As a superintendent, you are faced with the daily responsibility of moving a complex system forward in an increasingly challenging economic, social and political landscape.

Achieving continuous improvement demands successful development of human resource capacity. This system wide, focused and engaged human capacity is necessary at every level of the organization, from governance to administration to instruction to support. All must possess the will to achieve the ultimate purpose and vision of equitable achievement for all students.

This universal Will must be accompanied by the technical knowledge and Skill necessary to realize equity of results on behalf of all students served and the community that invests in them. Purposeful and ongoing professional development is critical to a culture of continuous improvement.

Will and skill must be applied in a layered framework of legal parameters established at the Federal, state and local level. You must be knowledgeable of these parameters and navigate them in a way that facilitates the desired outcomes in an effective and efficient manner.

Knowledge expansion in educational research and best practices must inform the efforts in all areas described. You are responsible and accountable for mastering the demands of human resource development, achieving equitable outcomes for all students, navigating legal parameters and implementing important educational best practices.

This conference is designed to provide you information, insight and exposure to high impact practices based on research and the practical application from national, state and local experts including colleagues from around the state. Keynotes and breakout sessions address areas of human resources, legal parameters, equitable systems and practices and strategies for implementation of important educational initiatives. We trust you will find your participation of high value.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.  **BREAKOUTS**

1. **Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems: Getting Started**
   Just as student mental health exists on a continuum, so do the supports that schools can provide to promote positive student mental health. The Wisconsin School Mental Health Framework offers guidance to schools on how to build and strengthen a comprehensive school mental health system. Participants will explore the foundations of the framework and dig into system components, with attention to identifying entry points for developing mental health referral pathways.
   *Liz Krubsack, MS, LPC, School Mental Health Consultant, DPI*
2. **WISE – On Overview and Update for District Superintendents**
   What is WISE and how do the parts fit together? There are all sorts of WISE systems. The session will simplify this information and demonstrate how they all connect as well as how they integrate with your other local software systems. What do busy district superintendents need to do with WISE? Learn the key tasks you need to complete as the district administrator responsible for WISE and how DPI is making those tasks simpler and easier for you. In addition you will learn about the tools that are available to your team to verify data accuracy, best practices for ensuring quality, and new tools designed specifically for you as the district administrator to support your needs.

   **Melissa Straw, Data Warehouse and Decision Support Team Director; Annette Smith, Instructional Technology Services Team Director; and Gabrielle Koontz, Customer Services Team Director, DPI**

3. **Educator Effectiveness: It Works!**
   In this session, participants will learn about the groundbreaking new findings on the impact EE has on student outcomes and teacher retention, if implemented well. Additionally, participants will learn what it means and looks like to do EE “well,” using case studies from several Wisconsin districts.

   **Katie Rainey, Director of Educator Development and Support, DPI; Curtis Jones, Director, Socially Responsible Evaluation in Education, UW-Milwaukee; and Steve Kimball, Co-Director, Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative**

4. **ESSA School Level Expenditure Reporting: What Do District Administrators Need to Know?**
   The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has instituted a new requirement for per-pupil spending to be reported for every public school in the U.S. Wisconsin districts and LEAs have begun reporting 2018-19 actual year-end data to DPI. This session will discuss the purpose of this requirement, how DPI is collecting this data and reporting it to the U.S. Dept. of Ed., and what you can do as school leaders to start preparing for the statewide conversation coming this spring.

   **Carey Bradley, Assistant Director, DPI School Financial Services Team; and Jonas Zuckerman, Director, DPI Title I and School Support Team**

4:00 – 4:15 p.m. BREAK

4:15 – 5:15 p.m. BREAKOUTS

1. **Using WI’s Continuous Improvement Process to Achieve Equity**
   In this session, district administrators will develop deeper understanding of how to achieve equity using WI’s Continuous Improvement Process, the Data Inquiry Journal (DIJ) as a WISE tool that supports teams in their use of the process, and the critical components for effective implementation. This session is applicable to all district administrators, but may be of particular interest to those leaders of districts/schools with federal identifications under ESSA and/or IDEA.

   **Lisa Arneson, CESA 3 School Improvement Director; Gail Anderson, WI DPI Implementation Consultant; and Melissa Kahn, WI DPI Implementation Consultant**

2. **Positive Student Outcomes from Schools’ Sustaining Implementation of Wisconsin’s Framework for Equitable Multi-Level System of Supports**
   Schools and districts sustaining implementation of Wisconsin’s Framework for Equitable Multi-Level System of Supports are realizing positive outcomes for students, especially those students who have been historically marginalized. Wisconsin schools are reducing suspensions for all students and eliminating gaps between student groups. The Wisconsin RtI Center will share their research on the positive student outcomes high implementing schools are showing over time. Outcomes of focus include suspensions, Advanced Placement, and chronic absenteeism.

   **Kim Gulbrandson, Research and Evaluation Coordinator, Wisconsin RtI Center; and Kathy Ryder, Director, Wisconsin RtI Center**
3. **Wisconsin School Finance Overview and the 2019-21 Biennial Budget**
   We will discuss district revenue limits and general school aids. We will also provide a summary and discussion of 2019 Act 9 (the 2019-21 biennial budget), including grants and aids programs.
   **Bob Soldner, Assistant State Superintendent, and Erin Fath, Budget and Policy Director, Division for Finance and Management, DPI**

4. **Supporting Career Readiness in Schools**
   With the rising cost of post-secondary education, families and educators are looking to support students to make more informed transition choices from secondary to postsecondary education, training, military and/or work that also breaks down barriers to access. In this session, DPI staff will discuss the recent impacts and changes occurring in Career and Technical Education programming, along with quality advising and connections to more career development experiences through Academic and Career Planning service delivery, business-education partnerships, and state-endorsed regional career pathways in high skill, high demand career areas.
   **Robin Kroyer-Kubicek, DPI, Career & Technical Education Team-Career Pathways; and Karin Smith, DPI, Career & Technical Education Team-ACP & Dual Enrollment**

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. **WASB OPEN HOUSE** - Hosted by John Ashley, WASB Executive Director and WASB Staff
   WASB Offices - 122 West Washington Avenue, Suite 400. One block off the capitol square.

6:30 p.m. **REGISTRATION**

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. **GENERAL SESSION**

**Wisconsin's Economy Today:**
An In-Depth Explanation of Wisconsin’s Economy – The Best In 19 Years

**John Koskinen, Chief Economist, Wisconsin Department of Revenue**

8:30 - 9:30 p.m. **WELCOME RECEPTION**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19:**

7:00 a.m. **BREAKFAST/REGISTRATION**

8:00 a.m. **GENERAL SESSION**

Welcome - Jon Bales, WASDA Executive Director
Chair - WASDA President Cindy Zahrte, Supt., Tomah

Welcome by State Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor

Wisconsin State Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor will welcome superintendents and provide an overview of state level priorities and initiatives in education for the 2019-2020 school year.
8:30 - 8:50 a.m. Governor Tony Evers (Invited)

8:50 - 9:00 a.m. BREAK

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Linking Family Engagement to Learning

"Over fifty years of research on the impact of family engagement and home-school partnerships reveals a strong link between these partnerships and improved student learning and development as well as overall school improvement. Despite this research, many states, districts and schools still lack an intentional focus on the development of effective partnerships between families and schools.

In this keynote, Dr. Karen L. Mapp will discuss the Dual Capacity Framework for Family-School Partnerships, a tool she developed in collaboration with the United States Department of Education. This research-based framework identifies the goals and conditions necessary to develop and sustain effective family-school partnership initiatives and identifies the practice strategies that support student learning and school improvement.

Karen Mapp - Senior Lecturer on Education, Faculty Director, Education Policy and Management, Harvard Graduate School of Education

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. BREAK

10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Enjoy a Vocabulary.com Jam

11:00 – 11:20 a.m. Redefining Ready Preview

11:20 - 12:00 p.m. LUNCH (Box lunches)

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. STATE SUPERINTENDENT CAROLYN STANFORD TAYLOR’S ANNUAL STATE OF EDUCATION ADDRESS, FRIENDS OF EDUCATION ADDRESS & TEACHERS OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION - State Capitol Rotunda

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. BREAKOUTS

1. Waking Up From a Nightmare: The Baraboo Story of Communications Response and Healing

On November 12, 2018, the School District of Baraboo woke up to an image of Baraboo High School students appearing to give a Nazi salute going viral. Within seconds, we realized a tsunami of negative media attention and global threats. This session will share our story, our crisis communications response, and how we rose up from the nightmare to unite our community against hate. Strategies and tools will be highlighted for replication in your own context. Our story continues today with the development of equity and social justice actions that may also serve useful for participants as examples of healing.

Lori Mueller, Supt., Baraboo
2. **Hot Topics in School Law**
School superintendents know that laws, regulations, and prevailing interpretations of both concerning school districts are always changing and developing. As a result, specific areas of school law can take center stage because of important court decisions or legislative developments. Yet in other situations, specific legal issues can become more important to school district constituents or simply can become trendy, requiring more attention, working protocols, and public relations initiatives to respond to interested public groups. These legal developments are equally important to school superintendents, regardless of whether the goal is objective compliance with legal standards or satisfying school district constituents that issues of concern to them are being addressed. Join Attorney Kirk Strang of Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy for a timely discussion of school legal issues that matter today, and what superintendents can do to understand and address them.

**Attorney Kirk Strang – Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy, s.c.**

3. **Recruiting and Retaining Excellent Teachers**
Teacher shortages have been growing across the country resulting in a more competitive labor market. Hiring and retaining highly qualified educators can be challenging, but your students deserve top talent to increase the quality of your instructional program. This session will share three HR Director's best practices and practical suggestions for attracting, onboarding and retaining strong educators.

**Facilitator: Vickie Adkins, WASPA Executive Director; Panel: Pam Casey, Director of Human Resources, Elmbrook; Michelle Golden, Executive Director of Human Resources & Public Relations Chippewa Falls; and Nicole Jones, Director of Employment Services, New Berlin**

4. **Moving from Good to Great: Harnessing the Power of Families to Support Learning**
The research is clear; family engagement positively impacts student achievement. However, all types of family engagement do not affect student learning. During this highly interactive session, participants will categorize their family engagement activities, identify which strategies have the most impact on student outcomes and understand how to construct and implement initiatives that build the capacity of families to support learning at home.

**Karen Mapp, Senior Lecturer on Education, Faculty Director, Education Policy & Management, Harvard Graduate School of Education; Colleen Timm, CESA #7; Diane Lazarides, Instructional Supports Coordinator, West Allis; and Rob Phelps, Middle School Principal, Wausau**

5. **Partnering with the School Board and Other Key Stakeholders on District Equity Work**
The Monona Grove School District has been working for several years to disrupt the systems in place that allow inequities to persist in our own schools. There is always more work to do--the job of creating equity for all students is never complete. In order for real progress to be made, it is essential for the school board, parents, and community to support this difficult work. Learn how the Monona Grove administrators and staff have partnered with these important stakeholders in their journey to guaranteeing equitable opportunity, access, and outcomes for all students.

**Dan Olson, Supt., and Shelby Steel, Student Services and Equity Coordinator, Monona Grove**

2:30 - 2:45 p.m. **BREAK**
1. **Responding to Challenges: A Legal Perspective**
District administrators face daily challenges in carrying out their leadership roles in a school district from obvious constituencies such as students, employees, and Board members. However, there has been a dramatic evolution of challenges to district administrators from other constituencies such as parents, citizens, unions, and the media. Responding to these challenges in a politically viable and legally defensible manner depends upon an understanding of options, particularly options within the scope of legal parameters. This presentation will address some of the most troubling challenges faced by district administrators from the various constituencies, and will provide options for viable responses from within a legal perspective.

*Attorney Michael Julka, Boardman Clark LLP*

2. **Chart Your Course for Continuous Improvement and Transformation Via SAIL**
Initiative overload and competing cultures regularly prevent districts from preparing every graduate for college/career. What is needed is organizational coherence, where large numbers of people have a deeply understood sense of what has to be done and see their part in achieving that purpose. It’s a shared meaning, capacity, and commitment to action cultivated through pervasive leadership. These research-based approaches of great promise are increasingly being demonstrated by Wisconsin district teams, large and small, in the AWSA and WASDA SAIL Academy--now in its seventh year. Learn how creating a coherent system is arguably the most important journey you can lead, plus obtain approaches and lessons learned from districts well on their way!

*Session Facilitators: Rainey Briggs, Director of Elementary Education, Middleton-Cross Plains; Kevin Bruggink, Superintendent, Oostburg; Jody Landish, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Waukesha; Ryan Nelson, District Administrator, Augusta; and Joe Schroeder, Associate Executive Director, AWSA*

3. **Materials Matter: The Connection Between Curriculum, Instructional Materials, And Equity For All Students**
In this session, you will learn the connection between curriculum, instructional materials, and equity for all students. You will hear members of the New Glarus School District share how their data led them to adopt new instructional materials in literacy and math, the process they used to select and adopt materials, how they are implementing materials that provide access and equity for all students, and how teachers have been involved every step of the way to ensure a guaranteed and viable curriculum. You will walk away with resources and tools you can use to review instructional materials both for alignment to standards and for equity, a process you could use or modify to select instructional materials, and resources and tools that support a 3-5 year implementation plan.

*Laura Adams, DPI Literacy Consultant; and Jennifer Thayer, Supt., New Glarus, and members of the New Glarus School District Staff*

4. **The Power and Impact of Redefining Ready in Wisconsin Schools**
Students and schools are more than one score. Come learn how Wisconsin is Redefining Ready in schools large and small and how this work can help you see anew your role as school leaders, make data fingertip ready to help staff envision the possible for students, and tell your story with research-based evidence to help all stakeholders see with clarity the important role of public education in our communities - all with the support of a strong WIRR! Network.

*Colleen Timm, Director of Learning Services, and Jeff Dickert, Agency Administrator, CESA #7; Nick Madison, Supt., Brillion; Doug Parker, Supt., Big Foot; and Tim Raymond, Supt., Cambria-Friesland*
2:45 – 5:30 p.m.  Facility Field Trip – McFarland High School, Sponsored by Findorff and Plunkett Raysich Architects (PRA) *(SEPARATE REGISTRATION REQUIRED)*

*New this year!* Board the Findorff & PRA bus for a tour of what's new in educational spaces. Tour and conversation with McFarland School District Superintendent and Business Manager will include:

- How to transform existing spaces on a tight budget – tour of renovated high school spaces including tech ed department, FACE department, athletic spaces, and various other learning environments.
- Adding a new state-of-the-art performing arts center and competition pool facility.
- How the District worked through a community-driven process that aligned the needs of various stakeholders.
- Successes and lessons learned during other District-wide work including rebuilding existing elementary school, renovating middle school and intermediate spaces, and updating athletic facilities.

Come and learn about what is possible for your spaces - whether you are building new or renovating! The bus will be loading at 2:45 PM outside the main lobby of the Concourse and will depart promptly at 3 PM. The group will return at approximately 5:30 PM for the evening's reception hosted by Findorff and PRA.

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  Committee meetings
- WASDA Small Schools Committee
- WASDA Legislative Committee
- WASDA K8/UHS Committee
- Onsite child care centers
- Redefining Ready

5:30 - 6:45 p.m.  RECEPTION
Sponsored by Findorff & PRA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20:

7:30 a.m.  BREAKFAST

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.  GENERAL SESSION

**Cultural Humility: Moving Beyond Cultural Competence to Advance Equity & Social Justice**

Cultural competence has long been known as the cornerstone for diversity awareness and cross-cultural communication. But its flaws and limitations point to a paradigm shift toward cultural humility, a framework for advancing equity and social justice by intentionally living at the crossroads of who we are, how others see us, and where power positions us within a system. On a small scale, cultural humility can enhance communication, foster trust, deepen connections, and improve outcomes when interacting across difference. In the bigger picture, it's a process that can radically transform schools and organizations. In this introspective workshop, participants will learn how to engage in critical self-work, gain a deeper understanding of individual and group membership, and explore ideas for applying cultural humility principles into personal and professional spheres of influence. **Amanda Goodenough, Director of Campus Climate, Division of Diversity & Inclusion, UW-La Crosse**

10:00 a.m.  BREAK
10:15 - 10:30 a.m.  DEB KERR, President, AASA and Supt., Brown Deer

10:30 – 11:00 a.m.  Federal Education Policy Update

AASA's legislative advocacy initiatives encompass a broad range of issues that would impact the nation's public schools. AASA's Christian Rogers will provide an update on the current and projected issues in DC as it relates to federal education policy and what it will mean for your schools. Included will be a discussion of ESSA, IDEA, school nutrition, health care, funding, rural education, E-Rate, Perkins, and more.

Christian Rogers, Policy Analyst, AASA

11:00 - 12:00 p.m.  So What's in Store for the Remainder of the Legislative Session

With the 2019-21 State Budget in our rear-view mirror, SAA Executive Director John Forester will use this session to engage a panel of legislators in discussion of the education policy items that may be in play for the remainder of the two-year legislative session. Likely discussion topics will include legislation already moving in the Capitol, the future of the Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations, and effective ways that WASDA member advocacy can move the needle for Wisconsin school children.

12:00 p.m.  ADJOURN