we welcome you to the 26th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM.
Welcome to the 26th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM! We appreciate you joining us in Myrtle Beach, SC for a tremendous professional development opportunity.

The FORUM Planning Committee, consisting of our staff and representatives from each of our partners, has assembled an experience that will help you better serve at-risk youth in a number of circumstances. It is our hope that as you attend sessions and meet colleagues who share your passion for the success of at-risk youth, you will grow in your commitment, motivation, and skills.

This year, we are especially pleased that the FORUM has taken an international flavor. We are pleased to welcome government officials and education professionals from South Korea, who are in the United States gathering information that will assist them in shaping policy and practice with young people in their country. We are also delighted to have a group from Mexico that has come to present their findings about the effectiveness of a mentoring program in addressing risk factors of dropout prevention.

Every year at the FORUM, it is our privilege to honor an individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement of dropout prevention initiatives in the state of South Carolina. The Governor and Mrs. Richard W. Riley Award of Excellence in Dropout Prevention honors someone who exhibits strong leadership and accomplishments for effective dropout prevention strategies directed to initiatives in South Carolina and/or work that furthers the mission of the Center/Network. In our opening general session, Dr. Roy Jones, the founder and developer of the “Call Me Mister” program will be recognized with this award. “Call Me Mister” has its roots in South Carolina and has spread across the country. We are excited to honor Dr. Jones with this award.

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

Beth P. Reynolds, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Ms. Denine Torr  
Senior Manager  
Community Initiatives  
Dollar General Corp.  
100 Mission Ridge  
Goodlettesville, TN  
37072

Mr. Stuart J. Udell  
President and CEO  
Catapult Learning  
Two Aquarium Dr., Ste. 100  
Camden, NJ 08103

Mr. Robert York  
President  
Advanced Academics, Inc.  
1 E. Sheridan Ave. #500  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

We believe:

• that the strength of our society is based upon the strength of our public education system;
• that the intellectual growth and development of every individual is the mission of public education;
• that every individual has the right to an education that is responsive to his/her needs;
• that the public education system must be responsive to the full range of needs, abilities, and interests of children, youth, and adults;
• that in order to be responsive, the public education system should be designed to meet the needs of youth in high-risk situations;
• that the needs of children, youth, and adults can best be met through a strong cooperative linking of education, government, business, labor, and other community institutions;
• that the personal qualities of caring, consistency, and cooperation are essential to providing a positive experience for each student.
2014 FORUM INFORMATION

For a listing of all FORUM events, arranged by starting time, see the “FORUM at a Glance” on page 1. All sessions will begin promptly, so make every effort to be on time! The program listing includes the meeting location, topic, speakers, and a description of the session.

The formats for all FORUM sessions are as follows:
- Pre-FORUM Workshops—Participants must preregister and prepay for Pre-FORUM workshops.
- Concurrent Sessions—Participants may choose one topic each session.

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

2013 FORUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

We offer a special thank you to the following people who served on the 25th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM Planning Committee:

- Dr. Sandy Addis
- Ms. Annette Bassett
- Mr. Christopher Capel
- Ms. Jennie Cole
- Mrs. Iris Crawford-Long
- Mr. Nick DiColandrea
- Ms. Dani Dimuzio
- Mr. John Gailer
- Mr. Gregory Geer
- Mrs. Denise Gianforcaro
- Mrs. Debbie Hall
- Mrs. Linda Harrill
- Dr. Stephenie Hewett
- Mr. John Lane
- Ms. Anna Malone
- Mr. Billy Marsh
- Ms. Emily Meeks
- Mr. John Peters
- Dr. Beth P. Reynolds
- Ms. Deloris Rhodes
- Dr. Janna Robertson
- Ms. Leah Shaffer
- Mrs. Cairen Withington

Alabama Theatre Night

Please plan to join fellow FORUM participants at “The Alabama Theatre’s ONE Show”, which is continually voted #1 by Myrtle Beach Visitors and Locals, on Tuesday, February 18, 2014. The pre-show begins at 7:15 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 pm. The Alabama Theatre has been recognized as Venue of the Year by the Country Music Association. The show includes songs from the hit shows “Wicked” and “Les Miserables”, Motown, a special song sang with bagpipes, plus other favorites. We have arranged a special rate of $29.00 for this performance.

For advance reservations, please call Kathy Flowe, at 1-800-782-2262, ext 4450. We will also have a voucher for this event in the conference program but advance reservations are recommended to take advantage of better seating. Please refer to Confirmation Number G18517 when you are making reservations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, Feb 16, 2014</strong></td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Pre-FORUM Workshops (Must be preregistered.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>PFW1. Understanding And Reaching The Wounded Student</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PFW2. Creating Choices For Children Of Poverty: Change The Experience - Change The Brain</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PFW3. How To Bring About Change (When Change Is Hard To Bring)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PFW4. Darkness To Light's Stewards Of Children Sexual Abuse Prevention Training</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Refreshment Break</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Forum Reception (Coastal Bar and Vista I &amp; II)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, Feb 17, 2014</strong></td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Open/Registration</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Opening General Session</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Keynoter: Dr. Mark Wilson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch (On your own)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, Feb 18, 2014</strong></td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Open</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>General Session</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Keynoter: Ms. Donna Tyson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Networking Luncheon</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Optional Entertainment (Alabama Theatre)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, Feb 19, 2014</strong></td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Closing General Session</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Keynoter: Dr. Willie Kimmons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Directory of Presenters</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Directory of Exhibitors</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRE-FORUM WORKSHOPS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2014
2:00-5:00 PM

PFW 1. Understanding and Reaching the Wounded Student
Location: Eton
Presented by Mr. Joe Hendershott, Hope 4 the Wounded,
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.

Joe Hendershott is currently pursuing his Ed.D. in educational leadership & is the Director of Field Experiences at Ashland University. He is also the co-founder/president of Hope 4 The Wounded, LLC, which offers consulting, training, & professional development. His career spans more than twenty years as a teacher & school administrator.

PFW 2. Creating Choices for Children of Poverty: Change the Experience - Change the Brain
Location: Oxford
Presented by Dr. Tammy Pawloski, Francis Marion University, Florence, SC

Research is clear that poverty can negatively impact brain development and that the achievement gap between children of poverty and their wealthier peers is widening. Why is this happening and what can schools and teachers do? This fast-paced presentation explores why poverty matters and which research-based strategies yield best results. Learn how to reframe the challenges faced by teachers in high-poverty schools as opportunities for changing their futures.

Tammy Pawloski, Ph.D., is the Director of the Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty at Francis Marion University. She grew up and taught in the impoverished areas of rural Horry and Allendale counties of South Carolina. Prior to joining the faculty of FMU in 2000, she served in a similar capacity at the Columbia, Aiken, Salkehatchie, and Beaufort campuses of USC, and at Ventura College and Pepperdine University in Southern California. She is a frequent presenter at NDPC/N conferences.

PFW 3. How to Bring About Change (When Change is Hard to Bring)
Location: Winchester
Presented by Dr. Mark Wilson, Mark Wilson Education, Madison, GA

As the principal, you’re asked to bring about change, often in record-breaking time. While you get plenty of help on WHAT you ought to change, the missing piece for most school administrators is HOW. In this workshop, Dr. Mark Wilson, the 2009 National High School Principal of the Year, will lead you in a practical exploration of “how” you can successfully bring about change. The session will include discussions of these big pieces of school change:
  • What does the successful school leader do to bring about change?
  • First words from your mouth: Why the introduction of an initiative can seal its fate from the moment you bring it up.
  • Why do people do (or not do!) what you ask them to do?
  • Chronically mediocre staff members; how we help them become the best they can be;
  • What a big impact your work can make.

Spend time with a nationally recognized leader in school change and learn HOW to best lead change at your school.

PFW 4. Darkness to Light’s Stewards of Children Sexual Abuse Prevention Training
Location: Pembroke
Presented by Dr. Stephanie Hewett, The Citadel, Charleston, SC

This training session required by the SC State Department of Education educates participants about the steps they can take to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Through the use of a video, participants will be introduced to survivors of child sexual abuse and learn about their stories and the devastating effects of child sexual abuse on children. Participants will also learn the signs of child sexual abuse and techniques to build structures to better protect children. Participants in this training workshop will receive a Stewards of Children certificate verifying their training.

Dr. Hewett is an alumnus of Clemson University and has been teaching Teacher Education at the Citadel for 25 years. She is a frequent presenter at NDPC/N and is a member of this year’s planning committee for the FORUM. She is also presenting a breakout session Monday morning.
Dr. Mark Wilson

“WORK WORTH DOING: PROVIDING HOPE AND SUPPORT IN AND BEYOND THE CLASSROOM”

Dr. Mark Wilson is an Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership at Kennesaw State University. Previously, in his position as Principal of Morgan County High School in Madison, GA, Mark was named 2009 National Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Mark has served as the President of the Georgia Association of Education Leaders and has been honored by the Georgia House of Representatives, the Georgia Senate and invited to the Governor’s Office. In his soon-to-be-released book, *Up! The Direction of Success*, Dr. Wilson provides a proven strategy for high school students in their quest to acquire the knowledge and develop the skills needed for success in the real world.

Ms. Donna Tyson

“THE RED BOW”

Donna Tyson is known across the country as a powerful motivational speaker, author of an inspiring children’s book on self-esteem entitled *The Red Bow*, former radio and television show host, and community leader. Her many clients include the CIA, FBI, Departments of Transportation and Education, Society of Human Resource Management, Mayo Clinic, USC University Hospital, Carilion Healthcare, Bell Atlantic, and the American Red Cross. Donna is a monthly featured writer on work/life balance issues in the South Carolina Woman Magazine. She designed and taught certification classes for Myrtle Beach Hospitality Association on “Outstanding Customer Service” and “Management to Leadership.” Donna was voted 2008 Best of the Beach Inspirational Speaker by the Myrtle Beach Herald. She is currently based out of Haiti where she has taken on a mission based ministry out of her love to help the Haitian people.

Dr. Willie Kimmons

“ENGAGING PARENTS IN THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN BY PROVIDING HOPE AND SUPPORT IN AND BEYOND THE CLASSROOM TO SAVE OUR CHILDREN, SAVE OUR SCHOOLS”

Dr. Willie Kimmons is currently serving as an Educational Consultant for Pre-K-16 schools, author of five books and as a motivational speaker. He provides consultant services for public and private schools, two and four year colleges and universities throughout the country in the areas of Title I programs; parental involvement; teacher and administrative training; management; budget development; strategic and long range planning; collective bargaining; contract negotiations; human resource development; and stress management. Willie is the 2003 recipient of the Furthering Rights, Investing in Equality and Nurturing Diversity Award and the 2006 recipient of the National Alliance of Black School Educators Lifetime Achievement Award.
ON TRACK FOR SUCCESS: each student college and career ready

26th ANNUAL NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK CONFERENCE
November 2-5, 2014 The Galt House, Louisville, KY

CONFERENCE STRANDS
Literacy • School Climate • Data Assessment and Continuous Improvement • Curriculum and Instruction • College and Career Pathways • Leadership, Policy, and Governance • Student Support Services and Intervention • Student, Family, and Community Engagement • New Literacy, Media, and Technology • Common Core and the At-Risk Student • Alternative Pathways

CONFERENCE PARTNERS
The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network • Kentucky Department of Education • Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children • Jefferson County Public Schools • National Center for Family Literacy • Kent State University

SPECIAL FEATURES
Administrator’s Track • School Board Training • New Principal’s Institute • Rebranding of Education

HASAN DAVIS
Commissioner
KY Dept. of Juvenile Justice

GENE WILHOIT
Executive Director
National Center for Innovation in Education

EMILY KIRKPATRICK
Vice President
National Center for Family Literacy

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.DROPOUTPREVENTION.ORG
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Location: Cambridge Hall

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

FORUM REGISTRATION/EXHIBIT HALL OPEN
Location: Cambridge Hall

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

FOCUS: AN ALTERNATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL
Strand: Educational Alternatives
Location: Kensington A
Presenters: Mrs. Roni Goldberg and Mr. Tim Baker, Focus Program in Anderson School District 4, Pendleton, SC

The Focus Program was a vision of a former Special Education Director in Anderson School District 4. It started off as a two year grant “project” that was eventually picked up by the district. This program provided an alternative to the county Alternative School. The goal is to “support students in developing appropriate behavior and academic strategies that enable success inside and outside of the classroom”. Now in its fifth year, a teacher and a social worker help provide an environment that can cater to the different types of students referred here. There have been success stories and stories that remind us we still have some work to do.

RISE Above THE OBSTACLES: WORKING WITH OVER-Age UNDER-CREDITEd STUDENTS TO PUT THEM ON TRACK TO GRADUATE
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Kensington B
Presenters: Mr. Christopher Williams and Mr. Wendell Ramsey, The Leadership Program, New York, NY

Dropping out is not an event. It is a process that begins before high school and results in many students entering 9th grade over-age and under-credited. The RISE program in the New York City works specifically with this population to Reintegrate Students through Education. This workshop includes personal stories and tangible strategies to successfully enable your students to RISE.

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

DIPLOMAS AT RISK: PREVENTING DROP OUT AMONG STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH EARLY STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
Strand: Interacting with Specific Populations
Location: Kensington C
Presenter: Ms. Dia Jackson, George Washington University, Laurel, MD

Students with disabilities are two to three times more likely to drop out of school than students without disabilities. The issue of students with disabilities dropping out is particularly salient because of the growing number of students with disabilities in our country and the life consequences of dropping out. This presentation will highlight the importance of early school engagement as a method of dropout prevention for students with disabilities through a school-based mentoring program.

TAKING ACTION TO PREVENT SCHOOL BULLYING
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Eton
Presenters: Dr. Robert Smith, University of North Carolina - Wilmington, Wilmington, NC and Ms. Kayce Smith, South Brunswick Middle Schools, Southport, NC

Even with heightened interest in bullying and the importance of providing a safe, secure and orderly school, schools and school districts are often unsure how to take action, sometimes even naively assuming that “bullying is not a problem at our school.” This session shows how teachers can be proactive in preventing bullying at school.

PRESS THE ALT BUTTON: CREATING AN EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PROGRAM
Strand: Educational Alternatives
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Dr. Gerard Edwards, Florence School District One, Quinby, SC

In 2012, the Alfred Rush Academy in FSD1 was conceptualized using the NDPC/N framework for effective strategies for dropout prevention in order to rethink the idea of alternative schooling. Participants will learn about a set of best practices that have been developed at the Alfred Rush Academy which have transformed student learning and expectations, parent involvement and satisfaction, and community support.
A CULTURE OF HOPE AND PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY
Strand: Instructional Strategies
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Ms. Emily Gibson, Konocti School District, Kelseyville, CA

This session presents new research on the importance of school culture for helping high-poverty students find success in school and a “pathway out of poverty.” Schools with a “culture of hope” develop students’ sense of optimism, belonging, self-esteem, and purpose. These social/emotional assets help students overcome the “learned helplessness” of poverty, achieve academically, graduate, and plan for a better future after high school.

DESTINATION GRADUATION: PROGRAMS PROMOTING GRADUATION AND STUDENT SUCCESS!
Strand: Educational Alternatives
Location: Pembroke
Presenter: Mr. Tom Changnon, Stanislaus County Office of Education, Modesto, CA

Hear how this award-winning program has changed at-risk youth into productive citizens using a military model. Who ever heard of an Alternative Education program having a waiting list? The Stanislaus Military Academy does. Learn their secrets to success and how you can create your own similar academy.

TEACHING JOHNNY TO READ IN MIDDLE AND/OR HIGH SCHOOL
Strand: Instructional Strategies
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Dr. Stephenie Hewett, The Citadel, Charleston, SC

This interactive session will discuss instructional strategies to teach a middle and/or high school student how to read better and to comprehend subject matter texts and informational readings. Participants will be able to identify the types of comprehension questions that the students most often miss and plan an instructional strategy to improve those comprehension skills. Participants will be also able to instruct students on word decoding using an age appropriate decoding strategy.

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

TRANSITION/BREAK

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

LUNCH (On your own)
The purpose of the Governor and Mrs. Richard W. Riley Award of Excellence in Dropout Prevention is to identify and bring recognition to an outstanding individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement of dropout prevention initiatives in the state of South Carolina. This year, the award is presented to Dr. Roy Jones. Dr. Jones is executive director for the Eugene T. Moore School of Education’s Call Me MISTER Program at Clemson University. The mission of the Call Me MISTER (acronym for Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role-models) Initiative is to increase the pool of available teachers from a broader and more diverse background of candidates.

The first chapter of Call Me Misters was begun at Clemson University by Dr. Roy Jones and just celebrated its 10th anniversary. The Call Me Mister program now has chapters on numerous college campuses, including 15 participating South Carolina colleges and universities and eight from other states.

Not surprising, Call Me MISTER has received accolades from a broad spectrum of national media and high profile celebrities to include USA Today, Boston Globe, Washington Post, Atlanta Journal, ABC World News, National Public Radio(NPR), Associated Press, Diverse Issues in Education, Blackamerica Web, Oprah Winfrey, Bill Cosby and education journals such as Education Week and Instructor magazine. Dr. Jones was the 2009 recipient of the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education’s Pacesetter Award. Dr. Jones’ efforts have recently resulted in a second round of funding from the Kellogg Foundation for a new Call Me Misters program at Jackson State in Mississippi.

Without question, the program is contributing to the talent pool of excellent and well prepared minority teachers by not only identifying and supporting students from under-served, socio-economically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities but also in coaching them as they engage in real and field based experiences. Graduates of the program provide leadership and effective teaching in schools across the country; accolades for these graduates abound for causing amazing growth in student performance in some of the state’s most challenging contexts. Our Executive Director who has had the opportunity to work directly with Dr. Jones and to interface with a number of these “Misters” can’t say enough about the experiences this program provides its participants. “Roy ensures that they not only learn about the concepts of instruction and school operation and leadership, but as importantly ensures that they are molded through coaching and feedback into being confident climate, culture, and relationship leaders, ready when they graduate to work in partnership with the students, the school, and the community to systemically address the myriad of challenges that today’s educators face. We all recognize that today’s teachers and principals face a different world than a decade ago; Dr. Jones’ program design makes sure its graduates have had the kinds of experiences and coaching that equips them to successfully lead and embrace it.”

Dr. Jones and the Call Me Mister Initiative have made and continue to make a significant contribution to the dropout prevention effort in South Carolina and the nation. There is a plethora of evidence that their graduates change the lives of at risk young people every day.

Dr. Jones received his doctorate from the University of Georgia, master’s from Atlanta University and bachelor’s from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Previously, he was associate professor in the Division of Education at Claflin University in Orangeburg, S.C. Dr. Jones served as chair of the Division of Education during the period Claflin received the distinction of becoming the first historically black private institution in the State to receive the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accreditation. From 1990 to 1998, Dr. Jones served as Director of Employment for the Charleston County School District and was responsible for the district’s teacher and classified recruitment programs. He has successfully implemented and directed numerous programs in higher education throughout his career. He has presented countless workshops, seminars, forums, and panel discussions surrounding racial and cultural issues in education.

For his dynamic leadership in providing opportunity, training, support, mentoring, and character building for numbers of elementary promising teachers and leaders in South Carolina, the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network is proud to present the Governor and Mrs. Richard W. Riley Award of Excellence in Dropout Prevention to Dr. Roy Jones.
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

THE HOPE OF STUDENT VOICE
Strand: Leadership, Policy, and Governance
Location: Kensington A
Presenter: Dr. Mark Wilson, Mark Wilson Education, Kennesaw, GA

Schools with high levels of student engagement, dedicated to empowering the student voice are inescapably successful. Often, students are the school's most underutilized resource! In this session, 2009 National Principal of the Year Mark Wilson will share practical strategies you can use to help your school be its best—by empowering students to have a voice. During this session, Dr. Wilson will share stories of ordinary students who used the opportunities afforded them by the school to do extraordinary things.

BREAKTHROUGH LEADERSHIP, BREAKTHROUGH RESULTS
Strand: Leadership, Policy, and Governance
Location: Kensington B
Presenter: Dr. Reginald Williams, Shelby County Schools, Memphis, TN

Tipping Points, a book by Malcolm Gladwell, discusses how an epidemic could spread quickly across a city, state, or even a country. This epidemic can be of a negative or positive influence. See how the principal at Kirby High School put Malcolm Gladwell's book to use at a school he inherited on November 26, 2006. Putting parameters in place to address those “Tipping Points” allowed the ‘New” Kirby High as he affectionately calls it make AYP not only in his first full year (2007-08) but his next year as well (2008-09). His school also received the EPIC Award 4 years in a row, getting the GOLD 3 years in a row (2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10) and Silver (2010-11). Most recently Kirby High received the 2012-2013 USA Today Best High Schools in America “Bronze Award”. School officials must know how to de-escalate situations, not escalate them. PowerPoint, handouts and illustrations will follow.

COMMUNITY PARTNERING FOR AT-RISK YOUTH:
ENHANCING COLLABORATION TO DECREASE DROPOUT RATES
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Kensington C
Presenter: Dr. Karen Joest, SUNY Oneonta, Oneonta, NY

This presentation illustrates the collaborative partnerships that can be developed to assist at-risk youth. Our interdisciplinary team from SUNY Oneonta, and a number of community agencies partnered with the Oneonta City Public Schools to increase graduation rates for at-risk youth while enhancing a community of caring that engages all students.

THE POWER OF THE INTERNET FOR LEARNING
Strand: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math
Location: Eton
Presenters: Mr. James Bonds, BoardRoom Presentations, Chadds Ford, PA and Dr. Malvine Richard, Christina School District, Wilmington, DE

The presentation will include strategies and tools for converting Internet Resources into Learning Tools. Participants will be connected and engaged by receiving example lessons enhanced with games, and be provided links to all the free game templates shown. Game templates being shown have been downloaded over a half million times by educators from all over the world. These game based tools are very popular and have been shown at national and international conferences.

ENHANCING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS,
AND MATH LESSONS WITH SIMPLE GAMES
Strand: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Dr. Jeff Ertzberger, University of North Carolina - Wilmington, Wilmington, NC

See how to use simple games to teach and enhance lessons in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, or Math (STEAM). Presenter will demonstrate a host of free simple-to-use digital game templates that teachers can quickly modify to enhance almost any STEAM based lesson. Participants will be connected and engaged by receiving example lessons enhanced with games, and be provided links to all the free game templates shown. Game templates being shown have been downloaded over a half million times by educators from all over the world. These game based tools are very popular and have been shown at national and international conferences.

WHY LAYERED ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL SUPPORT LEADS TO BETTER OUTCOMES FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Ms. Rebekah Richards, Graduation Alliance, Salt Lake City, UT

Students don’t drop out for academic reasons alone – so the solutions to the dropout epidemic are not purely academic. Programs melding academic and social interventions across a network of teachers and mentors are helping turn dropouts into diploma holders. Rebekah Richards, chief academic officer of Graduation Alliance, will discuss multi-layered programs.
**THE ART OF REACHING AND TEACHING AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL**

| Strand:    | Instructional Strategies |
| Location:  | Pembroke                  |
| Presenters:| Mr. Cornelius Pratt, Mr. Steve Williams, Ms. Tunisha Summers, Ms. Lakeisha Lawrence, and Mr. Trevor Schmitt, Nelson C. Nix Educational Center for Excellence, Orangeburg, SC |

This presentation will focus on highly effective strategies used at Nix to motivate African American males to overcome obstacles to achieve academically, socially, and emotionally in school. Many of these strategies can be used beyond regular school hours to increase student achievement. They only require an investment of time and self-reflection of the practitioner. All strategies are pragmatic and client-centered! Participants will actualize the sense of urgency that exists.

---

**THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BULLYING AND HAZING**

| Strand:    | Juvenile Justice & Law Enforcement |
| Location:  | Hampton                           |
| Presenter: | Mr. Dennis Goodwin, Mass Bay Community College, Haverhill, MA |

Is hazing or bullying happening in your school, community, workplace or family? Do you know the differences between bullying and hazing? Do you know what to do if hazing or bullying spirals out of control and reaches the news or social media? Do you know who is the most powerful person to stop the bullying or hazing? Come and find the answers to these questions and many more at this session.

---

**CONNECTIONS BETWEEN INDICATORS OF WELL-BEING AND SCHOOL OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

| Strand:    | Interacting with Specific Populations |
| Location:  | Somerset                             |
| Presenters:| Dr. Jennie Farmer, Clemson University, Clemson, SC and Ms. Ahnna Gibson, Oconee County Schools, West Union, SC |

This presentation will provide an overview of purpose in life and indicators of well-being (e.g., perceived social support, life satisfaction, positive affect, negative affect) and why knowing about them matters for students. Presenters will discuss research results on the relationship between these indicators and school outcomes for students with disabilities.

---

**NEVER GIVE UP**

| Strand:    | Connections & Engagement |
| Location:  | Kensington A             |
| Presenter: | Mr. Victor Woods, Victor Woods Corporation, Bloomingdale, IL |

Victor Woods will engage the audience with thought-provoking innovative and creative ways to reach the students who are considered to be almost impossible to reach. In this session, Mr. Woods will draw from seventeen years of professional experience working with students and administrators as well as share detailed personal experiences of how he inevitably turned his life around against overwhelming odds. Thus emphasizing that all students have the potential to make it and educators and society at large must never give up on our young people.

---

**THE ART OF TEACHING WOUNDED STUDENTS**

| Strand:    | Interacting with Specific Populations |
| Location:  | Kensington B                  |
| Presenter: | Mr. Joe Hendershott, Hope 4 the Wounded, Ashland, OH |

This program will look at ways to help wounded students become active participants in the education process through various teaching techniques. By looking at the emotional and behavioral needs of students, this practitioner will describe ways to make every situation a teachable moment for students who are in need. By creating alternative teaching styles, students’ achievement will increase.

---

**LIFT MENTORING PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK YOUTH**

| Strand:    | Interacting with Specific Populations |
| Location:  | Kensington C                    |
| Presenter: | Mr. Elbert Parks, Jr., LIFT Mentoring Program, Greenville, SC |

Participants will be introduced to an innovative program for at-Risk students design for elementary, middle, and high school students. The LIFT program currently serves 50 students attending Wade Hampton High school in Greenville, SC. The LIFT program was approved in 2010 for use in South Carolina’s public schools as a Propitious At-Risk Model program. The program is designed to monitor students transitioning through elementary, middle, and high school to identify early indicators, predictors, and barriers. The program offers an after-school tutoring program 3 days a week and an SAT prep class to cover math and English. The program also offers free bus transportation home. The hours of operation are from 3:55pm until 4:55pm.

---

**MONDAY**

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

**TRANSITION/BREAK**

---

**FEBRUARY 17, 2014**

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

---

**LIFT MENTORING PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK YOUTH**

| Strand:    | Interacting with Specific Populations |
| Location:  | Kensington C                    |
| Presenter: | Mr. Elbert Parks, Jr., LIFT Mentoring Program, Greenville, SC |

Participants will be introduced to an innovative program for at-Risk students design for elementary, middle, and high school students. The LIFT program currently serves 50 students attending Wade Hampton High school in Greenville, SC. The LIFT program was approved in 2010 for use in South Carolina’s public schools as a Propitious At-Risk Model program. The program is designed to monitor students transitioning through elementary, middle, and high school to identify early indicators, predictors, and barriers. The program offers an after-school tutoring program 3 days a week and an SAT prep class to cover math and English. The program also offers free bus transportation home. The hours of operation are from 3:55pm until 4:55pm.
TEACHER PERCEPTIONS AND CHILDREN’S SOCIAL REASONING IN THE CONTEXT OF BULLY VICTIMIZATION
Strand: Interacting with Specific Populations
Location: Eton
Presenters: Dr. Malvin Porter and Dr. Andrew Terranova, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC

This presentation will report findings from several studies on teacher perceptions of bullying and victimization in the classroom and children's social reasoning when faced with various bully/victim scenarios. These studies will discern the actions and justification of the teacher, the bully, the victim and bystanders within direct and indirect forms of bullying. In addition to the forms and roles of bullying, gender differences will be discussed. Time permitting, the role of schools in providing a safe learning climate will be discussed.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT: STRATEGIES FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Oxford
Presenters: Dr. Linda Anast-May and Dr. Howard Coleman, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC

Thirty years of research have indicated that there is a significant relationship between family involvement and student success. The meaning of family involvement is becoming more challenging to school principals. Family involvement is a primary avenue for academic involvement and it is imperative that every family actively participate in their child’s education. This session will explore difficulties of engaging stakeholders and strategies to overcome that principals can use.

AN EVALUATION OF MENTORING AS AN EFFECTIVE STRATEGY TO DIMINISH DROPOUT RISK IN MEXICO
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Winchester
Presenters: Mr. David Moreno-Candil, Mr. Armando Jinich, and Dr. Maria Garza, Peraj Mexico A.C., México City, Mexico, and Ms. Lourdes Velazquez-Pineda and Mr. Edgar Cobos-Ortiz, Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí, México

Peraj is a mentoring program in Mexico in which junior and senior undergraduate students do community service as mentors of 5th and 6th graders of public schools during a full school year, meeting twice weekly. An evaluation instrument was designed and proven to have high reliability for measuring dropout risk. It was applied using pre- and post-test to some 2,000 mentees and 1,000 from a control group. The results, analyzed using bootstrapping, show a statistically significant decrease in dropout risk for Peraj mentees and an increase for non-mentees.

USING INCREASED LEARNING TIME FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
Strand: Instructional Strategies
Location: Pembroke
Presenters: Dr. Garrick Askew, Ms. Jessica Ainsworth, and Ms. Caroline Whitt, Douglas County School System, Lithia Springs, GA

Increased learning time is a data-based instructional class period that allows students to receive targeted remediation or enrichment during the instructional day. This supports RTI requirements including research-based interventions and progress monitoring. In addition, it allows for flexibility to adjust interventions throughout the school year based on a student’s specific needs.

IT’S NOT ABOUT CHANGE: IT’S ABOUT IMPROVEMENT
Strand: Instructional Strategies
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Mr. Franklin Schargel, School Success Network, Albuquerque, NM

Schools change all of the time, but they don’t necessarily improve. What’s the difference? Educators frequently measure change and believe they are measuring improvement. In this highly interactive, fun session, attendees will find out the differences and how to change “change” into improvement.

THE PERSONAL STRENGTHS PROGRAM: FOCUSING ON STUDENTS’ STRENGTHS
Strand: Interacting with Specific Populations
Location: Somerset
Presenters: Dr. Jennie Farmer, Clemson University, Clemson, SC and Dr. David Allsopp, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

This presentation describes the Personal Strengths Program (PSP) and the experiences of students with LD/ADHD who completed the program. PSP is an intervention grounded in cognitive theory, self-determination, and positive psychology. It helps students identify their strengths and use them to achieve goals related to their academic courses.
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

WHY ARE ALL THE BLACK BOYS LEARNING IN THE BASEMENT? A LOOK AT THE DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES PLACED IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Strand: Interacting with Specific Populations
Location: Kensington A
Presenter: Ms. Shelly-Ann Richmond, Pace University-Liberty Partnerships Program, New York, NY

Statistics show that African Americans make up less than twenty percent of the student body population yet they make up an overwhelming amount of those who are placed in special education settings. Although there have been articles and books written about the subject matter, and the interest has trickled down from the federal government to local school districts, very little has been done to really change the current system.

NEW HANOVER/PENDER COUNTY NC SAFER SCHOOLS TASK FORCE FINDINGS

Strand: Juvenile Justice & Law Enforcement
Location: Kensington B
Presenter: Dr. Janna Robertson, University of North Carolina - Wilmington, Wilmington, NC

The Safer Schools Task Force examined regional data, national and local research, and interviewed stakeholders. We would like to share the findings since many schools are required to develop school safety plans. Our plan discusses preventative measures to reduce school violence and increase school graduation rates.

HOW WE GOT THE POWER

Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Eton
Presenters: Mr. Eddie Price, Ms. Kelley Johnson, Mr. Tol Avery, and Mr. Bennett Jones, South Johnston High School, Four Oaks, NC

Our focus will be the philosophy required to implement an RtI framework, the emphasis on core instruction at our school, and our POWER Block for intervention with emphasis on student engagement. We will present all aspects of POWER, from the bell schedule to our attendance tool. Finally, we will illustrate what can occur during POWER and all current data supporting this schedule.

FILL IN THE BLANKS: EVERY NUMBER HAS A FACE

Strand: Interacting with Specific Populations
Location: Oxford
Presenters: Dr. Beryl New, Highland Park High School, Topeka, KS and Ms. Teresa Leslie-Canty, Communities In Schools, Topeka, KS

Participants will walk through the process of identifying high-risk students and then supporting each student’s needs through the services of Communities In Schools and high school support staff. Participants will also learn the many ways that support staff may find resources to assist students and remove all barriers to graduation and future career success.

ALTERNATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY METRICS DEMONSTRATE STUDENT SUCCESS

Strand: Educational Alternatives
Location: Winchester
Presenters: Mr. Ernie Silva, School for Integrated Academics and Technologies (SIATech), Sacramento, CA, Dr. Jody Ernst, Momentum Strategy and Research, Denver, CO, and Mr. Nelson Smith, National Assoc. of Charter School Authorizers, Chicago, IL

Alternative accountability metrics are being used across the country to measure the success of dropout prevention and recovery schools. Learn how meaningful alternatives including non-cognitive metrics demonstrate student success among reengaged dropouts and other at-risk students. Learn how to participate in a groundbreaking initiative to outline successful emerging trends in “nuanced” accountability.

12 FOR LIFE: EDUCATION AND JOBS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

Strand: Educational Alternatives
Location: Pembroke
Presenter: Mr. Mike Wiggins, Southwire Company, Carrollton, GA

12 for Life is a cooperative education program that helps at-risk students gain extra motivation to finish 12 years of school and enjoy better lives. By providing our students with classroom instruction, on-the-job training, key work/life skills, mentoring, and employment opportunities, we’re helping them stay in school, graduate, and go on to become successful, productive members of the workforce – ensuring those real-world skills translate into real-life success.

HAZING: IS IT HAPPENING IN YOUR SCHOOL, ATHLETIC TEAMS, WORK, OR SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS?

Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Mr. Dennis Goodwin, Mass Bay Community College, Haverhill, MA

Hazing - it is the buzz word all over the news. In this session, participants will learn the definition of hazing, why it is different than bullying, and who the most powerful person is to stop hazing. Discussion will also address what to do if hazing spirals out of control and reaches the news or social media and how to heal the community if hazing has affected them.
LET'S TALK BURNOUT - NO, LET'S TALK VITALITY!
Strand: Leadership, Policy, and Governance
Location: Somerset
Presenter: Dr. Hal Holloman, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

The sights and sounds of burnout are all around us—and every member of your school community is at risk. Diagnosing burnout and promoting vitality are essential skills for today's educators. Participants will learn how to diagnose burnout in themselves and others and practical strategies for promoting vitality.

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

Opening Remarks and Introductions
Dr. Sandy Addis, Associate Director
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson, SC

Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Ms. Linda Harrill
Harrill Consulting Services, Myrtle Beach, SC

The Red Bow
Ms. Donna Tyson

This dynamic keynote address is a fast moving, humorous presentation encouraging the audience to reclaim their joy and purpose in life. Based on her popular children's book by the same name, The Red Bow reminds people to smile and walk with their head held high. When you can not control the circumstances, you can always control the way you let it impact your life. This inspiring talk is filled with amusing stories and tangible resources guaranteed to lift your spirits and help you stay positive during tough times.

Closing Remarks and Reminders
Dr. Beth P. Reynolds, Executive Director
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson, SC

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Location: Cambridge Hall
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
EXHIBIT HALL OPEN
Location: Cambridge Hall
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
FORUM REGISTRATION
Location: Cambridge Hall
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
TRANSITION/BREAK
10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
BUILDING ASSETS AND REDUCING RISKS: A SCHOOL REFORM PROGRAM TO INCREASE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Kensington A
Presenter: Ms. Angie Jerabek, St. Louis Park High School, St. Louis Park, MN and Ms. Anu Sharma, S & S Training & Consulting, Inc., Maplewood, MN

Transition into senior high is critical to ensure success for students. Ninth grade is a “make-it or break-it year” for many. Academic success becomes more challenging and high risk activities become more frequent. This workshop will share a comprehensive approach to addressing these high risk behaviors to ensure academic achievement.

EARLY INTERVENTION FOR STUDENTS WITH BEHAVIORAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS
Strand: Educational Alternatives
Location: Kensington B
Presenter: Mrs. Kristin Jackson, New Hanover County Schools, Wilmington, NC

Students are arriving at our schools with many behavioral and emotional needs. This session will examine the importance of early intervention, collaborating with community agencies to provide services, and using a day treatment model to provide interventions within the school setting. On completion of this interactive session, participants will leave with a better understanding of the mental health issues students face and how to encourage collaboration between mental health providers and the school.
The Mindset of a Teen
Strand: Interacting with Specific Populations
Location: Kensington C
Presenter: Mr. Robens Chery, Principle Life Youth Development, Lauderhill, FL

What is causing our teens to make such terrible decisions? By the time our teens reach high school, they have been through so much that their decision-making abilities are based on emotions and feelings from all that they have encountered throughout their short period of life. The mindset of a teen training focuses on some of the challenges our teens are faced with in today's society.

Dealing with an At-Risk Population at a Transfer High School?
Strand: Interacting with Specific Populations
Location: Eton
Presenters: Dr. Max Jean Paul, Brooklyn Bridge Academy High School, Brooklyn, NY and Ms. Ayesha George, FEGS Education and Youth Services, Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn Bridge Academy is a small learning community with a focus on graduation and post-secondary success. We define success as helping students to make educated choices about their own futures. BBA students choose to pursue higher education in colleges or universities, technical training programs, or explore a professional career path. Whatever their path, Brooklyn Bridge Academy provides opportunities so that students are empowered to decide what success means.

7 Mindsets: A Life-Changing Revolution
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Mr. Scott Shickler, The 7 Mindsets, Roswell, GA

In this presentation, Scott Shickler will introduce the 7 Mindsets that can positively shape a person’s character and transform their entire life, discuss actual strategies for applying them to your schools, and how sharing them with your students will have a positive, long-term impact on their success.

Supporting Students in the Classroom and Beyond by Meeting their Needs
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Winchester
Presenters: Dr. Judith Pauley and Mr. Joseph Pauley, Process Communications, Inc., Potomac, MD

A seventh grade teacher in an alternative school used the concepts of Process Communication to establish relationships with her students. 30 of 31 students improved their grades and/or significantly decreased their disruptive behaviors. One boy stopped fighting. Two girls stopped cutting themselves and no longer thought about committing suicide. Participants will learn these concepts.

Engaging the unmotivated reader using technology and research-based strategies
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Pembroke
Presenters: Dr. Yochech (Amana) Levi, Positive Pathways Transition Center, Orlando, FL and Ms. Shirley Johnson-Delgado, Orange County Public Schools, Orlando, FL

This presentation will discuss one intensive reading teacher’s innovative way of engaging at-risk, unmotivated (high school) readers using Shakespeare’s “Othello.” Dr. Levi has used research based strategies and technology to support the English curriculum, district reading initiatives, and Common Core State Standards (CCSS) while maintaining academic rigor to promote active learning.

Educational Reform, Service Learning/Civic Education, and Dropout Prevention: Lessons Learned from History
Strand: Instructional Strategies
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Dr. Robert Shumer, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

In this session we examine a 90 year history of educational reforms involving student-centered, community-based learning programs (such as service-learning, one of the 15 dropout prevention strategies) to determine what we need to do to effectively implement such strategies in the future. From efforts in the 1930s, to current movements to connect college and career preparation with educational improvements, we examine what we need to do to make school more engaging for all students. Come discuss these historical trends and help forge a new/old approach to effective education.

Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Program
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Somerset
Presenters: Mrs. Erin Capone and Mr. Jason Urbanski, Overcoming Obstacles, New York, NY

The Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Program—a 2013 recipient of the National Dropout Prevention Network’s Crystal Star Award—is being offered to teachers at no cost. The program gives educators the tools they need to teach students the life skills that are critical to success in school, at home, and on the job. Educators across the nation have used the program to combat bullying, improve school environments, boost grade point averages, and increase graduation rates. Overcoming Obstacles supports learning standards, such as the Common Core State Standards, and includes curriculum materials for middle schools and high schools, teacher training workshops, and ongoing support services. Since its inception, the Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Program has positively impacted the lives of close to three million students nationwide. To learn more about Overcoming Obstacles, please visit http://www.overcomingobstacles.org.
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

NETWORKING LUNCH
Location: Kensington DEFG

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

10 MYTHS ABOUT COURT-INVOLVED STUDENTS
Strand: Juvenile Justice & Law Enforcement
Location: Kensington A
Presenters: Mr. Billy Marsh, Communities In Schools of Lincoln County, Lincolnton, NC & Ms. Sara Brunner, Division of Juvenile Justice, North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Shelby, NC

Students often struggle to maintain their identity and not be crushed under the weight of the labels placed upon them. Nowhere is this more true than in the case of juvenile offenders. Participants will discuss 10 of the most-prevalent myths concerning juvenile offenders.

VALUE ADDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SCHOOL LEADERS: NEW HOPE FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS
Strand: Leadership, Policy, and Governance
Location: Kensington B
Presenter: Dr. Bernard Oliver and Ms. Jasmine Ulmer, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

The preparation of school leaders has come under increased criticism over the past several years. In this session, the presenters focus on summaries and models of professional development that school leaders need to improve the educational success of at-risk students.

LET US HELP YOU BUILD YOUR PATHWAY TO PROMISE
Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Kensington C
Presenter: Ms. Winnie O’Leary, Edmentum, Bloomington, MN

Do you need help with your struggling students to regain the educational ground they’ve lost? Do you have students that are disconnected from school? At Edmentum, we understand that every child has potential and also understand the overwhelmed mindsets of struggling students. Edmentum solutions focus on developing effective programs that motivate, ensure retention, and get your at-risk students on the right track by providing you with the tools and support you need to ensure student achievement. In this session you will learn many different aspects of how to engage your students; from identifying gaps in student achievement, to prescribing a personalized learning path for efficient and effective credit recovery. Come and learn from our Intervention Expert on how to leverage our technologies to target specific issues that students have, and help move your students into the world of success.

THE TOP TEN THINGS EVERY TEACHER MUST KNOW
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Eton
Presenter: Hotep, Hustle University, Stone Mountain, GA

A rock’em-sock’em presentation for teachers and administrators both new and seasoned! Combining ancient wisdom and best practices from great educators and success coaches around the nation, this workshop sheds light on ten little ideas that make a BIG difference in education. We will dispel common myths regarding: cultural diversity, engaging at-risk youth, modifying behavior, reducing referrals, effective class management, using incentives, and the single BIGGEST, transformative secret about education.

HOW TO ASK QUESTIONS TO BUILD RAPPORT WITH YOUTH AND FAMILIES
Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Ms. Keri McDaniel, Mobile Area Education Foundation, Mobile, AL

Adults tend to discipline and redirect rather than be genuinely interested in the desires of a child's heart. In this area, we fall short and can ultimately fail the child. We have to learn creative ways to engage children. A key step is simply asking questions to build rapport.

EMPATHY AND THE WOUNDED STUDENT
Strand: Interacting with Specific Populations
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Mr. Joe Hendershott, Hope 4 the Wounded, Ashland, OH

Is empathy essential for learning? This presenter will examine how empathy impacts learning in the classroom and how it builds a community of learners through the use of emotional intelligence. How we attune to our students’ needs can have a direct impact on learning and also cut down on bullying within the school culture. Discussion will take place on ways to increase our empathic connections within our schools.

PREPARING AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
Strand: Juvenile Justice and Law Enforcement
Location: Pembroke
Presenters: Mr. Darren Gardner and Mr. Anthony Minnis, Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, FL

This presentation will provide an overview of college preparatory programs held at Florida’s oldest Historical Black College University (HBCU), Edward Waters College. The program is specifically for African-American males, grades 7 through 12. Presenter will discuss various activities and strategies utilized in the approach to mentor, educate, and matriculate the students.
BULLYING: WHAT SCHOOLS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS CAN DO
Strand: Instructional Strategies
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Mr. Franklin Schargel, School Success Network, Albuquerque, NM

Can you remember the schoolyard jingle that went, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me”? Words are capable of harming vulnerable young children. Both physical and nonphysical forms happen anywhere in the school, and even online.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF ACCOUNTABILITY, RESPONSIBILITY, & SUPPORT TO MAXIMIZE STUDENT SUCCESS
Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Somerset
Presenter: Ms. Anne-Katherine Lene’, Jefferson Chamber Foundation Academy-East, Metairie, LA and Mr. Taylor Collins, Jefferson Chamber Foundation Academy, Harvey, LA

This presentation focuses on ideas and best practices our two alternative charter high schools in the New Orleans area have implemented to help at-risk students (many previously dropped out for 6 months or more) focus on the responsibility of their education as a long-term goal rather than a short-term inconvenience. The presentation is facilitated by a current faculty member from our first campus and the Chief Academic Officer of our new campus opened August 2013. Through progress tracking, faculty/staff collaborations, a mentor program, use of data, and engaging the community, both campuses have been able to see positive results including student and graduate employment, student buy-in, parent participation, and higher graduation rates.

1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
TRANSITION/BREAK
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

CONNECT, ACCEPT, RESPOND, EMPOWER: SUPPORTING LGBT YOUTH
Strand: Interacting with Specific Populations
Location: Kensington A
Presenter: Mr. Wes Nemenz, The Trevor Project, New York, NY

This interactive workshop will provide an overview of preventing suicide among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth and how to best support this unique population. The Trevor Project’s suicide prevention curriculum has been included in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center’s Best Practice Registry.

STEM FOR ALL: USING STEM & GREEN STRATEGIES WITH HIGH-POVERTY STUDENTS
Strand: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math
Location: Kensington B
Presenter: Dr. Virginia Rhodes, Hughes STEM High School, Cincinnati, OH

Can STEM work in high-poverty schools? Of course it can! It is a perfect vehicle to rethink student engagement, retool your teaching staff, and reboot weak schools. STEM can combine RIGOR and SEL to achieve academic success. This workshop will show you how to make STEM happen—for the kids who need it most—in the most difficult & low-budget situations.

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE AND ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Kensington C
Presenter: Ms. Roseanne DeCesari, ScholarCentric, Denver, CO

Students disengage for a variety of reasons, including not understanding the value of school and not feeling connected to their teachers and peers. During this presentation we will examine the six resiliency factors that are critical to students staying engaged and performing at their highest academic potential. We will also discuss how to incorporate research-based intervention strategies to teach resiliency to middle and high school students.

TRUANCY TO COLLEGE: BUILDING A STEM WORKFORCE WITH TRUANT YOUTH
Strand: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math
Location: Eton
Presenter: Mr. Ronald Russell, Youth Building Success Enhancement, Houston, TX

We must enhance student’s academic performance and reduce Juvenile Justice System involvement. This workshop will highlight STEM innovative instructional strategies that truant youth used in a Truancy to College Campaign program in Texas. Educators, community leaders, and non-profit organizations can learn new ways to help our truant youth become successful.
PEER GROUP CONNECTION: A PEER-LED, GROUP MENTORING MODEL THAT FACILITATES A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION FROM MIDDLE TO HIGH SCHOOL
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Oxford
Presenters: Dr. Sherry Barr and Mr. Scott Albert, Center for Supportive Schools, Princeton, NJ

In this session, participants will examine the successful strategies and actions of an evidence-based group mentoring model that utilizes students who are in grades 11 and/or 12 to provide support and mentoring to incoming 9th graders as they transition from middle to high school.

UNDERSTANDING & REACHING THE WOUNDED STUDENT
Strand: Interacting with Specific Populations
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Mr. Joe Hendershott, Hope 4 the Wounded, Ashland, OH

This presentation is an introductory look at materials presented in the pre-forum workshop at this conference. Based on the presenter’s book, Reaching The Wounded Student, this session will inspire educators to understand their students so that they can be successful in school, in society, and in the rest of their lives. The presenter is passionate to start a new cycle in the lives of these children so that they will then pass it on for generations to come through alternative discipline techniques that are geared towards changing behavior, boosting esteem, and keeping students in school.

CREATIVE STRATEGIES TO BOOST ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT WITH URBAN YOUTH
Strand: Instructional Strategies
Location: Pembroke
Presenters: Dr. Carmen White, Dramatic Solutions, Inc., Glenn Dale, MD and Dr. Lennie Smith, University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC

Boost academic achievement with creative learning activities: simple, research-based instructional strategies that make learning more active and engaging. Participants will learn easy ways to use creative dramatic learning activities as a part of every lesson, creating greater engagement, deeper understanding of the content, improved retention, and greater liking for class and content.

THE EIGHT KEYS TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INCREASED GRADUATION RATES
Strand: Leadership, Policy, and Governance
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Mr. Franklin Schargel, School Success Network, Albuquerque, NM

The presenter shares 8 “keys” that will increase graduation rates and produce educational excellence. A discussion of these keys can provide insightful guidance to school leaders as they seek to improve the performance of their school.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Somerset
Presenters: Mrs. Erin Capone and Mr. Jason Urbanski, Overcoming Obstacles, New York, NY

The Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Program—a 2013 recipient of the National Dropout Prevention Network’s Crystal Star Award—is being offered to teachers at no cost. The program gives educators the tools they need to teach students the life skills that are critical to success in school, at home, and on the job. Educators across the nation have used the program to combat bullying, improve school environments, boost grade point averages, and increase graduation rates. Overcoming Obstacles supports learning standards, such as the Common Core State Standards, and includes curriculum materials for middle schools and high schools, teacher training workshops, and ongoing support services. Since its inception, the Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Program has positively impacted the lives of close to three million students nationwide. To learn more about Overcoming Obstacles, please visit http://www.overcomingobstacles.org.

3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

SAVING AND PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM THE PRISON SYSTEM
Strand: Juvenile Justice & Law Enforcement
Location: Kensington A
Presenter: Mr. Victor Woods, Victor Woods Corporation, Bloomingdale, IL

Victor Woods, former talk radio host, has appeared in Ebony Magazine and newspaper publications across the United States. In addition, he has been featured on numerous television shows including CNN and Fox TV’s “O’Reilly Factor.” His autobiography, A Breed Apart, is published by Simon & Schuster. Victor will share his remarkable story of spending 10 years of his life in both state and federal prison for armed robbery and counterfeiting $40 million dollars’ worth of Visa Gold credit cards. This presentation will be a no holds barred in your face informative session to America’s biggest problems, at-risk youth. This workshop will be based on Victor’s personal life journey and professional experience on how to reach our students before they fall into the criminal justice system.
THE ADVANCED VIRTUAL ACADEMY
Strand: Educational Alternatives
Location: Kensington B
Presenters: Mrs. Clarissa Giddings and Dr. Jeanine Wilson, Houston Independent School District, Houston, TX

The Advanced Virtual Academy is a high school with 5 satellite sites. Students who dropped out or who are at risk of dropping out because they are overage, come to AVA as a last chance. The AVA campus employs digital curriculum, blended learning instruction, and one-on-one tutoring, within a personalized path to help students graduate. This session will share best practices learned from initiating a blended approach to instruction in an alternative campus for overage students in the Houston Independent School District. Participants can expect to learn how to provide an alternative learning environment tailored for overage students and how to strategically incorporate blended learning in that environment.

GETTING IN THEIR WAY: OPENING AVENUES OF GROWTH AND POSSIBILITIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES
Strand: Interacting with Specific Populations
Location: Eton
Presenters: Dr. D. Ray Hill and Mr. Manus Caldwell, Greene County High School, Greensboro, GA

This session will provide the learner with a different way of how to reach students, especially African-American males. Getting in Their Way empowers you to provide ‘positive’ stumbling blocks toward success.

ACHIEVEMENT MENTORING PROGRAM: SCHOOL-BASED PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Oxford
Presenters: Mr. Scott Albert and Dr. Sherry Barr, Center for Supportive Schools, Wake Forest, NC

Participants will learn effective data-driven and engagement strategies from the Achievement Mentoring program, an evidence-based individual mentoring model that is implemented in middle and high schools. Strategies can be applied to students in grades seven through eleven who are “at-risk,” whether through academic performance, poor attendance, and/or behavior problems.

BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH TARGETED EDUCATION AND PROFICIENCY-BASED LEARNING TO PROMOTE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Winchester
Presenters: Mr. Cornelius Pratt, Ms. Tunisha Summers, and Mr. Trevor Schmitt, Nelson C. Nix Educational Center for Excellence, Orangeburg, SC

This presentation will describe how community partners are directly involved in the academic achievement of at-risk student at Nix everyday. Attendees will be provided cost effective and efficient ways to empower students to demonstrate mastery of subject areas through customized or targeted educational programs such as internships, lyceums, power point presentations, and art shows for stakeholders.

STOP+THINK+DECIDE = QUALITY DECISION MAKING
Strand: Educational Alternatives
Location: Pembroke
Presenters: Ms. Monique Fluker and Mr. R.J. Hodges, BORN II WIN, Union City, GA

The objective of this program is to provide personal development as the primary foundation for youth to professionally succeed in the future. This program will act as an effective component to help youth build character, create self-confidence, and learn the necessary life skills needed to carry into adulthood.

KEEPING THEM ENGAGED, MAKING THE CONNECTION
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Hampton
Presenters: Dr. Rose Skepple, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY and Mr. Joe Gibson, Leestown Middle School, Lexington, KY

Researchers will share how they developed culturally responsive teacher leaders by providing ongoing workshops, interventions and strategies. Participants will learn how to design culturally relevant positive behavior interventions and support strategies for their classrooms and how to integrate cultural references into instructional and assessment practices.

WHY ENTREPRENEURSHIP “WORKS” IN SCHOOLS
Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Somerset
Presenter: Hotep, Hustle University, Stone Mountain, GA

Did you know that there is a type of education that has been proven to help at-risk youth raise the literacy rate, increase proficiency in math, improve work ethic, build responsibility/self-esteem and self-independence, develop problem solving skills, improve class attendance and participation, enhance cross-curriculum understanding, improve behavior AND increase local community economies. YEP! It’s called Entrepreneurship Education.
**WEDNESDAY**

**7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**
Location: Cambridge Hall

**8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**FORUM REGISTRATION**
Location: Cambridge Hall

**8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

**MAKE IT LAST: STRATEGIES TO ENSURE YOUTH EXPERIENCE LIFELONG SUCCESS**
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Kensington A
Presenter: Mr. Quint DeWitte, Kuder, Inc., Adel, IA

Through effective education planning and career development strategies, you can ensure that students not only take a step in the right direction, but continue to do so throughout their lifetime. Research proves that these strategies benefit students from across the country, all with a variety of needs and backgrounds. Learn how you can make success last from Kuder, Inc., who is recognized as a Model Program by the NDPC/N for its impact on reducing dropout rates, increasing graduation rates, and inspiring youth to achieve success beyond high school.

**BRIDGING AND EMBRACING THE HIP HOP GENERATION: BULLYING VS. YOUTH AGGRESSION**
Strand: Educational Alternatives
Location: Kensington B
Presenters: Dr. Maurice Henderson and Mr. Ronald Cook, Anti-Drug and Alcohol Crusaders, Inc., Philadelphia, PA and Ms. Aisha Robinson, Bridge Prevention Services, Philadelphia, PA

This hip-hop abridged session is about the analytical approach processing of youth violence and its servitude in congesting the concurrent social streaming and culture of phenomenon that embraces the endangered of a species. Participants will learn how to negotiate life situations, resolutions to conflict, and will be trained on problem solving techniques.

**BEING IN LOCK-UP IS NO PLACE TO GROW UP!**
Strand: Educational Alternatives
Location: Eton
Presenters: Mr. David Watkins, Mr. Andre Newton, Dr. Pamela Smith, Mr. Manoushka Saintil, and Ms. Sydney Culver, Whidden-Rogers Ed. Center, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

With offenders as young as twelve years old, the focus is investing in our children’s education versus their incarceration. Discover the innovative programs in residential centers for incarcerated youth. The “Positively Reinforcing Opportunities in Technology” Initiative is an evidence-based intervention developed by Whidden-Rogers Education Center, an alternative high school in South Florida. The U.S. Department of Justice funds this groundbreaking project under the Second Chance Act. Community partners offer computer instruction, a construction pre-apprenticeship, and mentoring.

**TURNING POTENTIAL INTO PERFORMANCE: FOSTERING COGNITIVE EMPATHY & SOCIAL CHANGE**
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Mr. Terrance Smith, Mobile Area Education Foundation, Semmes, AL

This interactive session will feature proven techniques and strategies used to foster cognitive empathy and social change amongst students who have been identified as over-aged and under-credited. Employing these strategies, we (Mobile Area Education Foundation) have assisted over 400 at-risk students with achieving their goal of graduating in 5 years.

**INCORPORATING CAREER AND RELEVANCE INTO A TRANSITION PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK LEARNERS**
Strand: Interacting with Specific Populations
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Dr. William Dixon, Ms. Angela Bowman, Ms. Anita Gethers, and Ms. Gale Kidd, Colleton County Schools, Walterboro, SC

This session will provide participants with the framework for a transition program to support at-risk learners with a traditional curriculum enhanced through career education, career readiness, mentoring, and community involvement.

**ACE: ACCOUNTABILITY CREATES EXCELLENCE**
Strand: Connections & Engagement
Location: Pembroke
Presenters: Mr. Bevin Carpenter, Mr. Al Kemp, and Ms. Debra Tavaras, Soulstice, Inc, Atlanta, GA

A.C.E. is a comprehensive and behavioral modification program that addresses several of the most pressing issues in urban schools: truancy, academic remediation, and parent engagement. The program emphasize concepts such as accountability, positive peer influence, involvement, and empowerment.

**9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**

**TRANSITION/BREAK**
**WEDNESDAY**

**9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

**MOTIVATING BLACK MALES TO ACHIEVE IN SCHOOL AND IN LIFE**

*Strand: Instructional Strategies*  
*Location: Kensington A*  
*Presenter: Mr. Baruti Kafele, Kafele Consulting, LLC, Jersey City, NJ*

Baruti Kafele will provide strategies he used over his twenty-one year “mission” as an urban public school teacher and principal which inspired thousands of his black male learners to consistently soar academically. It places a particular emphasis on the development of a Young Men’s Empowerment Program in your school.

**RE-ENVISIONING AND REASONING YOUTH PROGRAMMING FOR AT-RISK URBAN MALES**

*Strand: Educational Alternatives*  
*Location: Kensington B*  
*Presenters: Dr. Maurice Henderson and Mr. Ronald Cook, Anti-Drug and Alcohol Crusaders, Inc., Philadelphia, PA and Ms. Aisha Robinson, Bridge Prevention Services, Philadelphia, PA*

This session will provide caregivers with the opportunity for engaging urban male youth through self-actualization, civic self-esteem, social capitalism, and restorative justice maintenance. Environmental memory research, emotional control templates and cure intention outcomes shall serve as the quotient and needs assessment for developing the human ecology of youth.

**CONNECTIONS THAT COUNT: REACHING AND TEACHING AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALES**

*Strand: Interacting with Specific Populations*  
*Location: Eton*  
*Presenter: Dr. Jeanine Wilson, Houston Independent School District, Houston, TX*

This session will share research data related to African-American males and AP exams in Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Texas. The session will include a discussion on reasons why African-American males continue to lag behind other ethnic groups, which can result in the abandonment of traditional school environments.

**COLLEGE BOUND & COLLEGE READY**

*Strand: Educational Alternatives*  
*Location: Oxford*  
*Presenters: Ms. Deana Ervin, Black & College Bound, Kansas City, MO and Ms. Angela Holcomb, Breakthrough Consulting, Atlanta, GA*

Our seminars close college and career access gaps often experienced by youth who have not been prepared academically, socially, financially, or mentally for the overwhelmingly competitive college admissions process. Students learn college and career readiness strategies and how to position themselves, network, and prepare competitive strengths-based portfolios for life.

**PACERS ACADEMY - AN ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE**

*Strand: Educational Alternatives*  
*Location: Winchester*  
*Presenter: Ms. Rose Stephens, Pacers Academy, Indianapolis, IN*

Do you have high school students that need a flexible or shorter school day? Do you have students that would benefit from a smaller class size and individualized instruction? Come see what Pacers Academy has been able to accomplish in the last 6 years to increase high school graduation rates.

**LET US SHOW YOU WHAT WE CAN DO: EMPOWERMENT AND HOPE FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW**

*Strand: Connections & Engagement*  
*Location: Pembroke*  
*Presenters: Dr. Cynthia Reed, Dr. Lisa Kensler, and Dr. Lynne Patrick, Auburn University College of Education, Auburn, AL and Ms. Sheniqua Griffin and Mr. Michael Smith, Truman Pierce Institute, Auburn, AL*

We developed a program based on the following premise: At-risk students are disengaging from their school communities and increased alienation can result in school leaving. A “more of the same” approach to skill development offered in isolation from students’ lived experience does not work. This session highlights one aspect of our program that develops skills and empowers at-risk youth as they create public service announcements that educate others.
CLOSING GENERAL SESSION
11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
Location: Kensington EFG

Opening Remarks and Introductions
Mr. John Gailer, Assistant Director
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
Clemson, SC

Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Ms. Cairen Withington, Assistant Director
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network,
Clemson, SC

“Engaging Parents In The Growth And Development Of Children By Providing Hope And Support In And Beyond The Classroom To Save Our Children, Save Our Schools”
Dr. Willie Kimmons

More than 50% of learning takes place outside of the classroom. Therefore, for a student to reach his/her full potential in school and life, the student will need frequent, meaningful, and undivided attention from parents and teachers. The results of this attention from parents and teachers can yield incredible results, such as, a more positive outlook on life and more enjoyment of school and learning. This is why engaging parents, teachers and the entire community in the growth and development of children/young people will provide hope and support to help save our children and save our schools.

Closing Remarks and Reminders
Mr. John Gailer

SAVE THE DATES!

• 2014 National Forum on Dropout Prevention for Native and Tribal Communities
Mystic Lake Casino Hotel
Prior Lake, MN
April 27-30, 2014

• Diploma Plan Institute
Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation
Myrtle Beach, SC
June 18-20, 2014

• 26th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference
The Galt House
Louisville, KY
November 2-5, 2014

• 27th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM
Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation
Myrtle Beach, SC
February 15-18, 2015

For more information visit www.dropoutprevention.org
The popular Solutions Webcast is now in video format!

Solutions provides information about effective strategies and programs on a web-based platform AT NO COST! Solutions is used by individuals, schools, and groups for professional development and resource identification. The new video format will provide a more effective and informative delivery. Join us!

Live broadcasts and archives are available at:
www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast

Spring 2014 Broadcasts:

February 13, 2014  Lifeskills Education  3:30-4:30 p.m. EST
Erin Capone, Executive Director, Community for Education Foundation
Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Program

March 20, 2014  Alternative Education  3:30-4:30 p.m. EST
Mr. Bob Eichorn, President, National Alternative Education Association

April 23, 2014  Community Education  3:30-4:30 p.m. EST
Dr. Lawrence Allen, Dean, College of Health, Education, and Human Development
Clemson University

Solutions Webcast is a production of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network and Clemson Broadcast Productions and is made possible through the generous sponsorship by Catapult Learning and Penn Foster.
| A | **AINSWORTH**, Jessica, Douglas County School System, 2520 East County Line Road, Lithia Springs, GA, 30122, 770-651-6700, jessica.ainsworth@douglass.k12.ga.us |
| ALBERT, Scott, Center for Supportive Schools, 911 Commons Way, Princeton, NJ, 08540, 609-252-9300, salbert@supportiveschools.org |
| ALLSOPP, David, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., EDU 105, Tampa, FL, 33620, 864-656-2030, dallsopp@usf.edu |
| ANAST-MAY, Linda, Coastal Carolina University, P.O. Box 261954, Conway, SC, 29528, 843-349-4194, lanastm@coastal.edu |
| ASKEW, Garrick, Douglas County School System, 2520 East County Line Road, Lithia Springs, GA, 30122, 770-651-6700, garrick.askew@douglas.k12.ga.us |
| AVERY, Tol, South Johnston High School, 10381 US 301 S, Four Oaks, NC, 27524, 919-894-3146, tolavery@johnston.k12.nc.us |
| B | **BAKER**, Tim, Focus Program, 300 East Queen Street, Pendleton, SC, 29670, 864-403-2071, tbaker@anderson4.org |
| BARR, Sherry, Center for Supportive Schools, 822 S. White Street, Suite 100, Wake Forest, NC, 27587, 919-675-2630, sbarr@supportiveschools.org |
| BONDS, James, BoardRoom Presentations, 6 Black Rock Road, Chadds Ford, PA, 19317, 484-678-2276, Boardroom54@earthlink.net |
| BOWMAN, Angela, Colleton County Middle School, 1379 Tuskegee Airmen Dr., 843-782-0040, abowman@colletonsd.org |
| BRUNNER, Sara, Division of Juvenile Justice, North Carolina Department of Public Safety, 408 East Marion St, Shelby, NC, 28150, 252-695-7350, sara.brunner@ncdps.gov |
| C | **Caldwell**, Manus, Greene County High School, 1002 South Main St, Greensboro, GA, 30642, 706-453-2271, manusbcaldwell@yahoo.com |
| CAPONE, Erin, Overcoming Obstacles, 125 Maiden Lane, New York, NY, 10038, 212-406-7488, ext. 124, erincapone@overcomingobstacles.org |
| CARPENTER, Bevin, Soulstice, Inc., 59 Central Park Dr., Atlanta, GA, 30354, 404-541-5511, bevinscarpenter@gmail.com |
| CHANGNON, Tom, Stanislaus County Office of Education, 1100 H Street, Modesto, CA, 95354, 209-238-1711, tchangnon@stancoe.org |
| CHERY, Robens, Principle Life Youth Development, P.O. Box 190453, Lauderdale, FL, 33319, 954-815-5734, robenschery@principlelife.org |
| COBOS-ORTIZ, Edgar, Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, Carr. Central Km. 424.5, Zona Universitaria Oriente, San Luis Potosí, S.L.P. 78399, México, 52-555-202-6066, edgaruilisescobos@gmail.com |
| COLEMAN, Howard, Coastal Carolina University, P.O. Box 261954, Conway, SC, 29528-6054, 843-234-3426, hcolem1@coastal.edu |
| COLLINS, Taylor, Jefferson Chamber Foundation Academy, 475 Manhattan Blvd, Harvey, LA, 70058, taylor.collins@jca.us |
| COOK, Ronald, Anti-Drug and Alcohol Crusaders, Inc., 50 N. 52nd St., Philadelphia, PA, 19139, 484-838-8902, ronaldcook82@gmail.com |
| CULVER, Sydney, Whidden-Rogers Ed. Center, 700 SW 26th Street, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 33315, 754-321-7550, sydney.culver@browardschools.com |
| DECESARI, Roseanne, ScholarCentric, 2406 W. 32nd Avenue, Suite C, Denver, CO, 80211, 800-995-8779, emily@underscorecreative.com |
| DEWITTE, Quint, Kuder, Inc., 302 Visions Parkway, Adel, IA, 50003, 800-314-8972, wedemeyerjkuder.com |
| DIXON, William, Colleton County, 213 Jefferies Boulevard, Walterboro, SC, 29488, 843-782-4526, Wdixon@colleton.k12.sc.us |
| Edwards, GERARD, Florence School District One, 1201 East Ashby Road, Quinby, SC, 29506, 843-292-1009, drgsewards@gmail.com |
| ERNST, Bodie, Momentum Strategy and Research, 725 S. Broadway, Suite 2, Denver, CO, 80209, 303-785-9878, jernst@momentum-sr.org |
| ERTZBERGER, Jeff, University of North Carolina - Wilmington, 601 South College Rd., Wilmington, NC, 28403, 910-962-7670, ertzbergerj@uncw.edu |
| ERVIN, Deana, Black & College Bound, 2815 Forest, Kansas City, MO, 64109, 913-221-4106, blackandcollegebound@gmail.com |
| FARMER, Jennie, Clemson University, 226 Holtzendorff Hall, Clemson, SC, 29634, 864-656-2030, jennief@clemson.edu |
| FLUKER, Monique, BORN II WIN, P.O. Box 524, Union City, GA, 30291, 678-485-0544, mnflucker@borniwin.com |
| GARDNER, Darren, Edward Waters College, 1658 Kings Road, Jacksonville, FL, 32209, 904-470-8001, mr.darrenrgardner@gmail.com |
| GARZA, Maria, Peraj Mexico A.C., Corregidoreas 823-3, Lomas Virreyes, México DF 1100, México, 52-555-202-6066, mgjinich@gmail.com |
| GEORGE, Ayesha, FEGS Education and Youth Services, 6565 Flatlands Ave, Brooklyn, NY, 11236, 718-968-1689, ageorge@fegs.org |
| GETHERS, Anita, Colleton County Middle School, 1379 Tuskegee Airmen Dr., 843-782-0040, agethers@colletonsd.org |
| GIBSON, Ahnna, Oconee County Schools, 508 Fowler Rd., West Union, SC, 29696, 864-656-2030, |
| GIBSON, Emily, Kondo School District, 4170 Main St #C, Kelseyville, CA, 95451, 208-336-6560, blueheronms@yahoo.com |
| GIBSON, Joe, Leestown Middle School, 2010 Leestown Road, Lexington, KY, 40511, 859-582-5955, joe.gibson@fayette.kyschools.us |
| GIDDINGS, Clarissa, Houston Independent School District, 4400 W. 18th Street, Houston, TX, 77092, 713-556-8822, cgidding@houstonisd.org |
| GOLDBERG, Roni, Focus Program in Anderson School District 4, 900 East Queen Street, Pendleton, SC, 29670, 864-403-2071, rgoldberg@anderson4.org |
| GOODWIN, Dennis, Mass Bay Community College, 6 Stelyani Drive, Haverhill, MA, 01835, 978-387-3944, dgood10654@aol.com |
| GRIFFIN, Sheniqua, Truman Pierce Institute, 108 Ramsay Hall, Auburn, AL, 36849, 334-844-4488, slg0018@auburn.edu |
### DIRECTORY OF PRESENTERS

#### H

**HENDERSHOTT, Joe**
Hope 4 the Wounded, Ashland, OH, 567-203-7472, joe@hope4thewounded.org

**HENDERSHOTT, Joe**
South Johnston High School, 10381 US 301 S, Four Oaks, NC, 27524, 919-894-3146, kelleyjohnson@johnston.k12.nc.us

**HEWETT, Stephennie**
The Citadel, 171 Moultrie Street, Charleston, SC, 29409, 843-953-5019, Hewetts@Citadel.edu

**HILL, D. Ray**
Greene County Schools, 1002 South Main St., Greensboro, GA, 30642, 706-453-2271, ray.hill@greene.k12.ga.us

**HODGES, R.J.**
BORN II WIN, P.O. Box 524, Union City, GA, 30291, 678-485-0544, info@borniwin.com

**HOLCOMB, Angela**
Breakthrough Consulting, Atlanta, GA, 678-480-6866, angelanholcomb@gmail.com

**HOLLOMAN, Hal**
East Carolina University, 204 Ragsdale Building, Greenville, NC, 27858, 252-328-5315, hollomanh@ecu.edu

**HOTEP, Hustle University**
1415 Kings Troop Rd., Stone Mountain, GA, 30083, 678-480-6866, angelanholcomb@gmail.com

**JACKSON, Dia**
George Washington University, 3501 Piney Woods Pl. A204, Laurel, MD, 20724, 301-257-5977, djacks@gwu.edu

**JACKSON, Kristin**
New Hanover County Schools, 1806 South 15th Street, Wilmington, NC, 28401, 910-772-2267, kristin.jackson@nhcs.net

**JEAN PAUL, Max**
Brooklyn Bridge Academy High School, 6565 Flatlands Ave, Brooklyn, NY, 11236, 718-968-1689, mjeanpa@schools.nyc.gov

**JERABEK, Angie**
St. Louis Park High School, 6425 West 33rd Street, St. Louis Park, MN, 55426, 952-928-6129, ajerabek4@msn.com

**JINICH, Armando**
Peraj Mexico A.C., Corregidores 823-3, Mexico City, DF 11000, Mexico, 52-555-202-6066, dmorenocandil@gmail.com

**JOEST, Karen**
SUNY Oneonta, 1188 Human Ecology Building, Oneonta, NY, 13820, 607-436-2063, kjoest@oneonta.edu

**JOHNSON, Kelley**
South Johnston High School, 10381 US 301 S, Four Oaks, NC, 27524, 919-894-3146, kelleyjohnson@johnston.k12.nc.us

**JOHNSON-DELGADO, Shirley**
Orange County Public Schools, 6125 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, FL, 32818, 407-245-1555, Shirley.JoHNSoN-Del GaDo@ocps.net

**JONES, Bennett**
South Johnston High School, 10381 US 301 S, Four Oaks, NC, 27524, 919-894-3146, bennettjones@johnston.k12.nc.us

**KAfELE, Baruti**
Principal Kafele Consulting, LLC, 396 Stegman Pkwy., Jersey City, NJ, 07305, 201-424-0201, bkafele@emailink.net

**KEMP, Al**
Soulistce, Inc, 59 Central Park Dr., Atlanta, GA, 30354, 404-514-5511, al@kempali.com

**KENSLE, Lisa**
Auburn College of Education, 4036 Haley Center, Auburn, AL, 36849, 334-844-4488, ak0008@auburn.edu

**KIDD, Gale**
Colleton County High School, 150 Cougar Nation Dr, 843-782-0031, gkidd@colletonsd.org

**KIMMONS, Willie**
Save Children Save Schools, Inc., 1653, Lawrence Circle, Daytona Beach, FL, 32117, 386-253-4920, wjkimmons@aol.com

### L

**LAWRENCE, LaKeisha**
Orangeburg Consolidated School District 5, 578 Ellis Avenue, 803-533-7964, lakeisha.lawrence@ocds5.net

**LENE’, Anne-Katherine**
Jefferson Chamber Foundation Academy-East, 3330 N. Causuay Blvd, Ste 452, Metairie, LA, 70002, 504-410-3280, ak.lenek@jcfaeast.us

**LESLIE-CANTY, Teresa**
Community Schools In Schools, Highland Park High School, 2424 SE California Ave., Topeka, KS, 66605, 785-274-6018, tleslie@topeka.k12 ks.us

**LEVIE, Yochebed (Amana)**
Positive Pathways Transition Center, 6125 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, FL, 32818, 407-992-0599, 41636@ocps.net

**MARSH, Billy**
Communities In Schools of Lincoln County, P.O. Box 1315, Lincolnston, NC, 28093, 704-736-0303, cislinc@bellsouth.net

**MCDANIEL, Keri**
Mobile Area Education Foundation, 605 Bel Air Blvd, Mobile, AL, 36606, 251-533-4368, mcdaniels73@ymail.com

**MINNIS, Anthony**
Edward Waters College, 1658 Kings Road, Jacksonville, FL, 32209, a.minnis0908@gmail.com

**MORENO-CANDIL, David**
Peraj Mexico AC, Corregidores 823-3, Mexico City, DF 11000, Mexico, 52-555-202-6066, dmorenocandil@gmail.com

**NEMENZ, Wes**
The Trevor Project, 575 8th Avenue, New York, NY, 10018, 212-695-8650, wes.nemenz@thetrevorproject.org

**NEW, Beryl**
Highland Park High School, 2424 SE California Ave., Topeka, KS, 66605, 785-274-6018, bnew@topeka.k12 ks.us

**NEWTON, Andre**
Whidden-Rogers Ed. Center, 700 SW 26th Street, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 33315, 754-321-7458, beoliver@coe.ufl.edu

**O’LEARY, Winnie**
Edmentum, 5600 W 83rd St, Ste 300/ 8200 Tower, Bloomington, MN, 55437, 952-832-1586, Winnie.Oleary@edmentum.com

**OLIVER, Bernard**
University of Florida, 1215 Norman Hall, Gainesville, FL, 32611, 352-273-4358, beoliver@coe.ufl.edu

**PARKS, Jr.**
LIFT Mentoring Program, 100 Pine knoll Drive, Greenville, SC, 864 355-0184, eparks@greenville k12.sc.us

**PATEC, Lynne**
Auburn College of Education, 4036 Haley Center, Auburn, AL, 36849, 334-844-4488, rlpl0004@auburn.edu

**PAULEY, Joseph**
Process Communications, Inc., 8740 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Potomac, MD, 20854, 301-983-8447, joe@kahlerrcom.com

**PAULEY, Judith**
Process Communications, Inc., 8740 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Potomac, MD, 20854, 301-983-8447, judy@kahlerrcom.com

**PAWLSKI, Tammy**
Francis Marion University, P.O. Box 100547, Florence, SC, 29502, 843-661-1475, tpawloski@fmarion.edu

**PORTER, Malvin**
Coastal Carolina University, Spadoni College of Education, P.O. Box 261954, Kearns 211C, Conway, SC, 29528-1954, 843-349-6413, mporter@coastal.edu

**PRATT, Cornelius**
Nix Educational Center for Excellence, 770 Stilton Road, Orangeburg, SC, 29223, 803-533-6581, cornelius.pratt@ocds5.net
DPI is an opportunity for teams of school and/or district administrators to consult with contracted field experts to develop customized, practical, and local plans to prevent dropouts and increase graduation rates.

**Dr. Beth P. Reynolds**  
*Instructional Leadership*  
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network  
Clemson University, Clemson, SC  
Executive Director

**Mr. Robert Eichorn**  
*Alternative Methods/Programs*  
National Alternative School Association  
President  
Manassass, VA

**Mr. Jeremy Williams**  
*Dropout Predictive Data*  
Union County Schools  
Assistant Superintendent  
Blairsville, GA

**Mr. Tom Wilson**  
*Community and Admin. Support*  
Anderson School District Five  
Superintendent  
Anderson, SC

**Dr. Mark Wilson**  
*School Climate*  
2009 National HS Principal of the Year  
Mark Wilson Education  
Madison, GA

Space is limited.  
Register now!  

[www.dropoutprevention.org/conferences](http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferences)

The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network is a nonprofit (501c3) organization that collaborates with state and local educational systems, community and nonprofit groups, and individuals to increase graduation rates through the dissemination and implementation of effective strategies and programs, evaluation, and research.

NDPC/N Clemson University, 209 Martin St., Clemson, SC 29631, (864) 656-2599, ndpc@clemson.edu, www.dropoutprevention.org
2014 NATIONAL FORUM ON DROPOUT PREVENTION
FOR NATIVE AND TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

CONFERENCE STRANDS INCLUDE:

- Addressing the Opportunity Gap
- Instructional Strategies to Increase Learning
- Emotional Supports
- School Climate: Safety and Student Wellness
- Service-Learning and Restorative Justice
- Digital Communication and Engagement
- Reengagement and Recovery Strategies
- Culture and Language

SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 27-30, 2014
Mystic Lake Casino Hotel
Prior Lake, Minnesota

Keynote Speakers:

Mr. Bill Mendoza
Dir. of White House Initiatives on American Indian Education

Dr. Anton Treuer
American Indian Resource Ctr. Bemidji State University

Dr. Marcia Gentry
Gifted Ed. Resource Inst. Purdue University

Dr. Michael Oleksa
Alaska Staff Development Network

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
National Indian Education Association • Alaska Staff Development Network
Minnesota Dept. of Education • South Dakota Dept. of Education
University of Minnesota, Institute on Community Integration
Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction • National Johnson O’Malley Association
Foundation for the Advancement of Culture and Education
Leech Lake Tribal College • Augsburg College

please visit www.dropoutprevention.org/conferences for more information
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anti-Hazing Collaboration</strong></td>
<td>Anti-Hazing Collaborative will work with your school, student athletes, administrators, educators, coaches, and Greek life organizations to help you recognize the signs and the prevention of hazing. Join us as we prevent hazing through awareness, education, and understanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Goodwin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Steleyani Drive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haverhill, MA 01835</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P: (978) 387-3944</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:dgood10654@aol.com">dgood10654@aol.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Apex Learning</strong></td>
<td>Apex Learning is the leading provider of blended and virtual learning solutions that engage all students in rigorous coursework to prepare them for college and work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Krise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1215 Fourth Avenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suite 1500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle, WA 98161</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P: (630) 457-8587</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:taylor.masnjak@apexlearning.com">taylor.masnjak@apexlearning.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Edmentum</strong></td>
<td>Edmentum is a leading provider of online learning solutions designed to drive learner achievement for academic success, offering innovative solutions to empower 21st century learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne Goodrich</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5600 W 83rd St</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suite 300, Tower 8200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington, MN 55437</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P: (803) 608-7288</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:wayne.goodrich@edmentum.com">wayne.goodrich@edmentum.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hazelden</strong></td>
<td>Hazelden is best known for providing proven-effective addiction treatment, recovery, and prevention books, videos, and curricula.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Mittelsteadt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 176</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center City, MN 55012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P: (651) 213-4672</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:nmittelsteadt@hazelden.org">nmittelsteadt@hazelden.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hustle University/Make A Way</strong></td>
<td>MAKE A WAY is a high relevancy social, emotional, College and Career Readiness Educational Program that empowers at-risk youth and traditionally underserved populations. Our program includes: staff training, youth presentations, parent/community workshops and highly RELEVANT curriculum materials that provide educational strategies to build stronger RELATIONSHIPS and bring RESULTS!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4156 Kings Troop Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Mountain, GA 30083</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P: (404) 294-7165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:hustleuinc@gmail.com">hustleuinc@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>George E. Miller II Art Studio</strong></td>
<td>Artist George Miller creates art that inspires the spirit of learning. He hides positive words and messages in his art to activate the subconscious mind. Conference special pricing!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George E. Miller II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 442373</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacksonville, FL 32222</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P: (904) 521-4059</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:gemartstudio@aol.com">gemartstudio@aol.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Dropout Prevention Network</td>
<td>Stop by and learn the benefits of membership in the National Dropout Prevention Network. Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Peters</td>
<td>the research publications published by the center regarding at-risk youth. Publications will be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>209 Martin Street</td>
<td>available on mentoring, alternative schooling, early childhood development, and service learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clemson, SC 29631</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P: (864) 656-0253</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:pj@clemson.edu">pj@clemson.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principle Life Youth Development</td>
<td>As students and teens read the <em>Mindset of a Teen</em>, they will realize the value and importance of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robens Chery</td>
<td>having a worthy foundation of moral character development, which will lead to making better life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 190453</td>
<td>choices in order to have an enriching fulfilled life. Through group collaboration with peers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauderhill, FL 33319</td>
<td>and the teacher, teens will better understand dysfunctional situations that impede making good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P: (954) 815-5734</td>
<td>sound decisions about life issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:robens_chery1@yahoo.com">robens_chery1@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renegade Learning</td>
<td>RL helps districts and schools start or grow new STEM schools, fix failing high-poverty schools,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Rhodes</td>
<td>and train principles in collaboration and high engagement strategies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1549 Wittlou Avenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati, OH 45224</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P: (513) 207-2566</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:vrhodes@cinci.rr.com">vrhodes@cinci.rr.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Olympics-South Carolina</td>
<td>Special Olympics SC shares program information and resources for Project UNIFY, an education-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Oswald</td>
<td>based initiative empowering youth to create inclusive and respectful schools for ALL students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1276 Assembly St.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia, SC 29201</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P: (803) 772-0094</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:boswald@c0-sc.org">boswald@c0-sc.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 7 Mindsets</td>
<td>The 7 Mindsets are based on a three-year extensive study that assessed over 1,000 of the happiest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Talley</td>
<td>and most successful men and women in history. At 7 Mindsets, we teach these simple principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 King Street</td>
<td>to young people and adults through interactive programs, engaging curriculum, and a variety of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell, GA 30075</td>
<td>digital solutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P: (404) 518-3223</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:jeff.talley@excent.com">jeff.talley@excent.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URISE, LLC</td>
<td>We are a technology and training company with niche expertise in entrepreneurship education. Our</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Turner</td>
<td>innovative mobile gaming solution helps at-risk youth “mine their own businesses.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Lewis St., Suite 302</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartford, CT 06103</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P: (860) 833-3009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:alice@urise.org">alice@urise.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The National Dropout Prevention Center and Network

A National Authority Ready to Meet Your Needs in Dropout Prevention Solutions

Our Mission

The mission of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network is to increase graduation rates through research and evidence-based solutions. We believe that graduation is linked not only to educational attainment, but is vital to job success, financial security, and quality of life. Across our twenty-six year history, our organization has promoted high academic achievement and engagement for all students and continues to be uniquely positioned through our Network and our Center to both engage in deep research AND to translate that research into evidence-based solutions that we tailor and implement for our customers.

Our Work

Our team of researchers and practitioners supports a myriad of clients including state departments of education, state and community agencies, higher education institutions, and individual schools and districts.

- The research arm of our organization continues to convene research teams across the country to conduct research related to dropout issues and solutions as well as to function as a clearinghouse for dissemination of those findings
- Our staff is available to respond to requests for customized support and services including
  - Comprehensive third-party program evaluations and follow-up strategy implementation
  - Professional learning, presentations, and events
  - Proposal development
- Our staff seeks opportunities to partner with other agencies and organizations to collaboratively tailor services and pursue funding opportunities aligned with our mission.
- We sponsor national and regional conferences to help others learn new solutions to the dropout crisis
- Our Web site (dropoutprevention.org) and publications provide outstanding resources including statistics, model programs, online professional learning, and guidebooks on the research-based strategies

Contact Us Today

Let us leverage our 26 years of research, evaluation, professional learning, and customized outreach experience to tailor solutions to make the difference in your organization

209 Martin Street, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, 29631-1555   ndpc@clemson.edu   www.dropoutprevention.org   864-656-2599