



DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SESSIONS

Join us for one of our Distinguished Speaker Sessions featuring content experts that will deepen your thinking and offer fresh insights and ideas. These sessions are a great way to explore specific topics of interest that include how to serve our most challenging students, and what brain research has to teach us about maximizing our teaching, learning, and leading potential.



Soaring Balloons & Heavy Shackles Helping the Most Challenged Kids Soar

Thursday, July 25th, Main Ballroom, 10:30-11:45am

Heidi LaFleur

About the Speaker:

Heidi LaFleur is a dynamic leader deeply committed to promoting social-emotional learning and trauma awareness. As a former educator and administrator, she brings personal experience and passion to her work with thousands of students in need. Through her organization, Heidi with a WHY, Inc., she offers keynote speaking, professional development, and coaching nationwide. Heidi holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Drake University and completed graduate studies in Educational Leadership at Northeastern Illinois University. An accomplished author, she has penned several books, including "Hop on the Clue Bus" series and "Those Kids are OUR Kids." Recognized for her contributions, Heidi has received prestigious awards, including the Double D Award from Drake University, the highest honor bestowed on alumni student-athletes for work in their field of study, as well as the John P. McGovern M.D. Award for Lectureship in School Health. She resides happily with her family, cherishing her role as a wife and mother of three.

Session Description:

This powerful true story, based on real life trauma, provides practical strategies to understand how our Actions, Words & Expressions (AWE) have a direct impact on the outcome of interactions with our students. Trauma transforms the student experience and practicing our perspective can assist in a child's journey to reclaim livelihood. We are empowered to be a part of the problem or part of the solution with ALL kids. Our AWE can either add weight to their shackles or fill their balloons to soar.



DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SESSIONS



Foundations of Human Learning: Unlocking the Brain to Transform Teaching, Learning, and Leadership

Wednesday, July 24th, Main Ballroom 1:30-2:45pm

Jared Cooney Horvath

About the Speaker:

Jared Cooney Horvath (PhD, MEd) is a neuroscientist, educator, and author of the best-selling book *Stop Talking, Start Influencing: 12 Insights from Brain Science to Make Your Message Stick*. He has conducted research and lectured at Harvard University, Harvard Medical School, the University of Melbourne, and over 750 schools internationally. Jared has published 6 books, over 50 research articles, and his work has been featured in numerous popular publications, including *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Economist*, and PBS's *NOVA*. He currently serves as Director of LME Global: a team dedicated to bringing the latest brain and behavioural research to teachers, students, and parents alike.

Session Description:

How does the brain work to make sense of reality, and what impact does this have on teaching, learning, and leadership? During this engaging and interactive session, we will explore the often-counterintuitive foundations of thinking, the power of stories to drive perception, the role errors play in comprehension, and consider how these three concepts tie together to build a culture both within and beyond school. Furthermore, we will use this foundation to differentiate between 'learning' and 'performance' modes and consider how this can be an obstacle to growth and change. Buckle in - here's where things get real!



DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SESSIONS



Shape Tomorrow's Skills, Today

Wednesday, July 24th, Main Ballroom, 10:30 -11:45am

Ron Chandler

About the Speaker:

Ron leads customer engagement for the US Education business at Apple. Prior to Apple, Ron was CIO for Harvard Business School where his team deployed a reimagined way to teach and work online. He led the transition to improved cyber hygiene and established a product development group that created software used by educational institutions worldwide. Before joining Harvard, Ron was the CIO of the Los Angeles Unified School District. He has an MBA from the University of Michigan and a BS in Electrical Engineering from Southern University. Most importantly, he is the son of an Elementary and Special Education teacher who taught for more than 40 years.

Session Description:

As new technologies catalyze changes in the workplace, learning environments are impacted as well. Students must build and develop new skills to succeed in the classroom and beyond. And it's more important than ever to empower educators to teach those skills. Join us to discuss how to invest in your educators so they have the technology and tools needed to engage, instruct, and assess students so they thrive today and into the future.