



Graduate School of Education
PennGSE

Delaware Valley Consortium *for*
EXCELLENCE & EQUITY

*“Preparing Each and Every Student for Success in
Post-Secondary Education and in Life”*



2018-2019
PROMISING PRACTICES SYMPOSIUM

October 10, 2018

8:30- 2:30

**3440 Market St. Street
5th Floor Conference Suite
Philadelphia, PA**

8:30-9:00 REGISTRATION, BREAKFAST AND NETWORKING

9:00- 9:10 WELCOME

Dr. Robert L. Jarvis, Director of DVCEE and the Coalition for Educational Equity at PennGSE

9:10-10:00 DELSEA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Franklinville, NJ

“MEN Scholars – Mentoring, Empowering, and Necessitating a Change”

Presenters: Sgt. James Merritt, MEN Scholars Faculty Advisor
 Dr. Melissa Williams, Assistant Superintendent
 Kishawn Fentress and Chris Henry, Delsea High School Seniors & MEN Scholars

The MEN Scholar program mentors and supports minority male students academically, socially and emotionally to increase access to success in all areas of school.

Minority male students in eleventh and twelfth grades who are academically successful and meet set criteria are identified to serve as MEN Scholars, mentoring fellow students in ninth and tenth grades. These young men mentor underclassmen in the areas of personal goals and expectations, peer pressure, study habits, responsibility in life, grades and academic press, and how to be a future role model (to name a few). The MEN Scholars also work with the middle school boys and even visit the elementary school. They are also partnered with students from Morgan State University who serve as mentors to our MEN Scholars.

The program builds additional support systems for our MEN Scholars both inside and outside of the district to continue to maintain academic success and their integrity. It also allows those same Scholars to mentor young minority men to become future MEN Scholars.

10:10-11:00 CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Warminster, PA

“People- Not Programs”

Presenters: Dr. David E. Baugh, Superintendent of Schools
 Shawanna James-Coles, Principal of Practice
 Joe O’Connor, Social Studies Lead Teacher and CEA President

Centennial School District is running a district improvement model resting on three rails: Academics and the Arts, Innovation and Personalization and Equity for All Students. Our presentation will share some of our promising practices including creating a principal of practice position to address equity issues, innovative hiring practices of teachers of color, the first regional pilot of two way immersion language learning starting at the kindergarten level, partnering and driving an equity quality review with DVCEE, as well as forging strong partnerships to support academics including developing cutting edge relationships with Khan Academy, Angela Duckworth’s Character Lab and The Franklin Institute.

We have been working tirelessly to develop trust, a sense of stability and consistency from messaging and behaviors while celebrating and creating an ecology that supports teacher and student innovation and personalization. A promising practice Centennial is proud to share is the partnership work that occurs in our schools and in the communities we serve. We are working to ensure we are creating family-friendly schools and working to establish inclusive school cultures which will ultimately improve parental engagement. We value the diverse backgrounds of our families and view our parents as important stakeholders understanding that these partnerships are necessary to support student achievement and to close gaps in learning. Capturing student voice is also quickly becoming an imperative in the work as we define and articulate what we hope for our students to know and be able to do in a representational democracy.

In this presentation participants will learn how Khan Academy has been used to increase student learning by almost 20% in the elementary grades (for students who spent at least 30 minutes per week on Khan) and

over 30% in middle schools. Participants will learn that Character Lab Playbooks are integrated in the middle school curriculum (first in the nation to do so) to develop character and resiliency among students and we are pursuing innovative solutions like partnering with The Franklin Institute to help all our teachers become Learning Scientists. We will offer a district office perspective, a building level perspective, as well as the perspective of a teacher on the promising work occurring in the Centennial School District.

11:10-Noon UPPER DUBLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT Fort Washington, PA

“Excellence And Equity Consortium: A Powerful Community Partnership”

Presenters: Dr. Robert Kim, School Board Member
 Dr. Steve Gianni, Superintendent
 Eva Morrison, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Professional Development

The School District of Upper Dublin has been partnering with the community to support students and their families for many years. With the inception of the Diversity Committee in 2003 parents, teachers and administrators gathered to support the achievement of African American and Black students. The *Diversity Committee* sought to provide avenues for academic and social support with the recognition that the experience of minority students from their perspective plays an important role in learning. Programs like *Connections* at UDHS- the opportunity for our African-American/Black students to meet with each other and with mentors, parent evenings and speakers- grew out of the work of the Diversity Committee.

By 2014 other community groups, like our Asian students and families, expressed a desire to partner with the district. With a growing understanding that multiple perspectives can foster community, the *Excellence and Equity Consortium* emerged. By 2017 the Board of School Directors adopted one of the first equity policies in Pennsylvania, the *Educational Equity and Non-Discrimination in School and Classroom Practice*. Today our Excellence and Equity Consortium provides the opportunity for our district to partner with a variety of constituents representing diverse community groups such as our African-American/Black, Asian-American, Faith-Based, Gender Equity, LGTBQ students and families. We believe that this partnership is an integral part of embracing and exhibiting the highest level of quality in research, teaching, and service, which can be achieved when diverse perspectives are engaged.

Noon-12:30 LUNCH

Welcome by Dr. Michael Golden, Executive Director, Catalyst@Penn GSE

12:30-1:20 BRANDYWINE SCHOOL DISTRICT Wilmington, DE

“Educating The Whole Student To Support Better Outcomes In Life”

Presenters: Cora Scott, Executive Director of Elementary Education
 Cary Riches, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Students must be actively engaged in the learning process and develop the necessary critical thinking and organizational skills that will support them beyond the school walls. In the Brandywine School District we have seen notable changes in the demographics of the student population that we serve. As a result, we have had to take a critical look at our approach to learning and how we ensure greater success for our students. High quality instructional practices remain a priority, but we have expanded our focus to include improving the social and emotional well-being of both staff and students. We operate under the belief that positive relationships between adults and students are essential to success. This is further demonstrated by our increased programming in AVID. Through AVID our students are developing positive relationships with adults, expanding their academic behaviors, and creating a plan for their future. Our goal is to better prepare our students for life.

1:30-2:20

PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Phoenixville, PA

“One District’s Journey To Developing A Culture Of Equity”

Presenters: Dr. Le Roy Whitehead, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Mwenyewe Dawan, Principal, Phoenixville Area Early Learning Center
Sandra Makos, Teacher

This presentation will focus on how the Phoenixville Area School District is utilizing a systemic approach partnered with a unique staff development plan to bring equity to the forefront and foster and grow a culture conducive to equity and cultural competence.

We will begin an overview of our Action Planning process and we will then present our PLC framework and our develop of specific Learning Strands that our staff are participating in. Specifically, Dr. Dawan and Mrs. Makos will present our work in the Race, Culture and Class strand and their use of an inquiry-based approach.

2:20-2:30

CLOSING REFLECTIONS

Dr. Robert L. Jarvis, Director of DVCEE and the Coalition for Educational Equity at PennGSE



We value your feedback!

Please fill out our 5-minute feedback survey at:
<https://tinyurl.com/18-19-Promising-Practices>

You can also use your QR code scanner:

