



## **Breakout Sessions**

### **Session 1 • 10:15 – 11:30am**

#### **Bridging the Gap: Social-Emotional Learning Skills, a Two-Way Street Approach to Educating Black + Brown Boys**

**Presenter:** Dom Portis, Milwaukee Succeeds

**Audience:** All

**Description of session:** Times are changing rapidly. Education is evolving quickly; but arguably never quick enough and educating students in the 21st century is quite the task. Social-Emotional Learning, and Character Education have emerged as leading strategies to educating this unique make-up of student. Also a reality is the widening achievement gap that has placed Black and Latino students at the root of concern. Participants will take a critical look at SEL and CE practices to determine if this is a strategy in education that is inclusive of all young people; specifically Black and Latino male students.

#### **Empowering Learners through Self Awareness**

**Presenter:** Becky Anderson, Waukesha School District

**Audience:** All

**Description of session:** How do we make decisions about how we interact within various environments and contexts without knowing ourselves? One could argue that far too many adults have lagging inter and intra personal skills, what might it look like for k-12 learners to know themselves inside and out and know their peers in these ways too? In this session, we intend to demonstrate how we've used self-awareness as a way to empower learners, build community, restore justice, and create ownership of learning.

#### **Strengthening Our Schools, Our Communities and Our Society through Core**

**Presenter:** Joseph Palmer, Schenectady

**Audience:** Elementary

**Description of session:** An interactive approach to 'branding' your school and community using Core Values. Instantly improve the culture and climate of your school while seeing

attendance increase and discipline incidents decrease. Students are empowered and become vested in their own success. Work with presenter that was NYS Academy for Character Education Administrator of the year and Principal that lead a National School of Character utilizing the 11 Principles of Character. Finally, have fun while realizing what we do daily truly makes a difference on the children we work for and in the community we serve.

### ***Discipline...How to Make Each Moment a Teachable Moment***

***Presenter:*** Jori Broidy, Milwaukee Jewish Day School

***Audience:*** Elementary, Admin

***Description of session:*** Kids struggle for a variety of reasons. While most schools have a code of conduct simplifying the consequence for specific offenses, we often fail to look at the reason behind why kids behave the way that they do. Understanding our students and their stories can turn classroom management into teachable moments. This session will help participants to better understand the why behind student struggles. It will provide participants guidance in working with our most challenging students through a personal and individualized approach. We challenge the idea that consequences are the same for all students and look at how we can meet each child where they are at any given moment. This not a program or curriculum to purchase but rather strategies and techniques you can immediately take back to your classroom.

### ***Swallow Strong - Developing a Student-Centered System to Support All Learners***

***Presenter:*** Kyle Moore, Swallow School

***Audience:*** Elementary, Middle, Admin

***Description of session:*** The Swallow School District has always placed a strong emphasis on creating a caring learning environment that benefits all students. An analysis of increasing significant social and emotional learning needs in our student population led to the creation of the Swallow Strong Committee. Utilizing school data, professional research and community engagement, staff members identified targeted growth areas and developed a school-wide approach to address our community's needs. Join us as we share our journey and discuss the increasing role of student social and emotional learning in the classroom.

### ***Using ATLs to Inspire the Whole Child***

***Presenter:*** Peg Grafwallner, Ronald Reagan IB High School

***Audience:*** High, Admin

***Description of session:*** In this interactive session, participants will learn how the Approaches to Learning (Social, Communication, Thinking, Research and Self-Management) are an integral part of supporting the whole child. We will define, implement and reflect upon the ATLs in a high school setting. In addition, we will create ways to apply the ATLs

academically, behaviorally and emotionally in diverse environments. Finally, we will share ideas on how to create student-centered ATL opportunities.

### ***Leveraging Student Leadership through the Change Agents Academy Using Restorative Checks***

***Presenter:*** Grace Lee, Hixson Middle School

***Audience:*** Middle, Admin

***Description of session:*** Five years ago we were a building riddled with broken dreams that appeared in the form of high rates of office referrals, daily physical confrontations between students and a disconnection between the people in the building. To begin healing, we examined our social justice lens, held courageous conversations and began diligently looking for ways to serve students and restore the broken dreams. The critical step to becoming a socially just school naturally led us to begin our study around restorative practices and the impact it would have on our school family. As a faculty, we studied restorative practices and collaborated with a district leader on restorative practices to understand how to begin implementing the practice. Teachers began introducing the language, students began using it and the community began healing. However, there was something missing, the student's voice. To leverage student leadership and truly give students ownership over the work, we created the Change Agents Academy to train students to lead circles throughout the building. A year later, our restorative circles are created and led by students throughout the school and with adults. Our session will engage participants by sharing not only our story but the journey we took to truly give students a voice by leveraging their leadership through Restorative Circles.

### ***Resiliency - A Path to Success***

***Presenters:*** Terry Rahn and Valerie Hess, Virtues Village

***Audience:*** All

***Description of session:*** This is an interactive session that will inspire you with activities and ideas of how to increase resiliency in students and help them on their pathway to success.

## **Session 2 • 1:15 – 2:30pm**

### ***Character Education: The Foundation to the Pathways to Success***

***Presenter:*** Lisa Elliott, School District of Greenfield

***Audience:*** Admin

***Description of session:*** Preparing students for their futures and not our past is a commitment we have made to our Learning Community in the School District of Greenfield.

Ensuring that students that students are able to apply knowledge and think innovatively as a result of engaging in rigorous and relevant opportunities is one half of our mission statement. The other critical piece is the importance meaningful and trusting relationships play in the learning process. The types of relationships we believe are important to the learning process are developed through character education and a score set of key life readiness skills, knowledge and dispositions that we are committed to developing in all members of our learning community. This sessions will focus on how to blend the 11 principles of Character into district and school level priorities as well as intentionally aligning district/school systems to ensure students graduate college, career, life, and leadership ready.

### ***50 Years after the Milwaukee Fair Housing Marches: Teaching for Justice***

***Presenter:*** Amanda Seppanen, Sustainable Formations

***Audience:*** All

***Description of session:*** This year we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Milwaukee Fair Housing Marches, an incredible movement in which activists and students marched for 200 consecutive nights to demand an end to housing segregation. This session will provide a brief overview of the Milwaukee Fair Housing Marches and will highlight resources designed to recognize the past and reignite a passion for activism. We will also discuss a broader teaching framework and evaluate what it means to teach for justice each day. The session will conclude with a mini-workshop in which participants will outline an educational experience or curricular idea appropriate to their unique context.

### ***Cultivating Culture***

***Presenter:*** Houston Kraft, Character Strong

***Audience:*** All

### ***Diversity, Character Ed, Inclusion***

***Presenter:*** Santo Carfora, S & J Consulting, LLC

***Audience:*** All

***Description of session:*** This interactive session will give participants tools and hands-on experiences in developing relationships with youth, explore the many facets of diversity, while creating an awareness of the need for cultural competency and inclusion/ acceptance in schools. It's essential for students to feel acceptance in their schools. By understanding the value of cultural competency and inclusion acceptance and success become possible.

### ***Trauma Informed Classroom Strategies***

***Presenter:*** Kenda Roman, Gaston Elementary School

***Audience:*** Elementary

**Description of session:** In this highly-informative and engaging workshop, teachers will learn resiliency building strategies they can use in their classrooms to build strong relationships, create safe spaces for all students to learn, and boost students emotional skills and neurological capacity.

### ***Assertive Leadership - The Pathway to Character Development***

**Presenter:** Rusty May, Bullying & School Safety Foundation

**Audience:** Elementary, Middle, Admin

**Description of session:** Character, life skills and learning behavior must be taught, modeled and practiced on a daily basis just like every other aspect of the curriculum. The most unchallenged assumption in education today is that students know how to behave and that life skills will develop automatically as they get older. The reality is that students need to be taught how to act and how to treat others and we can no longer rely on the hope that it's being done by someone else. In this session, educators and administrators will receive practical strategies including: powerful diffusers to maintain composure specific strategies to teach to expectations, simple tools to handle negative situations more effectively.

### ***Coaching Character: A Positive Culture Game Plan***

**Presenter:** Andy DiDomenico, The Coaches Platform

**Audience:** High, Admin

**Description of session:** We will present a comprehensive overview of a character based, co-curricular athletic program. The session will provide an overview and rationale for implementing character based athletics, the building blocks for creating a sustainable culture, and interactive activities directed at discovering core ethical values and methods to infuse them in your program.

### ***Restoring Classrooms***

**Presenter:** Cori Moran, School District of South Milwaukee; Zeeland Walsh, Wisconsin Conservatory of Life Long Learning

**Audience:** Middle, High, Admin

**Description of session:** A Restorative Circle (related to the Socratic seminar, originated in Aboriginal communities) is a structure that can support students in developing the productive community relationships that lay the groundwork for meaningful discourse practices. This, paired with other Restorative Practices, can help build trust and progress to goals of a classroom.

### Session 3 • 2:45 – 4:00pm

#### ***How to Deal with Negative People and Keep from Becoming Negative Yourself***

***Presenters:*** Dr. Michael R. Weber and Karen Weber, Port Washington-Saukville School District

***Audience:*** All

***Description of session:*** Negative people are tremendous energy drainers for children, other adults, and themselves. They can tear an organization or family apart, significantly interfere with your character education efforts, and can create problems for you if you do not handle them effectively. Learn how to deal with negativism and increase your own positive approach toward other people and everyday life challenges. Also, learn how to improve the overall atmosphere of your work and home environment and increase the positive energy toward character education.

#### ***Character, Community and Relationships: Lessons for Every Classroom***

***Presenter:*** Amy Karsten and Margaret Tackes, Alverno College/ LACCS

***Audience:*** All

***Description of session:*** In this session, participants will examine the lessons that matter most - for all students at all levels. Through the power of relationship and community building, teachers can enhance character development and promote a positive classroom climate and culture. Participants will also consider the connection between classroom environment and attendance/achievement data.

#### ***Mindfulness and Social Emotional Skills in the Early Childhood Classroom***

***Presenter:*** Rachel Hughes, Bruce Guadalupe Community School

***Audience:*** Elementary

***Description of session:*** This session will include a 5-7 minute PowerPoint explaining how mindfulness techniques impact social emotional learning in the classroom. The PowerPoint goes into detail about how expulsions and suspensions in Wisconsin are an issue for school systems. A discussion of social emotional learning is covered, along with an explanation of real life behavioral issues teachers' face in the classroom. The PowerPoint briefly covers my Alverno graduate thesis and the results of my quasi- experimental study on how mindfulness impacts social emotional learning in the early childhood classroom.

#### ***Restorative Practice, Trauma, and the Brain***

***Presenter:*** Stephen Shepherd, Paradigm Shift Educational Consultants

***Audience:*** Elementary, Admin

**Description of sessions:** Restorative Practice, Trauma, and the Brain: Session Summary: According to the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC), during the 2013-14 school year, 1,075,257 students received out of school suspension as a consequence for more than one incident. Of those students suspended, 302,864 were students with disabilities. In an effort to provide safe and supportive learning environments for all students, it is imperative that we understand the connections between trauma, the brain, behavior and social interactions. It is also vital for teachers, students, and family members to have access to proven practices and strategies to help de-escalate situations that lead to or involve aggressive behaviors. Restorative Practices promotes interpersonal relationships and develops a strong sense of community within a school environment. However, students that have experienced trauma and/or have a disability may not respond well to this type of social setting. This leads us to our primary focus: Can Restorative Practices be effective for all students? We believe that there are ways to tailor Restorative Practices to support students that experience chronic behavior issues. This session will address possible causes for these issues and teach specific strategies for effectively integrating all students into the classroom community.

### ***The Foundation for Building a Solid School Culture***

**Presenter:** *Bevin Christie, Carmen Schools of Science and Technology*

**Audience:** High

**Description of sessions:** Since its inception in 2007, Carmen High School of Science and Technology has held a bridge to high school program for all of its incoming freshmen. This program is 5-7 days long and focuses on relationship building, student-to-teacher, student-to-student, and student-to-advisor. Throughout the bridge program, students and teachers participate in activities to begin fostering buy-in around the core values of respect, responsibility, and trust, as well as each campus' selected character traits. Important bonds are formed, expectations are clear, and the students are prepared to start off high school on the right foot.

### ***Ethical Framework for Assessment Practices***

**Presenters:** *Gereon Methner and Craig Carriere, Gibraltar Area Schools*

**Audience:** Middle, High, Admin

**Description of session:** Our session will include a Robert Starratt's highly-known framework. Attendees will then be asked to attend case studies centered on principles six and seven of the 11 Principles of effective Character Education through the lens of Starratt's framework. Participants will leave with a worksheet highlighting takeaways and resources that could be used in PLC's.

### ***How 2 Talk 2 Kids - Practical Techniques***

**Presenter:** *Jim Reif, Menominee Indian High School*

**Audience:** Middle, High, Admin

**Description of sessions:** Kids are not always easy to talk to, students in a crisis situation are often very difficult to talk to. Similarly, drawing out a quiet child's behavioral issues requires patience and solid questioning techniques. Participants will learn and have an opportunity to practice 6 specific techniques to engage students who are in a difficult emotional state. Six practical experience based techniques including: listening, wait time, using the students point of view, using the appropriate adult, determining what happened, and building relationships will be explored. Participants will engage in a several specific practice techniques during the presentation, thus audience participation will be required. The goal is to practice real life situations in a safe and supportive environment; however, real life situations including student language (PG-13) will be discussed.