

**3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL  
DELAWARE VALLEY MINORITY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT CONSORTIUM AND  
COLLEGE BOARD SCHOOL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM**

**“ACHIEVING MORE EQUITABLE OUTCOMES FOR ALL STUDENTS:  
THE CONTINUING SCHOOL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP IMPERATIVE”**

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2010  
HILTON PHILADELPHIA CITY AVENUE HOTEL  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

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**8:15-9:00 am            REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

**9:00-9:15 am            WELCOME**

*Dr. 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, The College Board Middle States Region Vice President*

**9:15-10:15 am            KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**“VOICES FROM THE TOP OF THE CLASS: REACHING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE”**



*Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Superintendent of Schools, Maryland Department of Education, Baltimore, MD*

**10:30-12:15            CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

- 1. “SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP: CONNECTING, ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING ALL LEARNERS**  
*Elkins Park, PA*

*Dr. Darlene Davis, Assistant Superintendent  
Susan Tischler, Director of Education  
Dr. Elliott Lewis, Principal, Cheltenham High School  
Iris Parker, Principal, Cedarbrook Middle School  
Crystal Clark, Principal, Wyncote Elementary School*

Improving the achievement of all students demands a level of *intentionality* that yields real evidence of student growth relative to state standards, program goals, and local benchmarks. This session presents the School District of Cheltenham’s plan that resulted in the high school receiving recognition for achieving the largest gains in the area in both reading and math, a middle school receiving recognition as a national *Schools to Watch* program, and Wyncote Elementary School becoming a PA Distinguished Title I school. We will highlight practical strategies implemented that focus on using data, providing student supports, increasing parent and student communication, and affirming student voice.

- 2. “PROMOTING EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS”**  
*Rockville, MD*

*Jamie Virga, Associate Superintendent, Office of Organizational Development  
Frank Stetson, Acting Chief School Performance Officer  
Betty Collins, Director, Staff Development Initiatives  
Bronda Mills, Community Superintendent  
Sean Bulson, Community Superintendent  
Dr. Chris Garran, Principal, Walter Johnson High School  
Joe Rubens, Principal, Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School*

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Maryland, a system serving 140,000 students just outside of Washington, DC, has implemented a system of reforms over the last ten years designed to have all students achieve college readiness while simultaneously eliminating racial disparities in student performance. This presentation will describe systemic reforms, the MCPS Framework for Equity and Excellence, and efforts at the district and school level to promote success for all students. Particular emphasis will be placed on system efforts to reduce student suspensions and to eliminate disproportionality in suspension rates.

**3. "HAMILTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS: USING DATA ACTION PLANS TO CREATE MEANINGFUL CHANGE"**

Mays Landing, NJ

*Lisa Dagit, Assistant Superintendent*

*Jennifer Baldwin, Principal, George L. Hess Educational Complex*

Two years ago, the Hamilton Township Public Schools, a diverse district in Atlantic County, NJ, embarked upon the creation of data action plans. Our plans began with the idea of educating our staff about the different types of data and how data can impact their daily instruction. During this process, the data that was compiled at the Hess School became a way of everyday life. The data has significantly influenced our decisions in teacher assignments, academic programming, parental involvement and our everyday conversations regarding the improvement of student achievement. This presentation will share with other districts our action plans, multiple staff presentations and how we use data daily as administrators and teachers.

**4. "THE NORTH PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT: IMPLEMENTING A DISTRICT-WIDE SYSTEM TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP"**

Lansdale, PA

*Dr. Curt Dietrich, Superintendent*

*David Decker, Manager of Quality and Assessment*

*Linda Abram, Family and Community Engagement Specialist*

*Burt Hynes, Principal, North Penn High School*

*Orlando Taylor, Principal, Montgomery Elementary School*

Participation in the Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium has inspired our district to apply the theories and ideas provided and develop an agenda for action to better serve our students. This presentation will describe how the district has organized its efforts in addressing achievement for all and its progress in doing so. We will highlight some unique approaches established including family and community outreach efforts, district and school goal action planning process, and practices to engage our minority students

**5. "ENGAGING LATINO STUDENTS AND PARENTS IN THE NORRISTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT: A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS"**

Norristown, PA

*Dr. Stanton Wortham, Professor of Education and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University of Pennsylvania*

*Joe Leaf, English as a Second Language Coordinator, Norristown Area School District*

*Joe Rodriguez, Lead Teacher, Gotwals Elementary School*

*Nicole Foley, English as a Second Language Teacher, Gotwals Elementary School*

*Carrie Camargo, English as a Second Language Teacher, Gotwals Elementary School*

*Maria Falco, English as a Second Language Teacher, Marshall Street Elementary School*

*Erin Kent, Instructional Support Teacher of Literacy, Marshall Street Elementary School*

*Stacey O'Donoghue, Instructional Support Teacher of Literacy, Marshall Street Elementary School*

Over the past four years the Norristown Area School District has had a 42% increase in the Latino student population. Using resources and data, programs have been created to directly address Latino students and families. This presentation will include key staff members from Marshall Street Elementary School and Gotwals Elementary School, a National Title I Distinguished School. They will present strategies and programs used to increase student achievement and parent involvement. The result was the creation of a successful school community partnership between staff, students, and families.

**12:30 – 1:30 pm LUNCH AND LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**"NEW EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES FOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP: TRANSFORMING AND REINVENTING TEACHING FOR ALL STUDENTS"**



*Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago, Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor at the Department of Public Policy & Administration and Director of the Center for Strategic Urban Community Leadership at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Camden, NJ*

**1:30 -1:45 pm CLOSING REMARKS**

*Catherine Nti, Vice-President of Region and Account Services, Middle States Regional Office, The College Board, Bala Cynwd, PA*

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