

**Monday, February 17, 2020**

Time	Session Name	The 15 Effective Strategies	Session Type	Session Description	Presenter(s)
8:30 - 10:15 am	Why Lessons Learned?		Keynote	This conference is about "Lessons Learned" in K-12 education. Why? Mainly because there are schools and districts that have been standing still for the last 50 years, and some that chase every new shiny object. So how do we increase effectiveness, efficiency and results for our learners? In this keynote, Ray and Sue will share concepts and strategies to help build on both best and next practices, while insuring success by design, not by chance.	Ray McNulty & Dr. Sue Szachowicz
10:30 - 11:30 am	Collective Efficacy - An Integrated Systems Approach	Individualized Instruction	Breakout	While some educators believe that "Collective Efficacy" is a mythical idea that is unattainable, nothing could be further from the truth. All great organizations have elements of collective efficacy. The very best have a recursive learning process that drives improvement and innovation. This session provides a playbook into the research and integrated strategies that are proven to work if schools make the shared commitment. Levels of collective efficacy explain student achievement MORE THAN socioeconomic status (Goddard, Hoy, & Hoy 2000). Simply put, there is no more powerful pursuit for any school or district than collective efficacy to improve outcomes for students. Attendees will access the playbook that Maine Township High School District 207 used to help drive student performance to all-time highs despite rising poverty and diversity among its students.	Dr. Ken Wallace
10:30 - 11:30 am	An Alternative School or Alternative Option? -MECHS	Alternative Schooling	Breakout	Mountain Education Charter High School (MECHS) is an innovative educational opportunity for Georgia's high school students. This session will highlight the key strategies that have made our students successful. Participants will gain an understanding of this alternative model and leave with takeaways on alternative methods for success. Our curriculum features a self-paced, mastery-based framework in which students work until concepts are mastered before progressing. By intentionally building relationships with students, our teachers and student services team members create an atmosphere where all students are supported. Whether a student currently feels left behind or would like to get ahead, this alternative model has shown to be a pathway to success.	Dr. Joe Cash and Steve Bartlett, Mountain Education Charter High School
10:30 - 11:30 am	NDPS Certification Process	Special Topics	Breakout	NDPC Executive Director Sandy Addis presents the requirements, benefits, and applicability of both the National Dropout Prevention Specialist (NDPS) certification program and the NDPC Trauma-Skilled Specialist certification program. Sample Field Projects submitted as a requirement for NDPS certification will be available. Sample Trauma-Skilled lesson plans, a requirement for Trauma-Skilled Specialist certification, will also be available during the session. A question and answer session will follow the presentation and application to each program, if desired, can be facilitated.	Dr. Sandy Addis & Lynn Dunlap
10:30 - 11:30 am	Daring to Dream, Learning to Fail, Leading to Inspire	School-Community Collaboration	Breakout	Come share the journey of how Mariah Morris, 2019-2020 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year, reimagined the possibilities of her classroom as a way to truly engage all of her diverse learners. Mariah will share how she transformed her students' engagement by embracing the 4Cs of 21st century learning: collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and creativity. By integrating STEM into her curriculum as a vehicle to deliver cross-curriculum standards, Mariah has been able to excite her students to take ownership of their learning in a meaningful way. In this session, you will hear how she became an educational leader who hopes to inspire a new way of thinking about 21st century learning.	Dr. Sam Houston, President and CEO, NC Science, Mathematics, and Technology Ed. Center and Mariah Morris ,2019-2020 Burroughs Wellcome Fund NC Teacher of the Year
1:00 - 2:00 pm	How Do You become Future Focused in Our Schools?	Professional Development	Breakout	If we are going to educate all learners for the future they will live in, we must be future focused. Do we abandon our current best practices to try unknown strategies? How do we research whether a new strategy works? In this session Ray McNulty will share the concept of "Controlled Innovation" and the need to balance the culture in our systems to embrace both the tradition of our core work and the need to innovate and create a different future for our learners.	Ray McNulty
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Leadership Lessons Learned: Creating a Culture for Success for ALL Students	Active Learning	Breakout	Effective leadership is essential to school success. But what does instructional leadership actually look like, and how does it occur in the midst of the many demands faced daily by school leaders? How does a leader create a positive school culture that values the academic success of ALL students and makes the students and adults feel valued and empowered? Join Sue in this session for answers to these questions as well as ideas and strategies that can promote a positive school culture for all.	Dr. Sue Szachowicz
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Maximizing Student Engagement	Individualized Instruction	Breakout	How do we know if students are engaged or just compliant? Let's talk about what real engagement looks like. We will explore ways to hold all students accountable for participating, structure the learning environment to enhance engagement, and empower students to become agents of their own learning.	Bernie Lambert
1:00 - 2:00 pm	How Does Culture and Climate Impact Drop Outs, Pushed Outs, and Pulled Outs.	Systemic Approach	Breakout	Do we truly understanding of the power of culture and climate when engaging students, faculty, and community.	Chris Riddick, Director - Fort Worth ISD

2:15 - 3:15 pm	Stopping the School to Prison Pipeline: Successful North Carolina School-Justice Partnerships	School-Community Collaboration	Breakout	In 2015, New Hanover County Schools entered a partnership with courts, law enforcement, mental health, social services and others to limit referral to law enforcement for minor school-based offenses. After the success of our program, our model was mandated for the entire state of North Carolina in the newly enacted (December 1, 2019) Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act. Find out about our four year results, the inclusions of a Title IX director, and the challenges we are facing locally, regionally and statewide. Chief Judge J. H. Corpening has been consulting statewide and nationally on how school districts can start their own partnerships and we can share information on the progress in NC. We have an online toolkit and a lot of resources to share, as well as opportunities for further assistance.	Dr. Janna Robertson, Professor UNCW and Judge J. Corpening, Chief District Court Judge-State of North Carolina- 5th District
2:15 - 3:15 pm	Teaching Amplified - How #coaching4all Supports Collective Efficacy and Improves Student Success	Individualized Instruction	Breakout	Imagine a school in which every teacher every year has an instructional coaching plan to help create what John Hattie calls “collective efficacy” of a teaching staff. See how Maine Township High School District 207 Developed a Teacher-Led Instructional Coaching Model For Every Teacher Every Year to Support Continuous Growth and Improvement of Teachers to Help Create Better Student Success, helping lead the District to its highest levels of student achievement despite rising student poverty and diversity. Maine Township High School District 207, a diverse high school district bordering Chicago, Illinois, developed one of the nation’s first job embedded professional development programs centered on peer instructional coaching plans for every teacher every year to help support students success. Despite rising poverty and diversity among its students, District 207 student achievement performance is at an all-time high due to its systemic focus on supporting teacher improvement in every classroom for every student informed by a robust Professional Learning Community model and Multi-tiered Support System.	Dr. Ken Wallace
2:15 - 3:15 pm	Moving Beyond Content in Our Classrooms	Professional Development	Breakout	When content is the main thing, our instructional practices keep us in teacher-centered classrooms filled with basic recall and limited student engagement. When the student is the main thing, we adjust our instructional practices for a student-centered classroom that intentionally requires more thoughtful work and maximizes engagement. Teachers today have toolkits filled with instructional strategies. They have the declarative knowledge (what the strategy is), and many have the procedural knowledge (how the strategy basically works). Yet we must own the conditional knowledge (when and why to use the strategy) in order to shift instruction for more rigorous and relevant expectations. During this session, we will explore several instructional strategies—some familiar and some new—and consider under what conditions these strategies might result in better student performance.	Bernie Lambert
2:15 - 3:15 pm	Text Tenacity: Reading Strategies to Build Literacy Grit	Early Literacy Development	Breakout	Join us for a strategy-driven workshop where we’ll grapple with reading strategies for students to consistently employ to build literacy tenacity. Each strategy discussed will not only grow learners’ comprehension, but also prepare them to gain text-based knowledge that will enable them to engage in deeper learning, communication, and collaboration required for success in all aspects of their personal and professional lives.	Bobbi Bear, Director of Literacy Advocacy- Achieve3000
3:30 - 4:15 pm	End of Day One Lessons Learned		General Session	So, you’ve heard from many in your sessions today about the work others have done and the lessons they have learned. This conference is not so much about what you have heard or learned today, but what you will do with what you heard and learned today! This daily closing session will review today’s lessons learned and provide some ideas and strategies to translate learning into action.	Ray McNulty & Dr. Sue Szachowicz

**Tuesday, February 18, 2020**

Time	Session Name	The 15 Effective Strategies	Session Type	Session Description	Presenter(s)
8:30 - 9:45 am	Keynote		Keynote		Dr. Bill Daggett
10:00 - 11:00 am	WHY before WHERE - A Personalized Plan for Each Student Utilizing Next Gen Strategies and Tools	Individualized Instruction	Breakout	Our highest calling in equity today is to change the trajectory of each student's life leading to careers of passion, interest and a livable wage free of debt. Maine Township High School District 207's nationally recognized work is a scalable model using next gen strategies and tools that can be replicated. Come learn how. This session will address how today's new generation of sophisticated analytic tools, when incorporated into school districts' career and college advisement evolved strategies, can increase the chances of students and families making smarter decisions about career and education paths through research-based strategies augmented with return on investment counseling to create better career match, lower student debt, and a focus on careers with livable wages based on real-time job data.	Dr. Ken Wallace
10:00 - 11:00 am	Writing Across the Curriculum	Early Literacy Development	Breakout	Writing serves as an efficient vehicle for accelerating deeper thinking and content exploration in our classrooms. However, we must do more than simply "assign" students writing tasks. This session highlights a variety of tools, techniques, and tactics that teacher can apply is almost any subject.	Bernie Lambert
10:00 - 11:00 am	Cars and Canines and Cadavers, Oh My! Improving Academic and CTE Programs through the Integration of AR/VR	Educational Technology	Breakout	You've probably seen it before! Maybe playing Pokemon GO, applying a filter on Snapchat, or watching Grey's Anatomy. Leverage Augmented and Virtual Reality to engage and teach your students. As teachers and leaders assess their core academic and CTE programs to ensure alignment among student interest and programs offered, AR and VR technologies are helping offer students more opportunities that align with college and career expectations. In this session, we will discuss the findings of the research around improving academic performance, decreasing dropout rates and the improvement of core academic and CTE programs through AR/VR.	Joe Parlier, Sr. Director, zSpace Education Solutions
10:00 - 11:00 am	Empowering Leadership Teams for A Model for Interdisciplinarity: Breaking Down Silos to Build a Culture of Innovation	Systemic Approach	Breakout	A look at a journey by five educational professional preparation programs to develop a culture of inquiry and innovation to promote interdisciplinarity. This session will present a model to practitioners for dismantling academic silos at the PK-12 level for the direct benefit and retention of students.	Dr. Dina Pacis, Associate Professor/Department Chair - National University; Dr. Joseph Marron, Professor/Program Director-National University; Dr. Teri Marcos, Professor/Interim Ed.D. Program Director - National University; Dr. Patricia Traynor-Nilsen, Assistant Professor/Program Director-National University;
11:15 - 12:15 pm	Effective Strategies for Alternative School Improvement	Alternative Schooling	Breakout	Alternative schools and programs are complex, serve our most at-risk students, and often have the lowest graduation rates in our school districts. The presentation will explore the recommendations of NDPC's recently released practice guide, Strategies for Alternative School Improvement. Dr. Addis and Dr. Greer, co-authors of the guide will lead participants to utilize and apply recommendations of the practice guide to achieve improved graduation outcomes for local alternative schools and programs. Complementary copies of the practice guide will be provided to participants.	Dr. Sandy Addis and Dr. Kathie Greer
11:15 - 12:15 pm	Mental Health, Trauma, and Discipline Practices for Pre-school and Early Grade Students.	Early Childhood Education	Breakout	The presentation will review the findings of NDPC's recent research on the impact of trauma and mental health on the behaviors and learning outcomes of pre-school and early-grade students. The presentation will explore disciplinary practices of suspension and expulsion of very young children for behavioral and discipline infractions and the long-term impact of suspension and expulsion practices on school success of trauma-impacted students. The presentation will offer recommendations for further exploration and next steps to address this challenging issue. An executive summary of NDPC's recent research on the topic will be provided to participants.	Dr. Dee Stegelin and Dr. Sandy Addis
11:15 - 12:15 pm	Using Technology to Initiate, Monitor, and Measure Effectiveness of Student Services	Educational Technology	Breakout	A particular focus at our school is individualizing student interventions. We have leveraged technology to address this challenge with a "Service Monitoring System" within our onTrack student database. The SMS allows staff to track the status of referrals in real-time and collect data to measure the effectiveness of interventions.	Dr. Paige Swartz, Director of Student Engagement & Retention-Mountain Education Charter High School; Mr. Chris Dowdy, Database Coordinator-Mountain Education Charter High School; Mr. Mark Kuczka, Project Lead- Cirrus Networks;
11:15 - 12:15 pm	Your Presence is Requested: Strategies for Increasing Student Attendance Through the Integration of Learning Supports and MTSS	Safe Learning Environments	Breakout	As schools all over the nation are working to improve outcomes for all students, it is vital that we create environments that encourage high attendance and engaging learning opportunities every day. This session will offer strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism and increase the number of graduates who are prepared and ready to succeed in college, career, and life through the integration of MTSS and the Learning Support Framework.	Charles Banks, Senior Executive Director Student Services -Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools
11:15 - 12:15 pm	Lessons Learned; The Need for Service-Learning/Civic Engagement/Career Development in Schools and Society	Service Learning	Breakout	Often dropout prevention programs focus on keeping students in school and getting them to graduate. But the crisis in America is more than keeping kids in school, it is about engaging them in the democratic process and in lifelong learning. Research and practice suggest service-learning is one of the most powerful approaches to both dropout prevention and civic engagement.	Dr. Robert Shumer
1:30 - 2:30 pm	TSS Schools Overview	Professional Development	Breakout		John Gailer
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Rubrics That Make Writing Achievable for ALL Students	Early Literacy Development	Breakout	Effective writing instruction begins with a rubric that a) tells students what they are going to learn; b) provides immediate feedback for students and teachers; and c) allows teachers to "feed forward" instruction. This session focuses on the basic steps for teachers to generate their own analytic rubrics. We also discuss how to roll out a rubric criterion-by-criterion so that students experience success.	Bernie Lambert

1:30 - 2:30 pm	Building Resilience Through Mindfulness: Our TSS Implementation Strategies in an Alternative Setting	Alternative Schooling	Breakout	We are creating an environment that fosters resilience using mindfulness and a total team approach to provide unique and meaningful support for all students in our program. Attendees will participate in mindfulness practices and walk away with strategies that they could implement immediately.	Mrs. Latonia Copeland, Coordinator Middle School Alternative Programs -Greenville County Schools; Ms. Shameka Benjamin, Teacher -Greenville County Schools
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Closing the Gap in Special Education: Strategies for Success for Our Students with Disabilities	Systemic Approach	Breakout	Our students with disabilities who have often spent many years under a special education classification, are too often highly at-risk for dropping out. And as accountability demands increase, many schools face performance gaps for students with disabilities. Closing those gaps requires a school wide commitment and a true collaboration between special education and regular education. In this session, specific strategies that are replicable and sustainable for a school wide approach to increasing student performance, including targeted interventions, supports and safety nets for students with disabilities will be shared. When it comes to achievement, all means all.	Dr. Sue Szachowicz
2:45 - 3:30 pm	End of Day 2 Lessons Learned		General Session	So, you've heard from many in your sessions today about the work others have done and the lessons they have learned. This conference is not so much about what you have heard or learned today, but what you will do with what you heard and learned today! This daily closing session will review today's lessons learned and provide some ideas and strategies to translate learning into action.	Ray McNulty & Dr. Sue Szachowicz

**Wednesday, February 19, 2020**

Time	Session Name	The 15 Effective Strategies	Session Type	Session Description	Presenter(s)
8:30 - 9:30 am	Lessons Learned form 30 Years – Dropout Prevention Is a K-12 Issue	Systemic Approach	Breakout	Though often treated as a high school problem that requires high school solutions, NDPC’s research and experience clearly indicates that early-age and early-grade steps are required to produce improved high school graduation rates. The presentation will explore early-age, early-grade, and system-wide strategies for achieving higher graduation rates with examples of successful approaches. The presentation will offer strategies and resources for school leaders to engage early-grade educators in dropout prevention to achieve higher system-wide graduation rates.	Dr. Sandy Addis
8:30 - 9:30 am	Mentoring- Methods to Close the Gaps for Students	Mentoring/Tutoring	Breakout	This presentation will discuss the implementation of mentoring in both a relational and academic sense to address gaps for students, increase student advocacy, ensure students are on a successful path towards on-time graduation, and meeting student needs of at-risk under-served students.	Pamela Foster, Graduation Specialist - Springfield Public Schools, MO
8:30 - 9:30 am	So You Think You Are A STEM School	Active Learning	Breakout	Participants in this session will be introduced to a process used in NC to identify STEM Schools of Distinction. Session attendees will leave the program with a tool which can be used to determine where along a continuum from early development to model a school may be in the search of becoming a true stem learning environment. Participants will also learn that the acronym STEM really is defined as: STRATEGIES THAT ENGAGE MINDS.	Dr. Sam Houston, President and CEO NC Science, Mathematics, and Technology Ed Center and Dr. Carol Moore, Director – NC STEM West
8:30 - 9:30 am	HYOH (Hike Your Own Hike): Using individualized Social Emotional Trail Guide lessons to help students navigate the paths they have chosen in life.	Individualized Instruction	Breakout	Mountain Education Charter High School utilizes an individualized “Trail Guide” to build resilience and support areas of need. This is a strength based approach to provide students with a variety of skills to navigate life’s paths both in and beyond high school in a healthy, productive manner.	Ms. Martha Kent, Director of Social and Emotional Learning - Mountain Education Charter High School; Mrs. Pam Smith, Director of Prevention and Intervention Services - Mountain Education Charter High School;
9:45 - 10:45 am		Career and Technical Education	Breakout		John Barge
9:45 - 10:45 am	Student Engagement and Retention of Athlete	After-School/Out-of-School Opportunities	Breakout	A Basketball league was created to provide high school males between the ages of 16-21 with an opportunity to engage in sports at a dropout recovery school.	Mr. Wendall Garth, Director - Invictus High School, OH; Mr. Dean Menke, Sr. Director of Academics-Invictus High School; Mr. James Hudson, Student Engagement Specialist - Invictus High School; Mr. Kevin Minor, Family Advocate and Title IX Coordinator - Invictus High School; Mr. Osborne Gardner, Attendance Specialist - Invictus High School
9:45 - 10:45 am	Changing the Conversation: Career Planning Strategies for Youth at-Risk	Career and Technical Education	Breakout	Career planning has changed dramatically in recent years. These changes present additional challenges for youth at-risk. This presentation uses a magazine feature article from titled the Road Less Traveled (RLT) as a way to reach youth at-risk and those who support them in career planning. The presentation includes information on the RLT as a career planning strategy for youth at-risk. Also, George Miller is one of 16 subjects featured in the RLT and will share his story in the presentation	Dr. Patrick O’Conner, Emeritus Professor, Kent State University, OH and Mr. George Miller II, Child Advocacy Artist-Gemartstudio

9:45 - 10:45 am	The Probability of Possible	Safe Learning Environments	Breakout	"The Probability of Possible" will present the effective strategies used to engage and support at-risk students. This session will focus on the innovative culture needed to reduce suspensions, assist with dropout prevention and improve cohort graduation rates.	Mr. Jermaine White, Assistant Superintendent, Harnett County Schools, NC
11:00 - 12:00 pm	Closing Keynote		Keynote		Dr. Bill Daggett