

SAIS Institute for Heads

This energizing and nurturing retreat offers an opportunity for thoughtful dialogue and engagement with other heads on key issues facing heads of school and their spouses. The number of participants is limited to foster connections and allow for contributions from all attendees. Featuring **Rob Evans** and **Michael Thompson**. Typically about half of the attendees bring spouses who participate in the sessions.



Past Participant Comments:

- **Michael and Rob never disappoint.** They are both deftly helpful, funny and warm, and know how to bring out the best discussion and then provide meaning around it. **I get more out of this than I did out of graduate school.**
- **Being with fellow travelers, you get refocused and reenergized because you know you aren't in it alone. I value these relationships. It's not about networking; it's about bettering each other and our profession.**
- Rob and Michael are the reason we go. We love their commitment to independent schools and their willingness to revitalize school leaders each summer!
- I found the spouse session to be emotionally hard, yet beneficial. My wife and I had great talks after this session; it will help us to prioritize our family and keep our relationship strong despite the challenges of the job.
- **The facilitators created a safe space for us all to connect, share, and get to know one another.**
- It was great for me to have my wife hear some of the things we deal with on a daily basis and great for her to have other spouses with whom she could share.
- **The IH serves for me as both an excellent heads conference and three days of therapy!**
- **Best conference I have gone to in years.** Michael and Rob are great, and the size was perfect. We got to know each other and people could contribute without being left out, which often happens in larger settings.
- **Nothing better after the school year is over than a retreat with Rob and Michael, in the nurturing SAIS environment.**
- The IH is a place where my spouse has an equal and valued voice. **There is no other event like it.**
- **I always leave the IH feeling like I received at least twice the value of what I invested in time and money.**
- Excellent program! **Dynamic, engaging presenters and great connections with colleagues.**
- With superb facilitators and impressive colleagues, the institute was a fabulous way to reflect on our roles from the "50,000 foot" perspective, while also recharging for the next year.
- **Absolutely the most helpful meeting of colleagues I have ever been involved in as a head.**
- **Michael and Rob are the best facilitators around and they get people to share ideas, thoughts, concerns, etc. in a way that is incredibly supportive and helpful.** Their presentations are also excellent but it is actually the facilitating - getting the heads to share and learn from each other, which is extraordinary.
- I came away refreshed, recharged and excited to return to my school. **After 13 years as a head of school, this institute was wonderfully re-energizing.**
- I simply cannot say enough of the impact this made on me and my wife. **It gave me understanding, guidance, and most important, strength to cope with a demanding job.**
- For the heads – and the spouses – Rob and Michael created a space for deep reflection, spontaneous laughter, and warm fellowship with new friends. **Next year's dates are already in my calendar!**
- My wife really enjoys this conference. She needs this as much as I do. The fact she can connect with others in the same situation is wonderful for her.
- **This was the best conference/retreat I have ever attended, and I recommend it enthusiastically,** not only because of the quality time with Rob and Michael, but also because of the interaction with fellow heads of school.
- Rob and Michael are very receptive to the group dynamic and adjust to it as needed. The fact that they are both psychologists adds an important dimension to the institute.
- This Institute has allowed my wife and me to return to school refreshed and armed to navigate the natural unavoidable dilemmas that are inherent in independent school communities.
- **This gathering of experienced heads of school is a must for any mid-career head of school. It truly is a refresher, inspiration, and affirmation of what we do.**
- My wife felt that she was no longer alone in feeling the way she does about my job.

- I really got a glimpse into my husband's world. Also, everything that I feel as a head's spouse was suddenly validated. It offered a great sense of relief.
- Good way for my husband to learn that what we experience is typical and goes with the territory.
- My wife not only felt that she understood my role in the school with more clarification, but felt the institute also greatly added benefit to her profession in the corporate world.