

Theme: Failure is NOT an Option

Keynote: Greg Bishop, Intervention Specialist, Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals **“Building a Culture of Professional Learning Communities”**

The keynote will present an overview of Alan Blankstein’s six essential principles of Failure is NOT an Option. The essential principles guide student achievement in high performing schools. This session will focus on how to build a culture of Professional Learning Communities in your school. Participants will learn how to develop a Courageous Leadership Imperative along with the important factors that accompany systematic change. How do we as educators ensure achievement for ALL students? What prevention and interventions should your school have in place? Find out more on how to change your school from good to great.

Morning Breakout Sessions

Keynote Follow-up: “Using Power Standards, Common Assessments and Data to Drive Learning” ***Greg Bishop: Intervention Specialist, Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals***

This session will focus on the importance of developing Power Standards and common assessments to identify students for intervention and prevention. Participants will see how to use data to provide important information regarding student achievement. How do educators appropriately manage multiple standards and provide all students with a focused curriculum with measureable results? How do we use the data to drive the curriculum?

“Freshman Academy and Key Components”

Lowell HS: Ben Ingram, Christina Davis; Merrillville HS: Lorri Covaciu, Christine Wheeler

This session will focus on the key elements of establishing a freshman academy and mentoring program. Included are the critical components that we believe are non-negotiable in fostering Rigor Relevance and Relationships. This session will also include the how to nuts and bolts, concrete examples of developing a results driven student oriented 9th grade academy. Included is the peer mentoring program that is being used at Lowell and Merrillville High Schools that not only instills a feeling of “school connectedness” in the freshmen but also provides a variety of benefits for the upper classmen mentors as well. Overall, this session will showcase how these concepts are being utilized at both a suburban urban fringe school and a rural school.

“Collaborative Problem-Solving for Promotion of Students’ *Developmental Assets*

Christina Grabarek, Valparaiso University

This session will review critical steps in a team problem-solving model that can be applied to academic and/or behavioral issues experienced within a secondary setting. Application of this model will incorporate key concepts from “Developmental Asset” research that identifies protective factors that inhibit high risk behaviors, as well as resiliency research that identifies factors that may increase a child’s ability to rebound from adversity.

KIWANIS KEY LEADER, “Serving the Children of the World”

Dick Peterson - Key Leader Program Manager

Since 2005, more than 10,000 high school students through the world have learned the tenets of Service Leadership from Kiwanis Key Leader—a weekend leadership retreat that is open to all high school students. The weekend experience starts with an exploration of the call by Robert Greenleaf for all to live out servant leadership in their daily lives. From there, the curriculum goes through five major themes—Integrity, Growth, Respect, Community and Excellence. This Workshop will utilize parts of the curriculum in an interactive format that will explore the concepts which are as pertinent to all adults as well as students. Details about Indiana sessions and in-school programs will be provided. Come prepared to be involved!

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Featured Speaker: Carolyn Powers: Fort Wayne Community Schools "Courageous Leadership"

How do we put the Blankstein's six essential principles of Failure is NOT an Option into practice? Carolyn Powers will share her story of how Fort Wayne Community Schools are moving forward with Professional Learning Communities throughout their corporation. Hear how principals along with a team of teachers have been empowered to lead their schools to a higher level of learning in the classroom.

Featured Speaker Follow-up session: Carolyn Powers: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Featured speaker follow-up session will give the audience an opportunity to hear stories of progress after the first year of empowering the school improvement team in the professional learning community leadership model. Principals will dialogue with the audience, answer questions and share powerful tips and strategies for creating a culture of learning at the school level.

"Raising the Bar = Higher Test Scores"

Wade Boise & Deanne Pierce, Merrillville HS

If you are a math teacher, administrator, or math curriculum coordinator and wish to improve your standardized test results, then you are going to want to come to hear this presentation. We will show you how we took a group of math teachers and developed a system that works. Through cooperation, consistency, curriculum and communication, 95% of our freshmen students who were completing the Algebra 1 course, passed the Indiana Algebra 1 End of Course Assessment in May of 2009.

"Building Successful Response to Intervention Programs"

Greg Bishop: Intervention Specialist, Michigan association of Secondary School Principals

This session will focus on the multiple programs Cousino High School uses to intervene with students who are not learning. Cousino High School has adopted the collaborative process of Professional Learning Communities. Through the use of this collaborative process, Cousino has developed multiple interventions for students who are not learning. Using a customized computer based program of credit recovery along with creative scheduling of Academic Learning Centers, Cousino has achieved a success rate of over 80% of students recovering one or more failed core classes while still exposing students to high levels of rigor. Furthermore, collaboratively developed peer mentoring, character education, mandatory tutoring, and conflict resolution programs have been instituted with high levels of success. The session will focus on ensuring achievement for all students: developing systems of prevention and intervention, building sustainable leadership capacity, and activities regarding vision and goals. Participants will be engaged for about 50% of the session in building a vision, goals and developing intervention programs for success of all students.

"High School Bridge"

Staci Bennett, Hammond Morton HS and Chris Bajmakovich, Hammond HS

High School Bridge is a two-week program prior to the regular start of the school year. Algebra, Language Arts, and Career Explorations are the focus of a ten day program developed to bridge the gap for new freshmen entering high school.