2015 NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK CONFERENCE

TAKE A STAND
FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

SPONSORED BY

Ford

OCT 25 – 28, 2015

WYNDHAM SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK HOTEL

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CENTER/NETWORK

www.dropoutprevention.org

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

2015 NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK CONFERENCE

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David Thompson

Kelly Kravitz
Christine McCormick
Julie Wayman

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Texas Education Agency

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Michael Williams
Commissioner

October 2015

Greetings,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Michael Williams
Commissioner of Education

MW/jw

Innovation Partners

Innovation Partners

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

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

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

The Worldwide Interactive Network Inc. (WIN) has a passion for education and all it can be. They are educators with the goal to provide students with all the education tools they need to succeed. WIN Learning's goal has been to improve these education opportunities for the United States and throughout the world by integrating learning with up-to-date technologies. WIN is the leading provider of career readiness solutions that help districts prepare pathways for students' futures.

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

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

NDPC/N's Innovation Partners

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

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK

October 25, 2015

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Ford Motor Company Fund
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Center/Network Director
Sandy Addis
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

Dear Conference Participants and Special Guests:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Sandy Addis

Sandy Addis
Director, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

209 Martin Street, Clemson, SC 29631-1555
P: 864-656-2599 F: 864-656-0136 ndpc@clemson.edu www.dropoutprevention.org

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SITE VISITS

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015

10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Site Visit #1
Anson Jones Academy

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

Site Visit #2
Young Men's Leadership Academy

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

Site Visit #3
Ed White Middle School – Project Connect and Restorative Discipline

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

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

Site Visit #4
Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015

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

Site Visit #5
Sidney Lanier High School & Good Samaritan Community Services

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015

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

Site Visit #6
Academy of Creative Education (ACE)

ACE is an innovative, nationally recognized high school in the North East ISD for students at risk of dropping out. The focus of the site visit/tour will allow educators to observe ACE in action. Groups will be guided by ACE students to see the set-up of classrooms and interactions between teachers and students. A panel of students will be available to share information on their backgrounds, why ACE works for them, program specifics, and answer questions posed by visitors.

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

National Dropout Prevention Center / Network

As a professional in the field of dropout prevention, you put your heart into your work to make a difference for young people, providing hope, opportunity, and support.

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

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

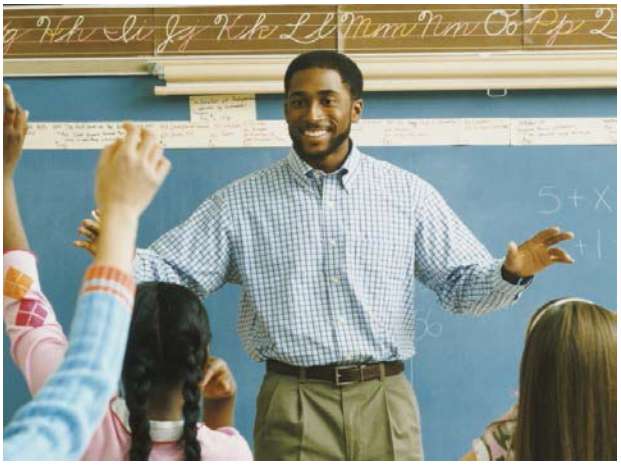
At each NDPC/N event, concurrent sessions that count toward the certification are marked with the program logo and designation of the corresponding strategy or topic. The markers shown below and next to the sessions identify the effective strategy or topic that corresponds with the session.

Effective Strategies

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

Key Topics

A Fundamentals of Effective Strategies to Increase Graduation Rates
B Special Topics



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

For more information, scan the code at right or check at the registration table.

OVERVIEW OF CONFERENCE

Date and Time	Event	Page
Sunday, October 25, 2015		
12:00 noon – 6:00 p.m.	Conference Registration *(Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area)*	
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Workshops *(Must be preregistered.)*	11
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Exhibitors' Sneak Preview *(Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area)*	
Monday, October 26, 2015		
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	12
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open/Registration	12
8:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Opening General Session—*Dr. Bill Daggett*	13
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions	14
10:30 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Site Visits 1-3 *(See page 7 for Site Visit descriptions.)*	
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Networking Luncheon	20
12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Featured Session—*U.S. Ed-Rural*	20
12:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Site Visit 4 *(See page 7 for Site Visit descriptions.)*	
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	20
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	25
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Opening Reception	27
Tuesday, October 27, 2015		
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast/Networking With Exhibitors	28
7:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Exhibitors' Showcase	28
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration	28
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	General Session—*Ford Motor Company Fund—Innovation Awards*	*29*
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions	30
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	33
12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Networking Luncheon	37
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	37
2:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	Site Visit 5 *(See page 7 for Site Visit descriptions.)*	
3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Featured Session—*Mr. Aric Bostick*	40
	2015 Crystal Star Awards of Excellence	41-44
Wednesday, October 28, 2015		
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Coffee Service	45
7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Conference Registration	45
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions	45
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Site Visit #6 *(See page 7 for Site Visit descriptions.)*	
9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions	49
10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Closing General Session—*Lt. Col. (Ret.) Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch*	51
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Two-Day Post-Conference Workshop (Continues Thursday, October 29, 2015, 8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.) Presented by: *Dr. Judith A. and Mr. Joseph Pauley*	50
Directory of Presenters		52
Directory of Exhibitors		57

Catapult Learning

Improving Student Performance for Forty Years

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

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

DON'T MISS OUR PRESENTATIONS

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

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

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

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

For more information, please contact Dr. Eurmon Hervey, Jr.
202.765.6066 • Eurmon.Hervey@catapultlearning.com

Catapult Academy is a division of Catapult Learning, Inc., the largest provider of K–12 contracted instructional services in the U.S. With an uncompromising commitment to educational quality, Catapult Learning has dedicated the past four decades to improving academic achievement for all students through its suite of innovative technology-enabled K-12 programs. Catapult Learning's team of 5,600 educators work every day to achieve sustained academic gains and build teacher and leadership capacity through research-based programs that include intervention, alternative school education, assessment, school improvement, and professional development solutions.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2015

Pre-Conference Workshops - 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(Must be preregistered. On-site registration is available)

PCW 1. The Most Effective Strategies to Increase Graduation Rates

Presented by Dr. Jay Smink, Professor Emeritus, Clemson University, Clemson, SC
Location: Executive Salon 2

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

PCW 2. The Impact of a Quality Afterschool Program

Presented by Ms. Shanya Dean and Ms. Jocelyn Kuhn,
Edvance Research, Inc., San Antonio, TX
Location: Executive Salon 3

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

PCW 3. Reaching the Wounded Student

Presented by Dr. Joe Hendershott, Hope 4 the Wounded, LLC
Location: Executive Salon 5

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

PCW 4. Design Thinking: Connecting School to Real Life for Student Success

Presented by Ms. Deborah Parizek, supported by local superintendent, Jessica Sanchez, and students from Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design
Location: Executive Salon 1

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015

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

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST/NETWORKING WITH THE EXHIBITORS
Location: Texas Ballroom

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

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBIT HALL OPEN/REGISTRATION
Location: Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area and Third Floor

8:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

GENERAL SESSION
Location: Texas Ballroom

OPENING RECEPTION

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

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

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

Directions to the Plaza Club in the Frost Bank Tower Building:
Leave the hotel and turn left on Soledad Street and walk two blocks. Cross Houston Street and turn right on sidewalk and cross North Main Avenue. Entrance to the Frost Bank Building Tower will be on your left at 100 West Houston. Take the hotel elevator to the Plaza Club entrance on the top floor of the Tower.

Opening General Session

Monday, October 26, 2015, 8:30-10:15 am
Texas Ballroom

2015 NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK CONFERENCE

PRESESSION

San Marcos High School Orchestra, Mr. Christopher T.F. Hanson, Director
San Marcos, Texas

Follow San Marcos High School Orchestra!
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PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Air Force JROTC Honor Guard
Judson High School, Converse, Texas
Lt. Col. James Grace and MSgt. Timothy Netters, JHS JROTC

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Judson High School Cantata Choir, Ms. Kay Sherrill, Director, and Mr. David Short, Assistant Director
Judson High School, Converse, Texas

OPENING REMARKS

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

Ms. Julie Wayman, Director of Dropout Prevention and At-Risk Programs, Texas Education Agency, Austin, Texas

PRESENTATION OF CRYSTAL STAR AWARDS

THE HOPE CENTER FOR KIDS
(Ty & Terri Schenzel, Founders)
Omaha, Nebraska

DR. JOSEPH HENDERSHOTT
Hope 4 The Wounded, LLC
Ashland, Ohio

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mr. John Murray, Chairman and CEO, AdvancePath Academics, Inc., Williamsburg, VA

DR. BILL DAGGETT

Chairman and Founder, International Center for Leadership in Education
Rexford, New York

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR FUTURE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF EMERGING TRENDS

Today's challenges are so overwhelming that they have consumed the agenda of most schools. Equally as important, but often overlooked due to the magnitude of today's pressures, are a series of emerging trends that will profoundly impact the future of our students, schools, and education. Bill Daggett will describe these emerging trends and how we need to address today's challenges within their context.

Dr. Willard R. (Bill) Daggett is recognized worldwide for his proven ability to move education systems toward more rigorous and relevant skills and knowledge for all students. He has assisted a number of states and hundreds of school districts with their school improvement initiatives, many in response to No Child Left Behind and its demanding adequate yearly progress (AYP) provisions. Before founding the International Center for Leadership in Education in 1991, Dr. Daggett was a teacher and administrator at the secondary and postsecondary levels and a director with the New York State Education Department. There, he spearheaded restructuring initiatives to focus the state's education system on the skills and knowledge students need in a technological, information-based society. Dr. Daggett has collaborated with education ministries in several countries, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the National Governors Association, and many other national and global organizations.

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

Concurrent Sessions

(Participants choose one.)

WHAT DO SUCCESSFUL LEADERS OF AT-RISK LEARNERS DO TO RAISE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVE SCHOOL CULTURES?

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

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

MANAGING SCHOOL CLIMATE BY MEASURING RESILIENCY SKILLS OF STUDENTS

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

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

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS: DEVELOPING A TRUE MEASURE OF ON-TIME PROGRESS

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

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

RURAL DROPOUT PREVENTION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GROUP

(By invitation only.)
Location: Executive Salon 1

THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK, AND BE HEARD: THE ARTS AS AN EMANCIPATORY TOOL TO RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE STUDENT SUCCESS

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

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

STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING STUDENT SUCCESS: THE TEXAS EXPERIENCE

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

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

SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION MEETING

(By invitation only.)
Location: Executive Salon 4

AdvancePath ACADEMICS

To Enrich Lives and Improve Society Through Education – One Student at a Time

"For the first time, I felt confident. I am going to college and then grad school. Awesome."

Ariel Luces, Class of 2015 and AdvancePath Academic Scholarship recipient

Every child deserves to stand tall, to stand proud… to reach beyond whatever holds them down and meet their future, head on.

That's why we're here.

AdvancePath's Services

Survey & Identify

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

Program Placement

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

Monitor & Adjust

Ongoing Surveys to identify progress or continuing/shifting student issues
Ongoing Placement - students move up/down service continuum based on need
Ongoing PD – based on needs (provided by District or AdvancePath)

graduate@advancepath.com | (877) 828-2692

National Dropout Prevention Center / Network
Crystal Star Award 2012

AdvancED ACCREDITED | NCA

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

IN-SCHOOL YOUTH COURTS MODEL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Strand: Juvenile Justice and Truancy
Location: Executive Salon 5 — 13
Presenter: Dr. Kathryn Atman, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

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

PREPARING STUDENTS TO BE COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: San Antonio Ballroom — 15
Presenter: Dr. Bill Daggett, International Center for Leadership In Education, Rexford, NY

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

A FRAMEWORK FOR LIFE READINESS AND A SUSTAINABLE MODEL FOR SUCCESS: GIVING A CAREER-READINESS FOCUS FOR AT-RISK LEARNERS

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Lone Star Room — 4
Presenters: Mr. Joseph Goins, WIN Learning, Kingston, TN; and Mr. Rory Gesch, Navasota Independent School District, Navasota, TX

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

THE GRAND BALANCING ACT—ACCOUNTABILITY VS. ADAPTABILITY

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Fiesta A — 3
Presenters: Mr. Jerry Keepers, Mr. Artie Dietz, Mr. Jeff Snyder, Ms. Susan Kennedy, and Ms. Mary Pat Sexton, Jefferson County High School, Louisville, KY

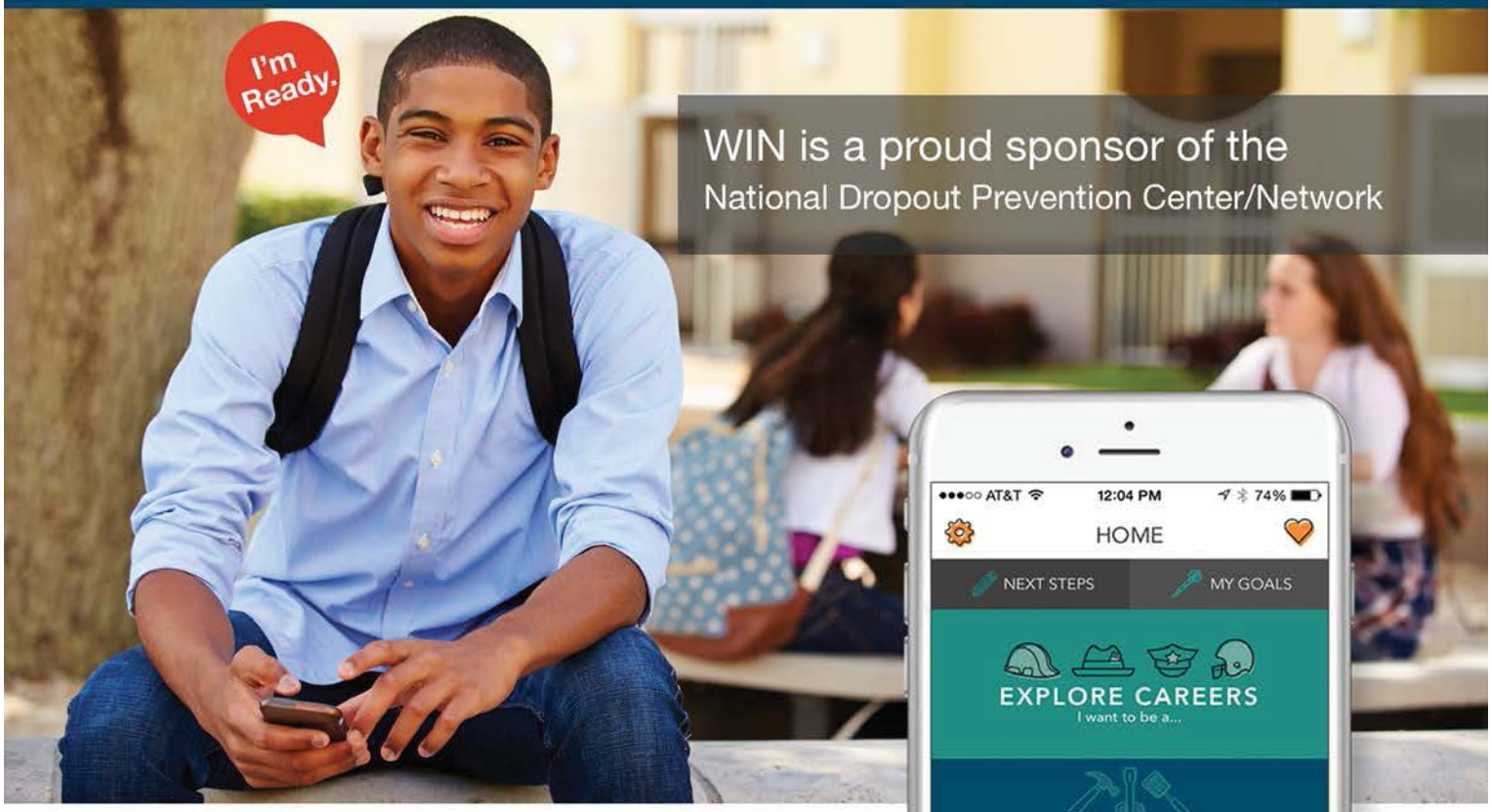
Learn how Jefferson County High School's 30-year-old program continues to serve at-risk students in an era where accountability and budget austerity trump adaptability. We will discuss logistics, curriculum, and pedagogy as well as strategies to protect autonomy and funding in the face of increased oversight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

FOSTER CARE 101: AN OVERVIEW OF CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND COURTS

Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Fiesta B — 13
Presenters: Mrs. Jamie Bernstein, Children's Commission, Austin, TX; and Ms. Kristine Mohajer, Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin, TX

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

WIN Learning | readiness redefined



Place a career readiness guidance plan in the hands of every student with WIN.

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

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

win

Learn more at www.winlearning.com
Joseph Goins | jgoins@winlearning.com | 865.414.0033

twitter / @edwinworldwide

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

DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE TRUANCY DIVERSION PROGRAM

Strand: Juvenile Justice and Truancy
Location: Fiesta C 15
Presenter: Mr. Matt Smith, Williamson County Juvenile Services, Georgetown, TX

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

STUDENTS LIVING IN HOMELESS SITUATIONS? EFFECTIVE PRACTICES FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Fiesta D B
Presenter: Mr. Patrick Lopez, Texas Homeless Education Office, Austin, TX

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

TAKE A STAND!
FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Teach Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Education

Our children are missing something.
Something so vital that, without it, they're dramatically more susceptible to dropping out of school, bullying, violence, crime, substance abuse, and poverty.

You can change that with life skills instruction.
Teach your students how to communicate effectively. How to make informed decisions. How to resolve conflict. How to set and achieve goals. Kids with life skills live better lives.

FREE Go to ovecomingobstacles.org for more information on our curriculum, professional development and ongoing support.

driving a brighter future

For empowering students and helping to fulfill their dreams,
Ford salutes the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network.

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

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

www.community.ford.com

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10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

SITE VISITS 1-3
Location: Meet in Hotel Lobby

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

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

NETWORKING LUNCHEON
Location: Fiesta Pavilion and Third Floor

Network with fellow participants.

12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

FEATURED SESSION
Location: Texas Ballroom

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

SITE VISIT 4
Location: Meet in Hotel Lobby

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

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

Concurrent Sessions

(Participants choose one.)

STRATEGIES TO END BULLYING IN YOUR SCHOOL
Strand: School Climate
Location: Texas Ballroom A
Presenter: Mr. Franklin Schargel, School Success Network, Albuquerque, NM

Can you remember the schoolyard slogan that went, "sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me?" Obviously that was not and is not the truth. Both physical and nonphysical forms of bullying can happen anywhere in the school, on the way to and from school, and even online. "Over 13 million American kids will be bullied this year, making it the most common form of violence experienced by young people in the nation" (Hirsch, 2012). According to the FBI, "Bullying remains one of the largest problems in schools, with the percentage of students reportedly bullied at least once per week steadily increasing since 1999." Additionally, cyberbullying has become more rampant and has contributed to the suicides of multiple children. The Internet has unleashed meanness to a degree unseen before.

GOING THE DISTANCE: KEEPING AT-RISK STUDENTS ON TRACK FOR LIFELONG SUCCESS
Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Texas Ballroom C
Presenter: Ms. Rebekah Richards, Graduation Alliance, Salt Lake City, UT

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

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

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

FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE: WHY YOU NEED TO HAVE IT ALL
Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 1
Presenters: Ms. Jacinda Goodwin, Maine Department of Education, Augusta, ME; and Mrs. Teri Dary, Manhattan Strategy Group, Waupun, WI

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

Featured Session

Monday, October 26, 2015, 12:45-2:00 pm
Texas Ballroom

2015 NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK CONFERENCE

OPENING REMARKS

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

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF PANEL MODERATOR

Dr. George Petersen, Dean, Eugene T. Moore School of Education, Clemson University, Clemson, SC

Panel Moderator:

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

Panel Discussion:
DROPOUT PREVENTION IN RURAL AMERICA

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

Panel Members:

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

STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE RURAL DROPOUT PREVENTION PROJECT AND PRESENTATION TIMES

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

ORGANIZATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP FOR THE RURAL DROPOUT PREVENTION PROJECT

U.S. Department of Education, High School Graduation Initiative Program
American Institutes for Research | Manhattan Strategy Group | National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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

WRAPAROUND: COLLABORATING SYSTEMS TO BUILD POSITIVE SCHOOL OUTCOMES FOR STRUGGLING YOUTH

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Executive Salon 2
Presenters: Mrs. Erin Oehler, Texas Department of State Health Services, Austin, TX; and Mrs. Bonnie Evans, Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health, Austin, TX

13

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

REACHING THE WOUNDED STUDENT

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

12

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

A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO DROPOUT PREVENTION: FROM IDENTIFICATION TO INTERVENTION

Strand: Leadership and Policy
Location: Executive Salon 4
Presenters: Dr. Mariam Azin, BrightBytes, San Francisco, CA; and Mrs. Cairen Withington, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson, SC

15

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

FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION

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

9

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

FROM STATE AND FEDERAL COMPLETION RATES TO HOUSE BILL 5: SHOULD CHANGES IN OUR LEGISLATURE CHANGE OUR FOCUS?

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: San Antonio Ballroom
Presenter: Mrs. Deborah Acosta, Midland ISD, Midland, TX

15

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

CREATING COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS—BUILDING CAPACITY

Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Lone Star Room
Presenter: Mr. Hiawatha Bouldin, Self-Employed, Midwest City, OK

13

Create open and non-threatening social environments. Learn techniques for establishing relationships with varied populations of varied ages and cultures in order to enhance community capacity. Discover innovative approaches that create positive results for closing "social silos" and connecting one another.

IDENTIFY AT-RISK STUDENTS EARLY

AND WITH 2X THE ACCURACY

when compared to traditional flag-based systems

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

BrightBytes

A National Dropout Prevention Center/Network Partner

LEARN MORE:

visit brightbytes.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MINDSET AND GRIT: PROMOTING SKILLS THAT LEAD TO ACADEMIC TENACITY

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

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

CHECK & CONNECT: A COMPREHENSIVE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT INTERVENTION

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

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

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

TRANSITION/BREAK

Location: Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area and Third Floor

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

Concurrent Sessions

(Participants choose one.)

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME, PREPARING EVERY STUDENT FOR COLLEGE, CAREER, AND A GLOBAL ECONOMY

Strand: Out-of-School Time
Location: Texas Ballroom A
Presenter: Mr. Dan Sifuentes, Outside the Box Dropout Prevention, Austin, TX

10

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

INVOLVING FATHERS IN THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION: A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH

Strand: Student, Family, & Community Engagement
Location: Texas Ballroom C
Presenter: Mr. Nigel Vann, ICF International, Silver City, NM

8

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

THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF ATTENDANCE OFFICERS AND THEIR ROLE IN DROPOUT PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

Strand: Juvenile Justice and Truancy
Location: Director Room 2
Presenters: Ms. Amy Blackwell and Mr. Joe Trevino, Cypress Fairbanks ISD, Houston, TX

B

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

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STORY—RURAL HIGH SCHOOLS WITH NO DROPOUTS

Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 1
Presenter: Mr. Art Ellison, New Hampshire Department of Education, Concord, NH

B

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

IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS: STAFF DEVELOPMENT TO ASSIST THE EX-OFFENDER REENTER THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Executive Salon 2
Presenters: Dr. Lynn Hemmer and Dr. Israel Aguilar, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, TX; and Dr. Michael Watson, Hays Consolidated ISD, Buda, TX

11

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

IGRAD: INCREASING GRADUATION RATES ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Executive Salon 3
Presenters: Ms. Christy Boes and Mrs. Sara Donathen-Smith, Community Education Coalition and Ivy Tech Community College, Columbus, IN

10

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

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

DROPOUT RECOVERY: CREATING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS TO ENSURE STUDENT SUCCESS

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Executive Salon 4
Presenters: Dr. Eurmon Hervey, Mr. Stuart Udell, and Mr. Andrew Post, Catapult Learning, Camden, NJ

There is indeed much discussion concerning dropout prevention. However, not as much attention is given to dropout recovery—the strategies that create pathways for youth to return to formal education and employment training. Through interactive activities, participants will be engaged in understanding the importance of dropout recovery for individuals, families, communities, and the nation.

NORTH DAKOTA DROPOUT PREVENTION: NATIVE AMERICAN ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 5
Presenter: Mrs. Lucy Fredericks, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, Bismarck, ND

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

EIGHT BARRIER BUSTERS TO INCREASE STUDENT LEARNING

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: San Antonio Ballroom
Presenter: Dr. Pamela Bruening, National Alternative Education Association, Naples, FL

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

BUILDING EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY-BASED PARTNERSHIPS TO FIGHT THE DROPOUT CRISIS

Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Lone Star Room
Presenter: Mr. Paul Smith, Education Reform Advocates, LLC, Batlimore, MD

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

ENHANCING STUDENT PERFORMANCE THROUGH BASIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND RESOURCES

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Fiesta A
Presenters: Mr. Tim Stahlke, Texas Homeless Education Office, Austin, TX; and Ms. Jana Burns and Mr. David Ray, Region 10 Education Service Center, Richardson, TX

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

FOSTER CARE AND STUDENT SUCCESS—GUIDANCE FOR TEXAS SCHOOL DISTRICT FOSTER CARE LIAISONS, 1

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

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

RESTRUCTURING SCHOOLS WITHOUT BLINDERS ON

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

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

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

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

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

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

OPENING RECEPTION

Location: The Plaza Club, Frost Bank Tower Bldg.

See Directions in the Opening Reception ad on page 12.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015

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

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST/NETWORKING WITH EXHIBITORS
Location: Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area

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

7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

EXHIBITORS' SHOWCASE
Location: Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area and Third Floor

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION
Location: Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area

8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

GENERAL SESSION
Location: Texas Ballroom

General Session

Tuesday, October 27, 2015, 8:30-9:45 am
Texas Ballroom

2015 NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK CONFERENCE

PRESESSION

Irving Middle School Mariachi Band
Ms. Mariaelena Redriguez, Director
San Antonio, Texas

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Bob Collins, Chairman of the Board of Directors
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

PRESENTATION OF CRYSTAL STAR AWARDS

OWASSO RAM ACADEMY
Owasso, Oklahoma

THE LEADER IN ME PROGRAM
Vicksburg Chamber of Commerce
Vicksburg, Mississippi

MR. R. KEETH MATHENY
Austin Independent School District
Austin, Texas

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mr. Stuart Udell, President and CEO, Catapult Learning, Camden, NJ

MR. SHAWN WILSON

Multicultural Community Engagement Manager
Ford Motor Company Fund, Dearborn, MI

HACK EDUCATION: EMBRACING A SILICONE VALLEY MINDSET TO IMPROVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

There is much talk about the need to innovate within the education industry today. The technology sector embraces a mindset which has led to rapid growth and innovation. A group of Silicon Valley leaders, Tech Entrepreneurs, and Educators will discuss how developing a "Silicon Valley Mindset" can benefit education.

Additionally, in partnership with the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network and Henry Ford Learning Institute, Ford will announce *Ford STEAM Lab*, an innovative, free, blending learning curriculum for K-12 students. *Ford STEAM Lab* utilizes the tech industry practice of "Hacking" to spark student's passion for careers in STEM and Tech Entrepreneurship.

After starting his career in the traditional nonprofit sector with the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee, Shawn found his passion as a serial social entrepreneur and champion of innovative and scalable solutions to social issues. Shawn's servant leadership style has been featured in the New York Times and during keynote speeches at MIT, Harvard, and the Clinton Global Initiative.

In 1998, Shawn founded SWI Consulting Inc., a full-service philanthropic consulting firm in Atlanta, Ga. in his capacity as President/CEO, Shawn spearheaded the launch of more than a dozen charitable nonprofit organizations for high net-worth individuals including many notable celebrities and was responsible for strategic planning, brand integration, and board development. In 2008, Shawn literally "wrote the book" on celebrity philanthropy with the release of *Good Works, Not Good Time, A Guide to Effective Celebrity Philanthropy*.

In 2004, Shawn partnered with eight-time Grammy winning artist, Usher Raymond IV to relaunch Usher's New Look Foundation and helped establish its mission of developing disconnected youth as global leaders. During his decade-long tenure as President and CEO, New Look collaborated with Emory University Goizueta Business School to train and certify 21,000 youth leaders across four continents and nine countries including the United Kingdom, China (Shanghai), South Africa, and Philippines. In June 2014, Shawn joined Ford Motor Company Fund as Manager, Multicultural Community Engagement, and has overall responsibility for Southeastern Michigan in addition to the Asian, Middle-Eastern, and Jewish communities.

9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

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

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

Concurrent Sessions

(Participants choose one.)

PERSONALIZING COLLEGE AND CAREER PREPARATION THROUGH THE SENIOR MASTERY PROCESS
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Texas Ballroom A
Presenters: Ms. Deborah Parizek and Ms. Jessica Sanchez, Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design, San Antonio, TX

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2016 Reaching the Wounded Student Conference

A Trauma-Informed Approach to Helping Youth Beyond At-Risk

June 26-29, 2016

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Kissimmee, FL

Presented by:

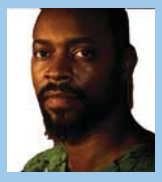
NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CENTER/NETWORK

HOPE 4 THE WOUNDED, LLC
EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

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

Featured Speakers

Judge Steven Teske
Juvenile Court of Clayton County, GA



Mr. Hershell Hargrave
Singer/Songwriter
Creston, OH

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

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

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

Dr. Susan Bon
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC

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

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

Who Should Attend?

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

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

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

HOPE 4 The Wounded, LLC Educational Seminars, Ashland, OH www.hope4thewounded.org

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

CLOSING THE ATTITUDE GAP

Strand: School Climate
Location: Executive Salon 3
Presenter: Mr. Baruti Kafele, Principal Kafele Consulting, LLC, Jersey City, NJ

15

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

CIS OF TEXAS MEETINGS

Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Executive Salon 4
Presenter: Mrs. Sara Grunberger, Texas Education Agency, Austin, TX

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

HOW WEST VIRGINIA IS USING DATA AND INNOVATION TO ENSURE ALL STUDENTS ACHIEVE

Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 5
Presenters: Ms. Rebecca Derenge, West Virginia Department of Education, Charleston, WV; and Ms. Amy Peterson, American Institutes for Research, Washington, DC

15

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

STUDENT EXPERIENCES, INSIGHTS, AND STRATEGIES TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS

Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: San Antonio Ballroom
Presenters: Dr. Terry Pickeral, Cascade Educational Consultants, Bellingham, WA; and students and faculty from Ray D. Corbett JHS, Shertz, TX

1

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

UNDERSTANDING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH STUDENT VOICES

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

10

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

IMPROVE ATTENDANCE, ATTITUDE, AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Fiesta A
Presenter: Dr. Mickey Garrison, Educational Support Services, Roseburg, OR

10

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

disconnected students become connected—to adults, other students, and their families.

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

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

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

HELPING HOMELESS STUDENTS GET TO COLLEGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRANSITION

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

Concurrent Sessions

(Participants choose one.)

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

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

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

REACHING AND TEACHING THE RELUCTANT LEARNER

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

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

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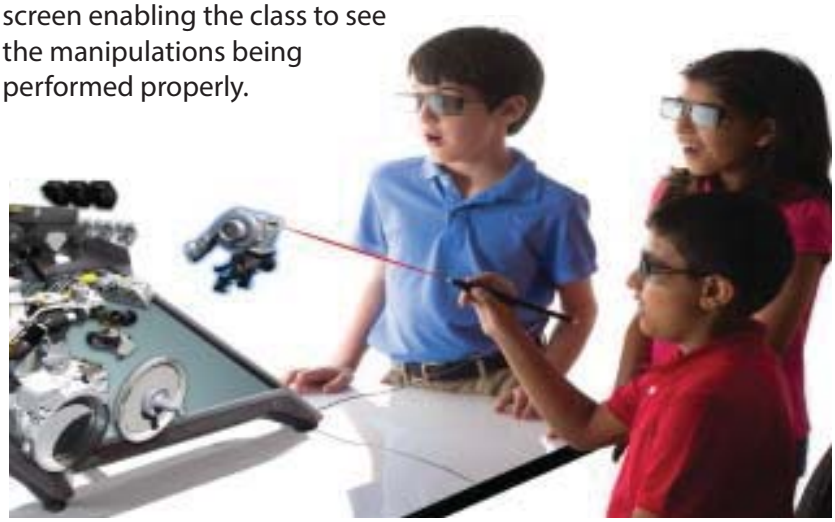

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Sixth Grader, Tennessee

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

TEN DATA ANALYSIS HABITS THAT LEAD TO EFFECTIVE ACADEMIC AND BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION

Strand: Data Assessment and Continuous Improvement
Location: Director Room 2
Presenter: Dr. Pamela Bruening, National Alternative Educators Association, Naples, FL

Specific data analysis habits lead to effective academic and behavior intervention, increased student achievement, and continuous improvement. Participants will experience 10 data analysis habits that support continuous improvement and are portable and easy to share with others. Collaboration is encouraged.

EQUITY AUDITS: USE OF PEER-TO-PEER CLASSROOM WALKTHROUGHS TO ENHANCE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 1
Presenter: Dr. Gerri Maxwell, Manhattan Strategy Group/Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Riviera, TX; and Mr. Broderick Steed, Umo^{n}ho^{n} Nation Public Schools, Macy, NE

Equity audits or peer-to-peer classroom reflective walkthroughs (McKenzie & Scheurich, 2007) to improve student engagement and facilitate development of the PLC were conducted in two Nebraska high schools multiple times. Analysis of the data and the process will be shared in this session.

ADDRESSING NEIGHBORHOOD EFFECTS TO REDUCE DROPOUTS

Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Executive Salon 2
Presenter: Dr. Ruby Payne, aha! Process, Inc., Highlands, TX

This session will identify an approach to address poverty and dropouts in a community that involves both the resourced and the underresourced. As a result, schools will be able to have a more cohesive community, greater parental involvement and support, and more stable households. This in turn promotes higher achievement and fewer dropouts.

MOTIVATING, EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING THE BLACK MALE LEARNER

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

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

SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION MEETING

(By invitation only.)
Location: Executive Salon 4

GRADUATION MATTERS MONTANA: INCREASING GRADUATION RATES THROUGH SCHOOL-COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Strand Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 5
Presenter: Ms. Deb Halliday, Montana Office of Public Instruction, Helena, MT

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

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

SEVEN WAYS TO TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF WOUNDED STUDENTS

Strand: School Climate
Location: San Antonio Ballroom 12
Presenter: Dr. Joe Hendershott, Hope 4 The Wounded, LLC, Ashland, OH

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

ASSESSING RESILIENCE TO PREDICT ACADEMIC OUTCOMES, IMPROVE TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS AND GRADUATION RATES, PLUS IMPROVE SCHOOL CLIMATE

Strand: Data Assessment and Continuous Improvement
Location: Lone Star Room 15
Presenter: Ms. Leise Roberts, ScholarCentric, Williamsburg, VA

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

CIS OF TEXAS MEETINGS

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

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

FOSTER CARE AND STUDENT SUCCESS—GUIDANCE FOR TEXAS SCHOOL DISTRICT FOSTER CARE LIAISONS, 3

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Fiesta B 11
Presenter: Ms. Kelly Kravitz, Texas Education Agency, Austin, TX

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

IMPLEMENTING AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Strand: Data Assessment and Continuous Improvement
Location: Fiesta C 9
Presenters: Mr. David Blumenthal and Ms. Jenny Scala, American Institutes for Research, San Mateo, CA

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

PROJECT CONNECT—TRUANCY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Strand: Juvenile Justice and Truancy
Location: Fiesta D 12
Presenters: Ms. Rebecca Martinez, Ms. Emily Martinez, Mr. Gilbert Perez, Ms. Cynthia Gonzales, and Mrs. Elida Robledo, Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department, San Antonio, TX; and Mrs. Jessica Weaver, Communities In Schools, San Antonio, TX

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

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

NETWORKING LUNCHEON
Location: Fiesta Pavilion and Third Floor

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

Concurrent Sessions

(Participants choose one.)

DESIGN THINKING: CONNECTING SCHOOL TO REAL LIFE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Texas Ballroom A
14
Presenters: Ms. Deborah Parizek and Ms. Jessica Sanchez, Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design, Houston, TX

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

TURN YOUR SCHOOL INTO A 90/90/90 SUCCESS
Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Texas Ballroom C
15
Presenter: Mr. Franklin Schargel, School Success Network, Albuquerque, NM

Westinghouse High School was a typical, inner-city, Title 1 school with a high dropout rate; a demoralized faculty; and uninvolved parents. Several years later, the school had become a 90/90/90 success. Find out how we did it. Find out how you can do it!

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

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

FLIPPING THE SWITCH: KEYS TO CREATING A RESILIENT SCHOOL CLIMATE
Strand: School Climate
Location: Executive Salon 2
11
Presenter: Mr. Christian Moore, WhyTry, Provo, UT

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

SERVING HOMELESS STUDENTS: WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD
Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Executive Salon 3
12
Presenters: Ms. Jan Moore, National Center for Homeless Education, Greensboro, NC; and Ms. Jacinda Goodwin, Maine Department of Education, Augusta, ME

National and state level homeless education staff will examine federal laws related to serving homeless students through the lens of practical application, providing a glimpse into the challenges these students face and how state and school district staff can help students overcome barriers. Participants will leave with new ideas and strategies to promote collaboration and increase student success.

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

THE NEXT GENERATION OF EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS: A PRACTITIONER'S PERSPECTIVE

Strand: Data Assessment and Continuous Improvement
Location: Executive Salon 4 — 15
Presenters: Dr. Mariam Azin, Dr. Kristal Ayres, and Dr. Steve Paine, BrightBytes, San Francisco, CA

Dropping out is a process, not an event. Students at risk of dropping out typically exhibit signs for several years before the actual event occurs. This session provides an overview and demonstration of the next generation of Early Warning Systems, utilizing a predictive analytics framework and a district's or state's own historical data on students who have previously graduated or dropped out.

CONNECTIONS, DISSEMINATION, AND DATA: SUPPORTING RURAL NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS TO DECREASE DROPOUT RATES

Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 5 — B
Presenter: Ms. Debora Williams, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh, NC

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

SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH A SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING-BASED SEMINAR COURSE

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: San Antonio Ballroom — 1
Presenter: Mr. R. Keeth Matheny, Austin Independent School District, Austin, TX

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

INCREASING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION FOR ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS

Strand: School Climate
Location: Lone Star Room — B
Presenters: Mr. Kelly Tonsmeire, Alaska Staff Development Network, Juneau, AK; Mr. Dan Walker, Lower Kuskokwin School District, Bethel, AK; and Mr. Carl White, Bering Strait School District, Nome, AK

A comprehensive, award-winning program to improve academic achievement, student behavior, school climate, cultural connections and high school graduation in two large, rural Alaska Native school districts will be demonstrated.

IMPROVING NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT OUTCOMES: ADDRESSING THE ACADEMIC LANGUAGE GAP

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Fiesta A — 11
Presenter: Ms. Catherine Johnson, McREL International, Denver, CO

This session will provide an overview of the Academic Language Learner (ALL) pilot project that is being conducted by the North Central Comprehensive Center at McREL International. Participants will understand the elements of the pilot project including the ongoing teacher and leader training of the Reciprocal Teaching strategy, the resulting changes in teacher practice, overall pilot results, and next steps.

FOSTER CARE AND STUDENT SUCCESS—GUIDANCE FOR TEXAS SCHOOL DISTRICT FOSTER CARE LIAISONS, 4

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Fiesta B — 11
Presenter: Ms. Kelly Kravitz, Texas Education Agency, Austin, TX

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

TEXAS SCHOOLS, BULLYING, AND THE LAW

Strand: School Climate
Location: Fiesta C
Presenter: Mr. Curtis Clay, Texas School Safety Center/Texas State Unversity, San Marcos, TX

12

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

UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH DROPOUT PREVENTION: HARRIS COUNTY COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES

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

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

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

SITE VISIT 5
Location: Meet in Hotel Lobby

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

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

FEATURED SESSION
Location: Ballroom AB

Solutions to the Dropout Crisis

Join us for the next National Dropout Prevention Center/Network TV Webcast

November 10, 2015
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time

"Capacity Building: STEM to STEAM in South Carolina"

presented by

Dr. Cassie Quigley

Dr. Danielle Herro

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

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

This webcast is produced by Clemson Broadcast Productions in partnership with NDPC/N, with support from Catapult Learning and Penn Foster.

Featured Session

Tuesday, October 27, 2015, 3:15-4:45 pm
Texas Ballroom

2015 NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK CONFERENCE

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. John Gailer, Assistant Director, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
Clemson University, Clemson, SC

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Steven Paine, Educational Innovation Leader, Brightbytes, Hurricane, WV

MR. ARIC BOSTICK

Aric Bostick Success Training
San Antonio, Texas

FIRED UP AND ON TRACK FOR SUCCESS!

"Simple Strategies the Everyday Hero can take to keep their fire alive and help each student prepare to be college and career ready!"

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

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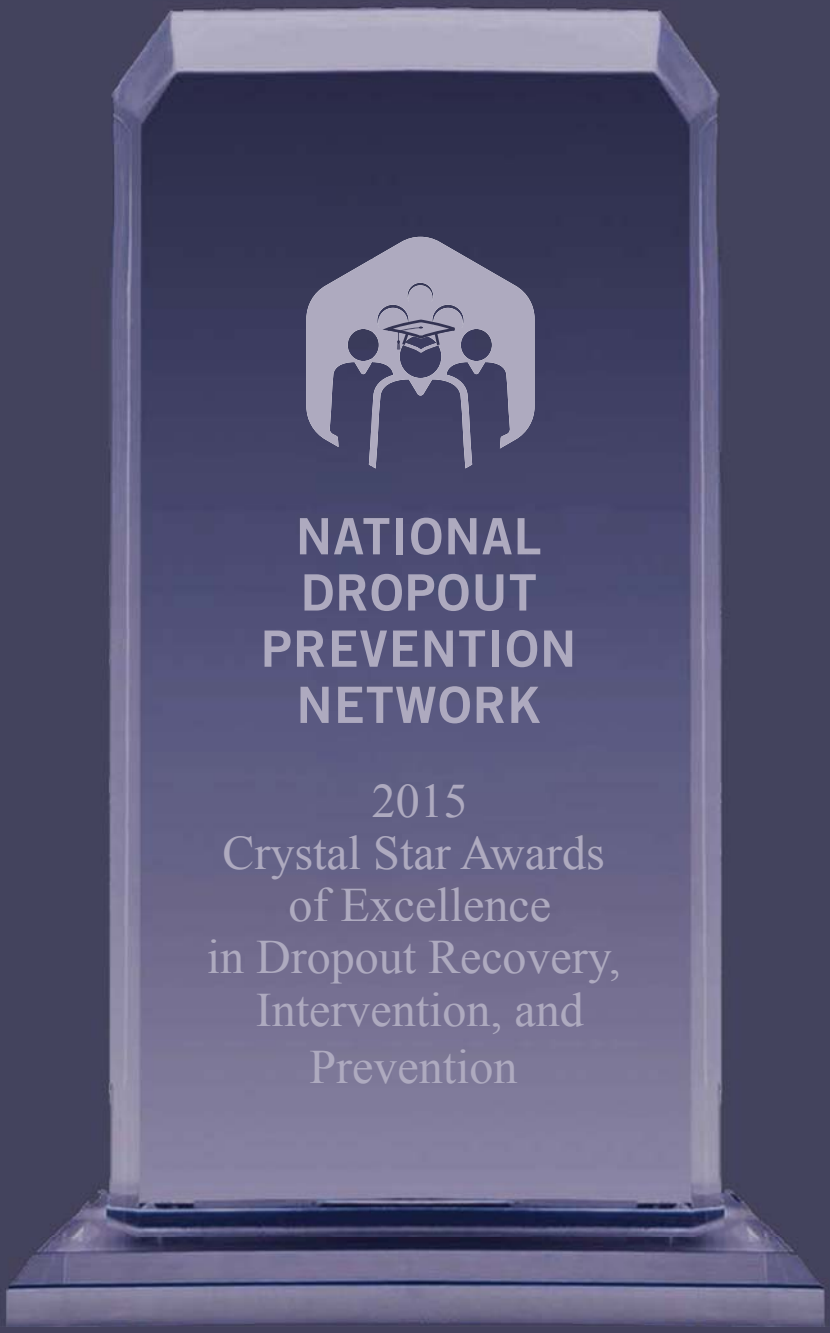
1-888-629-0179

ARIC BOSTICK

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

Aric's message for teachers gets them FIRED UP to be educators and gives them the tools to connect with even the most difficult students as well as take care of themselves to stay energized throughout the year no matter how hectic the pace. His student assemblies, leadership trainings and camps reach students on every level. His *HERO ON DUTY* message equips students with the tools to be campus leaders, pursue their college and career goals, and put a stop to bullying so every student on campus feels respected and encouraged!



2015 National Dropout Prevention Network Conference
San Antonio, Texas
October 25-28, 2015

2015 National Dropout Prevention Network

Crystal Star Awards of Excellence Individual Winners

Mr. R. Keeth Matheny
Austin, TX

AUSTIN Independent School District

Mr. R. Keeth Matheny has taught on the high school, junior college, college, and graduate school levels. He is a strong advocate for the support of all students and especially at-risk students. In his district, Keeth championed the development of a freshman support program that has had remarkable results on student achievement and positive school climate as well as a dramatic reduction in discipline issues at multiple schools. He has helped to create a safer learning environment for all students, dramatically expanded the use of active learning methods of instruction to better reach all students, and led many professional development sessions promoting best practices for teaching and working with at-risk students.

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

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

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

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

Dr. Joseph Hendershott
Ashland, OH

Hope 4 The Wounded, LLC
Educational Seminars

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

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

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

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

For years, Joe has been involved with the National Dropout Prevention Network. In recent years, he has been a featured, pre-conference, and keynote speaker at NDPC/N conferences. His message of "Reaching the Wounded Student" has impacted the lives and changed the practice of many educators nationwide. As a national speaker and trainer, Joe travels throughout the country, calling for an educational approach that will move wounded students toward the path of healing. Through his impact with educators, the ripples of his message have affected countless students.

2015 National Dropout Prevention Network

Crystal Star Awards of Excellence Program Winners

Owasso Ram Academy

Owasso, OK

The Owasso Ram Academy is the alternative high school for the Owasso Public School District and serves as the district's dropout intervention/prevention/recovery program. In 2009 the Owasso Ram Academy was recognized by then Oklahoma State Superintendent Sandy Garrett and the Oklahoma State School Board "for exemplifying excellence in alternative education."

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

The Owasso Ram Academy helps students learn to succeed at school by building relationships between students and staff, by providing a strong support system for students and their families, by fostering resiliency and self-efficacy, and by facilitating the improvement of academic, social, and life skills.

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

Vicksburg Chamber of Commerce The Leader In Me Program

Vicksburg, MS

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

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

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

Crystal Star of Excellence Awards: Requests for 2016 Nominations

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

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

All award winners will be honored at the 28th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in Detroit, Michigan, October 2-5, 2016. Winners recieve an elegant, engraved Crystal Star Award; a waiver of registration fees for the conference; and a one-night complimentary room at the conference hotel, and are listed on the world's most accessed dropout prevention resource, the Web site for the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network.

2015 National Dropout Prevention Network

Crystal Star Award of Excellence Program Winner

The Hope Center for Kids

Omaha, NE

In Honor of Ty and Terri Schenzel

The Hope Center for Kids got started when a youth pastor, Ty Schenzel, from Trinity Church started tutoring and mentoring at a North Omaha housing project "New Jack" in 1994. While building relationships with the youth he had the vision to create a center where many children and youth could be served. In 1998, that vision became a reality as a former Boys Club building was purchased. Today, the Hope Center for Kids offers its 500+ members a place to belong, a sense of security, and a multitude of opportunities to grow into productive adults. Hope Center programs empower youth, ages 5-19, to overcome obstacles in the classroom, on the street, and in the workplace. The focus has evolved from being an afterschool drop-in center to a coordinated program that equips youth for success through faith, education, and employment.

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

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

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

Crystal Star Award of Excellence for Distinguished Leadership and Service

Dr. Shanan Chappell

Norfolk, VA

Due to previous commitment, Dr. Chappell is unable to be present. Her award will be presented February 16, 2016, at the 2016 At-Risk Youth National Forum in Myrtle Beach, SC.

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

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

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

Dr. Chappell lives in coastal northeast North Carolina with her husband and their two daughters.

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

COFFEE SERVICE
Location: Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area

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

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
Location: Texas Ballroom Preconvene Area

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

Concurrent Sessions

(Participants choose one.)

IT TAKES A VILLAGE: SCHOOLS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS WORKING TOGETHER FOR HIGHLY MOBILE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Strand: Student, Family, and Community Engagement
Location: Texas Ballroom A
Presenters: Ms. Jeanne Stamp, Texas Homeless Education Office, University of Texas, Austin, TX; Ms. Estella Garza, San Antonio Independent School District, San Antonio, TX; Ms. Marta Martinez, NISD Connections Program; and Ms. Maria Cendejas, New Braunfels ISD, New Braunfels, TX

8

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

A LIFELINE NOT THE PIPELINE: STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF ALTERNATIVE CREDIT RECOVERY PROGRAMS AND WHAT WORKS

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Texas Ballroom C
Presenter: Dr. Emily Freeland, Mountain Brook Schools, Mountain Brook, AL

3

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

RURAL DROPOUT PREVENTION IN MISSISSPPI

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

B

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

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

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

B

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

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

13

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

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

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

B

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

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

12

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

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

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

12

Improving your student's classroom and school experience as well as cultivating a climate and culture of togetherness amongst your staff and parents can be the single most important thing you do to improve performance, productivity and student and teacher retention! In this session, we will discuss how your conscious care and concern can leave a positive feeling with every person. Leaders will learn how to recognize if students, staff and parents are truly engaged in learning and working together. It starts with Conscious Leadership and the Three L's to building any successful relationship and organization. We must LISTEN, LEARN AND LEAVE LASTING IMPRESSIONS! What we do and how we do it matters and we will all buy in the goal of students graduating and being equipped to being college and career ready everyone wins!

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

SITE VISIT 6
Location: Meet in Hotel Lobby

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

2016 At-Risk Youth National Forum

February 14-17, 2016

EMBASSY SUITES AT KINGSTON PLANTATION, MYRTLE BEACH, SC

NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CENTER/NETWORK

CLEMSON EUGENE T. MOORE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

CONFERENCE PARTNERS:

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

CONFERENCE STRANDS INCLUDE:

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

Stacey DeWitt
Connect With Kids Network
Atlanta, GA

BGen. Stewart Rodeheaver
Vizitech USA
Eatonton, GA

Terry Dozier
Former USC and NBA Basketball Player
Westwood HS Basketball Coach
Blythewood, SC

visit www.dropoutprevention.org for more information

9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

TRANSITION

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

Concurrent Sessions

(Participants choose one.)

WALK YOUTH THROUGH THE PROCESS SO THEY CAN RUN THE SHOW

Strand: School Climate
Location: Texas Ballroom A
Presenter: Dr. Robert Shumer, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

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

MEETING THE NEEDS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS IN RESOURCE-CHALLENGED COMMUNITIES

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Texas Ballroom C
Presenters: Ms. Heather Denny, Montana Office of Public Instruction, Helena, MT; and Ms. Jacinda Goodwin, Maine Department of Education, Augusta, ME

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

NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE NATURAL STATE: DROPOUT PREVENTION IN ARKANSAS

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

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

BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS: MEETING THE DROPOUT CHALLENGE HEAD-ON

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Executive Salon 2
Presenter: Mr. Nelson Horine, Anne Arundel Co. Public Schools-Maryland, Arnold, MD

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

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

INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORTS: BRINGING COMMUNITY RESOURCES INTO SCHOOLS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Executive Salon 3
Presenters: Ms. Jessica Weaver and Ms. Jessica Hannah, Communities In Schools-San Antonio, TX; Dr. Carol Harle, Harlandale ISD, San Antonio, TX; and Ms. Katherine Pena, Harlandale Middle School, San Antonio, TX

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

SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION MEETING

(By invitation only.)
Location: Executive Salon 4

STRIVING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCCESS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND: CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN WYOMING

Strand: Rural Dropout Prevention Project
Location: Executive Salon 5
Presenter: Dr. Linda Meloy, Manhattan Strategy Group, Muscatine, IA

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

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED: A CAREER DEVELOPMENT APPROACH FOR YOUTH AT RISK

Strand: Student Support Services
Location: Lone Star Room
Presenter: Dr. Patrick O'Connor, Kent State University, Kent, OH

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

Post-Conference Workshop

Wednesday, October 28th, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and
Thursday, October 29th, 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(Must be preregistered. On-site registration is available.)

REACHING AND TEACHING EVERY STUDENT, ESPECIALLY THE RELUCTANT LEARNER

Location: Executive Salon 5
Presenters: Dr. Judith A. and Mr. Joseph Pauley, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Potomac, MD

In this fun-filled interactive session, participants will learn research-based and time-tested strategies that will enable them to individualize the way they communicate with and motivate six different types of students by including something in every class period that will appeal to every student so that every student will want to attend class, learn the subject matter, and improve their lives. Participants also will receive a Personality Pattern Inventory describing their preferred modes of communication, motivational needs, early warning signs that they are beginning to get into distress, their distress behaviors, and a suggested action plan of things they can do to get their needs met positively so they can lead happier, healthier, and more productive lives.

Closing General Session

Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 10:45 am-12:15 pm
Texas Ballroom

2015 NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK CONFERENCE

PRESESSION

Salinas Elementary School Choir
Ms. Amanda Hampton, Director
Universal City, Texas

OPENING REMARKS

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

BRUNCH

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mr. Joseph Goins, Executive Vice President, WIN Learning, Kingston, Tennessee

LT. COL. (Ret.) CONSUELO CASTILLO KICKBUSCH

Founder, Educational Achievement Services, Inc., Las Vegas, Nevada

LIVING A LEGACY

Are you living your legacy? A legacy is not just something a person leaves behind after they die; rather it is the way in which they live their life. Through an interactive and introspective presentation, Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch guides participants through their vision of the future and the goals that they want to accomplish for themselves and for their community. She inspires and challenges participants to become living legends in their professional and personal lives. Her unique emotional style of delivery that has the audiences rolling with laughter, attempting to hold back tears and inevitably on their feet in a standing ovation. Through humor and hard-hitting facts she encourages participants to be servant leaders at work and in their community. Participants learn to live their legacy by leading with their soul.

Born and raised along the border in a small barrio in Laredo, Texas, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch overcame poverty, discrimination, and illiteracy to become the successful community leader and founder of Educational Achievement Services, Inc., she is today. Although she grew up without material wealth, Consuelo was taught by her immigrant parents that she was rich in culture, tradition, values and faith.

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

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

Consuelo is the proud mother of five daughters and currently lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, with her husband, David.

DIRECTORY OF PRESENTERS

A

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Organization	Table #	Description
AdvancePath Academics Leslie Werner 4125 Ironbound Rd., Ste. 201 Williamsburg, VA 23188 (757) 208-0900 lwerner@advancepath.com	32	AdvancePath Academics provides award-winning solutions for recovering disengaged, at-risk youth, offering in-school academies, whole school alternative programs, consultative and design services and products, K-12, for schools and districts.
aha! Process, Inc. Alecia Chapman PO Box 727 Highlands, TX 77562 (800) 424-9484 ac31bags@gmail.com	19	aha! Process is an award-winning training and publishing company, founded by Dr. Ruby K. Payne, providing workshops, publications, and consulting services to help improve lives and build sustainable success in communities, schools, and higher education. We do this by creating an understanding of the dynamics that cause and maintain poverty from the individual to systems level.
BrightBytes Elka Chamberlin/Steve Paine 490 2nd St., Suite 302 San Francisco, CA 94107 (503) 310-5896 elka@brightbytes.net	2	BrightBytes, an educational research organization, partners with industry experts to create evidence-based frameworks and translate complex data into simple, fast actions that improve student learning.
Catapult Learning, Inc. Matt Given 2 Aquarium Dr., Suite 100 Camden, NJ 08103 (800) 3841-8730 matthew.given@catapultlearning.com	7	Catapult Learning's dropout recovery program serves students ages 16-21, who have dropped out of high school but who are committed to earning their diploma. Catapult Academy provides the highest level of instruction plus the guidance students need to overcome obstacles and earn their high school diploma.
Communities In Schools Shelly Bosse 2345 Crystal Dr., Suite 700 Arlington, VA 22204 (703) 518-2599 sbosse@cissa.org	22 & 23	Communities In Schools' evidence-based approach surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.
Families and Schools Together, Inc. Angel Barajas 201 International Ln., Suite 212 Madison, WI 53704 (608) 210-1896 mbrooks@familiesandschools.org	3	FAST® is a prevention/early intervention program and catalyst for positive change in the lives of children and their parents. Built on a strong platform of development and brain science FAST® is designed to make significant, long-lasting impact on child and family behaviors, communication, and decision making.

DIRECTORY OF EXHIBITORS

Organization	Table #	Description
FORD Motor Company Fund Farah Harb One American Rd. Dearborn, MI 48126 (313) 322-0580 fharb1@ford.com	13 - 15	Stop by and learn how the FORD Motor Company Fund makes the world a better place by supporting innovative programs that strengthen our communities, help students succeed, and improve driving safety.
Hustle University Hotep 4156 Kings Troop Rd. Stone Mountain, GA 30083 (404) 294-7165 hustleuinc@gmail.com	40	Hustle University's MAKE A WAY program primarily works with Title 1 schools and educators that serve at-risk youth. Services include: staff trainings, youth presentations, and highly RELEVANT curriculum materials that provide educational strategies to build stronger RELATIONSHIPS and bring RESULTS!
Lightswitch Learning Dominique Young 250 E. 54th St., Suite 8A New York, NY 10022 (212) 371-9199, X7197 dominique@lightswitchlearning.com	17	At Lightswitch Learning our mission is to help parents and students be the best they can be, and to provide the information parents need to help their children succeed socially, emotionally, and physically.
Michigan Department of Education Gregg Dionne 608 West Allegan St., PO Box 30008 Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 241-4285 dionneg@michigan.gov	12	Come see and learn what the Michigan Department of Education is working in partnership with the FORD Motor Company Fund and the NDPC/N as they host the National Dropout Prevention Conference in Detroit, October 2-5, 2016. You will also be able to check out the exciting things in the area surrounding the conference hotel, the Detroit Marriott at the Rennaissance Center.
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network Mark Cheatham 209 Martin St. Clemson, SC 29631-1555 (864) 656-4139 mrc2@clemson.edu	9 & 10	Stop by and learn the benefits of membership in the National Dropout Prevention Network. Review the research publications published by the Center regarding at-risk youth. Publications will be available on mentoring, alternative schooling, early childhood development, and service-learning.
National Dropout Prevention Specialist Certification Program Jennie Cole 209 Martin St. Clemson, SC 29631 (864) 656-3875 jecole@clemson.edu	11	Professionals in the field of dropout prevention may apply to the National Dropout Prevention Specialist Certification Program. Certification is earned through attendance at 12 designated sessions at National Dropout Prevention Center/Network events that address dropout prevention and effective strategies, demonstration of practice through a field project, and continuous National Dropout Prevention Network membership.

DIRECTORY OF EXHIBITORS

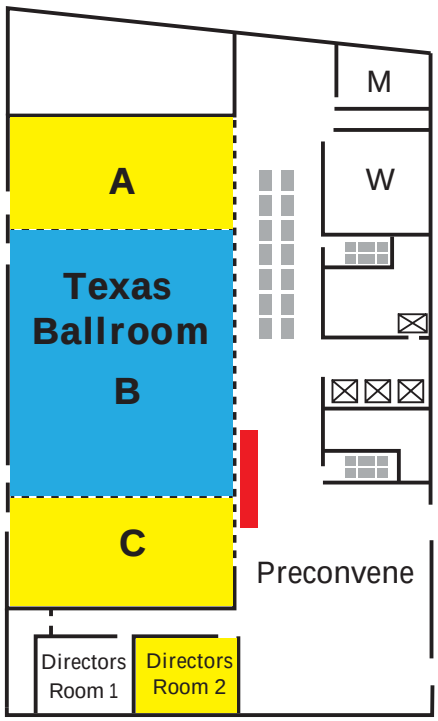
Organization	Table #	Description
National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (NRFC) Recaan Harb 9300 Lee Hwy. Fairfax, VA 22031 (703) 225-2846 recaan.harb@icfi.com	18	The National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse is an Office of Family Assistance (OFA) funded national resource for fathers, practitioners, programs/federal grantees, states, and the public at-large who are serving or interested in supporting strong fathers and families.
Pearson Matt Ostapuk 7000 Columbia Gateway Dr., Ste. 150 Columbia, MD 21046 (888) 440-2890 matthew.ostapuk@pearson.com	4	Pearson delivers a proven curriculum, diagnostic-prescriptive instructional tools, and highly qualified teachers on state-of-the-art learning platforms so you can create personalized online and blended learning environments.
RaaWee K12 Solutions Saleem Qazi 800 E. Campbell Rd., Suite 201 Richardson, TX 75075 (972) 782-4287 saleem.qazi@raaweek12.com	16	RaaWee K12 Truancy & Dropout Prevention System helps school districts improve student attendance, increase state's ADA funding, and seamlessly comply with the HB 2398.
School-Connect Julea Douglass 6202 Wilmett Rd. Bethesda, MD 20817 (301) 493-2597 jdouglass@school-connect.net	39	School-Connect: Optimizing the High School Experience is a 60-lesson curriculum for developing social-emotional and academic skills. Used in freshman seminars, advisory, and alternative education, and special education.
Southwest Key Programs Courtney Seals 6002 Jain Ln. Austin, TX 78721 (512) 669-8999 lfry@swkey.org	5	Southwest Key is a national, accredited nonprofit providing model community-based truancy prevention programs for schools, school discipline diversion programs, and alternatives to detention.
The Journal of At-Risk Issues Rebecca A. Robles-Piña, PhD, Editor Sam Houston State University Department of Counselor Education P. O. Box 2119 Huntsville, TX 77341 936 - 294-1118 edu_rar@shsu.edu	8	*The Journal of At-Risk Issues (JARI)* is published twice yearly by the NDPC/N. *JARI* is focused on topics related to students at risk of dropping out of school or to situations that may put students at risk. Topics may include, but are not limited to, dropout prevention strategies, research and practice, social and cultural reform, literacy, alternative education, dropout recovery, and more.

DIRECTORY OF EXHIBITORS

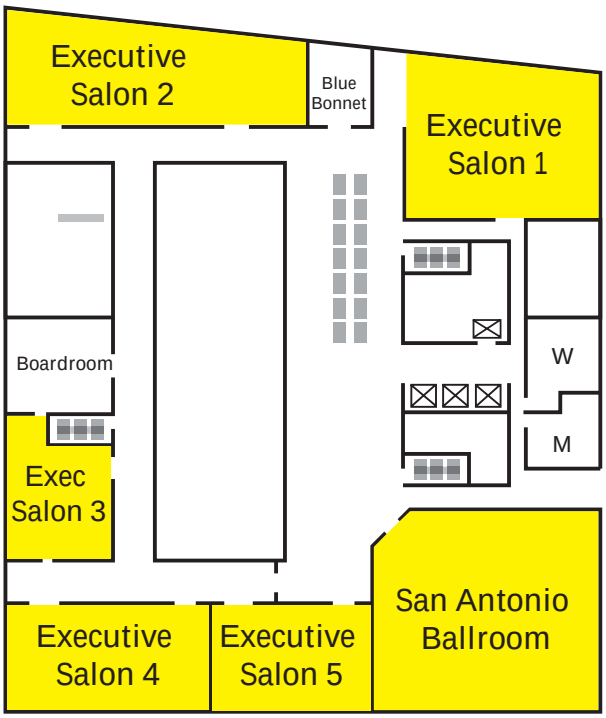
Organization	Table #	Description
Victor Woods Corporation Victor Woods PMB 157, 360-23 W. Schick Rd. Bloomingdale, IL 60108 (424) 332-9270 victormwoods@yahoo.com	28	*A Breed Apart: A Journey to Redemption*, Victor Woods' autobiography, published by Simon and Schuster, and *Successfully Achieving Your Vision* books, Volumes I & II, will be available for sale. Services include: staff development, student assemblies, parent night, and more.
WhyTry Christian Moore 5455 N River Run Dr. Provo, UT 84604 (866) 949-8791 christie@whytry.org	1	The WhyTry Curriculum: Boost social-emotional competencies in every student. The Resilience Breakthrough (Book): learn vital skills to unleash the power of resilience in your life.
WIN Learning Rory Gesch 1000 Waterford Place Kingston, TN 37763 (888) 717-9461 cstout@winlearning.com	20 & 21	WIN is the leading provider of career-readiness solutions that help districts prepare pathways for students' futures, whether they are college, trade school, military, or workplace bound.
YouthLight, Inc. Chris Jensen PO Box 115 Chapin, SC 29036 (803) 345-1070 ncorbitt@youthlightbooks.com	37 & 38	YouthLight provides exciting books, interactive lessons, games, and other products relating to topics such as relational aggression, self-regulation, socials skills, biblio-guidance and other developmental counseling tools.

2015 National Dropout Prevention Network Conference
Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk Hotel

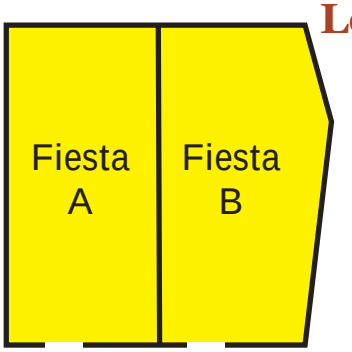
Second Floor

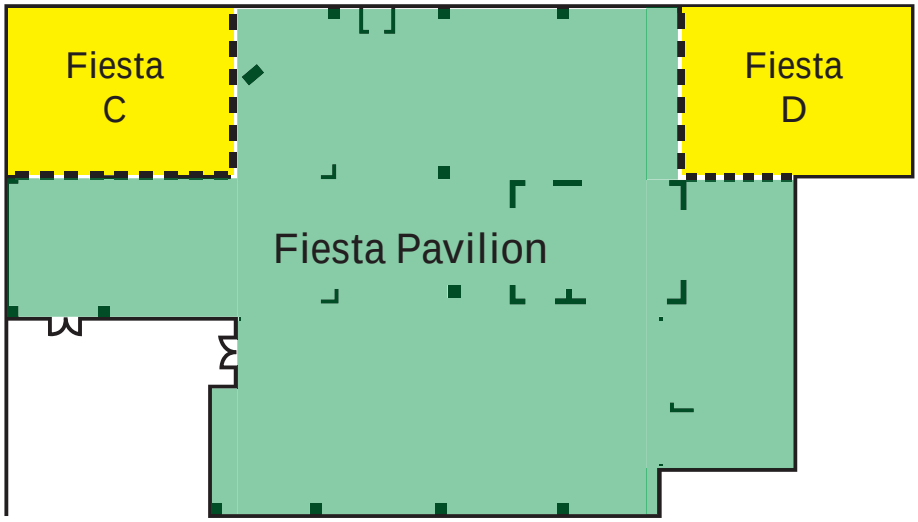


Third Floor



Lower Level





Lobby Level

Concurrent Sessions
General Sessions
Monday & Tuesday Lunch
Registration

NODO '16

2016 NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 2-5, 2016
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

POWERING THE STUDENTS' EDUCATION AGENDA

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