

**STAY**  
Systems Together Advancing Youth



**23rd Annual  
National Dropout Prevention Network Conference  
Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel  
October 9-12, 2011  
Schaumburg, Illinois**



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

**Pat Quinn**  
GOVERNOR

October 9-12, 2011

Greetings!

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference hosted by the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools.

You are all joined together here for one common goal – to ensure that young people receive the quality educational opportunities they need and deserve. This annual event is a wonderful opportunity to network and share new ideas and techniques with fellow professionals. I am certain that the variety of speakers and other activities planned for this conference will greatly benefit everyone in attendance and serve to further the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network's important work into the future. Keeping students in school through high school graduation is critical to their future success and to the success of our country, and I am proud to join everyone in attendance in your commitment to making that goal a reality.

I would like to offer a special welcome to those traveling from outside of Illinois for this event. During your stay, I encourage you to explore and discover the many sites and attractions that this great state has to offer. From historic landmarks and world-renowned museums, to first-class dining and theater experiences, to the scenic beauty of our small towns and prairies, there is truly a wide array of interests represented across the Land of Lincoln.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and productive conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Quinn".

Pat Quinn  
Governor



Welcome!

The Regional Offices of Education  
and Intermediate Service Centers  
thank you for your support and  
assistance in making the 23rd Annual  
National Dropout Prevention Network  
Conference a success.

We hope you enjoy your STAY!

“Systems Together Advancing Youth”



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
www.isbe.net

Gery J. Chico  
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

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October 2011

Dear Attendees:

I would like to welcome you to the 23rd Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in Schaumburg. It is important we gain a deeper understanding of dropouts and the implications for their communities. I applaud you for participating in this great opportunity to make a difference.

It is an honor to host this year's conference in Illinois, where we have seen a reduction in the high school dropout rate in the last decade. Communities, parents and schools have all played a key role in making this happen. However, there is still much work to be done so that every child can be prepared for success after high school. We must continue to promote family engagement, school-community collaboration and other strategies to increase the number of graduates.

Illinois has a number of programs addressing the dropout issue and continues to develop dropout prevention programming. You will have the opportunity to receive additional insight into a few of these programs during the conference.

Events like this are important so we can share with each other expertise and effective practices. I hope you enjoy your time and take new ideas and inspiration back to your communities to tackle the important issue of dropout prevention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris A. Koch".

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education





welcomes

The 23rd Annual  
**NATIONAL  
DROPOUT  
PREVENTION  
NETWORK  
CONFERENCE**

and supports its  
mission of keeping  
kids in school  
through graduation

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**NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK**  
209 Martin Street, Clemson, SC 29631-1555

October 9, 2011

Dear NDPN Conference Participants:

On behalf of the Executive Board, we welcome you to the 23rd Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference, *Systems Together Advancing Youth*. As we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are particularly excited about the professional development sessions offered here in Chicago. The conference program provides a wealth of information and opportunities for you to learn and grow. Sunday provides a jump start to the conference with four pre-conference workshops and the State Coordinators' Breakfast. If you want to see the sights of Chicago, please check at the registration desk for information on local tours and special offers.

The program includes more than 175 sessions covering topics that focus on key dropout prevention strands. The week is packed with General Sessions featuring keynote speakers; the Crystal Star Awards Luncheon recognizing outstanding leaders and programs; and the NDPN Business Meeting. You will want to attend the Exhibitors' Showcase Reception on Sunday evening which also kicks off the opening of the exhibit hall. Plan to visit the exhibitors who want to share the latest materials, technology, and information with the movers and shakers participating here in Chicago. Opportunities to participate in on-site visits which showcase the variety of successful programs which serve students in at-risk situations are available on Tuesday.

If you are not a member, we encourage you to join the National Dropout Prevention Network and reap the benefits of membership listed on a brochure in your conference bag.

Please join us and our fellow Board members in saluting the Conference Planning Committee and the Conference Co-sponsors for the fine work they have done in planning this event. May the next few days inspire you and validate your work so that you return home with a renewed sense of purpose to America's youth, especially those in at-risk situations.

Sincerely,

Stuart Udell  
Chair  
National Dropout Prevention  
Network Board

Sam Drew  
Interim Executive Director  
National Dropout Prevention  
Center/Network

**NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK BOARD**



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 VP and Chief Academic  
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 Program Officer, Education  
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**NDPN Vice Chair**



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 Director, SC Center of  
 Excellence & Ntl. Res.  
 Cntr. for Engr. Tech. Ed.  
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 Florence, SC 29501-0548



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 Urban Advisory Res.  
 School Ed. Group  
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 Executive Director of  
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**Dr. Sam Drew**  
 Interim Executive Director  
 National Dropout  
 Prevention Center  
 Clemson University  
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 Goodlettsville, TN  
 37072



*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.*



*We want to thank our Conference Partners, Conference Sponsors, and 2011 Conference Planning Committee for their support in making this conference a success.*

### **Conference Partners**

<i>National Dropout Prevention Center/Network</i>	<i>Illinois Principals' Association</i>
<i>Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools</i>	<i>Jostens, Inc.</i>
<i>Illinois Association of School Boards</i>	<i>McHenry County Mental Health Board</i>
<i>Illinois State Board of Education</i>	<i>Center for Prevention Research Development</i>
<i>Illinois Association of School Administrators</i>	<i>United States Marine Corps</i>

### **Conference Sponsors**

<i>Dollar General Corporation</i>	<i>Pearson</i>
<i>Lake County Office of Education</i>	<i>Catapult Learning</i>
<i>Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth</i>	<i>K12, Inc</i>
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<i>Star Academy</i>	

### **2011 Conference Planning Committee**

*Ms. Pamela Althoff, State Senator 32 District*  
*Mr. Ed Bates, Lake County Regional Office of Education*  
*Ms. Marie Cardosi, Iroquois/Kankakee Regional Office of Education*  
*Ms. Pat Dal Santo, Kane County Regional Office of Education*  
*Ms. Leslie Drish, Chicago Urban League*  
*Mr. John Gailer, National Dropout Prevention Center*  
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*Dr. Bobbi Mattingly, Regional Office of Education #11*  
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*Mr. John Peters, National Dropout Prevention Center*  
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*Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, DuPage County Regional Office of Education*  
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*Ms. Mey Spencer, Lake County Regional Office of Education*  
*Ms. Sally Veach, Illinois State Board of Education*  
*Ms. Julie Wollerman, Bond/Effingham/Fayette Regional Office of Education*  
*Ms. Roycealee Wood, Lake County Regional Office of Education*  
*Ms. Cynthia Woods, Illinois Association of School Boards*

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



*Daniel Domenech*

### ***DROPOUT PREVENTION: A TRANSFORMATIONAL APPROACH***

*presented by*

**DR. DANIEL DOMENECH**

*Monday, October 10, 2011  
Opening General Session*

*9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.*

In spite of significant efforts to reduce the dropout rate, it still hovers at unacceptable levels, particularly for our African-American and Latino students. The economic recession has resulted in unprecedented school budget cuts that have resulted in the elimination of many programs designed to keep our children in school. It is time to consider the transformational changes that will allow the realization of President Obama's goal "that every student graduates from high school well prepared for college and a career."

### ***"FAIL IT FORWARD"—TURNING STUMBLING BLOCKS INTO STEPPING STONES***

*presented by*

**DR. DEBBIE SILVER**

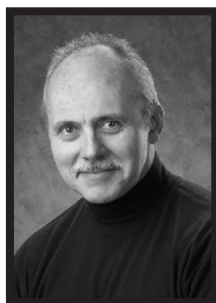
*Tuesday, October 11, 2011  
General Session*

*9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.*



*Debbie Silver*

Based on her new book on student motivation, Debbie Silver presents research on the purposeful practices adults can utilize in order to enhance student engagement. Dr. Silver will discuss and demonstrate strategies for helping students overcome failure and become their own best advocates on a path of lifelong learning. With proven theory, moving stories, and hilarious characterizations, Debbie will inspire audience members to help students learn to "Fail It Forward."



*Stephen Sroka*

### ***THE POWER OF ONE***

*presented by*

**DR. STEPHEN SROKA**

*Wednesday, October 12, 2011  
Closing General Session*

*9:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.*

Stephen Sroka is The Power of One motivational speaker who integrates cutting edge research with reality based strategies for dealing with the issues that face our youth today including sex, drugs, violence, academic achievement, as well as mental health and school safety. He offers honesty, humor, and hope that everyone can make a difference.



## SITE VISITS INFORMATION

### SITE VISITS

**Tuesday, October 11, 2011**

*(Must be preregistered.)*

Participants registered for site visits will meet at the Schaumburg Ballroom entrance **15 minutes** prior to times listed below for transportation to the sites.

#### Site Visit #1

**8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

***DuPage Regional Office of Education - Alternative Learning Opportunities (DuPage ROE ALOP)***—In cooperation with the DuPage Workforce Board, The DuPage ROE's ALOP program works with at risk students who are enrolled in high schools across the county. Students participate in academic and career activities with the ultimate goal that they obtain their GED credential and transition into postsecondary education or employment. The small size of the program allows for staff to develop relationships with each of the students and assist them with reconnecting to the educational system, thus improving their confidence and outlook for the future. In addition to visiting the ALOP program, participants will be presented with an overview of other county programs that collaborate to serve at-risk youth in DuPage County. **(\$35.00)**

#### Site Visit #2

**8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

***Joseph Academy***—Joseph Academy serves children and adolescents with behavioral, emotional, and learning disorders by helping them develop the social, academic, and vocational skills they need to function successfully in society. For over 25 years, Joseph Academy has labored to provide programs with compassion and consistency. The Academy's philosophy is based on a service model respecting the dignity and needs of youth. A strong behavioral management and motivational system based upon the Boys Town model; a curriculum that offers innovation, research-based methodology, and high standards for success; and a highly trained and professional staff are highlights of Joseph Academy's programming. **(\$35.00)**

#### Site Visit #3

**8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

***Indian Plains School***—Indian Plains School is a nontraditional alternative school that services three different at-risk populations: fourth year high school students needing credit recovery to graduate with their class on time, high school alternative placement self-contained ED/BD students, and middle school students who are not making academic progress due to poor behavior, attendance or academic skills deficits. **(\$35.00)**

#### Site Visit #4

**8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.**

***Ombudsman Educational Services - Schaumburg Learning Center***—Ombudsman's mission is to provide personalized, evidence-based educational services for nontraditional learners in collaboration with families and public school districts. The capacity for this site visit is 10. **(\$20.00)**

## OVERVIEW OF CONFERENCE

Date and Time	Event	Page
<b><u>Sunday, October 9, 2011</u></b>		
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	NDPN Board Meeting ( <i>By invitation only.</i> )	12
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Conference Registration	12
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	State At-Risk Youth Coordinators' Breakfast ( <i>Must be preregistered.</i> )	12
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Pre-Conference Workshops 1 and 2 ( <i>Must be preregistered.</i> )	12
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Workshops 3 and 4 ( <i>Must be preregistered.</i> )	12
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Opening Reception and Exhibitors' Showcase	13
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Simon Youth Foundation Meeting ( <i>By invitation only.</i> )	13
<b><u>Monday, October 10, 2011</u></b>		
7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	14
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Conference Registration/Exhibitors' Showcase	14
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions	14
9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Opening General Session ( <i>Dr. Dan Domenech</i> )	17
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	18
12:00 noon - 1:15 p.m.	Boxed Lunch/Meet and Network with Exhibitors	20
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	20
3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions/Carousel Session	23
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	28
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Simon Youth Foundation Meeting ( <i>By invitation only.</i> )	30
<b><u>Tuesday, October 11, 2011</u></b>		
7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	31
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Conference Registration	31
7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Exhibitors' Showcase	31
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions/Carousel Session	31
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Site Visit #1 ( <i>Must be preregistered.</i> )	31
8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Site Visit #4 ( <i>Must be preregistered.</i> )	31
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Site Visits #2 and #3 ( <i>Must be preregistered.</i> )	31
9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	General Session ( <i>Dr. Debbie Silver</i> )	36
10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	36
12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Crystal Star Awards Luncheon	38
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	46
3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions/Carousel Session	48
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	NDPN Business Meeting ( <i>All are invited.</i> )	53
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Simon Youth Foundation Meeting ( <i>By invitation only.</i> )	53
<b><u>Wednesday, October 12, 2011</u></b>		
7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	55
7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Conference Registration	55
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Simon Youth Foundation Meeting ( <i>By invitation only.</i> )	55
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions	55
9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	<i>Perspectives</i> hosted by NBC5 Chicago	56
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Featured Student Group ( <i>26 Seconds presented by State Farm.</i> )	56
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Closing General Session ( <i>Dr. Stephen Sroka</i> )	56
<b>Directory of Exhibitors</b>		57
<b>Directory of Presenters</b>		61



**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**NDPN BOARD MEETING** *(By invitation only.)*

Location: Euphoria, 2nd Floor

**8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

Location: Schaumburg East Foyer

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

**STATE AT-RISK YOUTH COORDINATORS' BREAKFAST** *(Must be preregistered. Cost \$38.00)*

Location: Utopia A, 2nd Floor

**9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

**PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS**

*(Must be preregistered.)*

**PCW1. UNDERSTANDING I-KIDS**

*(Cost \$55.00, includes book)*

Location: Utopia B

Presenter: Doris Settles, DorisSettles.com,  
Lexington, KY

Participants will learn about the core constructs of Digital Citizenship, the changes in our society and world wrought with the advent of Web 2.0 (user-created content), and how each core construct provides a new context for education. Data from national and international studies on youth involvement in digital commerce, communication, content creation and sharing, global communities, and more will be discussed to guide policy and pedagogy.

**PCW2. USING SERVICE-LEARNING TO EXPAND RESEARCH AND EVALUATION ON EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAMS**

*(Cost \$45.00)*

Location: Utopia C

Presenter: Dr. Robert Shumer, University  
of Minnesota, Eagan, MN



In an era of declining resources and limited opportunities it is important to find new ways to increase the capacity of service-learning and other experiential learning programs to conduct research and evaluation. Using courses from elementary school through graduate school as a source of

student engagement in the evaluation process is a useful way to improve both the learning that accrues through evaluation and provides a new kind of service to communities and programs: evaluation. The goals of this workshop are to introduce participants to models of research and evaluation, capacity building, and help them develop a specific program/model in their own setting.

**1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS**

*(Must be preregistered.)*

**PCW3. HELPING STUDENTS GRADUATE: TOOLS AND STRATEGIES TO HELP AT-RISK LEARNERS** *(Cost \$45.00)*

Location: Utopia B

Presenter: Mr. Franklin Schargel, School Success  
Network, Albuquerque, NM

Today, almost one-third of our K-12 students never graduate. Using the 15 effective strategies developed by the National Dropout Prevention Center and tools developed as “best practices” by some of America’s outstanding schools, workshop participants will not only learn what to do but how to aid at-risk youth to graduate.

**PCW4. MOTIVATIONAL AND ADVENTURE ED: INNOVATIVE RETENTION AND RESTORATIVE PRACTICES** *(Cost \$45.00)*

Location: Utopia C

Presenter: Dr. Jacqueline Elder, Clinical Training  
Institute, Indian Head Park, IL

What can committed, thoughtful, and engaged educators do to draw out the motivation of students to help them stay in school, achieve, and graduate? One of the most innovative efforts is the use of a behavior change approach called Motivational Interviewing, which draws from students’ own minds “why” they may want to get real about their education and how they would do it. For over six years this approach coupled with Adventure Education has helped to reduce the dropout rate among at-risk students placed in in-school suspension in one Chicago high school. These evidence-based practices can help change the culture of schools and the minds of students. Workshop participants will leave with an understanding of how these inspirational approaches can help nurture success. Come prepared to be engaged, laugh, augment your skills, discover new approaches, reflect, share, and begin to take action.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2011**

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

**NILES WEST STRING ENSEMBLE**

Mr. Steven Katz, Director

Location: Schaumburg East Foyer

Special entertainment will be provided by the Niles West String Ensemble, Niles West High School in Skokie, IL.

**4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**RECEPTION/EXHIBITORS' SHOWCASE**

Location: Schaumburg East

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

**LINCOLN PARK CHAMBER SINGERS**

Mr. Timothy Cooper, Director

Location: Schaumburg East

Special entertainment will be provided at the Reception/Exhibitor's Showcase by the Lincoln Park Chamber Singers, Lincoln Park High School, Chicago, IL.

**6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION MEETING**

*(By invitation only.)*

Location: Utopia D



**Picture what they can become.™**

We can...at McGraw-Hill Education's Center for Comprehensive School Improvement.

Every year, about 1.2 million U.S. students drop out of high school before graduating, and most face extremely limited odds of landing a good-paying job in today's highly competitive marketplace. The experts in McGraw-Hill's Center for Comprehensive School Improvement (CCSI) provide a hands-on approach to turning around failing schools and providing students with the 21st century skills they need to compete and succeed in the global economy.

The Center for Comprehensive School Improvement was established to partner with states and school districts and help them address their greatest challenges. The center's experts work with districts to develop flexible solutions that enhance curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional development, district governance and the use of digital and data-driven teaching and learning tools.

To learn more about how McGraw-Hill Education is helping states and school districts, visit [www.mcgrawhillccsi.com](http://www.mcgrawhillccsi.com)



**7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.**

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST/NETWORKING WITH THE EXHIBITORS**

Location: Schaumburg East

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

**REGISTRATION**

Location: Schaumburg East Foyer

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

**EXHIBIT HALL OPEN**

Location: Schaumburg East

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

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

*(Participants choose one.)*

**PEER GROUP CONNECTION (PGC): AN EVIDENCE-BASED GROUP MENTORING MODEL THAT IMPROVES STUDENT GRADUATION RATES**

Strand: Leadership

Location: Nirvana A

Presenter: Ms. Laura Rothschild, Princeton Center for Leadership Training, Princeton, NJ

PGC is a peer-led, group mentoring initiative that supports students during the critical transition from middle to high school. This seminar will describe the evidence-based, school-based model and discuss the longitudinal, randomized control study demonstrating PGC's effectiveness in increasing graduation rates and positively impacting other student behaviors.

**ENGAGEMENT AND CONNECTEDNESS: ENHANCING STUDENT OUTCOMES THROUGH TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Strand: School Culture

Location: Nirvana B

Presenters: Mr. Paul Snyder, Ms. Elizabeth Hagen, and Ms. Pamela Moore, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

The Minnesota Partnership for School Connectedness is a yearlong professional development model that enhances middle school teachers' ability to connect with students and engage them in learning. Key components of the initiative, student engagement and connectedness outcomes, and teachers' evaluation of this unique learning experience will be presented.

**BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

Strand: Community Partnerships

Location: Nirvana C

Presenters: Mr. Al Sorichetti, Mr. Vincent Litrenta, Ms. Loretta Crea, and Mr. Mark Amorosi, Sunrise of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Our presentation will demonstrate how a diverse group of community-based nonprofits can form a collaborative and work together to improve the lives of the youth of our community through economic, educational, and social activities and projects.

**ENGAGE EARLY TO CREATE GRADUATES LATER**

Strand: Family Involvement

Location: Schaumburg E

Presenter: Ms. Mary Durel, The Parent-Child Home Program, Garden City, NY

This session will identify, discuss, and demonstrate challenges and successful approaches to engaging and retaining at-risk families as essential partners in preparing their children for school success. This proven, practical, and enjoyable strategy supports parent-child interaction; retains families at a national rate of 80-85%; and closes the achievement gap.

**UNDERSTANDING THE AVAILABILITY AND SUPPORTING THE GROWTH OF DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN A GEOGRAPHIC AREA: THE TUTOR/MENTOR CONNECTION MODEL**

Strand: Leadership

Location: Schaumburg F

Presenter: Mr. Daniel Bassill, Tutor/Mentor Connection, Park Ridge, IL

Since 1993 the Tutor/Mentor Connection has been building a map-based information system intended to support the growth of volunteer-based tutor/mentor programs in Chicago. Learn how this works and how it might be applied in other cities.

**USING THE CORRELATES OF EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS TO ENERGIZE YOUR SCHOOL CULTURE**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Schaumburg G  
Presenter: Dr. Benjamin Edmondson, Ann Arbor Public Schools, Ypsilanti, MI

The Correlates of Effective Schools research of Dr. Ron Edmonds and Dr. Larry Lezotte provide the “blueprint” for at-risk schools to successfully create a culture of achievement. The presenter will identify the seven correlates and demonstrate how to incorporate them into your own school environment.

**IMPLEMENTING A HIGH QUALITY AND EFFECTIVE SUMMER TRANSITION PROGRAM FOR RISING NINTH GRADERS: JUMPSTART TO SUCCESS**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Schaumburg H  
Presenters: Ms. Isolda Antonio, Mr. Jarod Scott, and Dr. Simone Peart Boyce, Atlanta Public Schools, GA

This interactive session will provide participants with multiple components and effective strategies on implementing a high quality summer transition program. Participants will be guided through a creative step-by-step model of a cost-effective, engaging, and meaningful educational program. This session promises to supply participants with the necessary tools to successfully implement a program designed to set high academic expectations, foster school pride and traditions, and create networks between students and the school community in efforts to prepare students to be successful in high school and beyond.

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS IN THE MIDWEST REGION**

Strand: Family Involvement  
Location: Connection  
Presenters: Mrs. Sheila Rodriguez and Mr. Matthew Burke, American Institutes for Research, Chicago, IL

REL Midwest conducted a content analysis of school improvement plans for schools identified for improvement based upon 2007-2008 data in the Midwest region to examine the reported plans for parent involvement activities and extended learning programs. This presentation will focus on what the research demonstrates about effective parent involvement and provide results of this study. Where applicable, REL Midwest staff will also discuss the Midwest Atlas project in which parental data including mother’s education level are presented geographically alongside high school dropout rates.

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

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Euphoria  
Presenter: Dr. Willie Kimmons, Save Children Save Schools, Inc., Daytona Beach, FL

This presentation will address the learning block of community partnerships and collaborations.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**24th Annual  
At-Risk Youth National FORUM**  
February 19-22, 2012  
Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation  
Myrtle Beach, SC



**24th Annual  
National Dropout Prevention  
Network Conference**  
October 14-17, 2012  
Rosen Plaza Hotel  
Orlando, FL

**8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

**A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF ONE HIGH SCHOOL'S IMPLEMENTATION OF A SELF-CONTAINED CLASSROOM AS A DROPOUT PREVENTION STRATEGY**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Imagination  
Presenter: Dr. Don Beck, Goose Creek CISD, Baytown, TX

This qualitative research study used narrative inquiry to investigate aspects of a self-contained high school classroom that made the students successful while they were in this class. The purpose of this study was to investigate the experiences of seven students enrolled in a self-contained classroom as a dropout prevention strategy. All seven of these students were considered at risk as defined by the Texas Education Agency.

**STOP! IS RIGOR, RELEVANCE, AND RELATIONSHIP AT RISK?**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Knowledge  
Presenters: Ms. Krystal Combs and Ms. Kim Harrison, Wilderness Trail Educational Cooperative, Richmond, KY

In order to prepare students for the “Big Engagement” of postsecondary life whether it be college and/or career, we must take inventory of the “Engagement” in the classroom setting. Research is clear, educators need to incorporate systematic strategies that facilitate student engagement. Students can develop the academic and behavioral skills that lead to increased academic achievement and greater involvement with school life leading to success in postsecondary education. Two education consultants will be co-presenting and sharing some of the most effective and simple to implement instructional strategies into the classroom that have been shown to increase student engagement leading to better academic and behavioral success.

**SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERS PROGRAM: RETHINKING THE WAY WE DO SCHOOL FOR OVERAGE 8TH GRADERS**

Strand: Reenrolling Dropouts  
Location: Utopia B  
Presenter: Mr. David Udovich, San Antonio ISD, San Antonio, TX

This session will provide a roadmap from vision to implementation of an innovative, student-centric blended learning environment designed to address the academic, behavioral, and social needs of overage eighth graders with the goal of junior status within two years. Participants will walk away with a 21st century learning model focused on leadership, academic integrity, professional development, and accountability resulting in research-based outcomes.

**GRADUATEFIRST: THE DROPOUT PREVENTION DESTINATION**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Utopia D  
Presenters: Dr. Laura Brown and Mr. Jeremy Williams, Pioneer RESA, Cleveland, GA

Georgia’s GraduateFIRST initiative is designed to help students with disabilities and other struggling students stay in school and graduate. This session will focus on the instructional practices, strategies, resources, and examples from the 150 middle and high schools involved in this five-year project. Engaging the 4,000 students, families, schools, and communities has been a common theme. Results, best practices, and lessons learned will be shared.

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

**TRANSITION**



## MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2011

**9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

*(All are invited to attend.)*

### **OPENING GENERAL SESSION**

Location: Schaumburg West, A-D

#### **Welcome to Chicago**

Dr. Robert Daiber, President, Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools, Edwardsville, IL

#### **Greetings From**

Mr. Al Larson, Village President, Schaumburg, IL

#### **Remarks/Introductions**

Dr. Sam Drew, Interim Executive Director, National Dropout Prevention Center, Clemson, SC

#### **25th NDPC/N Anniversary Video**

#### **Conference Remarks**

Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, DuPage County Regional Superintendent, Wheaton, IL

#### **Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

Mr. Arthur Griffin, Vice President, Urban Advisory Resource School Education Group, McGraw-Hill Companies, New York, NY

#### **Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Daniel Domenech, Executive Director, American Association of School Administrators, Arlington, VA

### **DROPOUT PREVENTION: A TRANSFORMATIONAL APPROACH**

In spite of significant efforts to reduce the dropout rate, it still hovers at unacceptable levels, particularly for our African-American and Latino students. The economic recession has resulted in unprecedented school budget cuts that have resulted in the elimination of many programs designed to keep our children in school. It is time to consider the transformational changes that will allow the realization of President Obama's goal "that every student graduates from high school well prepared for college and a career."

#### **Closing Remarks**

Dr. Kay Pangle, Regional Superintendent, I-KAN Regional Office of Education, Kankakee, IL

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

### **TRANSITION/BREAK**

Location: Schaumburg East

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

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

*(Participants choose one.)*

**SOLUTIONS WITHOUT BORDERS: THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Nirvana A  
Presenter: Mr. Billy Marsh, Communities In Schools of Lincoln County, Lincolnton, NC

The problems facing the 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.

**INVOLVING PARENTS, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN CREATING A POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Nirvana B  
Presenter: Ms. Pat Davenport, Families and Schools Together Inc., Madison, WI

This workshop focuses on how a model program can create a positive and supportive school climate by bringing parents, schools, and community agencies together. Participants will learn how to enhance efforts to improve the school environment and sense of community belonging.

**TEACHERS AND STUDENTS SHARING A COMMON VISION OF SUCCESS**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Nirvana C  
Presenters: Dr. Judith Ann Pauley and Mr. Joseph Pauley, Process Communications, Inc, Potomac, MD

Seventh-grade students in an alternative school were infamous for their negative behaviors and poor academics. Their teacher taught them the concepts of Process Communication and helped them get their motivational needs met. Thirty out of 31 improved their grades, stopped their negative behavior, or both. One student, about to be expelled for fighting, stopped. Learn how you can improve the academic achievement and behavior of every student using these research-based and internationally acclaimed concepts.

**COLLEGE MENTORS: ADDRESSING THE SITUATIONS, ENVIRONMENTS, AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF URBAN YOUTH**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Schaumburg E  
Presenters: Dr. Eurmon Hervey and Mr. Darren Gardner, Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, FL; and Dr. Randy Nelson, 21st Century Research and Evaluations, Tallahassee, FL

This session will highlight the work of a project in Jacksonville, FL, which pairs college students with juvenile youth in residential facilities prior to and after release. College mentors, chosen because they come from the same situations, environments, and circumstances, provide direct support to reintegrating juveniles. The college works as an education broker to ensure that juveniles are linked to appropriate agencies which provide education and workforce training.

**FILLING THE GAPS IN STUDENTS' ABILITY TO LEARN: BUILDING COGNITIVE CAPACITY**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Schaumburg F  
Presenter: Ms. Betsy Hill, Learning Enhancement Corporation, Chicago, IL

Many students, especially those from low socioeconomic backgrounds, drop out of school because they can't do the work, often due to deficits in cognitive functioning. New understandings from brain research and new technology provide the tools to enable all students to be successful learners and give them a chance to show up for their futures.

**HELPING TRUANT STUDENTS IMPROVE SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Schaumburg G  
Presenters: Dr Bobbi Mattingly, Ms. Beth Hansel, Ms. Nancy Holzrichter, Mr. Chuck Lowell, and Mrs. Becky Parker, ROE #11 Youth Services, Charleston, IL

The ROE #11 Truancy Intervention Program provides services that model differentiated instruction. Each attendance specialist designs interventions for their truant students that will improve their attendance, their attitude towards school, and their achievement in the classroom. The presenters will share some examples of their differentiated approaches and data-based evidence that these approaches are working.

**TEAM LEADERSHIP FOR DUMMIES**

Strand: Leadership  
Location: Schaumburg H  
Presenters: Ms. Julie Wollerman and Ms. Laura Benhoff, ROE #3, Vandalia, IL

Team leadership is essential for the continued success of any program—especially a dropout prevention program. Are you feeling burnt out and tired? Is your team not responding to your leadership skills? Maybe it's time to step back, breathe deep, and chuckle at the different lessons of leadership. This session will do exactly that while still showcasing those necessary leadership skills to lead your team to success.

**CHAT—CLASSROOM HARMONY  
ACHIEVED TODAY**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Connection  
Presenter: Mrs. Susan Bishop, Eenie Meanie Me, Olney, IL

CHAT is a copyrighted proactive bully prevention program designed by the author, Susie Bishop. CHAT is an exciting way to teach character development and conflict resolution. CHAT pairs balanced and restorative justice methods with aggression replacement techniques in dealing with issues such as bullying, teasing, truancy, and dropping out. CHAT empowers children to problem solve and enables them to be empathetic.

**BUILDING THE K-12 PIPELINE FOR  
COLLEGE, CAREER, AND LIFE READINESS**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Euphoria  
Presenter: Mr. John Balentine, Arizona Department of Education, Phoenix, AZ

In this session, the Arizona Department of Education will share with participants resources developed from collaboration between Early Childhood, K-12 Literacy, and Academic Achievement. These resources are designed to show the critical steps needed at each grade level in order for students to be college, career, and life ready. Participants will explore the many different ways these resources can be used to fit the needs and interests of their own students.

**BLENDED LEARNING IN A DROPOUT  
RECOVERY MODEL: SIATECH CHARTER  
HIGH SCHOOLS AND “REAL LEARNING  
FOR REAL LIFE”**

Strand: Reenrolling Dropouts  
Location: Imagination  
Presenters: Dr. Linda Dawson, Mr. Kevin Pressley, and Ms. Diane Fairchild, SIATech, Inc., Oceanside, CA

A national network of public charter high schools has leveraged inspired teachers; state-of-the-art technology; and time to seek out, to recover, and graduate more than 10,000 former dropouts. Come learn how leveraging and extending the traditional timeframe for education delivery and virtual learning can motivate former dropouts to reengage, transform, and graduate from high school.

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT: UTILIZING  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR EFFECTIVE AND  
PRODUCTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THE  
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROCESS**

Strand: Family Involvement  
Location: Knowledge  
Presenter: Ms. Debbie Constable, San Antonio Special Programs Co-op, San Antonio, TX

Join us to look at areas where parent involvement is already built into the educational process. More than newsletters and phone calls, opportunities for parent participation are found in the special education process, from initial identification through transition to postsecondary life.

**DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION AND  
INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, A GUIDE TO INNOVA-  
TIVE SCHOOL DESIGN AND EVALUATION**

Strand: Leadership  
Location: Utopia B  
Presenters: Mr. Drew Hinds, Oregon Department of Education, Salem, OR; and Mr. Chet Edwards, Education Options, Portland, OR

The presenters will share a step-by-step guide to designing and evaluating innovative schools with descriptions of effective programs for credit recovery and dropout prevention. The guide may be used to think “outside the box” about what schools could be and how they can support students as they progress toward a diploma.



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

**USING A GROWTH MODEL TO PAIR TEACHERS WITH STRUGGLING STUDENTS**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Utopia D  
Presenters: Mr. Jeremy Williams, Dr. Sandy Addis,  
and Mr. Michael Catledge, Pioneer RESA,  
Cleveland, GA

Learn how the Insight Growth Model is being used as an accountability and school improvement tool to serve all populations of students. This session will focus on using subject and teacher-specific results to pair teacher strengths with struggling populations. With more than five years of implementation, the Insight Growth Model has transformed academic growth of at-risk populations, including students with disabilities.

**SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL APPROACHES FOR INCREASING AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND LATINO PARENTS**

Strand: Family Involvement  
Location: Schaumburg West  
Presenters: Dr. Lourdes Ferrer and Mr. Stephen Garlington, DuPage County Regional Office of Education, Wheaton, IL

Parents really do matter! We all know that parental involvement is one of the leading indicators of students' academic achievement. Statistics indicate that African-American and Latino students significantly underachieve in their core academic subjects and are more likely to be suspended, expelled, become truant, and drop out. This seminar promises participants an in-depth understanding of the African-American and Latino families' dynamics that can undermine their children's ability to successfully complete their education. You will receive a series of strategies to help parents better understand their roles, overcome challenges, and monitor their kids' education. We promise you that our presentation will be entertaining and interactive; that we will "keep it real" and it will make sense.

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

**LUNCH/NETWORKING**

Location: Schaumburg East

Boxed lunches will be served in the Exhibit Hall. Meet the exhibitors and network with fellow participants.

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

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

*(Participants choose one.)*

**25 FREE BRAIN-BASED STRATEGIES TO HELP YOU REACH AND TEACH**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Nirvana A  
Presenter: Dr. Stephen Sroka, Health Education Consultants, Cleveland, OH

This workshop will deal with the barriers that hamper effective education and offer 25 strategies, based on research and reality, to help you help students learn more and live better.

**IT'S TIME TO END THE PLAGUE OF SCHOOL DROPOUTS ONCE AND FOR ALL**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Nirvana B  
Presenter: Mr. Franklin Schargel, School Success Network, Albuquerque, NM

Improving graduation rates is the ultimate achievement of successful school systems. Yet the demands of NCLB and increased state standards inevitably increase the likelihood of children leaving school prior to graduation. Today over 30% of our K-12 students never graduate, and minorities suffer a 50% or lower graduation rate. Using the 15 Effective Strategies developed by the National Dropout Prevention Center, as well as tools developed as "best practices" by some of America's outstanding schools and programs, workshop participants will not only learn what to do but how to aid at-risk youth to graduate.

**STRATEGIES TO HELP STUDENTS OVERCOME NEGATIVE PEER INTERACTION**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Nirvana C  
Presenter: Mr. Christian Moore, The WhyTry Organization, Provo, UT

The presentation provides the audience with tools to help youth answer, "Why try in life?"

**LOOKING AT THE BIG PICTURE OF TRUANCY**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Schaumburg E  
Presenters: Dr. Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant and Ms. Delfina Contreras, Will County Regional Office of Education, New Lenox, IL

When teaching, educators need to address the big picture before teaching the smaller parts. With at-risk students you need to look at their individual world to understand their big picture. This workshop will address how to develop consistent school attendance policies, connect with at-risk students, focus on early intervention, and offer strategies to motivate the at-risk learner.

**MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING: AN INNOVATIVE RETENTION AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRACTICE THAT WORKS**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Schaumburg F  
Presenter: Dr. Richard Rutschman, Chicago Teachers' Center/Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL

This session discusses an innovative behavior change approach called Motivational Interviewing. It draws from students' own minds "why" they may want to get real about their education and how they would do it. For over six years this approach, coupled with Adventure Education, has helped to reduce the dropout rate among at-risk students placed in in-school suspension in one Chicago high school. This evidence-based practice can help change the culture of schools and the minds of students. Come prepared to be engaged, laugh, think, begin to gain skills, and figure out how to use this in your school.

**HOPE HIGHWAY**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Schaumburg G  
Presenter: Mrs. Dana Richards, Flint Community Schools, Flint, MI

Do you want to experience what it is like in a typical American high school in 2011? I invite you to participate in Hope Highway which is a board game that allows adult/youth development workers, teachers, counselors, principals, and other interested individuals to experience

high school from the perspective of the student. Participants will choose a "student avatar" game piece and roll the die to attempt to graduate from high school before the game ends. Hoping to graduate, see how many of you can successfully navigate the potholes and dead ends in this Highway we call High School.

**CREATING A CULTURE OF ACTION**

Strand: Funding Issues  
Location: Schaumburg H  
Presenters: Mr. Jack O'Connell, Ms. Marie Totten, and Ms. Symia Stigler, School Innovations & Advocacy, Rancho Cordova, CA; and Ms. Nancy Diaz-Miller, Santa Ana Unified School District, Rancho Cordova, CA

Santa Ana USD has made significant strides in improving attendance at their schools. We will discuss how to Create A Culture of Action regarding attendance and parental involvement. The major steps absolutely critical to creating this change are: site involvement, a focus on actionable data, systematic process to tackle attendance efforts, concentrating on what is really important, and engaging parents. This workshop brings together a panel of experts in attendance and fiscal management and school districts who are creating a culture of action for attendance.

**BUILDING A MORE CIVIL SOCIETY: DUPAGE COUNTY ANTI-BULLYING INITIATIVE**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Connection  
Presenters: Dr. Darlene Ruscitti and Ms. Mary Ellen Young, DuPage Regional Office of Education, Wheaton, IL

Learn how to utilize a comprehensive, school improvement framework for effective bullying prevention emphasizing school climate and the social emotional learning standards. A model bullying policy, bullying protocol, and state and federal legal requirements will be discussed. Bullying is a serious problem in schools that negatively affects student achievement.

**1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**DROPOUT PREVENTION THROUGH EXHILARATING ENGAGEMENT IN STEM THROUGH AFTER-SCHOOL, BUSINESS, AND COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOL COLLABORATION**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Euphoria  
Presenters: Mrs. Nancy Volpe, CVS Caremark, Overland Park, KS; Ms. Malissa Martin, Community In Schools, State of Kansas, Lawrence, KS; and Mr. Michael Lemon and Dr. Marcia Dvorak, Kansas Enrichment Network, Lawrence, KS

Capture student interest and actively involve them through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Peek their curiosity, arouse civic responsibility through a service-learning STEM project while solving a community issue. Provide wraparound services to remove interferences. Partner with CVS Caremark in an education/business initiative. Develop a statewide system to support success. It's a win-win, but it takes everyone!

**MCKINNEY-VENTO PROGRAMS: WHAT IS THIS PROGRAM AND WHAT CAN IT DO TO HELP OUR STUDENTS?**

Strand: Leadership  
Location: Imagination  
Presenters: Mrs. Eileen Worthington, Regional Office of Education #26 - Hancock/McDonough, Macomb, IL; Mr. Jim Moberly, Regional Office of Education #32, Kankakee, IL; and Ms. Mickey Sullivan, Regional Office of Education #21, Marion, IL

Attendees will acquire a working knowledge of the federal McKinney-Vento Act that will assist them in implementing policies and procedures to ensure district compliance. Discussion will include the challenges of identifying this very at-risk population while developing and implementing strategies and techniques within the confines of the classroom.

**THE ROLE OF FAMILY IN THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN**

Strand: Family Involvement  
Location: Knowledge  
Presenter: Dr. Willie Kimmons, Save Children Save Schools, Inc., Daytona Beach, FL

This presentation will explore best practices that shape our future leaders with practical suggestions, strategies, and recommendations to assist families in rearing children. Family members determine the life path a child will take. The attitudes, environment, experiences, and family values help influence how the child will view life.

**THE USE OF VIRTUAL MENTOR/COACHING AND TIME AND PLACE MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY TO COMBAT TRUANCY**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Utopia B  
Presenter: Mr. Peter Gudmundsson, Dropout & Truancy Prevention Network, Dallas, TX

The session will present the assumptions and operating parameters which underpin successful virtual mentoring and technology applications that successfully keep kids in school.

**STREET GANG EDUCATION FOR THE SCHOOL EDUCATOR AND STAFF**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Utopia D  
Presenter: SGT Dale Novarro, Lake County Sheriff's Department, Waukegan, IL

This course will provide crucial and accurate information regarding street gangs identification, gang violence, recruitment methods and manipulation, gang graffiti, and gang tattoos. The course will also cover the signs that a student might be involved in gang activity and the dos and don'ts when communicating with a gang member. A handout will be provided.

**SUCCESSFUL APPROACHES FOR REDUCING AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDENTS' DROPOUT RATES**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Schaumburg West  
Presenters: Dr. Lourdes Ferrer and Mr. Stephen Garlington, DuPage County Regional Office of Education, Wheaton, IL

We must realize that dropping out of school is not just an event. It is the student's "tipping point" or "the straw that broke the camel's back." Statistics indicate that African American and Latino students not only underachieve academically but are more likely to face disciplinary actions in school. Too many of these students drop out and some of them never "drop in." This seminar will explore the "African American Split" and the "Hispanic Family Divide" as underlying cultural dynamics that could deter students from achieving academic success. We will discuss a series of strategies to help students overcome challenges and embrace education as the conduit for a quality life, hence the American Dream. We promise you that our presentation will be entertaining and interactive; that we will "keep it real" and it will make sense.

**3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**

**TRANSITION/BREAK**

Location: Schaumburg East

**NOTE:** During the time period of 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. participants have a choice of formats:

- (1) Choose one Concurrent Session.
- OR**
- (2) Choose the Carousel Session and attend two roundtable discussions.

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

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

*(Participants choose one.)*

**LEADING TO SOLVE THE DROPOUT CRISIS: WHAT DO SCHOOL LEADERS NEED TO KNOW?**

Strand: Leadership  
Location: Nirvana A  
Presenter: Dr. Bernard Oliver, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

This session focuses on skills and knowledge that school leaders should know outside of the standards and knowledge found in state/professional standards and preparation programs.

**SHARING YOUR SUCCESS: HOW TO USE THE MASS MEDIA AS A FORCE MULTIPLIER FOR DROPOUT PREVENTION AND RECOVERY**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Nirvana B  
Presenter: Mr. Matthew LaPlante, NoDropouts.org, Salt Lake City, UT

Matthew LaPlante, assistant professor of journalism and communication at Utah State University and the editor of NoDropouts.org, will present on the importance of effective communication across media platforms to galvanize the community support that is essential to successful dropout prevention and recovery programs.

**COBBLER 2 COBBLER/PEER-TO-PEER: A PEER MENTORING PROGRAM THAT BUILDS SCHOOL CONNECTEDNESS AND INVOLVEMENT WHILE REDUCING MALADAPTIVE BEHAVIORS**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Nirvana C  
Presenters: Mr. Tim McGowan, Ms. Jessica Kanta, and Ms. Jenny Griffin, Rapid City Central High School, Rapid City, SD

This session will highlight and discuss a peer-to-peer mentoring program that matches underclassmen with upperclassmen. Research of this program showed an increase in school connectedness, in naming of trusted adults while reducing maladaptive decision making, and decreased the suicide rate among teens in Rapid City.

**DROPOUT PREVENTION "CAFÉ"**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Schaumburg E  
Presenters: Ms. Lisa Cech, Boulder Valley Schools, Lafayette, CO; and Ms. Denise Licata, Ms. Susan Montoya, Mr. Mike Medina, and Mr. Mike Lowe, Angevine Middle School, Lafayette, CO

In this session, you will receive a menu of research-based tiered strategies aimed at connecting students to school and keeping them in school. Based on the popular "world café protocol," your presenters will serve up the recipe Angevine Middle School used to impact its attendance and dropout data.

**3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

**EXAMINING THE IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Schaumburg F  
Presenters: Dr. Eva Gut and Dr. John McLaughlin, Educational Services of America, Sioux Falls, SD; and Dr. Robert Brown, Hart County High School, Hartwell, GA

Three studies examined the impact a private alternative education program had on over 200 national partnering districts. The results identified increased graduation rates and decreased behavioral problems while utilizing the program, and increased dropout rates after the program was eliminated. Presenters include alternative education researchers and public school administrators.

**EVERYBODY GRADUATES!**

Strand: Leadership  
Location: Schaumburg G  
Presenters: Mr. Ralph Thibodeaux and Ms. Mary Gugich, Louisiana Department of Education, Baton Rouge, LA

The purpose of Everybody Graduates! is to assist the state in reaching its goals by encouraging and supporting Louisiana public schools in using their data collection system to identify at-risk students and to provide interventions to assure that more students receive an on-time promotion to the next grade so that they ultimately graduate with their ninth grade cohorts.

**MAKING YEAR-TO-YEAR GAINS IN LITERACY IN ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Schaumburg H  
Presenter: Ms. Jocelyn Bigay-Salter, Portland Public Schools, Portland, OR

This session will discuss specific research-based solutions implemented that improved year-to-year literacy rates of alternative high school students whom were two or more grade levels behind. The school experienced four-year gains two years in a row with alternative high school students who were reading at fourth- and fifth-grade levels. The presentation will discuss challenges faced in implementing cross curricular literacy instruction as well as how student buy-in was achieved.

**AN ARENA FOR SUCCESS: CREATING CHANGE FOR AT-RISK YOUTH UTILIZING EQUINE-ASSISTED COUNSELING**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Connection  
Presenter: Dr. Sandra Kakacek, Kane County Regional Office of Education, Geneva, IL

Equine-Assisted Counseling (EAC) is a relatively new experientially-based treatment. EAC incorporates a solution-focused approach that requires clients to carry out semistructured activities involving horses. EAC is currently used in Kane County with incarcerated youth as they prepare to reenter the community. This workshop provides an overview of the key constructs, practice identifying metaphorical properties, and current research.

**DEVELOPING A COMMUNICATION PLAN FOR HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT PREVENTION**

Strand: Leadership  
Location: Euphoria  
Presenter: Dr. Amy Beaudreault, McKinley Group, Vienna, VA

This session will provide attendees the tools and resources to develop and implement a communication plan to educate diverse audiences about high school dropout prevention programming at the state, district, and school levels. The role of the communication plan is to gain stakeholder support in the initiative, create and prioritize program objectives, identify audiences and tactics, and design evaluation methods.

**HOW TO DESIGN POWERPOINT LESSONS THAT DON'T LOOK LIKE POWERPOINT**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Imagination  
Presenters: Ms. Stephanie Greathouse and Ms. Donna Harlow, JCPSchool, Louisville, KY

In this session you will learn how to take PowerPoint and design lessons that don't resemble anything you have seen before in PowerPoint. These lessons or designs mimic Web sites, games, and other engaging media seen on the Internet. You don't need Flash or any other authoring tool, just some creative thinking. These kinds of lessons engage all students and follow nonlinear learning styles which have been shown to be very successful in student retention of knowledge.



**STAR STUDENTS BACK ON TRACK FOR ON-TIME GRADUATION**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Knowledge  
Presenters: Dr. Kimberly McLaren, Berkely High School; and Mr. Olin Eric Gambrell, Berkeley Star Academy, Moncks Corner, SC

The Berkeley Star Academy Program provides potential dropout students (who are at least one year behind their peers) the opportunity to complete eighth and ninth grade in one school year. The program includes core curriculum, services, and strategies provided by Pitsco Education and the Star Academy Program to reengage students in school. Thirty percent of the first cohort of students have already earned college credits through Berkeley County's Middle College High School. During the program's three years of operation, 85% of the credits attempted have been earned and students' attendance and behavior have drastically improved and overall discipline issues have been reduced. Come discuss how the program can help you!

**DOLLARS AND GOOD SENSE: PREVENTING DROPOUTS THROUGH SUCCESS IN READING**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Utopia B  
Presenters: Mr. John Berry, Post High School, Post, TX; and Dr. Dee Tadlock, Read Right Systems, Shelton, WA

John Berry, high school principal, has prevented FTE loss for Post ISD by reducing the dropout rate in his school to zero. In addition, last school year, 100% of the seniors passed the state-mandated test required for graduation. How is this possible? Learn how a bold, innovative reading intervention program was the catalyst for academic success for his students.

**IMPROVING THE GRADUATION RATE THROUGH VIRTUAL LEARNING**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Utopia D  
Presenter: Mrs. Kelly Ray, East Wake High School in the Wake County Public School System, Wendell, NC

The objective of this session is to examine how teachers can utilize technology to help students succeed in course work and graduate from high school.

Participants will view six semesters of student data by subject, pass rate, dropout rate, and graduation rate; understand the student selection process; catch a glimpse of a day in the life of a Virtual Learning Coordinator and discuss best practices used to keep the at-risk students motivated; work as a student in the Virtual Learning Program; and gain knowledge of each course offered through the Virtual Learning Program and how each course can be modified for localized standard course of study.

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

**CAROUSEL SESSION**

*Schaumburg West, A-D, is the location of the carousel session. A number and title will be posted at each table. Each participant will choose a table and be seated. The carousel facilitator will give instructions. A bell will ring to signal the start of Round One and each presenter will make a 30-minute presentation. After 30 minutes, a bell will signal the end of Round One. There will be an approximate three-minute transitional time for participants to move to another table. A bell will signal the beginning of Round Two.*

**SHORT-TERM OPTION PROGRAM (STOP)**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Table 1  
Presenter: Dr. Robert Daiber, Regional Office of Education, Edwardsville, IL

The STOP Program is designed to keep suspended students in school. Students have an opportunity to make up daily work pertaining to the student's daily class schedule. Students also have an opportunity to reflect upon the cause of their suspension and how they might better handle decisions in the future. Parents benefit as their child is in a school setting during the time of the suspension.

**WE'RE KEEPING TABS ON TRUANTS**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Table 2  
Presenter: Ms. Kenyatta Sinclair, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee, WI

During the Truancy Abatement Burglary Suppression (TABS) session, participants will receive the history and overview of the program. The presenter will share program goals, activities, and data that aid our school district in reducing truancy, promoting good attendance, and ultimately preventing dropout.

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

**BRIDGING THE GAP: COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION IN BOSTON**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Table 3  
Presenters: Mr. Roger Oser and Ms. Melissa Sanjeh, Action for Boston Community Development Inc., Boston, MA; and Mr. Ajay Trivedi, EDCO Youth Alternative High School, Boston, MA

Based on a research paper produced by Action for Boston Community Development in 2009, the session will review community-based alternative education programs in Boston, specifically those that enroll at-risk students who struggle in traditional settings. School structure, funding, curricula, and outcomes will be discussed, with particular attention given to partnership between alternative and local public schools.

**IT TAKES A COUNTY TO SAVE A DROPOUT**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Table 4  
Presenters: Mr. Ot Schroeder, State Farm, Warsaw, IN; and Ms. Anne Rackley, Kosciusko County Educational Development, Warsaw, IN

Kosciusko County Educational Development (KCED) is a multidisciplinary team of educators and community professionals who raised funds to begin a K-8 mentoring program and to hire high school Graduation Coaches for its three area high schools. During their pilot year, they encouraged 77 seniors to earn their diplomas, thus raising the county's graduation rate.

**INTRO TO THE CALM CLASSROOM: SIMPLE STRATEGIES THAT TEACH STUDENTS SELF-AWARENESS, MENTAL FOCUS, AND INNER CALM**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Table 5  
Presenters: Mr. Jai Luster and Ms. Jori Griffith, Luster Learning Institute, NFP, Highland Park, IL

Participants are introduced to the "Calm Classroom" techniques and receive direct benefits. Schools in Chicago using these techniques experienced a 50%-60% decline in office referrals, all levels of student violations, and bullying.

**LEARN FIVE PROVEN STEPS FOR SUCCESS**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Table 6  
Presenter: Mr. Jay Musarra, McDowell High School, Erie, PA

This presentation will feature how Millcreek School District in Pennsylvania implemented small learning communities within the existing high school without adding teachers or increasing the budget. Our 97% graduation rate is proof of the success. This session addresses effective strategies for teachers and administrators to increase the number of students graduating from high school and decreasing the number of dropouts. Learn the five easy steps to keep at-risk students in your school and on the path to success.

**PALS (PARTNERSHIP AND ACHIEVEMENT LEAD TO SUCCESS) AND CATS (CHALLENGING ALL TO SUCCEED)**

Strand: Family Involvement  
Location: Table 7  
Presenters: Mrs. Sheryl Gray, Ms. Michelle Handler, and Dr. Randy Luce, Gurnee District 56, Gurnee, IL; and Ms. Tiffany Drake, Woodland District 50, Gurnee, IL

At this session, participants will learn how to encourage and assist parents of at-risk children with educating, developing, and focusing their child to achieve success in school and in life; provide parents and their children with a forum where they can express their concerns, ask questions, and receive support and solutions to challenges they face in parenting their child on a daily basis; and offer fun and creative activities to capture the interest of and motivate students and parents to remain active throughout the year.

**PUBLISHING THROUGH THE NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CENTER/NETWORK**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Table 8  
Presenters: Dr. Rebecca Robles-Piña, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX; Dr. Jane Clark Lindle, Clemson University, Clemson, SC; and Mrs. Marty Duckenfield, National Dropout Prevention Center, Clemson, SC

The purpose of this presentation is to present three publishing options available to those authors interested in publishing their scholarly work. The National Dropout

Prevention Center/Network offers the following options for publication—*The Journal of At-Risk Issues*, *The International Journal of School Disaffection*, and the *NDPC/N Newsletter*. Presenters will share requirements for publication as well as examples of recent publications.

**CRIME FIGHTING THROUGH SCHOOL**

Strand: Reenrolling Dropouts  
Location: Table 9  
Presenters: Ms. Carleen Schnitker, Ms. Kat Armstrong, and Ms. Hillary Thompson, Nampa School District, Nampa, ID

Come learn about a program for students to attend school who are suspended or expelled (6-12). The focus is on behavior interventions for students, identifying issues, creating connections, and helping them create goals for their future. This program has reduced crime in our area and significantly reduced recidivism for behaviors.

**EVANSVILLE VANDERBURGH SCHOOL CORPORATION TEACHES 1:1 IN BOTH BLENDED AND VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTS**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Table 10  
Presenters: Mr. Jason Bailey and Ms. Janet Leistner, Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corp., Evansville, IN

Having the freedom to be in charge of their learning and experiencing success are compelling reasons for students to stay motivated, leading to even further engagement and achievement. The result is often higher levels of performance than previously demonstrated. Learn how EVSC is using the 1:1 computer initiative combined with online curriculum to personalize learning for each student through both a blended and virtual environment.

**WELCOME! THANKS FOR DROPPING IN!**

Strand: Reenrolling Dropouts  
Location: Table 11  
Presenters: Mrs. Marianne Feeney and Dr. Beth Teigen, Chesterfield County Public Schools, Chesterfield, VA

Learn how one large school district set about to recover dropouts and prevent other students from leaving school. Share our journey as we worked with our local community college to host a “drop-in” fair to reengage students to complete their high school education. Help us celebrate this success as well as learn about the challenges we encountered.

**ACTIVE SCIENCE: DROPOUT PREVENTION THROUGH SCIENCE EDUCATION**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Table 12  
Presenter: Dr. Oved Kedem, Davidson Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel

Active Science, an educational approach originally developed for working with high school dropouts, has been implemented with at-risk students in middle schools all over Israel. In this presentation the process of creating and implementing this program, its struggles, and successes will be discussed.

**SCHOOL CONNECTEDNESS AND LONG-TERM SUSPENSION STUDENTS**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Table 13  
Presenters: Ms. Joyce Ricks, Gwinnett County Public Schools, Snellville, GA; and Ms. Felecia West, Gwinnett County School, Lawrenceville, GA

Results will be presented from a quantitative research survey study to show the impact of school connectedness; in particular, how teacher relationships, school counseling services, peer relationships, school-based extracurricular activities, academic achievement, and school bonding influences long-term suspension students’ decision to stay in school.

**THE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CLASSROOM: HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT’S WORKING?**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Table 14  
Presenter: Ms. Judith Hassel, Ohio Department of Education, Columbus, OH

Ohio’s statewide alternative education programs have been in operation for 11 years. This session will address alignment of the Ohio Schools of Promise Initiative with alternative education programs. The focus will be on indicators and outcomes for successful alternative education programs. Analysis of aggregated data collected over several years will reveal current instructional practices, school climate issues, and nonacademic barriers to student success.



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

**PARENTS AS PARTNERS: REAL-WORLD SOLUTIONS THAT WORK**

Strand: Family Involvement  
Location: Table 15  
Presenter: Ms. Gilda Ross, Glenbard Schools, Glen Ellyn, IL

This session will provide strategies for engaging the parents of at-risk/dropout students in prevention partnerships. Provided by an educator with 30 years of experience in the creation and implementation of effective parent programs, this talk will address important relationship-building techniques focused on teen social-emotional learning and how parents can help their children prioritize for success in school.

**4:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**TRANSITION**

**4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

*(Participants choose one.)*

**MAGIC JOHNSON EDISONLEARNING ASSIST: AN HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP TO END THE DROPOUT CRISIS IN AMERICA'S URBAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Nirvana A  
Presenters: Mr. William Polite and Dr. Monica Henson, EdisonLearning, Inc., Jasper, GA

This presentation outlines the partnership between Magic Johnson Enterprises and EdisonLearning, Inc. The combination of the passion, leadership, and proven track record of Earvin "Magic" Johnson and his decades-long commitment to urban renewal with EdisonLearning's nearly 20 years of successful school turnaround offers America's large city school districts the opportunity to attack the dropout crisis in a new and innovative way through Magic Johnson Bridgescape Learning Centers. The presentation will discuss the history of both organizations, describe how the partnership came to be, and outline the strategy for bringing the "Magic" of hybrid learning to cities in order to give dropouts the chance to come back to school and graduate.

**YES, YOU CAN! EFFECTIVE PRACTICES TO IMPROVE DROPOUT RATES**

Strand: Reenrolling Dropouts  
Location: Nirvana B  
Presenters: Mrs Keisha Samuels and Ms. Dana Patterson, Hampton City Schools, Hampton, VA

This workshop is designed to present effective practices that have been utilized to enhance dropout rates among students with various challenges. The emphasis will be placed on developing a proactive response to dropout prevention, refocusing efforts, and incorporating Systems of Care.

**THE SUCCESSFUL IMPACT OF TRIO PROGRAM CURRICULUM ON DROPOUT PREVENTION AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: LESSONS LEARNED**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Nirvana C  
Presenter: Mrs. Sharon Sanders-Funnye, CLC Educational Talent Search, Grayslake, IL



College of Lake County's Educational Talent Search Program (TRiO) has successfully provided curricula options and experiences to high school students, including assisting students with persistence throughout high school and graduation completion. In addition, students have been enrolling in postsecondary institutions at an increased rate. Valuable lessons learned will be shared on the combination of effective curriculum, building and sustaining strategic community partnerships, and understanding school culture and its impact on improved high school persistence.

**DIGITAL HIGH AND THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNING CURVE**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Schaumburg E  
Presenters: Ms. Amy Brock and Ms. Jennifer Rudeseal, Hall County Schools, Flowery Branch, GA; and Ms. Lynn Suggs, Banks County High School, Homer, GA

At this session 25 ways to use Credit Recovery programs, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube to inform, motivate, and educate your students, parents, community, and faculty will be presented.

**CREATING A RETENTION AND RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL**

Strand: Reenrolling Dropouts  
Location: Schaumburg F  
Presenter: Ms. Sherryl Carter, Inglewood Unified School District, Inglewood, CA

This session will provide stakeholders with ways of tracking and recovering students who have left school. Additionally, it will provide the methodology for encouraging students not only to reenroll in school but to increase retention rates once they return to school. An ideal retention and recovery program will incorporate Career Technical Education training as well as life skills.

**DROPOUT RECOVERY: BUILDING LEADERS AND SHAPING FUTURES**

Strand: Leadership  
Location: Schaumburg H  
Presenters: CPT Kyle Key, U.S. Army National Guard, North Little Rock, AR; SGM Corey Jackson and OIC Mary Maguire, National Guard GED Plus Complex, North Little Rock, AR; and CSM Steven Ridings, National Guard Patriot Academy, Butler, IN

The National Guard meets the national dropout crisis with two dropout recovery programs which incorporate leadership, discipline, and service as its core foundation. The Patriot Academy High School and GED Plus program are gateways for today's youth to serve their country, earn their education, and develop as leaders to serve in communities nationwide.

**GUIDING STUDENT SUCCESS WITH RESEARCH-BASED CAREER PLANNING TOOLS**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Connection  
Presenter: Mr. Dirk Sanders, Kuder, Inc., Adel, IA

This presentation will showcase online education and career planning tools that make students aware of the future and what it means to them to stay in school. The presenter will show the results of a research study that demonstrates how Kuder® Navigator helps students increase their academic performance, improve their career decision-making skills, and transition to postsecondary education with greater ease.

**GET THEM IN THE SEAT, GET THEM GRADUATED: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO ATTACKING THE DROPOUT ISSUE**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Euphoria  
Presenters: Mr. Michael Adkins and Mr. Brian Porter, Lawrence County High School, Lawrenceburg, TN

Since 2008, Lawrence County High School (LCHS) has aggressively attacked the declining graduation rate by examining and restructuring the after-school programs, designing and implementing strategies and techniques to meet the needs of students in a rural community. Many students have a desire to complete high school, but when faced with adult responsibilities they are forced to make decisions that will impact and limit their opportunities and potential for years. With a holistic approach, LCHS made significant improvements in our graduation rate, TVAAS scores, AYP, and most importantly moved the needle along the continuum of changing a rural community mind-set of it was "good enough for me, it is good enough for them." As we know, the 21st century is and will become more unforgiving of those who are not prepared for the challenges they will encounter. Come hear a story that will inspire, motivate, and help others reach their goal of improving graduation rates.

**TEENS, ADDICTION, AND RECOVERY: EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS RECOVERING FROM DRUG ADDICTION AND/OR ALCOHOLISM**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Imagination  
Presenters: Ms. Gale Stone and Ms. Rachelle Gardner, Association of Recovery Schools and Hope Academy, Indianapolis, IN

Participants will be introduced to the mission and function of a Recovery School. Recovery schools are opening across the nation as The Association of Recovery Schools advocates the promotion, strengthening, and expansion of secondary and postsecondary programs designed for students and families committed to achieving success in both education and recovery. Participants will also learn about the creation of a public recovery high school serving recovering addicts in Indianapolis, IN. Hope Academy provides alternative educational opportunities for students that may not have been successful in a traditional setting. Come see how we give HOPE.

**4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**APPLYING AN ON-TRACK INDICATOR FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION: ADAPTING THE CONSORTIUM ON CHICAGO SCHOOL RESEARCH INDICATOR FOR FIVE TEXAS DISTRICTS—FINDINGS OF A REL SOUTHWEST**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Knowledge  
Presenters: Dr. Jenifer Hartman and Dr. Stacy Daugherty, Edvance Research, Inc., San Antonio, TX

Ongoing research from REL Southwest on an early indicator system using two criteria districts routinely track. This presentation, originally developed for use in Chicago public schools under Arne Duncan, will report on the results of using the indicator in five Texas districts. Analyses using both district and SLDS data will be described with lessons learned from the study.

**INDIGENOUS MEXICAN CULTURE, IDENTITY, AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: RESULTS FROM A COMMUNITY-BASED CURRICULUM PROJECT FOR LATINO STUDENTS**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Utopia B  
Presenter: Ms. Nora Luna, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Las Vegas, NV

This seminar examines a cultural program about indigenous Mexican culture. Results of a study include quantitative and qualitative data for students who were provided with positive models for ethnic identity that connected to academic aspirations. Results indicate initial positive changes in ethnic identity and limited changes in academic aspirations. Researchers discuss implications for developing, implementing, and evaluating culturally relevant, community-based curriculum.

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE: CREATING A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO DROPOUT PREVENTION**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Utopia D  
Presenters: Ms. Tayuane Dewberry, Ms. Shannon Hames, and Ms. Sabrina Gilchrist, Right Moves For Youth, Charlotte, NC

Literature on dropout prevention suggests that effective interventions for adolescents incorporate collaborative support services with school, community, and justice systems. The presenters offer suggestions for creating a collaborative, community intervention based on a current partnership between school, judicial, nonprofit, corporate, and community systems that utilizes groups to increase graduation rates in Charlotte, NC. Because the group format is an economical way to help students find significance in graduation and create a meaningful plan for post-graduation success, it makes sense to engage key stakeholders as consistent group facilitators with high-risk students.

**4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

**SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION MEETING**

*(By invitation only.)*

Location: Schaumburg G

**7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.**

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST/NETWORKING  
WITH THE EXHIBITORS**

Location: Schaumburg East

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

**EXHIBIT HALL OPEN**

Location: Schaumburg East

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

**REGISTRATION**

Location: Schaumburg East Foyer

**SITE VISITS**

*(See page 10 for complete descriptions.  
Must be preregistered.)*

Meet at the Schaumburg Ballroom entrance **15 minutes**  
prior to times listed below for transportation to the sites.

**SITE VISIT #1—DUPAGE REGIONAL OFFICE  
OF EDUCATION - ALTERNATIVE LEARNING  
OPPORTUNITIES**

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**SITE VISIT #2—JOSEPH ACADEMY**

Time: 8:30 - 12:00 noon

**SITE VISIT #3—INDIAN PLAINS SCHOOL**

Time: 8:30 - 12:00 noon

**SITE VISIT #4—OMBUDSMAN EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICES-SCHAUMBURG LEARNING CENTER**

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

**NOTE:** During the time period of 8:00 a.m. to  
9:00 a.m. participants have a choice of formats:

- (1) Choose one Concurrent Session.
- OR**
- (2) Choose the Carousel Session and attend two  
roundtable discussions.

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

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

*(Participants choose one.)*

**PURPOSEFUL PARENTING: EFFECTIVE  
STRATEGIES FOR WORKING WITH PARENTS  
OF THE SCHOOL REFUSER**

Strand: Family Involvement

Location: Nirvana A

Presenters: Mrs. Jackie Rhew and Ms. Robin  
Choquette, Alexian Brothers Behavioral  
Health Hospital, Hofmann Estates, IL

This workshop will explore and identify strategies, techniques, and interventions to be used with parents of the child/adolescent struggling with school avoidant behaviors. The following topics will be addressed: (a) how to create rapport with families and build relationships that will hold them accountable for school attendance and truancy issues; (b) understanding parental functioning and support systems; (c) identifying parental goals and strategies to achieve goals; (d) implementing structure and consistency within the home; (e) establishing supports and services within the community; (f) utilizing language that promotes emotional development (i.e., independence and self-advocacy); (g) finding motivators and reinforcements for the child; (h) understanding the discrepancy between cognitive and emotional development; and (i) parenting to the appropriate level of development.

**IGNITE HOPE: SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION'S  
(SYF) NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
TRANSLATES PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN  
THE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CLASSROOM  
TO BEST PRACTICES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction

Location: Nirvana B

Presenter: National Teacher of the Year, Simon  
Youth Foundation

In a genuinely personal lecture, the Simon Youth Foundation's newly selected National Teacher of the Year will share best practices for alternative education that were developed while at work inside one of the 24 award-winning and innovative mall-based Simon Youth Academies, which are supported by SYF and its local and national education partners.

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

**DEALING WITH THE ISSUE: HOW TO RESPOND TO HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS BY WORKING WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Nirvana C  
Presenter: Ms. Michele Vaughn, The College of Lake County, Grayslake, IL

This session is geared toward post dropout “reaction” steps that will equip, empower, and make ready all educators and staff personnel who work with an at-risk learning population. There is a wealth of community resources that serve as protective shelters to those who have been formally disconnected from a high school education. Who do you call? Where do you send them to? If you have asked these questions before, then this session is for you!

**SAVING OUR AFRICAN AMERICAN BOYS— STRATEGIES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Schaumburg E  
Presenter: Dr. William Dixon, Colleton County School District, Walterboro, SC

In this session, four factors will be discussed that lead to low achievement for African American male students. Strategies will be shared that address these factors and have led to increased academic performance in Colleton County Schools. A major emphasis will also be placed on community outreach and mentoring initiatives, including partnership with the C.A.G.E.R.S. (Character Education, Athletic Competition, Gang Awareness and Prevention, Educational Support, Recruiting Services, and Service to the Community).

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

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Schaumburg F  
Presenter: Dr. Abby Attias, 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.

**THE RECONNECTION CENTER: REENGAGING STUDENTS IN THEIR EDUCATION IN PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Strand: Reenrolling Dropouts  
Location: Schaumburg G  
Presenter: Ms. Carla Gay, Portland Public Schools, Portland, OR

This session will present an overview of three years of data on the Reconnection Center’s efforts to successfully reengage and place dropped out youth in PPS. We will specifically address what has worked in our instructional approach, what has worked in our outreach, and what has worked with placement at the Reconnection Center. We will also review lessons learned and what the implications are for future changes, especially in light of limited financial resources.

**STUDENT EMPOWERMENT: ONE SCHOOL’S SUCCESSFUL AND ONGOING JOURNEY TOWARD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND BEYOND**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Schaumburg H  
Presenters: Dr. Malvine Richard, Ms. Sharon Hill, and Ms. Tami-Marie Rappa, Christina School District, Wilmington, DE



Sarah Pyle Academy is an academically accelerated, non-traditional high school in the Christina School District with a student population of 160. Students succeed due to smaller class size, computer-based learning programs, concentration on academics, collegial/family orientated student/staff relationships, strict behavioral/conduct expectations, goal setting, and an accepting environment. At SPA students are empowered. The empowerment includes a restoration of a sense of self-dignity, the respect they see themselves held in by fellow students and staff, their academic and life achievements, their graduation from high school and the positive direction their lives take after leaving Sarah Pyle.



**IMPLEMENTING AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM TO IDENTIFY STUDENTS AT RISK FOR DROPPING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL AND MONITORING THEIR RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Connection  
Presenter: Dr. Susan Therriault, National High School Center, American Institutes for Research, Washington, DC

States, districts, and schools are increasingly interested in using early warning systems to identify students at risk for dropping out of school. Informed by research on academic and behavioral dropout predictors, we will demonstrate the National High School Center's seven-step implementation process and free Excel-based Early Warning System Tool v2.0.

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

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Euphoria  
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.

**LAUNCHING A WINNING CAMPAIGN TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**

Strand: Leadership  
Location: Imagination  
Presenter: Dr. Vincent Watkins, The Watkins Group, Fayetteville, GA

This session will help leaders to develop and implement a successful dropout prevention campaign and provide participants with empirical data-driven solutions for real challenges that threaten graduation campaigns.

**ASSESSING RESILIENCY SKILLS AS EARLY WARNING INDICATORS FOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND GRADUATION RATES**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Knowledge  
Presenter: Dr. Scott Solberg, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Madison, WI

Six critical resiliency skills (academic self-efficacy, academic stress, well-being, social connections, academic motivation, and importance of school) have been found to serve as early warning indicators of future high school success. This presentation will describe the research and qualities of quality learning environments that promote development of these resiliency skills.

**FOUR-PRONG APPROACH TO REDUCING TRUANCIES**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Utopia A  
Presenter: Dr. Nathaniel Hearne, Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD, Euless, TX

This presentation will provide attendees with a proven formula for reducing truancies and increasing attendance in any public or charter school setting. This session will give attendees an in-depth look at the strategies implemented in the Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD to reduce truancies and increase student attendance districtwide to 97% in two years using a four-prong approach.

**ILLINOIS CASE STUDIES IN THE USE OF RIPPLE EFFECTS TO SUPPORT BEHAVIORAL RTI AND PBIS**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Utopia B  
Presenter: Dr. Chris Cook, Educational Research Associates, Glen Ellyn, IL

Several Illinois districts are implementing Ripple Effects behavior intervention software to support local RTI and PBIS efforts. This workshop will present several case studies with strategies for using this multimedia application for: Tier I - Social/Emotional Learning Standards; Tier II - Student-specific Behavior Plans, reducing disciplinary referrals; and Tier III - Special Education IEP Goals, dropout prevention.

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

**CAROUSEL SESSION**

*Schaumburg West, A-D is the location of the carousel session. A number and title will be posted at each table. Each participant will choose a table and be seated. The carousel facilitator will give instructions. A bell will ring to signal the start of Round One and each presenter will make a 30-minute presentation. After 30 minutes, a bell will signal the end of Round One. There will be an approximate three-minute transitional time for participants to move to another table. A bell will signal the beginning of Round Two.*

**PREVENTING PRE-SERVICE TEACHER DROPOUT: OVERCOMING THE RISKS INVOLVED IN PLACING ASPIRING TEACHERS IN TROUBLED SCHOOL SETTINGS**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Table 1  
Presenters: Dr. Kathleen Vespia and Ms. Christine Bond, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI

Teacher preparation programs provide talented manpower to schools. What happens when enthusiastic pre-service teachers enter a learning environment that relies on boring computer-generated math instruction and has excessive student turnover? This interactive presentation identifies steps taken to create a math program that produced meaningful outcomes for all involved.

**MSD OF WARREN TOWNSHIP'S COMMON GOAL GRADUATION COACH PROGRAM: QUITTING IS NOT AN OPTION**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Table 2  
Presenters: Mrs. Emily Brown, Mr. Marques Clayton, and Mr. James Taylor, Warren Central High School, Indianapolis, IN

Warren Central's Common Goal program mentors 100 at-risk students, providing them with academic, behavioral, and social support. About to begin its fourth year, Warren Central's program is successful because it uses resources already available within the school and connects those resources to students and graduation coaches, who all additionally serve in other capacities in the building. Finally, this program fosters a school culture and climate that says quitting is not an option.

**THE NEW ERA IN ILLINOIS' AFTER-SCHOOL MOVEMENT AND THE DROPOUT PREVENTION CONNECTION**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Table 3  
Presenter: Ms. Kelley Talbot, Voices for IL Children/ACT Now Coalition, Chicago, IL

The passage of new after-school legislation and the creation of the ACT Now Coalition open the door for a new era of progress in Illinois' after-school and youth development movements. Learn what this legislation means for you and how the ACT Now Coalition can support your work while making it more powerful.

**MAKING JOB READINESS REAL- CREATING THE HYBRID CURRICULUM**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Table 4  
Presenter: Dr. Anna Graf Williams, Learnovation, LLC, Fishers, IN

How do you bring industry applications into the classroom and make job readiness real? Take best practices from education and industry, along with knowledge of the at-risk youth and create a hybrid classroom. Join this session to learn how to create innovative curriculum that integrates continuing education, grant response and research in labor projects, and economic responsiveness to in-demand job placement.

**"COUNT ME IN": ATTENDANCE SUPPORT GROUPS AND OTHER PROACTIVE APPROACHES**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Table 5  
Presenter: Mrs. Hope Murphy, Chesterfield County Public Schools, Richmond, VA

The best chance to improve a student's attendance is through building a relationship between the student and an individual in the school building. Learn about proactive, brief, and inexpensive approaches to increase relationships. This workshop is for elementary, middle, and high school staff.

**THE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL EFFECTS OF THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN**

Strand: Funding Issues  
Location: Table 6  
Presenter: Dr. Soribel Genao, CUNY Queens College, Flushing, NY

Over the last five years the economic state of the U.S. has been in decline. During that time among other institutions, education has experienced cuts and modifications to the services it provides. Just like education being cut, individual families have lost money due to being reduced to single income households, or experience other rising costs that their current income cannot keep up with. Students witness the stress of the household and then have to attend school where educational services there have been reduced also. The day-to-day routines can be stressful enough, but now adding the role of the failing economy creates a question. Are there now a rise of social emotional needs among students due to the economic down-turn and a lack of social service programs to aid these rising needs?

**AT-RISK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SUCCEEDING IN COLLEGE: INVESTIGATING PERSONAL, SOCIAL, AND INSTITUTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Table 7  
Presenter: Mr. Jim Stichter, Price Laboratory School at University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA

The decision for at-risk students to persist in graduating or leaving high school can be positively and negatively influenced by personal, social, and institutional characteristics that vary among individuals. This study will examine how these students overcame the barriers that may have otherwise prevented them from graduating high school. Few researchers have chosen to seek the voice of at-risk students who have persisted. This study serves to fill that void. The purpose of this study is to explore the previous personal, social, and institutional characteristics of college students who were defined as at-risk while in high school. This study is designed to support educational leaders and teachers in developing or modifying a strategy that encourages persistence.

**PROJECT RECONNECT**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Table 8  
Presenter: Ms Jennifer Walker, Houston County Board of Education, Warner Robins, GA

Recognized by the National Center for School Engagement as “21 Ways to Engage Students in School,” Project Reconnect is a program designed to decrease truancy. A three-year longitudinal study has reduced truancy by 68%. Project Reconnect is currently used as a court diversionary program requiring in-school tracking, community service, and family workshops.

**PUBLISHING THROUGH THE NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CENTER/NETWORK**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Table 9  
Presenters: Dr. Rebecca Robles-Piña, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX; Dr. Jane Clark Lindle, Clemson University, Clemson, SC; and Mrs. Marty Duckenfield, National Dropout Prevention Center, Clemson, SC

The purpose of this presentation is to present three publishing options available to those authors interested in publishing their scholarly work. The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network offers the following options for publication—*The Journal of At-Risk Issues*, *The International Journal of School Disaffection*, and the *NDPC/N Newsletter*. Presenters will share requirements for publication as well as examples of recent publications.

**A+NYWHERE: A CURRICULUM FOUNDATION FOR DROPOUT PREVENTION**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Table 10  
Presenter: Dr. Tom Trautman, The American Education Corp, Oklahoma City, OK

The A+nyWhere Learning System is one of the model programs in the National Dropout Prevention Center Database with moderately strong evidence of efficacy. This workshop will present that evidence and demonstrate how the program can be used in multiple delivery methodologies including credit completion, credit recovery, core instruction, problem-based education, and self-paced learning.



## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2011

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

### TRANSITION

**9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

*(All are invited to attend.)*

#### GENERAL SESSION

Location: Schaumburg West, A-D

#### **Welcome/Remarks/Introductions**

Dr. Bobbi Mattingly, Superintendent, Regional Office of Education #11, Charleston, IL

#### **Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

Ms. Roycealee J. Wood, Conference Co-chair, Superintendent of Schools, Lake County Regional Office of Education, Grayslake, IL

#### **Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Debbie Silver, Award-winning Educator and Author, Dallas, TX

#### **“FAIL IT FORWARD”—TURNING STUMBLING BLOCKS INTO STEPPING STONES**

Based on her new book on student motivation, Debbie Silver presents research on the purposeful practices adults can utilize in order to enhance student engagement. Dr. Silver will discuss and demonstrate strategies for helping students overcome failure and become their own best advocates on a path of lifelong learning. With proven theory, moving stories, and hilarious characterizations, Debbie will inspire audience members to help students learn to “Fail It Forward.”

#### **Closing Remarks**

Ms. Roycealee J. Wood, Conference Co-chair, Superintendent of Schools, Lake County Regional Office of Education, Grayslake, IL

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

### TRANSITION/BREAK

Location: Schaumburg East

**10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*(Participants choose one.)*

#### **FROM AT-RISK TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL CULTURES THAT BUILD GRADUATION RATES**

Strand: Leadership

Location: Nirvana A

Presenter: Mr. Franklin Schargel, School Success Network, Albuquerque, NM

Next to high performing classrooms, successful leadership and positive school cultures are the key to increased academic achievement and higher graduation rates. We asked 300 high-performing, high-minority, high-poverty successful leaders in urban, rural, and suburban schools why they were successful when most schools dealing with at-risk learners are failures.

#### **FAMILY? SCHOOL? COMMUNITY? CHECK! CHECK! CHECK!**

Strand: Family Involvement

Location: Nirvana B

Presenter: Ms. Camryn Barganier, Be A Champion, Inc., Houston, TX

This session is for participants who want to improve parent, family, and community involvement using innovative, hands-on programming and curriculum. Through enrichment activities, attendees will learn successful methods for increasing participation in family events and building linkage across individuals and organizations.

#### **TEN STRATEGIES PROVEN TO INSPIRE EVEN THE MOST DIFFICULT STUDENTS**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy

Location: Nirvana C

Presenter: Mr. Christian Moore, The WhyTry Organization, Provo, UT

Want to engage the most challenging students? This session will show you 10 strategies proven effective at building relationships, grabbing attention, and inspiring challenging students. Learn to speak the language of today's youth using relevant multimedia, physical activities, and visual metaphors. The strategies are used to inspire students in K-12 schools and mental health organizations worldwide.

**POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS: IMPLEMENTING THREE TIERS OF SUPPORT IN HIGH SCHOOLS**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Schaumburg E  
Presenter: Mrs. Ami Flammini, IL PBIS Network, Springfield, IL

Implementing three tiers of supports in high schools requires an understanding of data, systems, and practices. In this seminar, participants will hear an overview of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) as well as high school specific examples from all three tiers.

**SEEKING GRANTS AND OUTSIDE RESOURCES FOR YOUR DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAM**

Strand: Funding Issues  
Location: Schaumburg F  
Presenter: Dr. Carole Parkins Brooks, Special Education District of Lake County, Gages Lake, IL

This workshop is an introduction to grantsmanship and preparing proposals to secure funding. Key components include the overall outlook for grant funding, evaluating whether your organization is ready to prepare a federal or foundation grant, and the critical components of a grant application. Participants will learn essential elements of winning proposals, key steps for proposal planning and conceptualization, and how to develop community partners.

**REAL TALK: SUCCESSFUL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF COLOR**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Schaumburg G  
Presenters: Dr. Benjamin Edmondson, Ann Arbor Public Schools, Ypsilanti, MI; and Ms. Rita Hampton, RBE Educational Associates, LLC, Ypsilanti, MI

This workshop will encourage reflection, self-examination, and frank discussions about race, privilege, and its impact on students of color; while acknowledging teacher's best practices that unintentionally promote racism, poor academic achievement, and classroom management. Participants will emerge from this session with a better understanding and strategies that can be utilized in and out of the classroom that will enhance student performance while promoting high expectations.

**COGNITIVE INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES THAT INCREASE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND REDUCE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL, ACADEMIC, AND CONTEXTUAL BARRIERS OF HIGH-RISK LEARNERS**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Schaumburg H  
Presenter: Ms. Tamara Thompson, Mockingbird Education, Frisco, TX

This interactive workshop is designed to increase teacher's cognition knowledge in memory acquisition, sensory integration, attention, motivation, efficacy, and active processing. Strategies are modeled by the facilitator and are designed and delivered for immediate classroom implementation.

**LET'S TALK RUNAWAY PREVENTION**

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

Every year in the U.S., between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away or are expelled from their homes; many of those youth will also drop out of school. This workshop will focus on 1-800-RUNAWAY services, including Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum, a free 14-module life skill and character education tool.

**TEACHING TO A "T"**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Euphoria  
Presenter: Dr. Stephen Sroka, Health Education Consultants, Cleveland, OH

Teaching to a T is a strategy to promote team building, personal motivation, and learning. It helps develop the skills to build relationships, partnerships, and leadership. It has been used successfully for student leadership trainings at the local, state, and national levels. It has been used successfully with the most reluctant learners and in areas with students with high dropout rates, as well as with in-services for the highest level administrators of state departments of education and health and also community and business organizations. This innovative strategy, which is built on cutting edge research, is based on the traditional concept of the vision quest where youth would go out in nature to find their spiritual identity and transform it onto a shield that would provide physical, psychological, and spiritual protection. In this activity, a T-shirt becomes a shield.

**10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**CARING IN THE CLASSROOM**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Imagination  
Presenter: Ms. Kelly Camak, Gateway to College,  
ECHS, RCC, Riverside, CA

Participants will evaluate their perception of caring in instruction, support, and overall program culture; will review data and compare perceptions to student survey and interview results; and will analyze information, participate in activities, and create an action plan to create or further develop caring standards and techniques.

**SCHOOL REFUSAL: UNDERSTANDING ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTIONS IN THE HOME AND EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Knowledge  
Presenters: Mrs. Jackie Rhew and Ms. Robin Choquette, Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital, Hofmann Estates, IL

This workshop will explore and identify behaviors and patterns related to school avoidance. The following topics will be addressed: Illinois School Code of Truancy; understanding history of refusal behavior and patterns; factors that contribute to avoidant behaviors; identifying the at-risk student; implementing interventions and effective responses; finding motivators and reinforcements for the child; how to create rapport with families and build relationships that will hold them accountable for school attendance and truancy issues; and school interventions and policies to increase attendance and educational and emotional functioning of child.

**ENGAGED STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS, SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS DON'T DROP OUT**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Utopia A  
Presenter: Ms. Vicki Hensley, I-KAN Regional Office of Education, Kankakee, IL

About 7,000 students decide to drop out of school daily. Research shows that a lack of student engagement is predictive of dropping out. The Instructional Practice Inventory (IPI) provides educators with a process to measure the engagement level of the students in the classroom. Come and hear about an exciting tool that

helps educators create classrooms that engage students and decrease dropout rates.

**SEEDING SUCCESS: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES THAT INSPIRE LEADERSHIP**

Strand: Leadership  
Location: Utopia B  
Presenters: Dr. Kemal Nance, Director, and Ms. Mailisa Crews, Mr. Andre Jackson, Mr. Brandon Oakley, and Mr. Brenton Oakley, Youth Ambassadors, Philadelphia Youth Network, Inc., Philadelphia, PA

The Philadelphia Youth Network's (PYN) Youth Ambassador Program trains Philadelphia high school students to be youth advocates within the city's workforce system. PYN Youth Ambassadors integrate "youth voice" in PYN's program design practices. Four selected Youth Ambassadors and the program's director will share some of the program's youth engagement strategies.

**12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.**

*(All are invited to attend.)*

**CRYSTAL STAR AWARDS LUNCHEON**  
Schaumburg

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Mr. Ed Bates, NDPN Board Member, Positive Alternative Student Services, Lake County Regional Education Office, Grayslake, IL

**Luncheon**

**Crystal Star Awards Presentation**

Mrs. Marty Duckenfield, Public Information Director, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson University, Clemson, SC  
Dr. Terry Cash, Assistant Director, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson University, Clemson, SC  
Dr. Sam Drew, Interim Executive Director, National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, Clemson University, Clemson, SC

**Closing Remarks**

Dr. Sandy Addis, NDPN Board Member, Pioneer Regional Educational Service Agency, Cleveland, GA



*2011 National  
Dropout  
Prevention  
Network  
Crystal Star  
Awards  
of  
Excellence*

## 2011 NDPN CRYSTAL STAR AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM WINNER

### CONGRATULATIONS!

*The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network salutes the individual and program winners of the National Dropout Prevention Network's Crystal Star Awards of Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention, and Prevention.*

#### CENTER GROVE ALTERNATIVE ACADEMY Greenwood, IN



*Accepted by: Ms. Beth Bryant, Director*

Center Grove Alternative Academy (CGAA), established in 2008, promotes educational excellence by equipping students with knowledge and skills that will help them lead a better life and be contributing citizens to their community while earning their high school diploma. CGAA serves a variety of students. Juniors and seniors are referred by their counselor due to struggles emotionally, educationally, personally, or financially. Students attend CGAA in the morning or afternoon block. In addition, they are required to maintain meaningful employment or attend the partnering vocational school. The online mastery curriculum, which meets all standards set by the Indiana Department of Education, allows students to work at their own pace. All CGAA students receive a Center Grove Community High School diploma. They are encouraged to take part in school sponsored events (prom, graduation, and senior activities) which allow them to maintain a positive connection with the high school.

On a weekly basis, students have the opportunity to participate in a one-hour group session with a licensed social worker. Guest speakers from the community also present valuable information to the students about transitioning after high school; emphasizing college, employment, budgeting, and positive choices. Giving back to the community is a strong component for CGAA. Students volunteer at a local food bank, elementary schools, or an assisted living facility. Impressively, CGAA students currently operate the only student-run food pantry in the state of Indiana. On a weekly basis, the CARE Pantry serves 100+ needy residents of Johnson County. In addition, CGAA also has an evening program called Options. Students (grades 9-12) who attend Options may be referred due to medical conditions, release from incarceration, credit recovery, or as an alternative to expulsion. Students follow the same online mastery curriculum as CGAA. All students who attend Options transition back to their home school.

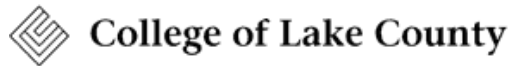
#### Lessons Learned

- ★ The educational needs and learning styles of students have changed over the years and it is critical for educators to recognize, adjust, and adapt in order to meet the needs of the ever-changing student.
- ★ Students are more successful when they have meaningful adult relationships.
- ★ Implementing service to the community provides students an opportunity that has never been presented to them. They have not been asked to volunteer because of their lack of educational success. However, I have found students in an alternative setting are phenomenal volunteers, who are visually proud to make a positive difference.
- ★ First impressions are powerful, meet the student first, and then look back on their history. Too many times the paper trail portrays the student negatively. It is important to first find the positive aspects of the student.
- ★ One student said the following about CGAA, "I feel I have changed my life and will forever walk with my head up knowing that I have changed it for the better. I am not asking you to forget my past, but recognize that I now have a future!" Giving hope, providing support, and encouragement changes the lives of many students who were once broken emotionally and educationally.

## 2011 NDPN CRYSTAL STAR AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM WINNER

### COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH

Grayslake, IL



*Accepted by: Mrs. Sharon Sanders-Funnye, Director, Educational Talent Search; Mr. Trendelle Vaughn, Ms. Anna Elizarraga, Mr. Michael Pettis, and Ms. Sylvia Johnson, Program Staff*

The College of Lake County (CLC), a two-year comprehensive community college located in Lake County, IL, is the primary postsecondary institution serving student populations who are first-generation and low-income households. CLC will continue its successful Educational Talent Search Program by serving 850 eligible student participants from its four target high schools: North Chicago Community High School, Waukegan High School, Round Lake Area High School, and Zion-Benton Township High School. The Educational Talent Search Program at the College of Lake County has filled programmatic voids at the target schools by providing connections to educational services such as academic advising to low-income, potential first-generation college students, as well as providing direct academic assistance services, tutoring and test preparation, financial aid assistance and financial literacy services, career mentoring, help in applying to postsecondary institutions, college visits, technology instruction, and personal growth workshops and seminars. Parental involvement is strongly emphasized throughout the program duration. The Educational Talent Search program hopes to continue to foster student skills and provide a strong foundation that prepares them directly for enrollment, success, and degree attainment in postsecondary education.

The CLC Educational Talent Search Program provides the services and support needed to improve the performance of its participants based on its objectives. Program data over the last three years indicates the following: Persistence Rate - 90% average (exceeds mandated outcome); Graduation Rate - 94% average (exceeds mandated outcome); Postsecondary Enrollment Rate - 65% average (increased to 86% in year three); Number of students enrolled over last three years - 901 (average)—exceeds total number mandated to serve; and more than two-thirds of enrolled participants are first-generation students from low-income households (exceeds mandated amount of two-thirds). Educational Talent Search has created a coordinated, collaborative, and cost-effective college access strategy, working with established community and school partners, and expanding the program's reliance on the many resources available through CLC.

#### Lessons Learned

- ★ For the African American or Latino student, it has been observed that there is often a disconnection between a desired future lifestyle and the education preparation that must occur to make the future a reality. The old cliché “seeing is believing” may be addressed by providing program participants with educational and career shadow experiences that are realistic.
- ★ It is critical that the school works with community, college, and corporate resources to provide an access network within the high school to meet the needs of first-generation students who are from low-income backgrounds. Several factors which have proven to be successful in influencing postsecondary enrollment of students include a solid social support network, smaller learning communities, and an ethic of knowledge and care. The caring relationship that is built between the Educational Talent Search Specialist and the student is the foundation for participation and the students' adherence to academic advice and follow-through. The Educational Talent Search Program provides trusting relationship/mentoring that is a necessary part of the network. Additionally, this solid, social support network or environment should include the high school, parents, students, community, and businesses. The combination of these factors may enhance the students' ability to successfully enroll and persist in college.
- ★ It is important for others who wish to develop similar programs to develop effective collaborative networks outside of the school, as well as effective systemic frameworks within the school setting, to support the needs of the students. A collaborative effort that is focused on the goals of high school persistence, graduation, and postsecondary enrollment is fundamental and will certainly create the environment for continued success.



## 2011 NDPN CRYSTAL STAR AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM WINNER

### SARAH PYLE ACADEMY FOR ACADEMIC INTENSITY

Christina School District, Wilmington, DE



*Accepted by: Dr. Malvine Richard, Principal; Mrs. Sharon Hill, Assistant to the Principal and Educational Diagnostician; and Ms. Tami-Marie Rappa, Teacher*

Sarah Pyle Academy is an academically accelerated, nontraditional high school in the Christina School District with a student population of 160. Students succeed due to smaller class size, computer-based learning programs, concentration on academics, collegial/family orientated student/staff relationships, strict behavioral/conduct expectations, goal setting, and an accepting environment. At SPA students are empowered. The empowerment includes a restoration of a sense of self dignity, the respect they see themselves held in by fellow students and staff, their academic and life achievements, their graduation from high school and the positive direction their lives take after leaving Sarah Pyle.

Many of the students who come to Sarah Pyle have been told they are unable to learn, unmotivated, and a slew of other negative adjectives. They have been marginalized as human beings, often because of their race, their labeling as special education, their socioeconomic standing or their family situations. At Sarah Pyle we not only tell them that they are no longer marginalized but demonstrate to them that they are at the very center of the future, their own as well as their neighborhood's, society's, and their country's. Sarah Pyle is now in its seventh year. Last year 55 students out of a student population of 155 graduated. In total there have been over 500 graduates in the past six years. The majority of those graduates are now pursuing postsecondary educational opportunities. Sarah Pyle's success is their students' success and those successes continue to grow each year.

#### Lessons Learned

- ★ Focus on the individual rather than what the paperwork tells you. We have accepted special education students who were labeled "below average" who have proven to be extremely bright. See students who have been negatively labeled in various ways as human beings possessing unlimited potential. Seek out their particular learning styles and which of the many multiple intelligences they possess. See those human beings as the movers of the future and not as some marginalized segment of society. Most importantly, continue to set high expectations and demand that those expectations be met.
- ★ Create an advisory program which has a low staff to student ratio which enables students and staff members to know each other. In this atmosphere you will be able to "show" students that you know them and truly care about their best interests. With this advisory role you will be able to establish a relationship with your students that will allow intimacy and the gentle cajoling that will encourage student growth and promise.
- ★ Create a program that sets prescribed behavioral expectations. While your program should be student centric and geared to the individual it should still contain societal expectations and behavioral norms. Students are getting ready for the "real world" and as such they should get ready to meet the world of "law and order."
- ★ Individualize instruction to meet the various learning styles and multiple intelligences exhibited by a variety of students. Train your staff to think "outside of the box" when it comes to developing instruction and evaluating student learning.
- ★ Create a program within your school that allows for "checks and balance." By this we mean that students should be constantly asked to review whether they are making progress by reviewing their progress with their teachers and Advisory teachers. Teachers are also constantly reviewing student work with administrators. As students are expected to be aware of their own growth they are treated as young adults and they respond accordingly.
- ★ Develop a love of learning. Provide students with examples of adults who value education and knowledge not only as a means to an end but as an end in itself. Teach students to love learning and to love life. Teach them to be whole.

**2011 NDPN CRYSTAL STAR AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE  
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM WINNER**

**SUCCESS IN SCHOOL PROGRAM  
WILSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
Wilson, NC**



*Accepted by: Ms. Tracey Mooring, Child Care Supervisor;  
and Ms. Nekia Lyons, Teen Parent Case Manager*

Wilson County Department of Social Services' (WCDSS) Success in School Program targets teenage custodial parents receiving childcare subsidy to continue attending school and obtain a high school diploma. WCDSS obtained a two-year grant funded through North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction, Dropout Prevention and Intervention Program to implement Success in School in August 2008. The Success in School incorporates a strengths-based, intense case management intervention while providing "best practice" strategies grounded in a System of Care approach to encourage, support, educate, and motivate teenage parents to continue their goal of achieving a high school diploma, parenting education, tutoring, job readiness training, summer employment opportunities, pregnancy prevention counseling, mentoring, financial education, and money management are provided to students.

The school dropout rate is 63% for these students. Excessive absenteeism, poor academic performance, lack of transportation, lack of parental support, teen pregnancy, lack of resource information, and the increased stress of peer and parental relationships were the reasons cited for dropping out of school. Financial difficulties were also cited as a major reason for teen parents dropping out of school. Success in School (SIS) relies on strong case management support and offers intense programs/services for teenage parents. SIS also implemented a Teen Employment Mentoring Program (TEMP) component in 2010. Teens are matched with local employers who provide work experience and mentoring. Teens are provided opportunities to learn work, life and social skills after school and during the summer to prepare them for success in school, work and life. The program achieved the following outcomes annually: 2008/2009 School Year—89% of teen parents remained in school and/or graduated; 2009/2010 School Year—85% of teen parents remained in school and/or graduated; 2010/2011 School Year—80% of teen parents remained in school and/or graduated.

Lessons Learned

- ★ Know your data. Examining our data regarding high school completion helped us discover that teen parents were an underserved population that was dropping out of school in overwhelming numbers.
- ★ Collaboration is an integral component of the initiative. Building a strong support network around the youth which relies on family, school and community partners is crucial.
- ★ Don't underestimate the amount of time staff need to invest to make the initiative successful. Relationship building takes time—social workers must recognize this and work to cultivate relationships with the youth and school partners.
- ★ Don't take no for an answer! The social workers act as advocates for these youth and as such, have learned not to take no for an answer.

**2011 NDPN CRYSTAL STAR AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE  
INDIVIDUAL WINNER**

**DEB DILLON**

Fargo Public Schools, Fargo, ND



Deb Dillon has spent her career working with alternative and at-risk students. As with many new teachers, Deb was initially assigned the “difficult” students no one else wanted. Unlike many, she was drawn to and excited by these students and has continued to focus on them and their particular needs. She particularly credits the Fargo Public Schools for their exceptional support of nontraditional students and their willingness to honestly tackle the issue of dropout prevention.

Deb started teaching high school English and journalism in Iowa and Ohio. Since moving to Fargo, North Dakota, in 1985, she has directed and built a dropout prevention program and served as a high school dean of students, middle school assistant principal, alternative high school principal and district director of alternative programs. Deb holds a B.S. in journalism from Iowa State University, an M.S. in counseling from the University of Nebraska, Omaha, and an Education Specialist degree in administration from North Dakota State.

**2011 NDPN CRYSTAL STAR AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE  
DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD**

**ROBERT SHUMER**

University of Minnesota, Eagan, MN



Robert Shumer has been involved in education for more than 40 years. He has taught from middle school through graduate school. Dr. Shumer is the former Director of Field Studies at UCLA and the past founding Director of the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse and co-director of the Center for Experiential Education and Service Learning at the University of Minnesota. He was also the past President of the Minnesota Evaluation Association and current board member of the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement. He has served as the president of the National Experience Based Career Education Association in the 1980s, as well as an officer in the California Alternative School Network. Dr. Shumer has served in various editorial/journal capacities, including editor of the *Information for Action: A Journal for Research on Service-Learning for Children and Youth*, as well as advisor to the NDPN International Journal on School Disaffection. He has presented across the country and around the world on topics related to service-learning, civic engagement, and theories of learning and action. He currently teaches courses on civic engagement, participatory evaluation, and constructivist curriculum. Dr. Shumer has written more than 80 books, book chapters, and articles and monographs on topics related to education and social change; and has conducted more than 25 research/evaluation studies on national service, service-learning, civic engagement, and participatory evaluation.

Dr. Shumer has spent his lifetime attempting to connect educational programs with the community. From elementary and secondary schools, to colleges and universities, to community-based organizations, he has promoted and developed programs that focus on active learning, learning connected to community and real world contexts, and active engagement of students in the development and evaluation of their own educational programs. He continues to believe students don't drop out of school or life when their learning is active, project based, relationally connected, personally meaningful, and contributes to the well-being of society.

Dr. Shumer's contributions to the Network have been exemplary. From serving on the editorial board for the International Journal, to writing for publication, (including a monograph, *Youth-Led Evaluation*), to presenting conference presentations and presessions, to participating on Performance Assessment Review teams for the Center, Dr. Shumer has shown a great capacity to work within our organization to reach our common goals.

## PAST NDPN CRYSTAL STAR AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS 2008 - 2010

### 2008 Program Winners

**Clark Pleasant Academy**  
Whiteland, IN

**Simon Youth Foundation Education Resource Centers**  
Indianapolis, IN

**Star Academy Program™**  
Pickens, SC

### 2008 Individual Winners

**Sandy Addis**, Pioneer RESA,  
Cleveland, GA

**Judith Ann and Joseph F. Pauley**,  
Process Communication, Potomac, MD

**Brian Sites**, River's Edge High School,  
Richland, WA

### 2008 Distinguished Leadership and Service Award

**John Murray**,  
CEO of AdvancePath Academics, Inc.,  
Williamsburg, VA

### 2009 Program Winners

**Butler Tech's Options Academy - Wokini**,  
West Chester, OH

**Grossmont Union High School District's  
Dropout Prevention Program**, El Cajon, CA  
**SUCCESS Program**, Des Moines Public  
Schools, Des Moines, IA

### 2009 Students with Disabilities Program Winner

**Barbara Goleman Senior High, M-DCPS Residential  
Electrical Wiring Program**, Miami Lakes, FL

### 2009 Individual Winners

**Kathy Edwards Bell**, Viking Academy,  
Spartanburg High School, Spartanburg, SC  
**Wayne Rodolfich**, Superintendent, Pascagoula  
School District 28, Pascagoula, MS

### 2009 Distinguished Leadership and Service Award

**Patrick J. O'Connor**,  
Kent State University, Kent, OH

### 2010 Program Winners

**The Olympia Learning Center**,  
Columbia, SC  
**The Choctaw Alternative Transitional School  
(CATS)**, Choctaw, OK  
**North Vista Education Center - Intermediate  
District 287**, Plymouth, MN

### 2010 Students with Disabilities Individual Winner

**Robin J. Morrison**, Miami Dade  
Public Schools, Miami, FL

### 2010 Individual Winners

**Brenda Reeh**, Quannah McCall Empowerment  
Elementary, North Las Vegas, NV

**Aaron L. Smith**, Gildersleeve Middle School,  
Newport News, VA

**Craig Zeno**, Houston Independent School  
District, Houston, TX

### 2010 Distinguished Leadership and Service Award

**Michael Carter**,  
Sinclair Community College,  
Dayton, OH

### CRYSTAL STAR OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS: REQUESTS FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2012

A program or individual from your state could be a prestigious Crystal Star of Excellence Award winner in 2012, but only if you make a nomination. The forms will be available on the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network Web site, [www.dropoutprevention.org](http://www.dropoutprevention.org), in February 2012.

The award categories are Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention, and Prevention for Individuals and Programs; Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention, and Prevention for Individuals 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 24th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in Orlando, FL. Winners receive an elegant, engraved Crystal Star Award; a waiver of registration fees for the conference; and a one-night complimentary room at the Rosen Plaza Hotel.

**2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**ILLINOIS REGIONAL SAFE SCHOOLS PROGRAM (RSSP) (By invitation only.)**

Location: Utopia A

**2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

*(Participants choose one.)*

**FIND THE NEED, AND ENDEAVOR TO MEET IT**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
 Location: Nirvana A  
 Presenters: Mr. David House, Ms. Juliette Draine, and Ms. Teresa Parker, Sinclair Community College, Dayton, OH

Find out how Sinclair Community College has tried to live up to its motto, by providing school partnerships and wrap-around services for out-of-school youth. Since 2002, over 2,300 former dropouts and at-risk youth have earned a high school diploma, many of which are attending Sinclair with a full scholarship.

**ENCOURAGE STUDENT SUCCESS: LEARN SIMPLE STRATEGIES THAT TEACH STUDENTS SELF-AWARENESS, MENTAL FOCUS, AND INNER CALM IN LOW-INCOME SCHOOLS**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
 Location: Nirvana B  
 Presenters: Mr. Jai Luster and Ms. Jori Griffith, Luster Learning Institute, NFP, Highland Park, IL

Participants are trained to facilitate “Calm Classroom” techniques and receive direct benefits. Foundational research on the relationship between a “relaxation response” curriculum and student cooperative behavior and academic achievement is shared. Results in Chicago schools, demonstrating 50-60% decline in office referrals, all levels of student violations, and bullying, is discussed.

**RESILIENCE: THE KEY TO REDUCING THE DROPOUT RATE**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
 Location: Nirvana C  
 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 attendance, achievement, and graduation rates. This session examines curriculum, assessment, and proven instructional strategies that improve resiliency and achievement for middle and high school students.

**PATHNET: A NETWORKED REENGAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Strand: Reenrolling Dropouts  
 Location: Schaumburg E  
 Presenters: Dr. Kelly Goodsell and Dr. Mick Moore, Puget Sound Educational Service District, Renton, WA; and Ms. Mariko Kakiuchi, Shoreline Community College, Shoreline, WA

PathNet—a silo-busting systematic coordination of youth-serving organizations that support interconnected pathways to educational/vocational reengagement. Participants will explore the model’s four cornerstones of reengagement: (1) Strength-Based Assessment, (2) Youth-Driven Plan, (3) Care Management, and (4) Connectivity. Current policy reform toward a statewide dropout reengagement system will also be discussed.

**INDUCTION ACADEMY: TEACHING AT-RISK STUDENTS SCHOOL CULTURE**

Strand: School Culture  
 Location: Schaumburg F  
 Presenter: Dr. Kathy Milligan-Hitt, Fremont School District #1, Lander, WY

Using Eric Larsen’s Discovery Program model, a small alternative high school designed an induction program for at-risk high school students. Data supporting its success will be shared as well as the design of the Academy.

**CREATING A POSITIVE, STUDENT-CENTERED SCHOOL CULTURE**

Strand: School Culture  
 Location: Schaumburg G  
 Presenter: Ms. Deb Dillon, Fargo Public Schools, Fargo, ND



Woodrow Wilson, an alternative high school, has been on a multiyear quest to create a culture that leads to improved student productivity and retention. In the process, it has instituted a variety of programs and procedures that have not only resulted in better student performance but



also in a more positive community image. Participants will learn of successes and strategies of this program.

### **MILESTONE: MAKING A COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIPS**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Schaumburg H  
Presenter: Dr. Renard I. Jackson, North Central College, Naperville, IL

The major task for partnerships is to realistically assess the readiness for change. Are the stakeholders determined to structure a system into a collaborative arrangement? If stakeholders are to stay focused, they must clearly understand what will be expected of them. Collaborative partnerships are much more costly and time consuming than cooperation. In a cooperative agreement, stakeholders help each other meet their respective goals, but they do so without making any major changes in their basic services or policies. In a collaborative partnership stakeholders are required to put aside individual agendas in favor of common goals.

### **CHIT CHAT WITH TEA: SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Connection  
Presenter: Dr. Gale LeVon Bell, Glenn Hills High School, Augusta, GA

This session will provide participants with a synopsis of Chit Chat with Tea and its impact for the 22 mentees selected from the Spartan Champions' School-Based Mentoring Program at Glenn Hills High School in Augusta, GA. Using the Social Emotional Learning Curriculum: Self-Awareness, Social Awareness, Self-Management, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making, all mentees agreed to participate in the after-school program. Statistical data will be presented along with artifacts: photos, feedback from mentees, parents, and mentors.

### **BEHAVIORAL AND ACADEMIC ISSUES IN MY CLASSROOM....NOT!!!**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Euphoria  
Presenter: Ms. Nancy Blackwell, Longevity Of Success, Colorado Springs, CO

Find out what strategies are known to help schools improve the success of all academic programs. Help expand

the learning and enhance the efficacy of the academic and behavioral programs you are using now. Create more time to do what we entered the BEST profession on the planet to do—TEACH!!! These strategies promote systematic cultural changes school- and districtwide.

### **IMPROVING SCHOOL CLIMATE: REAL WORLD EXAMPLES OF TECHNOLOGY THAT WORKS**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Imagination  
Presenter: Mr. Lewis Brentano, Ripple Effects, Inc., San Francisco, CA

We will review best practices in implementing research-based, proven effective student interventions using technology that is proven to improve school climate. An example of such program in use will be presented by representatives from Omaha (NE) Public Schools and Ripple Effects.

### **IMPROVING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES WITH ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAMS**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Knowledge  
Presenter: Mr. Gregg Levin, K12, Inc./Aventa Learning, Herndon, VA

Online learning solutions can improve high school graduation rates. Learn how district practitioners are deploying online learning programs to address alternative populations. Our panelists will share success stories and best practices in addressing at-risk students.

### **KEEPING KIDS IN SCHOOL: THE IMPACT OF A HIGH SCHOOL REFORM**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Utopia B  
Presenter: Dr. Julie Edmunds, SERVE Center at UNCG, Durham, NC

This session will present results from a federally-funded experimental study of early college high schools. Results show that early college students have better attendance, fewer suspensions, and are more likely to remain enrolled in school. This presentation will also focus on aspects of the model that appear to be associated with keeping more students in school.



**3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**

**TRANSITION/BREAK**

Location: Schaumurg East Foyer

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

**ILLINOIS TRUANTS ALTERNATIVE OPTION  
EDUCATION PROGRAM (TAOEP)**

*(By invitation only.)*

Location: Utopia A

**NOTE:** During the time period of 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. participants have a choice of formats:

- (1) Choose one Concurrent Session.
- OR**
- (2) Choose the Carousel Session and attend two roundtable discussions.

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

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

*(Participants choose one.)*

**HARVESTING DREAMS: EMPOWERING  
AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES TO SUCCEED**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy

Location: Nirvana A

Presenter: Mr. James Bryson, Illinois Central  
College, East Peoria, IL

A major hurdle for African American males is overcoming their conscious and unconscious self-handicapping behavior. This self-handicapping mindset dictates the destiny of the African American male. Without innovative approaches to academic success, many believe that the African American male will become a dinosaur. In this workshop, participants will explore some of the issues and challenges facing African American males and discuss self-empowerment strategies that will help them take control of their destiny.

**PREPARING PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS FOR  
BATTLE—LESSONS SHARED WITH THE  
MILITARY**

Strand: Leadership

Location: Nirvana B

Presenters: Dr. Kathleen Vespia, Salve Regina  
University, Newport, RI; and Dr.  
Thomas Gibbons, U.S. Naval War  
College, Newport, RI

Effective teachers are key to student learning, yet 38.5% to 46% are leaving within the first five years of teaching. Surprisingly, teacher and military training share similar strategies for those entering the battlefield, whether overseas or in the classroom. Participants will learn strategies to support new teachers, especially those working under adverse conditions.

**TEAM UP: UNITING COMMUNITY PARTNER-  
SHIPS TO PROVIDE ENGAGING ACADEMIC  
ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction

Location: Nirvana C

Presenter: Mrs. Tacia Torres, Tarrant County Youth  
Collaboration, Ft. Worth, TX

The Tarrant County Youth Collaboration (TCYC) has been a leading advocate for the children of greater Tarrant County surrounding Ft. Worth, TX, for over 30 years. The 2011-12 school year is looking like one of the most challenging in memory due to budget constraints. This fall TCYC is launching an education initiative that will reach nearly 80,000 students in Tarrant County over the next three years. To prepare for and accomplish this task, TCYC has united several large foundations, school districts, community leaders, and a cutting-edge educational software program.

**BMW ACADEMY: CANDIDATES FOR  
GREATNESS**

Strand: Community Partnerships

Location: Schaumburg E

Presenter: Dr. Roger Cleveland, Eastern Kentucky  
University, Richmond, KY

Black Males Working (BMW) is a collaborative program between Fayette County Public Schools, The United Way of the Bluegrass, and First Baptist Church Bracktown (Lexington, KY). This program is having a major impact on the educational success of African-American males (6th-12th grade). Through academics (reading, writing,

science, and math), social development, enrichment, college readiness, goal-setting, and motivation, this Saturday academic program is nurturing success in young men at the middle and high school level. Hopes and dreams are coming alive, and parents are clamoring to get their sons on the waiting list. Come see why!

**MICHIGAN'S DROPOUT CHALLENGE**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Schaumburg F  
Presenters: Mrs. Bersheil Bailey, American Institutes for Research, Lansing, MI; Ms. Michele Corey, Michigan's Children, Lansing, MI; Mr. Gregg Dionne and Ms. Nancy Rotarius, MI DOE, Office of Education Improvement and Innovations

Michigan's state superintendent issued a dropout challenge asking each Michigan school to use data to identify 10-15 students with multiple early warning dropout signs, provide appropriate research-based supports and interventions, and engage both parents and the community to participate in a comprehensive dropout solution. Come hear the response to the challenge.

**IDENTIFYING AND SERVING GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS TO REDUCE DROPOUT RATES**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Schaumburg G  
Presenters: Ms. Debbie Constable and Ms. Amy Wilson, San Antonio Special Programs Co-Op, San Antonio, TX

Identifying gifted and talented students is not always easy, and serving them can be an even bigger challenge. Serving this unique and underidentified population may just be the answer we are looking for to reduce dropout rates. We'll share what works for us in identifying gifted and talented students (including students with disabilities) in charter schools.

**REENGAGING STUDENTS IN BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Strand: Reenrolling Dropouts  
Location: Schaumburg H  
Presenters: Dr. Tanya Williams, Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore, MD; and Ms. Deborah Gibson, Office of Student Support and Safety, Baltimore, MD

Baltimore City Public Schools has successfully reduced its dropout rate to 4.1% by implementing a comprehensive short- and long-term strategy of identifying students at risk of becoming chronically absent or dropping out of school, documenting efforts of reengagement in a systemwide data management tool; increasing strategies of prevention, intervention and engagement at the school and district levels; and improving college access and readiness programs.

**VOICES FROM THE FIELD: IMPACTING ATTENDANCE BY CONCENTRATING ON STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Connection  
Presenters: Ms. Kay Augustine, Institute on Community Integration, Univ. of MN, Minneapolis, MN; Ms. Leah Hannah, Pennsylvania Counseling Services, Lebanon, PA; and Mr. Matt Wysocki, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Franklin Initiative, Bloomington, IN

Join us as site coordinators, school-based mentors, and community leaders share how they are creating and sustaining initiatives across the country utilizing the research-based Check & Connect Comprehensive Student Engagement Framework to address attendance and truancy issues. Join us as we explore practical strategies, diverse leadership, creative partnerships, and the commitment to Persistence-Plus!

**DECONSTRUCTING THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Euphoria  
Presenter: Ms. Dia Jackson, George Washington University, Laurel, MD

The school-to-prison pipeline describes the series of ineffective school policies and practices that push students out of the school building and towards delinquency. This pipeline is disproportionately filled with minority youth from low-income backgrounds and youth with disabilities. Strategies for transitioning culturally and linguistically diverse students are discussed.

**3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

**A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO ADDRESS THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF YOUTH WITH CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS**

Strand: Community Partnerships  
Location: Imagination  
Presenter: Mrs. Jessica Zaucha, Family Service and Community Mental Health Center, McHenry, IL

School systems and staff struggle to meet the unique needs of youth with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders. These youth are at high risk of dropout and academic failure. The Integrated Co-Occurring Treatment (ICT) Program in McHenry County has found ways to address the unique challenges associated with these youth in the schools through partnerships between families, court services, school systems, and treatment providers. This session will feature helpful information about youth with co-occurring disorders and will provide coordination tips, other strategies, and lessons learned.

**THE YOUTH AGRICULTURE PROJECT: REENGAGING DROPOUTS AND AT-RISK ENROLLED YOUTH THROUGH FIELD-BASED WORK AND EDUCATION**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Knowledge  
Presenter: Mr. John Glade, The Tutorial Center, Inc., Bennington, VT

For six years, The Tutorial Center's Youth Agriculture Project has helped dropouts and at-risk students build life and job skills through hands-on work in farm fields, gardens and farmers markets; and by learning about food, nutrition, and agriculture. A lot of things grow, and it isn't just the plants! Youth gain confidence, improve soft skills, acquire transferable work skills, and are re-energized about their educational paths. As a bonus, thousands of pounds of organic produce are donated to area homeless shelters and food shelves.

**BUILDING A CULTURE OF LEADERSHIP AND INTERVENTIONS TO DECREASE DROPOUTS AND IMPROVE LEARNING**

Strand: Leadership  
Location: Utopia B  
Presenter: Mr. Greg Bishop, Education 2020, Scottsdale, AZ

This session will focus on the culture and the programs necessary to address the needs of struggling learners at risk of dropping out. Participants will be shown a framework and practical solutions to addressing the needs of these students using Power Standards, Common Assessments, and a results-oriented intervention plan.

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

**CAROUSEL SESSION**

*Schaumburg West, A-D, is the location of the carousel session. A number and title will be posted at each table. Each participant will choose a table and be seated. The carousel facilitator will give instructions. A bell will ring to signal the start of Round One and each presenter will make a 30-minute presentation. After 30 minutes, a bell will signal the end of Round One. There will be an approximate three-minute transitional time for participants to move to another table. A bell will signal the beginning of Round Two.*

**ADVISORY PLUS: A MODEL FOR STUDENTS WHO MOST NEED CONNECTION**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Table 1  
Presenter: Dr. Abby Attias, Princeton Center for Leadership Training, Princeton, NJ

Advisory Plus is designed to foster a school culture of connectedness—but what about those even more at-risk students who defy connectedness in most settings? This discussion focuses on both an effective advisory model for all students and a model within a model, designed for a smaller, harder-to-reach population.

**RESILIENCY BUILDING FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS OF DIVERSE STUDENTS**

Strand: Family Involvement  
Location: Table 2  
Presenter: Dr. Pamela Cotton-Roberts, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA

The purpose of this presentation is to provide knowledge for educators and families to increase opportunities for diverse students to receive quality education necessary to successfully graduate. With the method of strengthening resiliency, the students will be able to turn their obstacles into an excellent future of learning.

**IBERVILLE PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TAILORS LEARNING THROUGH DIGITAL  
TECHNOLOGY**


Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Table 3  
Presenter: Dr. Edward Cancienne, Iberville Parish  
School District, Plaquemine, LA

The best way to support every student in realizing his or her potential in school is to provide a learning experience uniquely tailored to each student's specific needs. Learn how Iberville Parish School District is having a positive impact on students who found learning in a traditional classroom challenging. Though Iberville Parish's Credit Recovery program using digital curriculum, students are having better outcomes and graduation rates are on the rise.

**THEY BEAT THE STREETS: HOW THREE  
BLACK MALES SUCCEEDED DESPITE THE  
HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE**

Strand: Family Involvement  
Location: Table 4  
Presenter: Ms. Sandra Alexander, Proud 2-B Me  
Publishing, Decatur, GA


The presenter will share how as a single parent without any experience raising teens or males she was able to create a positive home environment for black male students through support of school activities, family involvement, support of community, utilization of community resources, and punishment and rewards. The session will feature questions and answers.



**Saving Lives**  
*One Student At A Time*

**DROPOUT PREVENTION  
FOR AT-RISK LEARNERS**

2008 & 2010 National Dropout Prevention Center Crystal Award Recipient  
[www.staracademyprogram.org](http://www.staracademyprogram.org)



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

**DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS MEETING EACH STUDENT RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Table 5  
Presenter: Mr. Jim Ferguson, DeSoto County Schools, Horn Lake, MS

All kids learn but not on the same day and not in the same way. DeSoto County Schools in Mississippi has over 32,000 students with more than 2,000 attending high schools. Learn how the district is successfully meeting each student's needs right where they are in their learning by using digital curriculum for Credit Recovery, RTI, and summer schools.

**NONTRADITIONAL SCHOOLS THAT WORK**

Strand: Reenrolling Dropouts  
Location: Table 6  
Presenters: Ms. Elaine Fahrner, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, Nashville, TN; and Mr. Michael Flushman, The Academy located at Hickory Hollow, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, Antioch, TN

The Academies at Old Cockrill and Hickory Hollow were opened in August 2009 for students 17-21 who needed a nontraditional setting to complete requirements for high school graduation. They have awarded 543 high school diplomas as of May 2011. Acceptance, recognition, and a sense of belonging are key ingredients to this success. Please visit [www.academy.mnps.org](http://www.academy.mnps.org) to view our Web site.

**USING SOCIAL BONDING TO PREVENT DROPOUT AND TRUANCY**

Strand: Attendance and Truancy  
Location: Table 7  
Presenters: Dr. Carolyn Gentle-Genitty and Ms. Janice Vinson, Indiana University School of Social Work, Indianapolis, IN

Participants will learn about social bonding and a perception of social bonding instrument to track impact on students, school environments, and school staff.

**CREATING AN EDUCATIONAL VILLAGE: STRATEGIES FOR AT-RISK ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

Strand: Family Involvement  
Location: Table 8  
Presenter: Ms. Barbara Malcolm, RBE Educational Associates, Ann Arbor, MI

Using the seven Correlates of Effective Schools research as an interactive guide, strategies will be modeled that will help increase student achievement by incorporating home, school, and community. Parent and community involvement are used as resources to help students achieve academically and socially.

**50-IN-10 POLICY INSTITUTE: WELL INTENDED POLICIES AND UNINTENDED OUTCOMES FOR DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

Strand: Reenrolling Dropouts  
Location: Table 9  
Presenter: Dr. Leslie Block, Leslie S. Block and Associates, Chicago, IL

There are a myriad of well-intended policies that have unintended outcomes. The presenter will discuss educational policies that penalize school/districts for reenrolling dropouts and disconnected young people. Disconnected young people are defined as: truant, severely off-track, juvenile/criminal justice system involved, foster care placed, teen parents, out-of-school youth, and dropouts.

**SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENT—MOTIVATING AT-RISK STUDENTS FOR ONLINE SUCCESS**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Table 10  
Presenter: Mr. Christopher Lee, Odysseyware® Inc., Chandler, AZ

Online instruction offers a great opportunity for educators to reach at risk-students. But, their success will be tied to the level of motivation and engagement. To achieve this, educators must improve on traditional methods as we extend the classroom beyond physical buildings into a virtual world. As we dive into some real life successes, you will be encouraged to press on and be equipped with the tools needed for your success.



**CHASING THE DROPOUTS**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Table 11  
Presenters: Mrs. Helene Bettinger and Ms. Kim Williams, Pell City High School, Pell City, AL

Learn how one school has gone from a 64% to a 92% graduation rate using a multifaceted approach to instruction and intervention while increasing rigor. These gains were accomplished with minimal funding.

**ALASKA'S PROJECT KI'L IN ALASKA'S HEAD START PROGRAM**

Strand: School Cultures  
Location: Table 12  
Presenters: Mr. O. DeWayne Ingram, Ms. Doreen Brown, and Ms. Kerri Wood, Anchorage School District, Anchorage, AK; and Mr. Seth Partnow, Partnow Consulting, Anchorage, AK

Project Ki'l (Dena'ina Athabascan term for "boy") meets the unique educational needs of Alaska Native boys in a Native Head Start program and in 12 Anchorage School District (ASD) Title I elementary schools with high Native enrollments. Long-term goals are to create a culture of high expectations for Native boys and to produce higher academic outcomes for them.

**STAR STUDENTS BACK ON TRACK FOR ON-TIME GRADUATION**

Strand: School Cultures  
Location: Table 13  
Presenters: Dr. Kimberly McLaren, Berkeley High School, and Mr. Olin Eric Gambrell, Berkeley High Star Academy, Moncks Corner, SC

The Berkeley Star Academy Program provides potential dropout students, at least one year behind their peers, the opportunity to complete eighth and ninth grade in one school year. The program includes core curriculum, services, and strategies provided by Pitsco Education and the Star Academy Program to reengage students in school. Thirty percent of the first cohort of students have already earned college credits. During the program's three years of operation, participating students have improved academic performance, attendance, and behavior. Come discuss how the program can help you!

**OVERCOMING URBAN PSYCHOLOGICAL CANNIBALISM**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Table 14  
Presenter: Dr. Eboni Wilson, Beautiful Vision, Evanston, IL

The definition of Urban Psychological Cannibalism<sup>®</sup> is the state in which urban individuals are conditioned through music, environment, and social interactions to believe that their circumstances are a positive state of being which feeds into their current lifestyle, killing their determination for life outside of their poverty mentality, which ultimately will lead to cyclical mental, emotional, and physical deterioration. This workshop will explore urban psychological cannibalism and how it affects perception of self, attendance and truancy, and post- educational opportunities for at-risk students.

**4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION NETWORK BUSINESS MEETING**

*(All conference participants are invited to attend.)*  
Location: Schaumburg E

Come and learn more about this organization and how you can be a vital part of it!

**4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

**SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION MEETING**

*(By invitation only.)*  
Location: Schaumburg G





investing in our  
**communities**

investing in our  
**future**

**DOLLAR GENERAL®**

**7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.**

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

Location: Schaumburg East Foyer

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

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

Location: Schaumburg East Foyer

**8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

*(Participants choose one.)*

**PRESSING TOWARD THE GOAL AGAINST ALL ODDS**

Strand: Family Involvement  
Location: Nirvana A  
Presenter: Mrs. Carol Raines-Brown, Inglewood USD, Inglewood, CA

This session addresses issues that effect the life strand and core being of children across the country. Learn strategies and techniques in helping students to stay in school who come from the most challenging environments imaginable: children in foster care, children whose parents are in the criminal justice system, children who have been abused and bullied, sexually abused, single family homes, severe absenteeism and truancy. How can teachers, parents, community and other professionals bridge the gap to eradicate this dropout epidemic? Come, learn, and join us in making a difference in lives of children and young people in your (our) community. Be on time to see the compelling documentary of young people who graduated, *Pressed Toward the Goal Against All Odds*.

**A STUDENT-CENTRIC, NONTRADITIONAL APPROACH TO STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND DROPOUT RECOVERY**

Strand: Reenrolling Dropouts  
Location: Nirvana B  
Presenters: Ms. Mary Kay Tyson, Judson ISD, Converse, TX; and Dr. Susan Powell, Education 2020, Plano, TX

This session will provide a roadmap from vision to implementation of an innovative, blended learning environment designed to keep students in school. Judson ISD Texas presenters will share 10 tips to replicate their suc-

cessful program and to maximize learning opportunities through nontraditional use of time, space, and resources.

**THE SOCIAL BLACK BELT: AN INTERACTIVE YOUTH PREVENTION CURRICULUM**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Nirvana C  
Presenter: Dr. Harold Shinitzky, Tierra Verde, FL

The Social Black Belt (SBB) is an evidence-based interactive youth prevention curriculum. The SBB covers the top 10 developmental issues which provide students with the decision-making skills to prevent the devastating impact of bullying, substance abuse, and peer pressure, as well as increasing the probability of pro-social behaviors, resilience, and school graduation.

**FROM DROPOUT TO GRADUATE: TRACKING THE WHOLE STUDENT TO IMPROVE DISTRICT RATES**

Strand: Reenrolling Dropouts  
Location: Schaumburg E  
Presenter: Mrs. Deborah Acosta, Midland Independent School District, Midland, TX

This presentation will provide information on how a district of 22,000 students collaboratively works together to recover dropouts, prevent dropouts, and track students to assure the goal of graduation is achieved. The Student Data Tracking will be shared to show how data is tracked to target our “off-track” students to assist them back on track. The Cohort Tracking will also be shared to help districts predict completion rates, graduation rates, and longitudinal dropout rates.

**USING THE SOS ED OR SCALE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT/DISENGAGEMENT TO IDENTIFY STUDENTS AT RISK OF NOT GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL**

Strand: School Culture  
Location: Schaumburg F  
Presenter: Dr. Lynn Frickey, Mercer Island School District, Seattle, WA

This session will introduce the Scale of Student Engagement/Disengagement (SOS ED), its components, the research and development behind it, and how the SOS ED can be used in schools, grades 6-12. This session will also include identifying student engagement scores, student engagement profiles, and personalized engagement plans for each student.

**YOU GOTTA REACH 'EM IN ORDER TO  
TEACH 'EM: RECONNECTING THE LINK  
BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE AND POWER**

Strand: Curriculum and Instruction  
Location: Euphoria  
Presenter: Hotep, Hustle University, Stone  
Mountain, GA

to perform their best. This workshop also demonstrates the most overlooked missing ingredients in "education," and provides a fresh, new, and exciting approach. Most importantly though, ReachThemToTeachThem provides SOLUTIONS! It shows how to shift young peoples' perception of school and quickly turns reluctant students into active participants!

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

**SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION MEETING**

*(By invitation only.)*

Location: Schaumburg G

A Congressional award-winning approach that revolutionizes the way educators and students view school and education! This presentation completely destroys common misconceptions teachers and youth service providers have about education and how to get young people

**9:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

*(All are invited to attend.)*

**CLOSING GENERAL SESSION**

Location: Schaumburg West, A-D

**Welcome/Remarks/Introductions**

Mr. Edward Bates, Conference Co-Chair, Lake County Regional Office Of Education, Grayslake, IL

**PERSPECTIVES PANEL**

Ms. Lisa Parker, Reporter, NBC5 Chicago, Moderator  
Mr. Michael Yudin, U.S. Department of Education, Acting Asst. Secretary, Washington, D.C.  
Dr. Christopher Koch, Illinois State Board of Education, State Superintendent, Springfield, IL  
Ms. Linda Chapa LaVia, Illinois State Representative, Aurora, IL  
Ms. Robin Stearns, Advance Illinois, Executive Director  
Mr. Kerry Knodle YouthBuild Coalition, President, Rockford, IL

**Introduction of 26 Seconds Presentation**

Mr. Ot Schroeder, Conference Presenter and State Farm Agent, Warsaw, IN

Featuring students from  
The High School for Recording Arts  
St. Paul, MN



Presented by

**State Farm**

**Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Stephen Sroka, Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Medicine, Division of Adolescent Health, Case Western Reserve University, President, Health Education Consultants, Cleveland, OH

**THE POWER OF ONE**

The Power of One presentation is a high energy, multimedia educational presentation about making a positive difference in your school, community, and life. The presentation is based on cutting-edge behavioral research and the realities of working with students, schools, and communities for over 30 years.

**Closing Remarks**

Dr. Kimberly Davis, Director, Dropout Prevention, Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Family & Community Outreach, Tallahassee, FL

## DIRECTORY OF EXHIBITORS

Organization	Booth #	Description
<p><b>AimTruancy Solutions</b> Andrew Wilson 2305 Cedar Springs Rd, #410 Dallas, TX 75201 (214) 999-1122 awilson@aimtruancy.com</p>	108	AimTruancy Solutions is an innovative truancy intervention program designed to keep at-risk and truant youth in school, out of the juvenile system and on track to graduate.
<p><b>American Institutes for Research</b> Marianne Kroeger 1120 East Diehl Rd, Suite 200 Naperville, IL 60563 (630) 649-6506 mkroeger@air.org</p>	112	Research-based resources for practitioners and policymakers.
<p><b>Apex Learning</b> Kerry Lavigne 1215 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1500 Seattle, WA 98161 (206) 381-5600 kerry.lavigne@apexlearning.com</p>	214/216	Apex Learning provides comprehensive, standards-based online courses for secondary education to help schools successfully engage all students in rigorous course work.
<p><b>EdisonLearning</b> MaryAnn Hartel 485 Lexington Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl New York, NY 10017 (212) 419-1761 maryann.hartel@edisonlearning.com</p>	207	Magic Johnson EdisonLearning Assist provides educational solutions that help students at risk of dropping out of high school earn a diploma through Magic Johnson Bridgescape™ Learning Centers.
<p><b>Education 2020</b> Jackie Chastain 7303 E. Earll Drive Scottsdale, AZ 85251 (586) 634-5626 or (616) 826-0556 jchastain@education2020.com</p>	203	Education 2020 helps school districts provide core and elective instruction in a virtual school setting for students in grades 6-12.
<p><b>Education Associates</b> Nikki McKay POB 23308 Louisville, KY 40223 (502) 244-6944 nmckay@educationassociates.com</p>	106	The Project Discovery Transition System is a series of hands-on career education kits that dynamically link the world of school and work to motivate students to stay in school and plan their futures.
<p><b>Educational Options, Inc.</b> Mike Buchenauer 500 West Annandale Road Falls Church, VA 22046 (866) 243-7460 mbuchenauer@edoptions.com</p>	211	EdOptions offers computer- and web-based educational solutions for Pre-K to adult learners through our award-winning products and services: Stars Suite, Edoptions Online Academy, and Orchard Learning.
<p><b>Enhanced Insight</b> Norman Livingston Kerr PO Box 12555 Chicago, IL 60612 (312) 208-4274 normankerr@comcast.net</p>	110	Enhanced Insight provides violence prevention consulting services to schools and organizations. We offer technical assistance and training to support work with at-risk populations. www.enhancedinsight.com

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Organization	Booth #	Description
<p><b>Families and Schools Together, Inc.</b>            Carol Goedken            2801 International Ln, Suite 212            Madison, WI 53704            (608) 663-2382 ext 301            cgoedken@familiesandschools.org</p>	217	Families and Schools TOGETHER® (FAST) is an evidence-based family strengthening and parent engagement program to help kids succeed in school and in life.
<p><b>For Winner's Only Foundation</b>            Adrean Hill-Horton            1415 Hwy 85 N, Suite 310-117            Fayetteville, GA 30214            (404) 234-3636            adrean@thewatkinsgroup.us</p>	215	A curriculum and enrichment program that provides scaffolding for creating tailor-made plans for personal growth and readiness, improved performance, and higher graduation rates.
<p><b>Functional Assessment Systems</b>            Kay Hodges            3600 Green Court, Suite 110            Ann Arbor, MI 48105            (734) 769-9725            fas@fasoutcomes.com</p>	114	The JIFF standardized + computerized assessment reduces truancy and dropouts by determining youth's needs. The youth are then motivated to participate in a service plan to get back on track for success. <a href="http://www.FASoutcomes.com">www.FASoutcomes.com</a>
<p><b>Hustle University, Inc.</b>            Hotep Benzo            4156 Kings Troop Rd.            Stone Mountain, GA 30083            (404) 294-7165            info@hustleuniversity.org</p>	201	Books, DVDs, and CDs for dropout prevention and at-risk youth.
<p><b>K12, Inc.</b>            Karen Oldenkamp            2300 Corporate Park Drive            Herndon, VA 20171            (866) 912-8588            partnerships@k12.com</p>	208/210	K12, Inc. and Aventa Learning by K12 are the nation's online education leaders, providing more than 350 online education courses to grades K-12. Visit <a href="http://K12.com/educators">K12.com/educators</a> or <a href="http://aventalearning.com">aventalearning.com</a>
<p><b>Kuder, Inc.</b>            Angie Overton            302 Visions Parkway            Adel, IA 50003            (800) 314-8972            overtona@kuder.com</p>	107	Kuder, Inc. provides proven, online solutions to navigate life's career journey for all ages while facilitating collaboration between education, business, community, and state agencies.
<p><b>LTS Education Systems</b>            Benjamin Sampson            1 Mt Laurel Ave, Ste 210            Birmingham, AL 35242            (866) 552-9192            bsampson@ltskc.com</p>	116	LTS Education Systems publishes online math, literacy, science, and character ed curriculum aligned to common core standards. Our featured program, Kid's College, uses prescriptive, data-driven instruction and can be a pivotal tool in your attempts to provide an engaging program that can make all the difference for youngsters and struggling teens. Our innovative education solutions specialize in disguised learning and adaptive technology.

## DIRECTORY OF EXHIBITORS

Organization	Booth #	Description
<p><b>Luster Learning Institute, NFP</b>                      Jai Luster                      1126 Hillcrest Avenue                      Highland Park, IL 60035                      (847) 748-7482                      jai@lusterlearning.org</p>	205	<p>LLI supports and encourages student success through teaching its schoolwide, “Calm Classroom” curriculum. Calm Classroom empowers school leaders and faculty to facilitate a highly organized system of research-based techniques that help manage limited attention spans, anxiety, emotional instability, disruptive and violent behavior, and school and community issues.</p>
<p><b>McGraw-Hill/Contemporary</b>                      Dan Helms                      1522 N. County Road 300 W.                      New Castle, IN 47362                      (765) 425-6152                      daniel_helms@mcgraw-hill.com</p>	103	<p>Contemporary publishes instructional materials to help prepare learners for exams such as WorkKeys®, the GED tests, and the Tests of Adult Basic Education. Contemporary also offers online instruction and remediation programs covering academic skills, and programs to prepare learners for the U.S.D.O.E. Career Pathways.</p>
<p><b>National Dropout Prevention Center/Network</b>                      John Peters                      209 Martin Street                      Clemson, SC 29631                      864-656-0253                      pj@clemson.edu</p>	101/102	<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><b>National Runaway Switchboard</b>                      Katrina Wyss                      3080 N. Lincoln Ave                      Chicago, IL 60657                      (773) 289-1723                      kwyss@1800runaway.org</p>	204	<p>Promotional and educational information that participants can take, as well as information on the runaway prevention curriculum and National Runaway Prevention Month will be available.</p>
<p><b>New Millennium Institute</b>                      James Bryson                      323 E. Eller Dr                      E. Peoria, IL 61611                      (309) 208-8778                      jbryson@stoptripping.com</p>	117	<p>New Millennium Institute focuses on student, parent, and staff training and curriculum development, providing 21<sup>st</sup> century educators with new retention strategies that accommodate a more diverse student population.</p>
<p><b>ODYSSEYWARE®</b>                      Meghan Ray                      804 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E.                      Rock Rapids, IA 51246                      (800) 682-7391 ext 6010                      mray@glynlyon.com</p>	105	<p>Headquartered in Chandler, Arizona, ODYSSEYWARE® provides Internet-based curriculum and interactive, technology-rich learning solutions to more than 945 school districts across the United States.</p>
<p><b>Ombudsman Educational Services</b>                      Diana Shaffer                      1585 North Milwaukee Ave., Suite 2                      Libertyville, IL 60048                      (847) 247-6624                      dshaffer@ombudsman.com</p>	202	<p>Ombudsman provides an alternative route to graduation for students who have difficulties with attendance, credits or academic skills, or that have social and family challenges that keep them from being successful in traditional school.</p>



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Organization	Booth #	Description
<p><b>Pearson-Digital</b> Audree Hall 900 E. Lake Ave. Glenview, IL 60025 (847) 486-2804 audree.hall@pearson.com</p>	206	<p>Pearson has a vision of effective education: a virtuous circle of learning where powerful technologies enable teachers to assess students, diagnose their learning needs and prescribe personalized learning.</p>
<p><b>PLATO® Learning</b> Cari Leinhart 5600 W 83<sup>rd</sup> St., Suite 300 8200 Tower Bloomington, MN 55437 (800) 869-2000 cleinhart@plato.com</p>	109	<p>PLATO® Learning is a leading provider of high-value, comprehensive online solutions that support educators in their mission to successfully transition learners and advance learner achievement.</p>
<p><b>Read Right® Systems</b> Maureen Mortlock 310 W. Birch Shelton, WA 98584 (360) 427-9440 maureenm@readright.com</p>	115	<p>Read Right® is a powerful reading intervention model that relies on the plasticity of the brain to remodel the neural network that, in poor readers, guides the reading process inappropriately.</p>
<p><b>Red Truck Training, Management &amp; Consulting, LLC</b> Janet Campain 1120 W. Magnolia St. Fort Collins, CO 80521 (970) 232-6959 jancampain@comcast.net</p>	213	<p>Red Truck's Concierge Approach provides solutions to school climate and culture issues by empowering students to become an invaluable resource that makes a difference.</p>
<p><b>Ripple Effects</b> Lew Brentano 33 New Montgomery St., #1210 San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 227-1669 lbrentano@rippleeffects.com</p>	104	<p>Ripple Effects is a differentiated instruction, adaptive, tiered student training and professional development system delivering SEL, RTI, PBIS and behavior interventions in culturally responsive ways.</p>
<p><b>School Innovations and Advocacy</b> Gemma Konovaloff 11130 Sun Center Drive Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916) 669-5127 gemmak@sia-us.com</p>	111	<p>School Innovations and Advocacy™ is a full service firm with expertise in attendance management, special education, state/federal programs, mandates, and advocacy. With the success of school districts in mind, we deliver solutions for all aspects of school operations that ensure cost-effective and successful programs.</p>
<p><b>Simon Youth Foundation</b> Julie Carriere 225 West Washington St Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317) 263-2423 jcarriere@simon.com</p>	209	<p>Simon Youth Foundation exists to help youth who are at risk of dropping out of high school graduate, develop life skills, and pursue postsecondary education and career paths. To positively impact the lives of youth, Simon Youth Foundation has developed two major initiatives: Simon Youth Academies and Simon Youth Scholarships.</p>

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*Thank you for attending  
the 23rd Annual National  
Dropout Prevention  
Network Conference.*



*We hope to see you next  
year in Orlando, FL  
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# *Everything we do targets increasing the high school graduation rate!*

## **What We Do!**

**Promote solutions**—The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (NDPC/N) has identified 15 Effective Strategies that positively impact the high school graduation rate.

**Develop publications**—Our practical, research-based publications evolve from field specialists, practitioners, and researchers and include: *Journal of At-Risk Issues*, *National Dropout Prevention Newsletter*, *Solutions and Strategies*, and specialized guides pertaining to the 15 Effective Strategies.

**Collaborate with stakeholders**—We are a membership organization with hundreds of business and community professionals, teachers, administrators, and practitioners providing services to youth around the nation.

**Conduct professional development**—NDPC/N hosts conferences, institutes, and workshops and conducts customized leadership and staff development programs on issues such as service-learning, alternative education, mentoring, learning styles, leadership, and school safety.

**Provide technical assistance**—Our staff of consultants will assist you with the answers you need, when you need them, or refer you to our vast array of experts among the Network membership.

**Operate an on-line clearinghouse**—[www.dropoutprevention.org](http://www.dropoutprevention.org) contains the latest statistics, model programs, information about effective strategies, and other useful links regarding education reform issues.

## **Benefits to You!**

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**Present**—a workshop or seminar at NDPC/N national conferences and institutes held annually.

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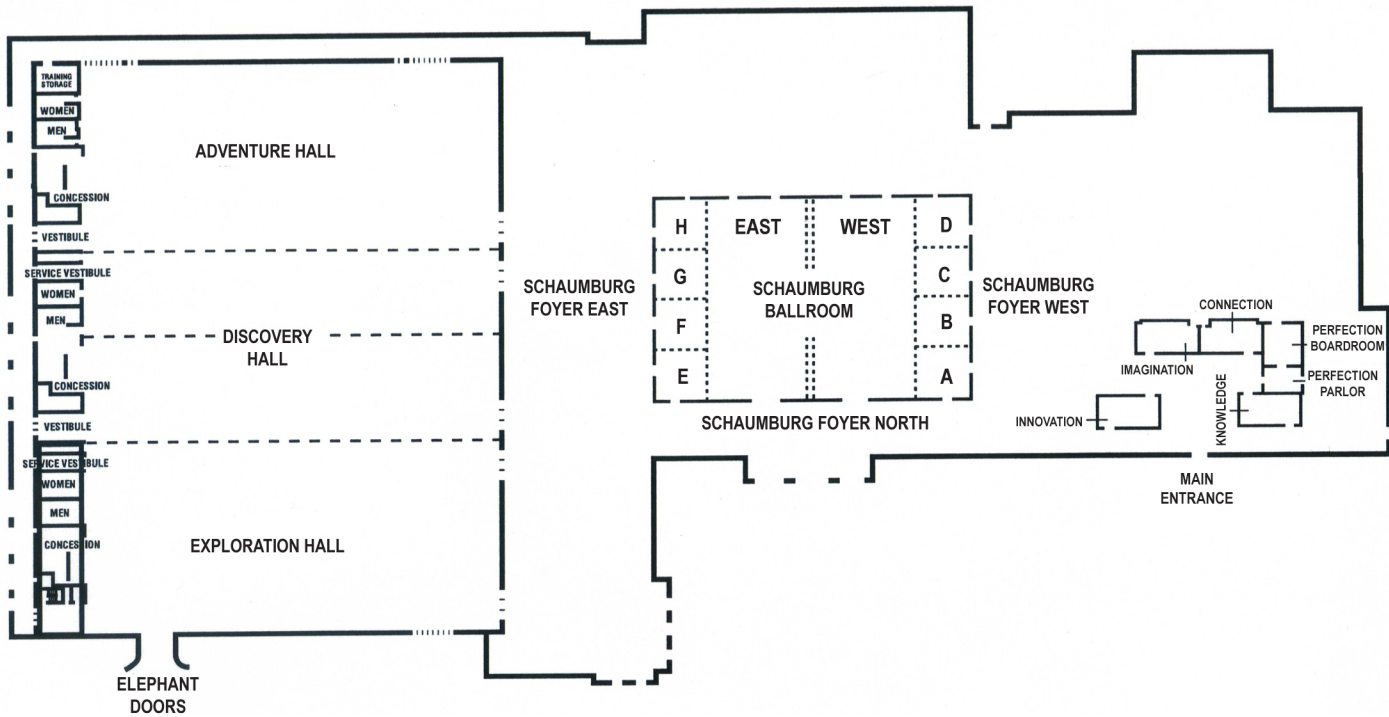


## NOTES

# RENAISSANCE SCHAUMBURG CONVENTION CENTER HOTEL

## MEETING ROOMS

### FIRST FLOOR



### SECOND FLOOR

