



24th Annual
At-Risk Youth National FORUM

*Connecting the Dots
of Collaboration*

February 19 - 22, 2012
Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Sponsored by

*National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
Urban Initiative at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth*

In partnership with

*Communities In Schools of North Carolina, Inc.
UNCW Watson School of Education Dropout Prevention Coalition*



A WARM WELCOME FROM YOUR FORUM HOST

Welcome to beautiful Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, location of the 24th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM. We are so pleased you have chosen to spend the next few days with us to focus on this year's theme: *Connecting the Dots of Collaboration.*

The FORUM has been planned and designed to give you a rewarding, professional experience with opportunities to learn new skills that will be of immediate benefit to you. A variety of topics and various formats have been planned to allow you to learn how to better work with youth in at-risk situations. The FORUM Planning Committee knows that you will gain new knowledge and expand your network of professional friends as you choose to attend the more than 100 sessions planned this year through the formats of Pre-FORUM workshops, general sessions, seminars, workshops, and the carousel session.

Tuesday's luncheon will honor Mr. Jerry Govan, recipient of the annual Governor and Mrs. Richard W. Riley Award for Excellence in Dropout Prevention. You will certainly want to be present to honor this individual who has given outstanding leadership to the youth of our state.

If you are looking for a fun evening of musical entertainment on Monday evening, you will want to purchase a ticket to the Carolina Opry.

On behalf of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Urban Initiative at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Communities In Schools of North Carolina, and UNCW Watson School of Education Dropout Prevention Coalition, we thank you for participating in this year's FORUM.

Interim Executive Director

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UMass

Dartmouth

THE URBAN INITIATIVE

February 19, 2012

Dear Conference Participants:

The UMass Dartmouth Urban Initiative is thrilled to welcome you to the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network's 24th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM. From our perspective, this year's theme, "Connecting the Dots of Collaboration," is particularly apt: just three years ago, the Urban Initiative became the first satellite campus of the NDPC/N, and our relationship continues to thrive for the benefit of not just our institutions, but also for the communities we serve.

Since 2009, our collaboration has allowed us to channel the vast knowledge and skill sets of the NDPC/N to cities across Massachusetts through events, reports, and dropout prevention program evaluations done in cooperation with our colleagues from Clemson. This has given us a unique opportunity to work directly with stakeholders at every level—decision makers, school administrators, teachers, students, and community members—to promote informed, evidence-based approaches to dropout prevention.

As we look forward to continuing our collaboration with the NDPC/N, we hope you will begin to reap the many benefits of this network through your participation in this week's conference. Not only will there be some terrific presentations with information, strategies, and ideas you can take back to your community, but there will also be countless opportunities for all of us to connect with prospective partners and collaborators who can make us more effective in our efforts to support positive outcomes for at-risk youth.

We are thankful to the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network for the opportunity to co-sponsor this important and valuable event once again, and we look forward to meeting and learning from all of you this week!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleen Dawicki".

Colleen Dawicki
Project Manager



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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



How to Keep the Joy in Teaching

MS. KIM BEARDEN

Monday, February 20, 2012

Opening General Session

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

Kim Bearden delivers inspiring keynote messages to thousands of educators each year. As the co-founder, executive director, and language arts teacher of the Ron Clark Academy, she is active daily in all aspects of the educational process. With a teaching career spanning over 20 years, she has been a teacher, instructional lead teacher, curriculum director, school board member, staff development trainer, and middle school principal.

It's Not Over Until We Win

MR. KENSTON J. GRIFFIN

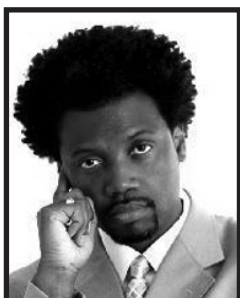
Tuesday, February 21, 2012

General Session

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



Kenston J. Griffin is a native of Statesville, NC, and currently resides in Charlotte, NC. He received his bachelor's degree from Livingston College, and his master's degree, in just over a year, from the University of South Carolina in the fields of Social Work and Psychology. Mr Griffin has been recognized as a nationally known motivational speaker and trainer. In addition to being the author of three highly successful books, *New Days, New Ideas; If Better is Possible, Good Is No Longer an Option;* and best seller, *Your Turning Point Starts Now*, Mr Griffin has also served as co-author on several other projects.



You Gotta Reach 'Em In Order To Teach 'Em

MR. HOTEPI BENZO

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

Closing General Session

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Many teachers and youth service providers have misconceptions about education and how to get youth to perform their best. ReachThemToTeachThem provides SOLUTIONS and shows how to shift young peoples' perception of school and quickly turns reluctant students into active participants!

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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network Philosophy

We believe:

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

2012 FORUM INFORMATION

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

The formats for all FORUM sessions are as follows:

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

A Personal Schedule, located on the last page of the program, has been created for you to fill in the sessions that you plan to attend.

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

2012 FORUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

We offer a special thank you to the following people who served on the 24th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM Planning Committee:

Mr. Hotep Benzo
Dr. Terry Cash
Mrs. Merry Chrestman
Dr. Sam Drew
Mrs. Marty Duckenfield

Mr. John Dueck
Mrs. Melinda Fischer
Mr. John Gailer
Mrs. Denise Gianforcaro
Mrs. Debbie Hall

Mrs. Linda Harrill
Ms. Katie McMann
Ms. Emily Meeks
Mr. John Peters
Dr. Janna Robertson

CAROLINA OPRY

(Optional Activity)



Plan to join fellow FORUM participants at the Carolina Opry on Monday, February 20, 2012. The pre-show begins at 7:10 p.m., show begins at 7:30 p.m. Enjoy two hours of high energy entertainment that blends humor and dancing with everything from rock ‘n roll, Broadway and country to classic hits, pop melodies, and gospel. Year after year, The Carolina Opry is voted the Best Show by readers of the *Myrtle Beach Sun News*, a Knight-Ridder newspaper, as Myrtle Beach’s best show. Special rates of \$30.00 per adult and \$17 per child have been arranged for conference participants.

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

FORUM AT A GLANCE

Date and Time	Event	Page
<u>Sunday, February 19, 2012</u>		
1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	FORUM Registration	2
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Pre-FORUM Workshops (<i>Must be preregistered.</i>)	2
3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Refreshment Break	2
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	FORUM Reception	2
<u>Monday, February 20, 2012</u>		
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	3
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	FORUM Registration	3
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions	3
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Refreshment Break	4
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions	4
10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Opening General Session <i>Keynoter: Ms. Kim Bearden</i>	6
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (<i>On your own.</i>)	6
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	7
2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	8
2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Carousel Session	9
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	11
7:30 p.m.	Carolina Opry (<i>Optional Activity</i>)	12
<u>Tuesday, February 21, 2012</u>		
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	14
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	FORUM Registration	14
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	General Session <i>Keynoter: Mr. Kenston J. Griffin</i>	14
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Refreshment Break	14
10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions	14
12:00 noon - 1:15 p.m.	The Riley Award Luncheon	16
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	18
2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Refreshment Break	19
2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	19
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	21
<u>Wednesday, February 22, 2012</u>		
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	23
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	FORUM Registration	23
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions	23
9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Refreshment Break	23
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions	24
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Closing General Session <i>Keynoter: Mr. Hotep Benzo</i>	24
Directory of Exhibitors		25
Directory of Presenters		27

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2012

1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

FORUM REGISTRATION

Location: Cambridge Hall

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

REFRESHMENT BREAK

Location: Outside Winchester and Pembroke

PRE-FORUM WORKSHOPS

(Must be preregistered.)

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

PFW1. HOW TO HAVE A CREATIVE CLASSROOM AND STILL SCORE HIGH ON STANDARDIZED TESTS

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction

Location: Pembroke

Presenter: Ms. Kim Bearden, Ron Clark Academy, Atlanta, GA

Teachers often feel compelled to sacrifice creativity in order to prepare their students for standardized tests. Learn ways to instill a love for learning in your students while still teaching the necessary skills. The Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, GA, is a model that hosts and trains teachers from all over the world and implements many creative, out-of-the-box approaches. Co-founder, Kim Bearden, presents this fun, helpful workshop.

PFW2. HOW TO CONNECT AND REACH GENERATION Z

Strand: Dropout Prevention

Location: Winchester

Presenters: Mr. Danya Perry, Mr. Christopher Capel, and Mr. Nick DiColandrea, CIS of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC

Generation Z, those born in the 1990s through the present, can be puzzling to today's teachers and youth development workers. They see the world from a very different perspective than previous generations. They are the first generation to be born and grow up in the digital world that keeps them in constant connection. Their frameworks, thought processes, and values are shaped by connectivity, media, and content. This workshop will address the principles and strategies that have proven effective in "connecting live" with this digital generation.

FORUM RECEPTION

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Location: Nightwatch

Come meet fellow FORUM participants and enjoy soft drinks and snacks as you network with your colleagues before heading out to explore the many fine dining opportunities in the Myrtle Beach area.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2012

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Location: Cambridge Hall

7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

FORUM REGISTRATION

Location: Cambridge Hall

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(Participants choose one.)

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

EXPLORING THE TOOLS AND PROCESS OF NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION AS A MEANS OF INCREASING TEACHING PERFORMANCE AND INCREASING STUDENT RETENTION

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Kensington D
Presenter: Ms. Joanna Murray, National University
PTDC, La Jolla, CA

Teachers and administrators are confronted with daunting challenges in classrooms and in schools, and express strong support for reforms to address high dropout rates. An underlying cause of our nation's dropout crisis is having underqualified and ineffective teachers in classrooms. Uneven distribution of quality teachers across school districts results in low-income and minority schools receiving the fewest of these teachers. Improving teacher quality is the "most important factor in improving education." National Board standards and assessments value and require evidence of engaged students. This presentation focuses on the value of this process as a means of reform.

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR STAYING: IT'S ELEMENTARY!

Strand: Attendance, Truancy, and Resilience
Location: Kensington E
Presenter: Ms. Karen Williams, Rainbow Days, Inc.,
Dallas, TX

The elementary experience sets in motion a trajectory toward success or defeat that serves as a key predictor of staying in or dropping out of school. The workshop will provide an overview of evidence-based practices for building relationships, resiliency, responsibility, and readiness into the core curriculum in Grades K-5.

THE NECESSITY OF BLENDED LEARNING FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

Strand: Alternative Programs
Location: Kensington F
Presenters: Mr. Danny Eichelberger and Mr. Bradley Waldron, Clark County School District
Education Services Division, Las Vegas, NV

The Education Services Division of the Clark County School District in Las Vegas, NV, provides instruction to nearly 50,000 students who may have experienced academic and social challenges in their comprehensive school settings. Our at-risk youth have the greatest need for learning opportunities that expand beyond school walls and bell times. We will share the positive gains students have experienced as our alternative programs have provided blended learning opportunities as a tool for helping students graduate.

HOW DO WE KEEP KIDS IN SCHOOL? EVIDENCE AND ANECDOTES FROM THE COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS NATIONAL EVALUATION

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Dr. Heather Clawson, Communities In Schools, Arlington, VA

A recent five-year evaluation of Communities In Schools provided strong evidence of the effectiveness of CIS in keeping kids in school and helping them obtain a high school diploma. Additionally, insights from site coordinators, teachers, principals, parents, and students themselves shed light on what makes CIS effective. This presentation will present both the hard data and the stories behind CIS' success in addressing the dropout crisis across the country.

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN FAMILIES, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITIES TO HELP SAVE OUR CHILDREN AND SAVE OUR SCHOOLS

Strand: Parental Involvement
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Dr. Willie Kimmons, Save ChildrenSave Schools, Inc., Daytona Beach, FL

This presentation will highlight how effective family, school, and community partnerships are in the growth and development of children. Strategies related to effective and consistent parenting skills for children's success will be explored. The importance of parents, school, and community working together to motivate children to learn will be stressed.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2012

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

TRANSITION CURRICULUM FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Eton
Presenters: Ms. Bridget Green and Mrs. Jessica Queener,
The George Washington University,
Washington, DC

This session will identify a list of transition resources, lesson plans, and Web sites that provide a wealth of information for professionals working with at-risk youth, including students with disabilities. The focus of the session is on students who will be exiting secondary education and preparing for the world of work and/or postsecondary education.

HIGHWAY TO SUCCESS: CUSTOMIZING LEARNING PATHWAYS FOR TODAY'S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Winchester
Presenters: Dr. Lori Romano and Supt. Nancy Kline,
Martin County Public Schools, Stuart, FL

The Highway to Success – Alternative Education Program was implemented at Martin County High School in 2010-11 to address the dropout rate. The main focus was to provide alternatives that would meet the needs of 11th and 12th graders experiencing difficulty progressing towards graduating with their cohort group. The program utilizes a variety of customized learning pathway strategies and has resulted in increased attendance, GPA, and number of students graduating on time. Participants will gain an overview of the program's design, information on the initial steps, and program outcomes. Question and answer opportunities will allow participants looking for a customized learning pathway approach to tackling the dropout problem within their educational organization.

FINISH THE LESSON WITH NO DISRUPTIONS

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Somerset
Presenter: Mr. Dennis Goodwin, Center for Effective Teaching, Haverhill, MA

Stop all small types of disruptions such as tardiness, bathroom requests, etc. REFOCUS the students back on track. Proven strategies that will decrease discipline problems by 70%, increase academics by 30%, and improve overall school community morale.

WHERE ARE THE RELATIONSHIPS? WHAT IS THE RELEVANCE?

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Pembroke
Presenters: Ms. Angela Garland, Ms. Melissa Anderson,
and Ms. Nadia Lewis, Jacksonville High
School, Jacksonville, NC

How long have educators said, "You can't teach them until they know that you care?" How often have educators heard students say, "When will I ever use this?" Students need to feel that adults in the school setting are interested, invested in them, and dedicated to their success. This is accomplished through relationships and opportunities to build relationships. Students also need to see the connections in the curriculum and understand the relevance in the application of the content. This session will address relationships and relevance through smaller learning communities to include advisory, Freshman Academy, and career academies. Presenters will address basic SLC structures present in all Onslow County high schools and take a closer look at Jacksonville High School.

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

Location: Cambridge Hall

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(Participants choose one.)

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

MAGIC JOHNSON EDISON LEARNING ASSIST: ATTACKING DROPOUT RATES IN AMERICA'S URBAN CENTERS

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Kensington D
Presenter: Dr. Monica Henson, Edison Learning,
Jasper, GA

Magic Johnson Edison Learning (MJEL) Bridgescape Learning Centers are in development all across the United States. Learn how the MJEL Bridgescape Program uses a hybrid learning environment with in-person certificated teachers to create a "high-tech, high-touch" approach that entices students to return to learning, and keeps them there to graduate. These centers can be used both for dropout recovery and prevention. Smaller cities can use the Bridgescape Program even if they are not large enough to participate in the MJEL initiative.

RESILIENCY DATA AS PART OF AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Kensington E
Presenter: Ms. Melissa Schlinger, ScholarCentric, Denver, CO

Districts around the country are using resiliency data to more accurately predict which students transitioning into high school will succeed academically and which may struggle and even drop out. This session will review resiliency research, offer participants an opportunity to view mock data, and make determinations about causes and interventions.

8.5 SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM: WHAT, WHY, AND HOW

Strand: Leadership and Development
Location: Kensington F
Presenters: Mrs. Carol Hill, Ms. Lennette Diggs, and Ms. Clare Smith, South Florence High School, Florence, SC

Five years ago, South Florence High School collaborated with the middle school to create an 8.5 Summer Bridge Program. The goals were to improve school cultures in both schools and transition 8th graders who were being age-promoted to 9th grade in a way that they might have a greater chance to succeed academically and socially. Every year the middle school selects students to attend the four-week summer school program. Students learn foundational ninth grade academic and social skills that will help them succeed as freshmen at the high school. Join this interactive session to answer questions as to how this might work for your school.

PROJECT BUILD—BUILDING, UPLIFTING AND IMPACTING LIVES DAILY: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF A GANG BANGER

Strand: Alternative Programs
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Dr. Kedrick Lowery, Durham Cooperative Extension, Project BUILD, Durham, NC

The aim of this workshop is to introduce Project BUILD while giving an overview of street gangs: who they attract, why so many youth are attracted to them, and the role of the community in both gang prevention and intervention. It is our goal to build, uplift, and impact lives daily.



DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN FAMILIES, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITIES TO HELP SAVE OUR CHILDREN AND SAVE OUR SCHOOLS

Strand: Parental Involvement
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Dr. Willie Kimmons, Save ChildrenSave Schools, Inc., Daytona Beach, FL

This presentation will highlight how effective family, school, and community partnerships are in the growth and development of children. Strategies related to effective and consistent parenting skills for children’s success will be explored. The importance of parents, school, and community working together to motivate children to learn will be stressed.

DEVELOPING TOMORROW’S SPECIAL EDUCATION LEADERS— WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW, BE ABLE TO DO, AND HOW CAN YOU PREPARE FOR A LEADERSHIP ROLE?

Strand: Leadership and Development
Location: Eton
Presenter: Dr. P. Alan Parady, NH Association of Special Education Administrators, Concord, NH

Considering the increasingly diverse demands on special education administrators, the NH Association of Special Education Administrators developed “Directors Academies” in 2005. Based on the NH Department of Education competencies for SE Administrators, the Academies have been both popular and useful for new and experienced special education administrators, coordinators, and for those considering becoming administrators. Participants are provided with practical information as well as legal and budgetary guidelines for having success as school administrators. This highly interactive session will provide participants with an overview of the Academies, and a chance to discuss how the role of school leaders will change in the upcoming years.

YOUTH TRACK—IDENTITY

Strand: Youth Leadership Track
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Dr. Jean Strait, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN

A person cannot understand or help others until they learn to help themselves. Learn how to get in touch with the wonderful, healing and nourishing things around and inside you-to nourish yourself, your family and your community. In this session, participants will learn how to practice being in the here and now, work without stress, transform anger and recognize negative thoughts, set goals, write a personal mission/vision statement and a set of personal core values.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2012

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

IMPROVING GRADUATION RATE VIA TECHNOLOGY AND STUDENT- CENTERED INSTRUCTION

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Somerset
Presenter: Mr. Greg Batten, Lee County High School,
Sanford, NC

Lee County High School, a large and socioeconomically diverse high school in North Carolina, has improved graduation rates and testing composite scores significantly over the past five years. This presentation will focus on the value of creative scheduling, student-centered instruction, during and after-school tutorial programs, and distance learning instruction for both new credit and credit recovery. Since the implementation of these programs, LCHS' graduation rate improved by more than 20 points to 86.6% in 2010-2011. During that same time frame, performance on the North Carolina ABC composite score increased by 16 points.

RAISING A COMMUNITY OF DROPOUT PREVENTERS

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Pembroke
Presenters: Dr. Jerman Disasa, Presbyterian College,
Clinton, SC; Dr. Laura Koskela, Laurens
School District 56, Clinton, SC; and Ms.
Ginny Cartee, Laurens School District 55,
Laurens, SC

Even during economic hardships, a dropout prevention program is sustainable. Demonstrating the proven success of CHAMPS in Laurens County, SC, this presentation will highlight creative methods of bringing together community entities (higher education, school districts, businesses, churches, individual citizens) for the sole purpose of, together, guiding economically challenged students to high school graduation and subsequent enrollment in postsecondary education.

OPENING GENERAL SESSION

(All are invited to attend.)

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

Location: Kensington ABCG

Welcome, Remarks, and Introductions

Dr. Sam Drew, National Dropout
Prevention Center, Clemson, SC

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Ms. Heather Wing, Columbus County Schools,
Whiteville, NC

How to Keep the Joy in Teaching

Keynoter: Ms. Kim Bearden, Co-founder/Executive
Director, Ron Clark Academy, Atlanta, GA

Discover ways to reawaken the joyful teacher and learner inside us all. Look forward to going to school each and every day.

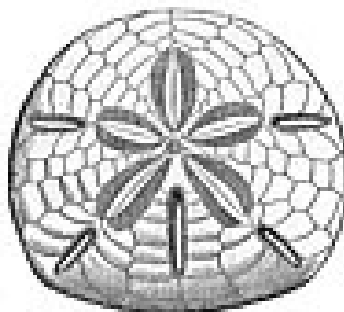
Closing Remarks, Announcements

Ms. Heather Wing

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

LUNCH (*On your own.*)

We have arranged for the hotel to provide a buffet to be held in the Palmettos Pavilion for \$12.50 (tax included). Drinks will be extra. We encourage you to take advantage of the buffet so you will not be late to the afternoon sessions.



CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(Participants choose one.)

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**EFFECTIVE TRANSITION PROGRAMMING:
SEVEN BEST PRACTICES FOR QUALITY AND
CULTURE**

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Kensington D
Presenter: Dr. Sherry Barr, Princeton Center for
Leadership Training, Princeton, NJ

A focus on students' critical transitions is integral to developing a school culture that supports high school graduation. This workshop offers a practical tool for assessing the quality of transition-focused initiatives. We will practice a replicable process through which schools can share productive dialogue about clear standards.

**BUILDING RESILIENCE: THE KEY TO
IMPROVING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
AND GRADUATION RATES**

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Kensington E
Presenter: Ms. Melissa Schlinger, ScholarCentric,
Denver, CO

Researchers have identified critical, interrelated resiliency skills including motivation, connectedness, and academic confidence that are directly tied to student engagement, achievement, and graduation rates. This session examines assessment tools and proven classroom strategies that improve resiliency and academic achievement for middle and high school students.

**ENGAGING AT-RISK YOUTH THROUGH
APPLIED LEARNING**

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Kensington F
Presenters: Ms. Elaine Midkiff, Jobs for America's
Graduates-South Carolina, Columbia, SC; and
Ms. Nikki Jett and Student Kanajah Cooper,
South Florence High School, Florence, SC

JAG-SC offers a workshop to demonstrate enhanced dropout prevention through the implementation of the JAG Career Association. It shares how wraparound supports provided to at-risk youth encourages them to take courageous steps in an applied learning environment. It increases engagement in school by establishing goals, developing leadership skills, and taking personal ownership for outcomes and achievements.

**CREATING A CULTURE FOR HIGH-
PERFORMING SCHOOLS: A
COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH FOR
SCHOOL REFORM, DROPOUT PREVENTION,
AND BULLYING BEHAVIOR**

Strand: Leadership and Development
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Dr. Clete Bulach, Professional Development
and Assessment Center, Villa Rica, GA

Four distinct school cultures will be described. One of those cultures is called a high-performing school. This is a comprehensive school reform plan that is designed to create an entirely different type of school. This creates a school where student off-task behavior and office referrals are reduced as much as 80%. Teachers seldom have to control students or tell them what to do. This results in greater time on task, high student achievement, and a reduction in student dropouts and bullying behavior.

**CAMPAIGN CONNECT: A MOVEMENT TO
INCREASE SCHOOL CONNECTEDNESS AND
IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Mr. Scott Albert, Princeton Center for
Leadership Training, Princeton, NJ

This seminar will explore the essential elements of Campaign Connect, a movement designed to unify diverse stakeholders around a common vision to transform schools into safer, more supportive environments that more effectively accelerate student achievement.

**THE NEUROSCIENCE OF HAPPINESS,
BEHAVIOR, AND LEARNING**

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Eton
Presenter: Ms. Pender Makin, The REAL School,
Falmouth, ME

Participants will learn strategies for increasing personal happiness based on recent brain research and information from the emerging field of Positive Psychology. These principles, when applied within a school setting, can dramatically improve school culture and the affective well-being of staff and students!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2012

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

THE MAGIC OF LEADERSHIP: DISCOVERING THE LEADER WITHIN!

Strand: Leadership and Development
Location: Winchester
Presenters: Ms. Ieva Grundy, Simon Youth Foundation, Indianapolis, IN; and Ms. Annie Smith, Youth as Resources, Indianapolis, IN

This session will be fun, interactive, and informative with hands-on take-away activities for participants to use back home with their students. Participants will learn how to engage students in activities that promote leadership development. Participants will learn about the Seven Developmental Needs of Adolescents and review the 40 Developmental Assets for Youth. Activities will be demonstrated with participants that include: “Group Juggle,” “Values Voting,” “Fish Bowl,” etc.

WELCOME TO THE NIX: AN UMBRELLA OF SERVICES

Strand: Alternative Programs
Location: Somerset
Presenters: Mr. Cornelius Pratt, Ms. Tunisha Summers, Mr. Demetriuia Kelly, and Ms. Anna Jacobs, Orangeburg Consolidated School District 5, Orangeburg, SC

The Nelson C. Nix Educational Center provides an extensive array of programs and ancillary services to at-risk secondary students. This presentation will examine the importance of collaboration between stakeholders that provide services that range from a Middle School Academy to substance abuse counseling, gang intervention, computer literacy, social personal skills training, life skills management, and employment counseling. Come hear about the wide variety of services offered and the partnerships that make the center possible.

YOUTH TRACK—LEADERSHIP AT HOME

Strand: Youth Leadership Track
Location: Pembroke
Presenter: Ms. Katrina Wyss, National Runaway Switchboard, Chicago, IL

In this workshop youth will define the term “family” for themselves and will consider the roles and responsibilities each family member holds. Techniques to improve communication among family members and skills to resolve family challenges will also be addressed.

2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

Location: Cambridge Hall

NOTE: During the time period of 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. participants have a choice of formats:

(1) Choose one concurrent session.

OR

(2) Choose the Carousel Session and attend two roundtable discussions.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(Participants choose one.)

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

INSIDE GED PLUS—THE SECRETS TO A 99% PASS RATE: FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION

Strand: Alternative Programs
Location: Kensington D
Presenters: Ms. Brigitte Biley, Mr. Josh Richards, and Mr. Brent Dycus, GED Plus, North Little Rock, AR

The highly successful GED Plus Program, which has graduated over 10,000 students, uses innovative teaching methods, military discipline, and compassion from caring educators. This team utilizes short-term data to improve their curriculum map as well as provides strategies that enhance encouragement and positivity in the classroom.

BOY AND GIRL BRAIN DIFFERENCES AND STRATEGIES TEACHERS CAN USE WITH STUDENTS

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Kensington E
Presenter: Dr. Jean Strait, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN

What’s the big deal about boy and girl brain differences? Are there physical differences? Processing differences? If you want to answer these questions and learn how the teacher can be a strategic tool you won’t want to miss this session. Get the facts and start practicing today!

POSITIVE PATHWAYS: A NONTRADITIONAL APPROACH TO TRANSITIONING

Strand: Alternative Programs
Location: Kensington F
Presenters: Ms. Shirley Johnson-Delgado and Dr. Cynthia Sheppy, Orange County Public Schools, Orlando, FL

This presentation will highlight the beginning, implementation, and successes experienced by a district-run alternative school for youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

YOUTH TRACK—LEADERSHIP IN CITIZENSHIP

Strand: Youth Leadership Track
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Mr. Barry Brown, Parenting the Hip-Hop Youth, Fairburn, GA

Leadership, citizenship, laws, behavior, helping, service, and community are all interrelated and it serves us all to be in tune with the meaning and depth of what being a good leader and citizen is, and what we all need to do to be one on a daily basis.

AGRICULTURE AND FARM-BASED ACADEMICS

Strand: Alternative Programs
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Mr. H. David McIlrath, Briars Patch Ranch for Kids, Groveport, OH

This session is an interactive and inspirational description of how at-risk youth can succeed with unconventional methods. The model incorporates animal therapy, academics, and strong work ethic. The formula reinstates hope to families as their children develop skills to last a lifetime.

THE IMPACT OF STRESS ON YOUTH AND HOW MINDFULNESS MATTERS

Strand: Alternative Programs
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Dr. Leslie Forstadt, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Orono, ME

This presentation will explore the psychological and physiological impacts of stress over a lifetime. For youth, they may have had many experiences in their lives that keep them in a constant state of “fight or flight.” Mindfulness practices are easily integrated into the regular or alternative education classroom, and are beneficial for youth and adults to begin undoing the impacts of cumulative stress. These practices also teach new ways of responding instead of reacting to events in our lives.

DROPOUT RECOVERY BEST PRACTICES

Strand: Alternative Programs
Location: Somerset
Presenter: Ms. Rebekah Richards, The American Academy, Salt Lake City, UT

In this presentation and discussion, dropout recovery program developers will share best practices for establishing a dropout retrieval program. Specifically, we’ll consider program funding, staffing, and administration; student recruiting; academic and career/college transition strategies; and coaching and mentoring.

IN THEIR WORDS: WHY YOUTH RUN AND HOW TO REACH THEM

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Pembroke
Presenter: Ms. Katrina Wyss, National Runaway Switchboard, Chicago, IL

Participants in this workshop will review information from the National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) and identify the role NRS can play in assisting their youth, schools, families, and communities. Methods of reaching youth at risk for a runaway incident will be discussed, including NRS’ free 14 module, *Let’s Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum*.

CAROUSEL SESSION

(Participants choose two.)

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Location: Kensington ABCG

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

ADVISORY: A WHOLE-SCHOOL MODEL TO BUILD SCHOOL CONNECTEDNESS

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Table 1
Presenters: Dr. Sherry Barr and Mr. Scott Albert, Princeton Center for Leadership Training, Princeton, NJ

Advisory is a whole-school approach designed to foster a school culture of connectedness in which no student falls through the cracks. This session focuses on an effective advisory model for all students that includes a structured curricula that builds a trusting team; develops social-emotional skills; and focuses students on dreams, goals, and what it takes to achieve them.

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

SUMMER STEM ACADEMY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Table 2
Presenter: Dr. Angelia Reidgriffin, UNCW- ITFSE, Wilmington, NC

WSE Junior Seahawk Academy is a summer academy that fosters positive attitudes towards STEM and raises awareness of career and postsecondary opportunities in these areas. This presentation will provide an overview of the program and share experiences about the methods and instructional strategies used to motivate the participants.

A NATURAL FIT: EDUCATION STUDENTS AND AT-RISK STUDENTS

Strand: Community Partnerships
Location: Table 3
Presenter: Dr. Carrie Howell, Murray State Education, Hopkinsville, KY

This presentation will describe a program that has coupled pre-service teacher education students with at-risk students for academic interventions. This program meets the needs of both types of students—teacher education students and the public school students who are in need of one-on-one interventions.

INTEGRATING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION: A DROPOUT PREVENTION AND REENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Strand: Community Partnerships
Location: Table 4
Presenter: Mr. Hector Rivera, Jr., Our Piece of the Pie, Hartford, CT

Our Piece of the Pie has formed community partnerships to create a unique workforce development program, targeting dropouts and near-dropouts at two schools in Hartford, CT. The model is integrated into the school day, allowing students to earn credits while preparing to be successful in the workforce.

LEADERS OF THE NEW SCHOOL: YOUTH CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE

Strand: Leadership and Development
Location: Table 5
Presenter: Mr. Dominick Quinney, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI

The purpose of this discussion is to explore whether student leaders use the concepts of Critical Consciousness and Socio-political Development in their respective roles as students in an

urban center, particularly public schools. Both concepts serve as viable tools in the production of leadership development.

THE PASSPORT TO SUCCESS PROGRAM: A ROADMAP FOR STUDENTS WITHOUT DIRECTION

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Table 6
Presenter: Mrs. Priscilla Goodwin-Serra, Bayshore High School, Bradenton, FL

The Passport to Success details activities or tasks high school students should be completing within each grade level. Students are directed to various staff members to complete their passport, and a Web site accompanies the passport to provide students with additional resources. Regular incentives ensure students remain motivated.

PROGRESS TOWARD SUCCESS: CREATING A LIFELINE FOR STUDENTS AT RISK OF DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Table 7
Presenters: Dr. Cynthia K. Hayes and Ms. Susan Guillen, Beaufort County Schools, Beaufort, SC

Beaufort County School District has implemented a unique program utilizing Behavior Management Specialists to work with students identified as at risk of suspension and expulsion. The program is designed to utilize teachers and support staff to assist students with a history of behavior problems in making positive decisions about their behavior and actions, while establishing a school environment that is conducive to learning. The Behavior Management Specialist involves parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators to intervene with the at-risk students.

SCHOOL CARE TEAMS: AN IMPORTANT PART OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Strand: Community Partnerships
Location: Table 8
Presenters: Mr. Roger Moore and Mr. Steve Cores, Coshocton Opportunity School, Coshocton, OH

The primary emphasis of this presentation is how to develop and use school care teams and community partnerships to benefit students. What is a care team? It's purpose? How does it benefit students? How does it develop community partnerships? An example of it's success is a partnership between our school and the community's Early Head Start Program. We created a classroom at the EHS site where our students are educated while their babies are participating in the Early Head Start Program. This has been a very successful partnership for everyone involved.

CREATING AND FOSTERING A MEANINGFUL SCHOOL AND COMMUNITYWIDE MENTOR/ MENTEE TEAM: NURTURING STUDENTS THROUGH MENTOR/MENTEE RELATIONSHIPS

Strand: Community Partnerships
Location: Table 9
Presenters: Mrs. Jessica Tallant, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA; and Ms. Jeanne Tillman, Rabun County Schools, Tiger, GA

Research suggests that at-risk behavior is greatly reduced by a relationship with a supporting, mentoring adult. This session highlights our mentor/mentee program that focuses on the prevention of students facing academic failure, linguistic or cultural exclusion, and social or emotional disorders. The program focuses on improving student achievement and well being through mentor/mentee relationships through the school and the community.

HELPING OTHERS HELPS YOURSELF

Strand: Community Partnerships
Location: Table 10
Presenter: Mrs. Jana Hanna, Spartanburg School District 7, Spartanburg, SC

“Helping Others” is an elective class under development. Students will learn that everyone has something to offer to others. Students can get involved as peer tutors and individuals that give time, effort, and assistance to others. The goal of this course is that even students at a school with over a 90% poverty rate, will realize they have a great deal to offer to the community and others. This sense of worth and community engagement will motivate them to stay in school.

DIGITAL STORYTELLING USING EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Table 11
Presenter: Ms. Chandra Roughton and Dr. Susan Catapano, UNC Wilmington, NC

For the past eight months, the UNCW Watson School of Education has been conducting a Digital Storytelling Program with middle grades at-risk students. The presenters will discuss our vision, mission, and goals; processes for implementation; lessons learned; and plans for the future. We will showcase work and talk about technologies used in the program.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(Participants choose one.)

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

BUILD ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS WITH LASTING IMPACT! TEN RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Strand: Alternative Programs
Location: Kensington D
Presenter: Dr. Pamela Bruening, Provenio Group, Austin, TX

Learn about 10 research-based best practices that make a difference in any alternative program. Gain current research knowledge and practical ideas for implementing each of the best practices. Attendees will walk away with effective strategies they can implement immediately to make a positive difference in their alternative programs.

MULTIPLE STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING GRADUATION RATES AND LOWERING DROPOUT NUMBERS

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Kensington E
Presenters: Mr. Robert Grimes, Dr. Edward Pruden, Mr. Jamal Woods, and Mr. Brian Walker, Brunswick County Schools, Bolivia, NC

Come hear how one county improved graduation rates by five percentage points in one year. Brunswick County Schools used multiple strategies to improve our graduation rates and lower dropout numbers. These strategies include: graduation coaches in middle schools, CAPS (parent/student conferences for reviewing schedule/credits) transcript analysis, cohort graduation predictors for identifying at-risk students, and credit recovery programs.

TOOLS FOR SUCCESS: TRANSITIONING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Kensington F
Presenters: Dr. Tammy Graham and Dr. Jane Warner, The Citadel, Charleston, SC

Transitioning out of high school can be overwhelming for anyone. As a result, some students with disabilities may shy away from college even though they are capable of successfully attending. This interactive session will offer tools needed to assist these students with a smooth transition to higher education.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2012

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CONNECTING THE DOTS WITH DIGITAL CURRICULUM

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Ms. Jaime Hartman, Pearson Digital Learning, Alexandria, VA

Anytime, anywhere learning offered through online virtual or blended classroom programs can connect the dots to get at-risk youth of all ages back on track and ultimately across the graduation stage. Learn about high quality digital curriculum programs for K-12 and get tips on planning an effective digital program.

ENHANCING THE DE-STRESS RESPONSE: THE PRACTICE OF MINDFULNESS FOR ADULTS WORKING WITH AT-RISK YOUTH

Strand: Leadership and Development
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Dr. Leslie Forstadt, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Orono, ME

This presentation will explore the psychological and physiological impacts of stress over a lifetime. Many of us are in a constant state of “fight or flight.” Mindfulness practices teach new ways of responding instead of reacting to events in our lives and during times of stress with benefits for physical health, personal relationships, and psychological well-being.

SOCIAL AWARENESS: THE NEEDED CAPITAL FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

Strand: Attendance, Truancy, and Resilience
Location: Eton
Presenter: Dr. Bernard Oliver, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Considerable attention has been focused on developing new standards and structures for addressing at-risk youth. Despite the success of some of these programs, we are still confronting disparities in social justice for African American and Latino Males. The focus of this session is on developing social awareness strategies to enhance student development.

THE EVER-CHANGING RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Strand: Community Partnerships
Location: Winchester
Presenters: Mr. Winston Long, Abbott House, Irvington, NY

Introducing an exciting new workshop whereby participants/leaders in organizations explore new ways of looking at and

thereby “creatively” developing community partnerships. This workshop will take an experiential approach to training/presenting the very special paradigm shift needed for helping to develop effective partnerships between schools and the community. Together we will explore “The Rules of Engagement” needed today when involved with our consumers and/or the troubled youth of today. Additionally, participants will be introduced to the New Tools/Attitudes needed by leaders as they engage/work with community members, youth and/or consumers, when involved in some very volatile situations.

INTRODUCTION TO THE CIRCLE OF COURAGE

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Somerset
Presenter: Mrs. Iris Crawford-Long, T.O.O.L.S. Training Associates, LLC, Dillon, SC

The Circle of Courage is an ancient Native American symbol that represents a philosophy that promotes positive child and youth development and empowerment. Four core values are the roots of the Circle of Courage that encourage youth to learn and then teach others what they have learned through meaningful and fun activities. Come along with me to identify your “gifts” and “difficulties”!

DECREASE DISCIPLINE, INCREASE ACADEMICS

Strand: Leadership and Development
Location: Pembroke
Presenter: Mr. Dennis Goodwin, Center for Effective Teaching, Haverhill, MA

Decrease discipline problems by 70%-90% and increase academics by 30% in your school today. These five proven strategies used by schools across the nation will allow your teachers MORE TIME to TEACH and to have the students REFOCUS on education.

YOUTH TRACK—LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH

Strand: Youth Leadership Track
Location: Kensington ABCG
Presenter: Mr. H. David McIlrath, Briars Patch Ranch for Kids, Groveport, OH

This hands-on session will include many visual aides and instruction demonstrating the simplicity and impact of adapting a healthy lifestyle. Audience members will see how the “fruit” of their labor can provide energy and vitality and a sense of satisfaction and well being from “living off the land.”

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

Carolina Opry (*Optional Activity*)

Leading^{the} Transformation to Online Learning

Core Curriculum
Credit Recovery
Advanced Placement
Career Education
Test Preparation
Virtual Services

Language Arts
Mathematics
Science

Social Studies
Engineering
Computer Science

Digital Arts
Business
General Electives



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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012

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

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Location: Cambridge Hall

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FORUM REGISTRATION

Location: Cambridge Hall

GENERAL SESSION

(All are invited to attend.)

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

Location: Kensington ABCG

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Terry Cash, National Dropout Prevention Center,
Clemson, SC

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mrs. Linda Harrill, Communities In Schools of NC,
Raleigh, NC

IT'S NOT OVER UNTIL WE WIN

Keynoter: Mr. Kenston J. Griffin, Dream Builders
Communication, Inc., Charlotte, NC

This energetic, thought provoking keynote address will not only inspire but engage participants to realize the power of connecting the dots. Providing practical strategies that will allow participants to enhance leadership, challenge curriculum and instruction, and engage community partnerships, individuals will learn to create a new vision supporting youth, community partners, and each other. Prepare yourself for the journey of a lifetime as we continue to fight the good fight of dropout prevention.

CLOSING REMARKS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Linda Harrill

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

REFRESHMENT BREAK

Location: Cambridge Hall

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(Participants choose one.)

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

ESTABLISHING RELATIONSHIPS: THE KEY TO DROPOUT PREVENTION

Strand: Dropout Prevention

Location: Kensington D

Presenters: Dr. Judith Ann Pauley and Mr. Joseph Pauley,
Process Communications, Inc., Potomac, MD

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

SOLUTIONS WITHOUT BORDERS: THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION

Strand: Community Partnerships

Location: Kensington E

Presenter: Mr. Kenston J. Griffin, Dream Builders
Communication, Inc., Charlotte, NC

Partnerships maintain strong connections between community groups, schools, government agencies, and families. Serving as this critical link, we strive to leverage resources that serve youth and fill any gaps between existing local youth systems in order to create a strong infrastructure that effectively supports the children and youth. The problems facing 21st century youth do not respect geographic, organizational, or community boundaries. In this workshop participants will discuss what it takes to form effective partnerships across agencies and regions with a goal of helping our youth succeed in life.

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS DROPOUT PREVENTION?

Strand: Dropout Prevention

Location: Kensington F

Presenters: Dr. Janna Robertson, Dr. Kennedy Ongaga, and
Dr. William Sterrett, UNC Wilmington, NC

Researchers sent out a survey to North Carolina principals in elementary, middle, and high schools. They asked whether or not there were active dropout prevention programs going on at the schools and specifics on the kinds of interventions. Principals' views about perceived responsibility at all education levels were collected.

CREATIVE STRATEGIES TO REACH URBAN YOUTH

Strand: Attendance, Truancy, and Resilience
Location: Oxford
Presenters: Prof. Lennie Smith, University of the District of Columbia, Glenn Dale, MD; and Dr. Carmen White, Dramatic Solutions, Inc., Glenn Dale, MD

Educators are finding that the social and emotional health of their students is more essential than ever in their classrooms. Educators who teach in urban settings often find it difficult to engage, teach, and retain students. Educators will learn different creative strategies that they can utilize in their classroom to communicate more effectively with their students. They will learn exercises to incorporate in their curricula to make learning more fun and that explore peer issues that block urban youth from deep learning.

YOUTH TRACK—LEADERSHIP IN RELATIONSHIPS

Strand: Youth Leadership Track
Location: Harrow
Presenter: Ms. Nancy Blackwell, Longevity Of Success, Colorado Springs, CO

This workshop will demonstrate strategies to help students build healthy relationships with their peers, parents, and community. This is an interactive workshop to allow students a chance to experience the skills and realize the power of creating healthy relationships. Music, modeling, role play, and discussion will be used to share strategies with students. Time flies when you are having—learning!

USING THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CENTER'S EARLY WARNING SYSTEM MIDDLE GRADES AND HIGH SCHOOL TOOLS TO KEEP STUDENTS ON TRACK FOR GRADUATION

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Eton
Presenters: Mr. Matthew Hauenstein and Ms. Michelle Perry, American Institutes for Research, Washington, DC

National High School Center staff will provide an overview of EWS research, demonstrate the EWS Middle Grades and High School Tools, and emphasize the importance of identifying potential dropouts and providing them with appropriate interventions. A facilitated activity will help participants understand how to use the EWS data outputs and reflect on implications for their context.

IMPROVING TEST SCORES: SIX VARIABLES THAT IMPACT TEST SCORES!

Strand: Leadership and Development
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Dr. Clete Bulach, Professional Development and Assessment Center, Villa Rica, GA

If you want to improve test scores there is a need to identify and measure those variables that affect them. They are the following: (a) school culture and climate, (b) leadership behavior of the principal, (c) behavior of the students on 16 sets of character traits, (d) bullying behavior, (e) levels of openness and trust, and (f) caring behaviors of the teachers. A survey that measures each of these independent variables will be presented. A cover letter, report, and graph for each survey along with reliability and validity data will also be presented.

BUILDING BRIDGES TO SUCCESS: ONE DISTRICT'S MULTISYSTEMIC APPROACH TO ENGAGING THE FAMILY, THE COMMUNITY AND THE SCHOOL AS RESOURCES TO STUDENTS AT RISK

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Somerset
Presenters: Dr. Karen Cooper-Haber, Ms. Danielle Allen, and Ms. Viki Kelchner, Richland School District Two, Columbia, SC

This presentation will describe Richland School District Two's use of a collaborative team trained in family systems counseling to access the resources of the school, the family, the community, and the schools in its efforts to redirect the course of students headed for expulsion. Data, outcomes, challenges, and strategies will be described.

THREE Rs FOR STUDENT SUCCESS: RETOOL, REDIRECT, AND RECONNECT

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Pembroke
Presenters: Ms. Shirley Johnson-Delgado and Dr. Cynthia Sheppy, Orange County Public Schools, Orlando, FL

This interactive session will provide attendees with strategies that have been used successfully to engage students, parents, and community leaders in assisting students with their academic, social, and vocational skills. Despite challenges and stumbling blocks, students can gain the confidence and support needed in order to experience success.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012

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

ATTAINING YOUR PERSONAL BEST TAKES REFLECTION, DISCOVERY, AND ACTION

Strand: Leadership and Development
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Dr. Nathaniel J. Williams, HumanWorks
Training and Educational Services, Inc.,
Bethlehem, PA

Beginning anew is often difficult because we tend to bring the past forward with us. A new beginning needs to be just that—something that is new and that is a beginning. In this definition of a new beginning, there is no room for the past. How do we leave the past in the past? We have to do something different to get something different and become something different. We have to do something new to get something new. The new is a validation of the future and its unlimited potential. The future's potential is unknown because it is uncharted. The workshop will cover concepts for changing your approach, outlook, and conduct through dynamic technique and theory through life's least common denominators.

12:00 noon - 1:15 p.m.

(All are invited to attend.)

THE RILEY AWARD LUNCHEON

Location: Kensington ABCG Ballroom

Join us in congratulating Rep. Jerry N. Govan, Jr., recipient of the 2012 Governor and Mrs. Richard W. Riley Award for Excellence in Dropout Prevention.

The purpose of the award is to identify and bring recognition to an outstanding individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement of dropout prevention initiatives in the state of South Carolina.

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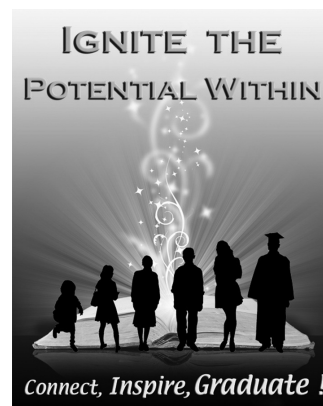
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2012 National Forum on Dropout Prevention for Native and Tribal Communities



**April 15 - 18, 2012
Sheraton Crescent Hotel
Phoenix, Arizona**

24th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference



**October 14 - 17, 2012
Rosen Plaza Hotel
Orlando, FL**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012

THE RILEY AWARD LUNCHEON

12:00 noon - 1:15 p.m.

Kensington G Ballroom

Welcome, Remarks, and Introductions

Dr. Terry Cash, National Dropout Prevention Center, Clemson, SC

Presentation of the Riley Award

Dr. Sam Drew, National Dropout Prevention Center, Clemson, SC

Acceptance of the Riley Award

Rep. Jerry N. Govan, Jr., Orangeburg, SC

Lunch

Closing Remarks

Dr. Terry Cash

***Governor and Mrs. Richard W. Riley Award
for Excellence in Dropout Prevention***

presented to



Rep. Jerry N. Govan, Jr.

Jerry N. Govan, Jr. is a native of Orangeburg, SC, and graduated from Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School and South Carolina State University where he obtained a Bachelor's of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Arts in Teaching.

Rep. Govan has served in the South Carolina House representing Orangeburg since 1992 and is currently County Attendance Supervisor for Orangeburg School Districts 3, 4, and 5. His commitment to education goes beyond his work in the school district, having for years served as a prevention specialist for the Tri-County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

As a member of the legislature, he is the senior ranking member of the House Education & Public Works Committee. Always accessible, Rep. Govan has been extremely supportive of the Education and Economic Development Act and the funding provided for dropout prevention.

In addition to the Riley Award, Rep. Govan has been honored by numerous organizations for his outstanding contributions to substance abuse prevention, financial literacy education, after-school programs, excellence in education, and service to the community.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(Participants choose one.)

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD: PUTTING EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS INTO PRACTICE

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Kensington D
Presenters: Mr. Matthew Hauenstein and Ms. Michelle Perry, American Institutes for Research, Washington, DC

Presenters from the National High School Center will discuss their experiences collaborating on a project to scale up the use of early warning systems across California. A candid discussion of challenges and successes to inform state-, district-, and school-level implementation will be the centerpiece of this session.

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY: EMPOWERING AT-RISK YOUTH WITH POSITIVE INTERVENTIONS

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Kensington E
Presenters: Ms. Amy Jespersen and Ms. Kimberly Presutti, Johnston County Schools, Smithfield, NC

Increase academic performance, attendance, and positive behavior through leadership opportunities, service-learning, and accountability through this implication of a Leadership Academy. This interactive presentation focuses on a successful Leadership Academy with proven results. The presenters will not only give vital information about the program, but also provide the essential tools needed to identify students and create your own program.

THE DROPOUT PREVENTION COALITION OF SOUTHEASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Kensington F
Presenters: Dr. Janna Robertson and Dr. Robert Smith, UNCW Dropout Prevention Coalition, Wilmington, NC

Come find out about our coalition and learn how to start one in your area of the country. The originators of the Dropout Prevention Coalition will discuss why they formed the coalition last year, the benefits for members, outcomes that have already happened, and planned activities for the future.

AFTER SCHOOL MATTERS: GROWING STUDENTS THROUGH A COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Strand: Community Partnerships
Location: Oxford
Presenters: Dr. Carlos Grant and Ms. Michelle Richards, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, Charlotte, NC; and Mr. Jake Kravitz, Ms. Renee Becker, and Ms. Monica Overmier, Alexander Graham Middle School, Charlotte, NC

The session is focused on illustrating how to develop partnerships between nonprofit organizations, businesses, clergy, and school. The session will spotlight the development of an after-school program created to provide academic enrichment and character development opportunities for middle school students. Student participants were identified based on academic need and low-income residence. The program utilizes community partnerships, certified teachers, and community volunteers who provide one-on-one assistance when needed. The session will also highlight the use of classroom and computer-based instructional tools to develop reading and math skills for all students. These tools include Achieve 3000 and Castle Learning software.

STRATEGIES THAT BUILD RAPPORT, CONNECTIONS, AND MOTIVATE STUDENTS TO STAY IN SCHOOL

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Ms. Nancy Blackwell, Longevity Of Success, Colorado Springs, CO

Eighty-two percent of teachers' messages are nonverbal, especially when managing the classroom. Learn how to positively influence the student relationship with practical application and practice. Become aware of the difference between the influence of power and the power of influence. Also, receive strategies such as the use of music, modeling, paired shares, and discussions. Learn how to have more time to do what we entered the profession to do—TEACH.

YOUTH TRACK—IDENTITY: PROJECT AIM

Strand: Youth Leadership Track
Location: Eton
Presenter: Mr. Khalil Shakeel, Cumberland County Schools NC, Fayetteville, NC

Through the identity discourse, adolescents are introduced to critical thinking in reference to mobility; it is their social identity that influences their social mobility, which will conclude with adolescents participating in upward, horizontal, or downward mobility.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY!

Strand: Leadership and Development
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Mrs. Marty Duckenfield, National Dropout Prevention Center, Clemson, SC

What does in-service look like in your district or school? If your school is like most schools, it is not helping teachers and schools gain the necessary skills to reach the most at-risk students. With accelerating costs, schools are hard-pressed to afford good quality but needed professional development. The NDPC is poised to meet this need with our new Professional Development series, soon to be migrated to web delivery. This low-cost, high quality professional development uses the standards of Learning Forward, and provides schools with national expertise in a sustained PD experience. Learn all about it and provide your input to this original prototype.

DROPOUT PREVENTION: READING IS THE PROBLEM AND THE SOLUTION

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Somerset
Presenter: Dr. Patrick O'Connor, Kent State University, Kent, OH

This session focuses on the important role of reading in dropout prevention. Participants will learn of the critical state of reading (the problem) in the U.S. Also, strategies for improving reading (the solution) for at-risk students will be presented.

EIGHT STAR STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS OF CHILDREN OF POVERTY - PART 1

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Pembroke
Presenter: Dr. Tammy Pawloski, Francis Marion University, Florence, SC

Part 1 of this double session will guide conferees to consider how poverty affects the brain and what schools can do. Session participants will gain information that will enable them to view underresourced students with greater understanding, and they will exit with research-based strategies that support student success.

2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

Location: Cambridge Hall

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(Participants choose one.)

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

DEVELOPING PROACTIVE LEADERS TO SHRINK THE NATION'S DROPOUT RATE

Strand: Leadership and Development
Location: Kensington D
Presenter: Dr. Pamela Bruening, Provenio Group, Austin, TX

What kind of proactive leadership does it take to shrink the nation's dropout rate? Investigate key leadership characteristics and corresponding proactive strategies to decrease the dropout rate within their own organization. Attendees will create a mini leadership development plan and learn proactive strategies they can implement immediately within their organizations.

THE CHANGING CLIMATE: WHAT IS THE TEMPERATURE IN YOUR ROOM?

Strand: Leadership and Development
Location: Kensington E
Presenters: Mr. Cornelius Pratt, Ms. Tunisha Summers, and Mr. Demetriuia Kelly, Orangeburg Consolidated School District 5, Orangeburg, SC

This presentation will provide an up close and personal look at the role of the leadership team at Nelson C. Nix Educational Center for Excellence. It will examine the importance of collaboration among the various programs and agencies providing services to its stakeholders. We will highlight the stress relievers (recognition, sense of humor, teamwork, motivation, professional development, networking, empowerment, public relations, etc.) that are used daily to maintain a healthy school climate. Finally, we will introduce our Ambassadors as we share ideas and effective strategies with the audience.

HOW DID NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOLS IMPROVE THEIR GRADUATION RATES?

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Kensington F
Presenters: Dr. Janna Robertson and Dr. Robert Smith, UNCW Dropout Prevention Coalition, Wilmington, NC

The researchers surveyed 22 North Carolina high schools who had markedly improved their graduation rates over the past five years. The administrators at the high schools reported on which dropout prevention practices and programs they used and which ones they attributed toward their improved graduation rates.

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

HAND-HELD TECHNOLOGY IN A CLASSROOM OR TAKE-HOME ENVIRONMENT

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Mr. Jeff Olive, Brainchild, Blythewood, SC

This hands-on session will focus on how students and parents can benefit and improve student achievement through the use of hand-held technology in a classroom or take-home environment.

ACTIVITIES, GAMES, AND ENERGIZERS

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Ms. Nancy Blackwell, Longevity Of Success, Colorado Springs, CO

Time flies when you are having learning! Create a learning environment where students are engaged longer. These activities build rapport and communication with students and staff. The use of music will be modeled throughout this session. So, come get ENERGIZED!

YOUTH TRACK—LEADERSHIP AND FINANCES

Strand: Youth Leadership Track
Location: Hampton
Presenter: Mr. Will Lane, Information Age Marketing, Atlanta, GA

Principles of financial stewardship and responsibility will be discussed. Youth will be encouraged to see money as a resource rather than a goal. Principles of responsibility and planning will be reinforced throughout this interactive session. Youth will be challenged to be producers and not just consumers.

THE S.I.I.P. (SUSPENSION-INFRACTION-INTERVENTION-PROGRAM)

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Eton
Presenter: Mr. Khalil Shakeel, Cumberland County Schools, Fayetteville, NC

S.I.I.P. is a suspension and infraction program that will help with dropout prevention. Students report to me the first thing in the morning upon arriving to school, where they will receive their classroom behavioral assessment forms to give to teachers at the end of each class. The core of the program includes homeroom instruction that solely addresses the soft skills to be successful.

C.I.T.Y.: PARTNERSHIP FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

Strand: Community Partnerships
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Mrs. Jessica Queener, The George Washington University, Washington, DC

Career Investigations for Transitioning Youth (C.I.T.Y.) is a partnership between George Washington University and the Kingsbury Day School that allows students to engage in career exploration on a university campus. The presenters will provide information on the program components and how each supports the process of transition assessment.

MISSION CRITICAL: REAL STUDENTS, REAL PROBLEMS, REAL SOLUTIONS—IT TRULY TAKES A VILLAGE

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Somerset
Presenter: Mr. Kenston J. Griffin, Dream Builders Communication, Inc., Charlotte, NC

This innovative reality-based session will allow participants to evaluate the past, acknowledge the present, but embrace the future of dropout prevention. DBC will provide tools to assist participants in areas such as parental involvement, increasing test scores, decreasing oppositional behavior, and providing practical skills that may be applied daily to assist students while not giving up on education, life, and themselves. Finally, DBC will share strategies on how to obtain, maintain, and retain momentum in and out of the classroom to decrease the dropout rate.

EIGHT STAR STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS OF CHILDREN OF POVERTY - PART 2

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Pembroke
Presenter: Dr. Tammy Pawloski, Francis Marion University, Florence, SC

Part 2 of this double session will guide conferees to consider how poverty affects the brain and what schools can do. Session participants will gain information that will enable them to view underresourced students with greater understanding, and they will exit with research-based strategies that support student success.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(Participants choose one.)

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

TRAINING VOLUNTEER TUTORS TO ENHANCE ACADEMIC PROGRESS OF K-12 STUDENTS

Strand: Community Partnerships
Location: Kensington D
Presenter: Dr. Stephenie Hewett, The Citadel, Charleston, SC

Volunteer tutors can play important roles in the academic progress and success of students if they have the proper training. Most schools do not have tutor training that adequately prepares tutors to meet the challenges presented by students in need of academic support. This session focuses on best practices of individual tutoring that can be easily taught to volunteers.

HELPING TEACHERS USE SIMPLE GAME TEMPLATES TO ENGAGE LEARNERS

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Kensington E
Presenter: Dr. Jeff Ertzberger, UNC Wilmington, Wilmington, NC

Many teachers know that using games, especially video games, can engage all types of students. Dr. Jeff Ertzberger has created free game templates that any teacher can edit and use in their classroom. In this presentation he shows how easy it is for any teacher to teach with games.

WORKFORCE BOARDS: ARE THEY YOUR PARTNERS FOR CAREER CONNECTIONS?

Strand: Community Partnerships
Location: Kensington F
Presenter: Mrs. Dana Grant, Henkels & McCoy, Anderson, SC

Is your local workforce board missing from your dropout prevention and recovery strategies? Attendees will learn how to build effective partnerships with their local workforce board partners. They will learn about workforce funding and strategies to help youth make career connections to local employers. Partnering can help close gaps in providing some supportive services and career assessments to make a workforce attachment.

STRATEGIES THAT WILL CAUSE UNMOTIVATED STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Oxford
Presenter: Mr. Kelvin Thompson, The E.M.P.O.W.E.R. Network, Inc., Kannapolis, NC

This session offers practical strategies that will motivate ALL STUDENTS towards success beyond high school. Educators will gain insight on the major culture and customs that help influence the mentality of today's youth. These strategies can be instantly implemented, challenging students to maximize their full potential.

SECOND OPPORTUNITY

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Eton
Presenter: Mr. David Hand, Laney High School, Wilmington, NC

The presenter will demonstrate how to create a locally developed course offering failing students a second opportunity to graduate in four years. From an idea to evaluation and modification, participants will learn data driven decision making, collaborative implementation strategies, critical components to generate credits and sustain future success, and methods to ensure expected outcomes are realized.

DROPOUT PREVENTION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: FLORIDA'S CURRENT STATUS AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Dr. Lori Garcia, Project 10: Transition Education Network, St. Petersburg, FL

This presentation will focus on Florida's current outcomes and strategies attributed to success in selected districts with low dropout rates for students with disabilities. National data, risk factors, and exemplary programs will be shared. Activities of Florida's State Secondary Transition Interagency Committee and Dropout Subcommittee designed to assist districts with dropout prevention of students with disabilities will also be discussed.



4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

FIVE CATEGORIES OF FEEDBACK: HOW TO BUILD CAPACITY FOR STUDENT AND ADULT LEARNERS

Strand: Leadership and Development
Location: Somerset
Presenters: Mrs. Carol Hill and Ms. Jeannine Franco,
South Florence High School, Florence, SC

We give feedback to students and adults all the time, but how much of that feedback facilitates growth and learning? Develop your skills in providing feedback that makes a difference in terms of learning and leading. This workshop is applicable for K-16 educators and administrators.

NEGOTIATING AND COMMUNICATING ACROSS BOUNDARIES

Strand: Community Partnerships
Location: Pembroke
Presenters: Mr. Billy Marsh, Communities In Schools of Lincoln County, NC; and Mr. David Spratte, Sky2X, Lincolnton, NC

Our world is crisscrossed with thousands of boundaries. Even if many boundaries are artificial, that doesn't make them any less real or a potential obstacle. In this seminar, the presenters will share tactics and philosophies for approaching these boundaries and conclude with firsthand experience in working beyond boundaries for real results.

Solutions
to the Dropout Crisis

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

March 13, 2012, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. EST

**Service-Learning Districtwide
to Increase Students'
Academic Engagement**

presented by



Michael VanKeulen

How can service-learning help make instruction more engaging and help increase the connection students feel to school? Join Michael VanKeulen, the National Youth Leadership Council's Outreach Director, to discuss NYLC's work with school district leaders and professional development models aimed at helping districts extend service-learning as a strategy connected to current district initiatives.

This webcast will help educators better understand how service-learning applied in a more systemic nature can address a key factor in preventing student dropout, the degree of meaningful student engagement in their academic goals and overall school experience.

Participation in this radio webcast is free 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 technical support is needed, call 864-656-4550.

This webcast is produced in partnership with Clemson Radio Productions and with support from Penn Foster and Catapult Learning.

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Location: Cambridge Hall

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

FORUM REGISTRATION

Location: Cambridge Hall

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(Participants choose one.)

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

STOP BULLYING—"I GOT YOUR BACK"

Strand: Parental Involvement
Location: Kensington D
Presenter: Mr. Shawn D. Jackson, The Jaxsun Group,
Lithonia, GA

Participants are taught to discern between common "horse-play" and bullying and will leave with an increased understanding of the emotional, psychological impact of bullying. The session explores the roles parents, siblings, relatives, and community members can play in condoning behaviors that promote the acceptance of bullying.

**WHEN CONTEXT MATTERS MOST:
TRANSFORMING GED TEACHING AND
LEARNING FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction
Location: Kensington E
Presenter: Ms. Naomi Leapheart, Congreso de Latinos
Unidos, Philadelphia, PA

This workshop will equip instructors with new approaches to curriculum design for GED education. Particularly relevant to those who work with disengaged or out-of-school youth and young adults, this session will use actual lesson plans and case study examples to illustrate how the GED classroom can be transformed into an engaging, culturally-relevant, contextualized space.

**EDUCATION FOR LIFE—COLLEGE, CAREER,
AND CITIZENSHIP READY**

Strand: Alternative Programs
Location: Kensington F
Presenter: Dr. Elizabeth Conran, The Menta Group,
Aurora, IL

The Menta Group has worked with at-risk youth for over 36 years with schools in Illinois, Arizona, Washington, and Wisconsin. This session will touch on the Menta Group's Program Model for at-risk students, focusing on transitioning students from school to life, preparing students to be College, Career, and Citizenship Ready (The 3 C's). Topics to be covered will include academics, career planning, and training in school and in the community. The concept of "Education for Life" encompasses the principles of excellence in educational outcomes which translates to success after graduation. This session will focus on educating the child for life after school with an emphasis on the development of professional learning communities to enhance the outcomes for the child. Participants will learn what data to collect to determine student levels, analyzation of data, and identification of interventions leading to student success.

**INCREASING LEADERSHIP IN OUT OF
SCHOOL TIME: EXAMINING PROJECT-
BASED LEARNING AS A CATALYST FOR
GROWTH**

Strand: Leadership and Development
Location: Winchester
Presenter: Ms. Alison Reis, OST, Public Health
Management Corporation, Philadelphia, PA

This workshop will discuss the integration of leadership opportunities in the Philadelphia Out of School Time system including the use of project-based learning as one approach to defining and integrating leadership for high school youth. The workshop will highlight current examples from Philadelphia and provide opportunity for discussion.

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

Location: Cambridge



CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(Participants choose one.)

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

GANGSTA RAP—TO BANG OR NOT TO BANG

Strand: Parental Involvement
Location: Kensington D
Presenter: Mr. Shawn D. Jackson, The Jaxsun Group,
Lithonia, GA

Participants learn how Gangsta Rap can mislead youth who do not have responsible law abiding adults in their lives. It will address how youth can become victims of their environment and examines the reasons students join gangs. Participants learn how to identify gang activity by listening to Gangsta Rap.

MAINTAINING SAFE MENTORING ENVIRONMENTS: GOOD PRACTICES IN A DANGEROUS WORLD

Strand: Leadership and Development
Location: Kensington E
Presenter: Mr. Roger Canaff, National District Attorneys Association, Alexandria, VA

This presentation will provide basic but crucial information on the dynamics of child sexual abuse and common offender practices in the context of mentoring programs and non-stranger situations. It will then provide practical suggestions to mentoring programs to help keep children safe in those environments.

TEN STRATEGIES PROVEN TO INSPIRE EVEN THE MOST DIFFICULT STUDENTS

Strand: Dropout Prevention
Location: Kensington F
Presenter: Ms. Nancy Blackwell, Longevity Of Success, Colorado Springs, CO

How do you engage the most challenging students? This session will provide 10 strategies that have proven to build relationships, grab attention, and inspire students in K-12 schools, mental health, and correctional organizations worldwide. Learn to speak the language of today's youth using relevant multimedia, physical activities, and visual metaphors.

CREATIVE MINDS—THINKING, BELIEVING, ACHIEVING: HELPING AT-RISK YOUTH CREATE VIABLE WORKING PLANS FOR ACHIEVEMENT

Strand: Alternative Programs
Location: Pembroke
Presenters: Ms. Kimberly White and Mr. Antonio Stevenson, Creative Minds, Greensboro, NC

Enjoy a fun interactive session that will consist of strategies to help at-risk youth create viable working plans to achieve based on empowerment theory. Participants will engage in role-playing, creative games, and other activities while exploring some of the important theoretical constructs to address the unique characteristics of this population.

CLOSING GENERAL SESSION

(All are invited to attend.)

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Location: Kensington G

WELCOME AND REMARKS

Ms. Colleen Dawicki, Urban Initiative at UMass Dartmouth, North Dartmouth, MA

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTER

Ms. Colleen Dawicki

YOU GOTTA REACH 'EM IN ORDER TO TEACH 'EM

Keynoter: Mr. Hotep Benzo, President and Founder, Hustle University, Stone Mountain, GA

Many teachers and youth service providers have misconceptions about education and how to get youth to perform their best. ReachThemToTeachThem provides SOLUTIONS and shows how to shift young peoples' perception of school and quickly turns reluctant students into active participants!

CLOSING REMARKS


Dr. Sam Drew, National Dropout Prevention Center, Clemson University, Clemson, SC

DIRECTORY OF EXHIBITORS

ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION
<p>Brainchild Corp. Jeff Olive 206 Maple Ridge Rd. Blythewood, SC 29016 P: (803) 261-8557 olivejeff@ymail.com</p>	<p>Using hand-held technology to improve student performance.</p>
<p>Education2020 Karolin Stradling 7303 East Earll Drive Scottsdale, AZ 85251 P: (877) 202-0338 F: (480) 423-0213 digitalsolutions@education2020.com</p>	<p>EDUCATION2020 is a leading provider of online instruction for students in grades 6-12. Our courses meet state and national standards, include credit recovery, and test preparation.</p>
<p>GEM Art Studio George Miller 3015 Stonewood Way Orange Park, FL 32065 P: (904) 521-4059 gemartstudio@aol.com</p>	<p>Artist G.E. Miller creates art that inspires the spirit of learning. Try to find the hidden words and messages in George's artwork.</p>
<p>National Dropout Prevention Center/Network John Peters 209 Martin Street Clemson, SC 29631 (864) 656-0253 pj@clemson.edu</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>National Runaway Switchboard Katrina Wyss 3080 N. Lincoln Ave Chicago, IL 60657 P: (773) 289-1723 F: (773) 929-5150 kwyss@1800runaway.org</p>	<p>Promotional and educational information that participants can take. Information on the National Runaway Switchboard's <i>Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum</i> will also be available.</p>
<p>National Youth Leadership Council Michael VanKeulen 1667 Snelling Avenue N., Suite D300 St. Paul, MN 55108 P: (651) 999-7378 F: (651) 631-2955 mvankeulen@nylc.org</p>	<p>For more than 25 years, NYLC has led a movement that links youth, educators, and communities to redefine the roles of young people in society. That movement is service-learning. Visit www.nylc.org to learn more.</p>

DIRECTORY OF EXHIBITORS

ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION
<p>Pearson Digital Martha Ryan 3075 W. Ray Road Chandler, AZ 85225 P: (484) 239-5934 martha.ryan@pearson.com</p>	<p>Pearson is the global leader in education content, services, and technology, engaging today's digital natives with personalized learning while empowering teachers with flexible professional development.</p>
<p>Saguaro Group dba Community Innovations, Inc. Kathryn S. Foley 801 Wilson Street Whiteville, NC 28472 P: (910) 840-9199 F: (910) 642-8039 kfoley@communityinnovations.com</p>	<p>Community Innovations provides Mental Health Services for Children and Adults Basic and Enhanced Services including Intensive in Home, Community Support Team, Therapy, Psychiatric, Medication Management, CAP, and CST.</p>
<p>UNCW CROSSROADS Diane Edwards 601 S. College Road Wilmington, NC 28403 P: (910) 962-7432 F: (910) 962-7374 edwardsd@uncw.edu</p>	<p>CROSSROADS offers substance abuse prevention resources for late middle school/early high school-age audiences that include a peer-led interactive curriculum, social norms activities, and eye-catching displays.</p>



*Thank you for attending the 24th Annual At-Risk
 Youth National FORUM. We hope to see you at the
 25th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM
 February 17 - 20, 2013
 Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation
 Myrtle Beach, South Carolina*

DIRECTORY OF PRESENTERS

A

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C

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- COOPER**, Kanajah (Student Presenter), South Florence High School, 3200 S. Irby St., Florence, SC, 29505
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NOTES

24th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM

PERSONAL SCHEDULE

Monday, February 20, 2012	Tuesday, February 21, 2012	Wednesday, February 22, 2012
Session: Time: Location:	Session: Time: Location:	Session: Time: Location:
Session: Time: Location:	Session: Time: Location:	Session: Time: Location:
Session: Time: Location:	Session: Time: Location:	Session: Time: Location:
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EMBASSY SUITES AT KINGSTON PLANTATION

CONVENTION AREA

