

The 4th Annual
Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium and
The College Board
School District Leadership Symposium

Change Initiatives — Promoting More Equitable Outcomes for All Students

Thursday, May 12, 2011
Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue Hotel
Philadelphia, Pa.

8:15–9 a.m.

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

9–9:15 a.m.

WELCOME

Robert L. Jarvis, Director, Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium and Co-Director, New Jersey Network to Close the Achievement Gaps, Penn Center for Educational Leadership, Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania

Robert Alig, Regional Vice President, The College Board, Middle States Regional Office

9:15–10 a.m.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

*STRENGTHENING OUR NATION:
SYSTEMS CHANGE FOR ACCESS
TO EQUITABLE EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL
CHILDREN*

Russlynn Ali, Assistant Secretary
for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of
Education, Washington, D.C.



10:15 a.m.–12 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**1. CUMBERLAND VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT:
A COMMITMENT TO DELIVERING RIGOROUS
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING TO ALL STUDENTS**

Mechanicsburg, Pa.

William Harner, Superintendent

David Mihan, Gifted Coordinator, K–12

This presentation will detail the exciting transformation happening in the Cumberland Valley School District in the areas of student expectation, rigorous programming and data-driven, systems-thinking leadership. The presentation will focus on all aspects of this initiative and provide a potential road map to teachers, administrators and all school constituents who aspire to exceeding the minimal expectations associated with the age of standardized testing. Qualitative and quantitative data will uniformly support the growth of practices and programs that demand educational excellence from our students in the context of a transition from traditional pedagogy to a focus on 21st-century instruction and assessment.

**2. CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN THE LOWER
MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT: A STRATEGIC PLAN
BENEFITTING ALL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Ardmore, Pa.

Christopher McGinley, Superintendent

Deitra Spence, Assistant to the Superintendent

Sean Hughes, Principal

Mary Kirchner, Teacher

Jennifer St. Hill, Parent

Tommie St. Hill, Student Leader

Cyndi Walker, Student Leader

A number of programs and instructional strategies have been implemented in the Lower Merion School District to decrease the achievement gap that exists for all African American students and other identified students in the district. The panel will share highlights about these programs, specifically the Minority Achievement Program, which is designed to appropriately place ninth-, 10th- and 11th-grade underrepresented students in an academic environment that will be challenging and provide systematic support for success. The four branches of support include: clustering minority students, teacher collaboration, a student advisory program and parental engagement.

**3. BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION:
UNDERSTANDING STUDENT DIFFERENCES AND
DEVELOPING OUR STUDENTS' SOCIAL COMPETENCE**

Charles A. Williams III, Assistant Clinical Professor and Director, Center for the Prevention of School-Age Violence, Goodwin School of Education, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pa.

Merle Horowitz, Superintendent of Schools, Marple Newtown School District, Newtown Square, Pa.

Dorothy M. Bollinger, President, The Bollinger Law Firm, LLC, Radnor, Pa.

Denny Millar, Student Advocate and Social Worker, Cherry Hill Public Schools, Cherry Hill, N.J.

Bullying at school and online impacts ALL of our children — those who bully, those who are victimized, and those who are witnesses or assistants to interpersonal violence. Bullying continues to be one of the most common forms of aggression and victimization experienced by many children and youth in our schools. Despite the recent attention given to bullying, teachers and school staff in many cases tend to underestimate

2011 School District Leadership Symposium

its prevalence and impact on student learning and school engagement. We can and must reduce this age-old problem. Come participate in learning and dialogue facilitated by a panel of regional experts who will focus on guidance to district and school administrators regarding anti-bullying policies and promising practices in both prevention and intervention.

4. ROSE TREE MEDIA SCHOOL DISTRICT'S DIVINE NINE: BEST PRACTICES FOR PROMOTING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS

Media, Pa.

Angela Gilbert, Director, Elementary Teaching and Learning
Steve Taylor, Director, Secondary Teaching and Learning
Kathy White, Assistant Principal, Springton Lake Middle School
Peggy Levesque, Student Relations Coordinator, Springton Lake Middle School
Cindy Garvin, Student Relations Coordinator, Penncrest High School
Fern Mathis, IST Teacher, Glenwood Elementary School
Nancy Gheysens, Teacher, Rose Tree Elementary

Since joining the Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium in 2005, Rose Tree Media School District has attempted to put into practice the best of the wide-ranging strategies presented through the work of the consortium. In this session, district administrators and teachers will present nine specific practices that are contributing to higher achievement for all students. Data from a variety of high-stakes assessments will support the efficacy of the strategies.

5. ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT: TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION

Allentown, Pa.

C. Russell Mayo, Deputy Superintendent
Deana Zosky, Chief Turnaround Officer
Sally S. West, Executive Director, Planning and External Funding
Rita Perez, Director, Human Capital Management and Talent Development
Susan Lozada, Executive Director, Community and Student Services

The Allentown School District's plan for transformation began with a vision called "Pathways to Success." This vision was designed to build greater capacity and resiliency, resulting in improved student achievement, raised expectations for

all students, and all students graduating and being college and career ready. To achieve this comprehensive strategic initiative, an integrated plan has evolved that includes intense operational planning, a system for evaluating teacher and administrator effectiveness, broad-based community support, effective communication, and an accountability system based on key performance indicators. The panel will discuss how the Pathways vision is guiding the district in its quest for transformation.

12:15–1:30 p.m. **LUNCH AND LUNCHEON SPEAKER**

THE ROLE OF STATES IN ENSURING EQUITY, ACCESS AND SUCCESS FOR ALL

Lillian Lowery, Secretary of Education, Delaware Department of Education, Dover, Del.



1:30–1:45 p.m. **CLOSING REMARKS**

Catherine Nti, Executive Director, K–12 Services, The College Board, Middle States Regional Office

Co-Sponsored By

