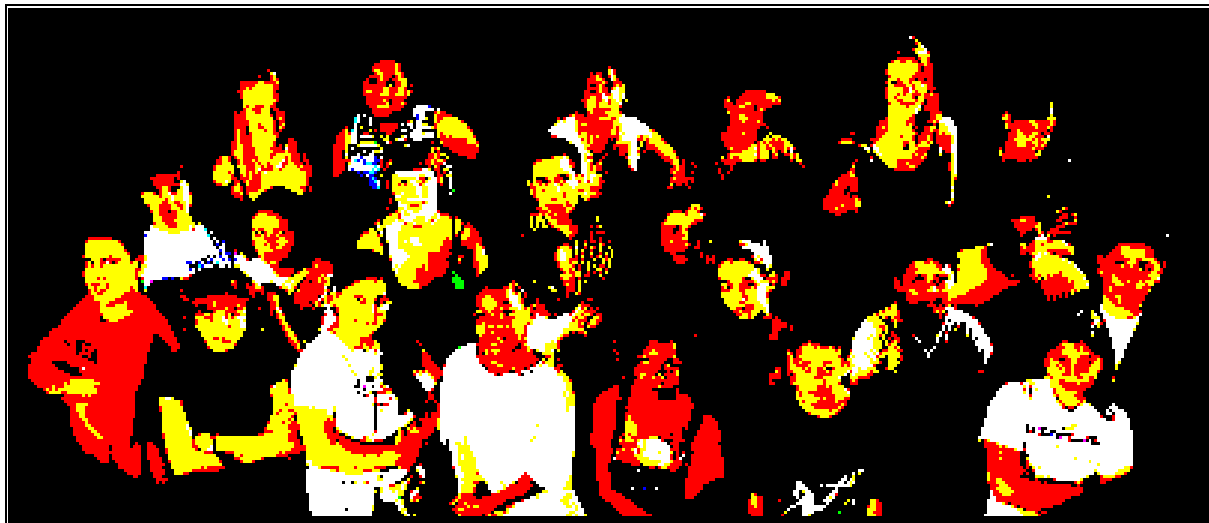


***THE DELAWARE VALLEY MINORITY
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT CONSORTIUM***



**2009
6th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE**

***“TRANSFORMING OUR DISTRICTS
FOR EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY”***

November 4-5, 2009

**University of Pennsylvania
University City Sheraton Hotel
Philadelphia, PA**



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH
"FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES AS CRITICAL PARTNERS"

7:30-8:30 **REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**
Lower Level

8:30- 8:45 **WELCOME**
Ben Franklin 3/4/5

*Dr. Robert L. Jarvis, Director of DVMSAC
Penn Center for Educational Leadership
Graduate School of Education
University of Pennsylvania*



Dr. Kent McGuire, Dean, College of Education, Temple University and Member of the Moorestown, NJ Board of Education

8:45- 9:30 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Ben Franklin 3/4/5

"Engaging Families and Communities to Support Our Diverse Learners"



*Dr. Steven Constantino
Associate Superintendent for Leadership & Learning
Cobb County School District
Marietta, GA*

We welcome to Philadelphia and DVMSAC, Dr. Steven Constantino. One of the nations leading practitioners in the field of family engagement in education, He provides national leadership in engaging families in the educational lives of children as a conduit to improved student achievement. His success in the practical application of family engagement research is well-documented in magazines, periodicals, journals and in his three books devoted to the practice of family engagement. He has appeared at hundreds of conferences and has traveled to schools and districts in 40 states, as well as around the world, to raise the achievement of students by building a strong efficacy for all families.

Dr. Constantino received his Bachelor's and Master's Degree from the State University College at Potsdam (NY), his Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration from the State University of New York at Cortland and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Study from Virginia Tech.

From 1995 to 2003, Dr. Constantino served as principal of Stonewall Jackson High School in Manassas, Virginia. Stonewall achieved much success, both nationally and internationally. During Dr. Constantino's tenure, Stonewall Jackson High School student achievement consistently improved and Stonewall was named number one among all Prince William County High Schools in the percentage of students entering college and among the top ten percent of schools worldwide offering the International Baccalaureate Program. He was the 1997 Principal of the Year awarded by the Virginia State Counseling Association and is the 2000 recipient of the Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award as well as being named the Prince William County Principal of the Year for 2000.

Dr. Constantino continues to make it a priority to not only raise awareness for family engagement but to help educators put into place successful family engagement practices that lead to the achievement of all students. He was invited by the Victoria Ministry of Education in Melbourne, Australia to work with educators and is a featured presenter and lecturer for the International Confederation of Principals, appearing at their Executive Council Summit in Shanghai, China in 2008. He has been featured in numerous publications and his first publication Making Your School Family Friendly was published in early 2003. His second book, Engaging All Families was released in November 2003 and is available through Scarecrow Education Press.

Dr. Constantino founded Family Friendly Schools in 1999, while residing as principal of Stonewall Jackson High School. With practical experience in the field of family engagement, his "Engage All Families" Five- Step Process was formed to create data-driven results through family engagement and is now used by hundreds of schools and districts in 35 states.

Presently, Dr. Constantino is the Associate Superintendent for Leadership and Learning in the Cobb County School District (GA). Cobb County Schools is Georgia's second largest school system with over 106,000 students in 115 schools. He resides in the Atlanta, Georgia area with his wife Peggie, who is a high school principal. Their son Matthew is a graphic designer and also resides in Atlanta.

9:45-11:30 MORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. FULL-DAY WORKSHOP PART 1: "STRONG FAMILIES, STRONG SCHOOLS: A FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE ALL FAMILIES"

Presenter: *Dr. Steven Constantino*
Founder of Family Friendly Schools
Associate Superintendent for Leadership & Learning
Cobb County School District
Marietta, GA

Room: Ben Franklin 3/4/5

Session Description: Demand for increased student performance has never been higher. Over forty years of empirical data and remarkable success stories prove that engaging families in the educational lives of their children leads to all children learning at high levels. Still, many schools continue to struggle to meet the needs of diverse families. Dr. Steven Constantino will share his framework, as well as numerous strategies that can be implemented immediately for successfully engaging all families in their children's educational process. Recreate Dr. Constantino's success in your school and community!

2. "REBUILDING A COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT"

Presenters: *Dr. Bridget E. Kelly, District Director of Student Services*
Dr. Jaye Pedante, Assistant Principal of ETR Middle School
Karen Carty, Special Education Teacher at Springfield High School
Donald Peyton, Jr., Parent and Community Member
Springfield School District
Springfield, PA

Room: William Penn 1

Session Description: Morton, PA is home to most of the African American students in the Springfield School District. Similar to so many other districts around the country, our African American students in this neighborhood suffer the consequences of an achievement gap and an access gap. When we looked at our data, our resources and our opportunities, the black students in Morton were experiencing a different and inferior educational experience to their white counterparts in the district.

With this injustice in mind, the Morton community and SSD are working to turn that all around. We started by offering numerous outreach activities. And now, the citizens have banded together to start the Morton Education Foundation which will build an education facility that will offer this community continuous educational programs from pre- kindergarten to entry level college and adult education courses. Our mantra- Yes We Can, Yes We Will.

3. "THE NORTH PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT: ENGAGING FAMILIES – ONE DISTRICT'S EXPERIENCE"

Presenters: *Dr. Robert Hassler, Superintendent*
Linda Abram, Family and Community Engagement Specialist
Bonnie Rosen, Principal, Oak Park Elementary School
North Penn School District
Lansdale, PA

Room: Ben Franklin 1

Session Description: Learn about successful practices to engage all families. North Penn's award winning engagement efforts have significantly improved parent support in order to improve student achievement for all student groups. Take home specifics about programs you could implement too. Examples include Opening Day Celebrations that welcome and engage all students and their families, engaging African American families and inspiring their students, visiting local Mosques which resulted in Indian families engaging in their schools, and partnering with pre-schools to prepare incoming children for success. This session will show you what work North Penn has done since partnering with Steve Constantino three years ago and the progress made. It's a "How To" for taking your family engagement efforts to the next level.

4. "LINKING PARENT ENGAGEMENT TO STRONG RESULTS FOR STUDENTS: RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES"

Presenter: *Dr. Mark Lewis, Director
Karen Shanoski, Family-School-Community Partnerships Project Manager
PA Parent Information Resource Center
Center for Schools and Communities
Camp Hill, PA*

Room: Chestnut

Session Description: Participants will gain an understanding of the importance, multiple ways and positive impacts of parent involvement in student learning and school success. They will learn about strategies that are used to engage parents, and become familiar with resources materials and tools they could use to enhance family and community involvement with student learning. Using different partnership models and the National Standards of Parent Involvement as a springboard for dialogue, participants will explore strategies that produce welcoming environments, effective communication, successful students, powerful advocacy, power-sharing relationships, and meaningful collaborations especially as they pertain to addressing student achievement issues.

5. "FROM THE PARENT PERSPECTIVE: DEVELOPING SUCCESSFUL PARENT-COMMUNITY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS"

Presenters: *Stacy Deshield, Parent
Cakky Evans, Parent
Kim Guess, Parent
Andrea Lawful-Trainer, Parent
Traci Simmons, Parent
Robyn Tucker, Parent
Nicole Wylie, Parent
Abington School District
Abington, PA*

Room: William Penn 2

Session Description: Parents have been the people who are least asked to partner with their School Districts beyond bake sales and volunteering in a traditional sense. Come learn about an extremely successful partnership: the C.A.L.M Society in the Abington School District. Come hear about strategies that parent leaders have incorporated in supporting their schools and communities that have paid off in tangible ways with more African American students doing well, and with parents learning how to effectively work within the system for student success and cohesiveness for all. This session will leave you wanting more information on just how these programs can be replicated with parents truly being a key component in supporting the closing of the achievement gap.

6. "COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: MOBILIZING THE ASSETS OF A COMMUNITY FOR STUDENT AND FAMILY SUCCESS"

Presenters: *Marci Ronald, Senior Director for Community Impact and Director of COMPASS Community Schools
United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley
Bethlehem, PA*

*Ralph Lovelidge, Principal, South Mountain Middle School
Nicole Nugent, Community School Director, South Mountain Middle School
Allentown School District
Allentown, PA*

Jennifer Antinoro, Executive Director, Communities In Schools of the Lehigh Valley

Room: University 2

Session Description: Community Schools create a powerful vehicle for parents and community partners to work together on behalf of student success. This session will provide the nuts and bolts of a successful Community School initiative in the Lehigh Valley, with a special focus on its first urban Middle School partnership, South Mountain Middle School, and their efforts to energize and engage families!

11:30-1:00

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:15- 3:00

AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

"IMPACTING THE SUCCESS OF OUR DIVERSE STUDENT LEARNERS AT THE CORE"

7:30- 8:30 REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Lower Level

8:30- 8:45 WELCOME
Ben Franklin Ballroom 3/4/5

**Dr. Robert L. Jarvis, Director of DVMSAC
Penn Center for Educational Leadership
Graduate School of Education
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA**

**Dr. John DeFlaminis, Executive Director
Penn Center for Educational Leadership
Graduate School of Education
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA**

8:45- 9:30

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Ben Franklin Ballroom 3/4/5

***“TEACHING OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN AS THOUGH THEY ARE
YOUR OWN: EMBRACING DIFFERENCE”***



**Dr. Vivian L. Gadsden
William T. Carter Professor of Child Development and Education
Director, National Center on Fathers and Families
Associate Director, National Center on Adult Literacy
Graduate School of Education
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA**

Dr. Gadsden began her career teaching developmental English, reading, and educational psychology at Oakland and Wayne State Universities in Michigan. From 1983 to 1985, she was a research analyst at Policy Studies Associates in Washington, D.C. In 1988, Dr. Gadsden joined Penn GSE's Literacy Research Center, where she became associate director in 1989. A former Spencer Foundation/National Academy of Education postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Gadsden served as associate director in the National Center on Adult Literacy for six years. In 1994, she became the director of the newly founded National Center on Fathers and Families, an interdisciplinary policy research center focused on child and family well-being. She also served as Education Graduate Group Chair from 1996 to 2004. In 2006, she was named the William T. Carter Professor in Child Development and Education.

She is an active member of the American Educational Research Association, serving as vice president of Division G, Social Contexts of Education from 2003 to 2006; the Society for Research in Child Development, serving as co-executive officer of the Black Caucus and program co-chair for the 2009 biennial meeting; the National Reading Conference; and the International Reading Association. She serves on the advisory boards of the Philadelphia United Way School Readiness Initiative and the Goodling Center for Family Literacy and has served on congressionally mandated review and advisory panels, including those of the Reading Excellence Program, Comprehensive School Reform, and the National Academy of Sciences. She also serves or has served on editorial boards of *the Journal of Reading*, *the Journal of Reading Behavior*, *Fathering*, and *the National Head Start Association's Dialog*.

Dr. Gadsden's research interests focus on cultural and social factors affecting learning and literacy across the life-course and within families, particularly those at the greatest risk for academic and social vulnerability. Her writing focuses on intergenerational learning, particularly on the relationships between literacy in families and issues of culture, race, gender, and poverty in diverse learning contexts. Her research studies examine the intergenerational and cross-cultural nature of learning, literacy, and identity within families and the relationship between family members' beliefs and practices around learning, educational access, and educational persistence.

Her current projects include a longitudinal study on intergenerational learning within African-American and Latino families; a study of parent engagement in children's early literacy; a study with young fathers in urban settings; a study on literacy, education, and health; a policy study on incarcerated parents and their families; and a study of children of incarcerated parents.

1. FULL DAY WORKSHOP PART 1: "RIGOR WITHOUT RIGOR MORTIS"

Presenters: Dr. Robyn R. Jackson, President and Founder
Mindsteps, Inc.
Washington, DC



Room: Ben Franklin 3/4/5

Session Description: In this full-day workshop, Dr. Jackson will expound upon the concept of rigor, outline the four stages of rigor, explain how educators can help every student access and be successful with rigorous instruction, and share specific strategies teachers can use to help students access and be successful with highly rigorous curriculum.

Attendees will learn how to support under-prepared students without sacrificing the rigor of their courses as well as strategies they can use to increase the rigor of their courses without leaving students behind.

2. "BUT I'M NOT THE READING TEACHER: LEADERSHIP FOR LITERACY"

Presenter: Dr. Kimberly Bates, President, The Potter's Masterpiece Consulting Group
National Reading Specialist, Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt Publishing
Delran, NJ

Room: University 1

Session Description: This session gives instructional leaders an awesome opportunity to expand their depth of knowledge in the areas of early language acquisition (K-3), research-based best practices (K-12), content area instruction (6-12) and professional development and coaching techniques) built around a comprehensive literacy model and professional learning communities. What does it mean to consider the brain as learning occurs? This workshop will highlight the teaching process with diverse learners' brains in mind.

3. "YOU ALREADY THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST! MAKING SCIENCE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL STUDENTS (GRADES K-5)"

Presenter: Kate Shapero, PLN Facilitator and Science Curriculum Consultant
Penn Literacy Network
Penn Center for Educational Leadership
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

Room: William Penn 1

Session Description: Help your diverse elementary learners see themselves as the scientists they are by nurturing their natural drive to explore and investigate! This workshop will help you make science content and processes more accessible to ALL students! You will experience and help develop engaging strategies that integrate reading, writing, and talking with hands-on science. Together, we will explore clear and practical approaches to help elementary students make meaning from science experiences and utilize the wealth of knowledge that children bring to the classroom from their everyday lives.

4. "SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMMING FOR BRIDGING STUDENTS' TRANSITION FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL TO HIGH SCHOOL"

Presenters: Craig Metcalfe, Cheltenham High School Math Teacher & Co-founder of the Freshman Summer Academy
Dr. Jill Clark, Cheltenham High School Assistant Principal & Co-founder of the Freshman Summer Academy
Student Leaders
Xavier D'hurieux
Austin Brooks
Donald "DJ" O'Grady
Darria Peyton
Sal Pelullo
Alexis Reyes
School District of Cheltenham Township
Elkins Park, PA

Room: Ben Franklin 1

Session Description: Students entering high schools across the country face unprecedented challenges in a number of different areas. The Cheltenham School District has developed a nine-month transition program for rising high school freshmen that runs from January of their 8th grade year and culminates in a freshman-only day in September. The ensuing results are positive. The program continues to expand annually and is responsive to a variety of student needs as they arise. The program aims to provide a seamless transition for students as they transition from one environment to another. There have been noted improvements in school climate, acclimation and expectations, as well as a renewed connection between the sending and receiving schools.

5. "EMPOWERING AND MOTIVATING STUDENTS DURING THE PSSA TESTING PROCESS"

Presenters: Dr. Elliott Lewis, Principal
Lynn Hindermyer, Vice Principal
Ian Haines, Teacher
Student Leaders

Cheltenham High School
School District of Cheltenham Township
Elkins Park, PA

Room: University 2

Session Description: Cheltenham High School made significant gains in their 2009 PSSA scores. These gains can be directly traced to the incentive program that was created by both students and staff. The goal of the PSSA Team was to create an environment that both empowered and motivated students to take these high stake tests seriously. Presenters will provide a time line of the year's events that culminated in a celebration of the PSSA results.

11:30-1:00 LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:15- 3:00 AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS

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Penn Center for Educational Leadership
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

Room: William Penn 1

Session Description: *Science is a way of thinking, not just a big book of facts!* Help your diverse learners break through the "textbook barrier" so that they can connect with science in a personal way. In this workshop, you will experience strategies for utilizing your students' real world knowledge and strengthening their reading and writing skills across the science curriculum. Together, we will explore clear and practical approaches to help diverse secondary students make meaning from science experiences and utilize the wealth of knowledge that they bring to the classroom from their everyday lives.

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Working Together Achieving Together

Delaware Valley Minority
Student Achievement Consortium



The Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium (DVMSAC) is a collaborative network of twenty-eight regional school districts and four county intermediate units in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, that for the past six years have committed to work together to support, encourage and acknowledge the success of their students of color. The Consortium serves as a resource for taking systemic, district-wide and pro-active leadership responsibility for significantly improving the academic performance of all students, and at the same time eliminating the observed achievement disparities among racial/ethnic subgroups.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT

THE DELAWARE VALLEY MINORITY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT CONSORTIUM

CONTACT



*Dr. Robert L. Jarvis, Director of K-12 Outreach and Director of DVMSAC
Penn Center for Educational Leadership
Graduate School of Education
University of Pennsylvania
3440 Market Street Room 504
Philadelphia, PA 19104-3325
Phone: 215-746-7375
e-Mail: rljarvis@gse.upenn.edu*

WEBSITE

www.gse.upenn.edu/dvmsac

2009-10

Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium

Member School Districts and County Intermediate Units

Abington School District
Amy Sichel, Superintendent
Abington, PA

Brandywine School District
Mark Holodick, Superintendent
Claymont, DE

Cheltenham Township School District
William Kiefer, Superintendent
Elkins Park, PA

Franklin Township School District
Edward Seto, Superintendent
Somerset, NJ

Kennett Consolidated School District
Rudy Karkosak, Superintendent
Kennett Square, PA

Lindenwold Public Schools
Geraldine Carroll, Superintendent
Lindenwold, NJ

Methacton School District
Timothy Quinn, Superintendent
Eagleville, PA

Morrisville Borough School District
Elizabeth Yonson, Superintendent
Morrisville, PA

Norristown Area School District
Janet Samuels, Superintendent
Norristown, PA

Perkiomen Valley School District
Cliff Rogers, Superintendent
Collegeville, PA

Rose Tree Media School District
Denise Kerr, Superintendent
Media, PA

Springfield Township School District
Wendy Royer, Superintendent
Oreland, PA

Upper Merion School District
Melissa Jamula, Superintendent
King of Prussia, PA

West Chester Area School District
James Scanlon, Superintendent
West Chester, PA

Bensalem Township School District
William Gretzula, Superintendent
Bensalem, PA

Burlington County Institute of Technology
Delores Szymasnski, Superintendent
Westhampton, NJ

Cherry Hill Public Schools
David Campbell, Superintendent
Cherry Hill, NJ

Hatboro-Horsham School District
William Lessa, Superintendent
Horsham, PA

Lenape Regional High School District
Emily Capella, Superintendent
Shamong, NJ

Lower Merion School District
Christopher McGinley, Superintendent
Ardmore, PA

Moorestown Township Public Schools
John Bach, Superintendent
Moorestown, NJ

North Penn School District
Robert Hassler, Superintendent
Lansdale, PA

Princeton Regional Schools
Judith Wilson, Superintendent
Princeton, NJ

Rancocas Valley Regional High School District
Michael Moskalski, Superintendent
Mt. Holly, NJ

Salem City School District
Patrick Michele, Superintendent
Salem, NJ

Upper Dublin School District
Michael Pladus, Superintendent
Maple Glen, PA

West Windsor-Plainsboro School District
Victoria Kniewel, Superintendent
Princeton Junction, NJ

Wissahickon School District
Judy Clark, Superintendent
Ambler, PA

Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22
Barry Gallaso, Executive Director
Doylestown, PA

Delaware County Intermediate Unit #25
Larry O'Shea, Executive Director
Morton, PA

Chester County Intermediate Unit # 24
Joe O'Brien, Executive Director
Downingtown, PA

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit #
Jerry Shiveley, Executive Director
Norristown, PA