



# **The Dropout Crisis: *A Leadership Summit***



**Friday, September 17, 2010**

Pasadena Hilton Hotel  
168 S. Los Robles Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91101



**Los Angeles County  
Office of Education**

Leading Educators ▪ Supporting Students ▪ Serving Communities

Division for School Improvement  
Division of Curriculum and Instructional Services



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## **The Dropout Crisis: A Leadership Summit**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### **A Nation Still at Risk: The Grim Realities of School Dropouts**

*In an era of accountability in public education, the reality is that large numbers of children are still being left behind. In too many instances these children have no voice – they are just a statistic, a casualty of the system. This session will address the brutal facts of the dropout crisis in America and the need for all stakeholders to be part of the solution. The time for action is now!*

**Steven W. Edwards, Ph.D.**

**President, CEO, Edwards Educational Services, Inc.**

A leader nationally recognized by USA Today for his innovative approach to education, Dr. Edwards successfully implemented numerous programs to improve student performance during his sixteen year tenure as a school administrator. One such program, the Student Assistance Center, was one of only seven national winners of grass roots programs. The Center combined school and community to solve educational issues. Dr. Edwards also has been instrumental in helping countless school districts tailor similar programs with positive, far-reaching results. In addition, Dr. Edwards is a nationally recognized keynote speaker, facilitator and trainer regularly featured as a content expert on television and radio with appearances on CNN on topics such as school safety, school climate and reform and strategic planning. As a planner Dr. Edwards has worked locally, nationally and internationally with both for-profit and non-profit organizations, such as schools, churches, corporations and cities. Clients include The World Bank and The United Nations. As a planner he has assisted groups and individuals in identifying and achieving individual and organizational goals.

Throughout his twenty-eight year professional career, Dr. Edwards has published numerous articles on school reform, and has authored a book, which outlines the implementation of the Student Assistance Center. He has also served as an adjunct professor for the University of Connecticut, teaching prospective administrators in the Graduate School of Education. In addition, Dr. Steven Edwards has served as the Vice President for the Children, Communities, and Youth Division of the National Crime Prevention Council in Washington, D.C., where he oversaw initiatives that focus on delivering a crime prevention message to America's youth. His efforts in this area involved working with schools, youth service agencies, community leaders and policy makers across the country and internationally. He also served as a Professor in the Graduate School of Educational Leadership at The George Washington University, teaching courses in planning and organizational change. Currently, Dr. Edwards is President and CEO of Edwards Educational Services, where he oversees educational initiatives both nationally and internationally. His most recent publication is a dropout prevention monograph outlining seven effective strategies principals can implement to reduce the dropout rates in their schools.





# Los Angeles County Office of Education

Leading Educators • Supporting Students • Serving Communities

September 30, 2010

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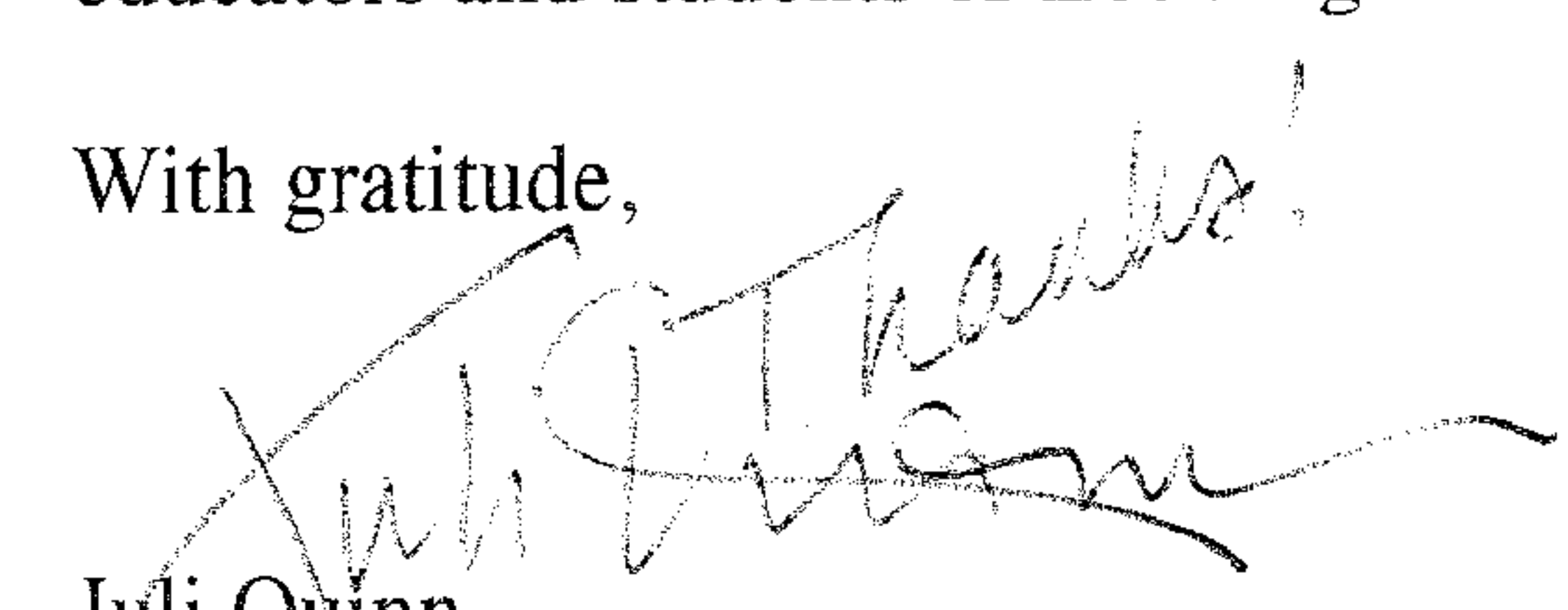
Dear Dr. Edwards:

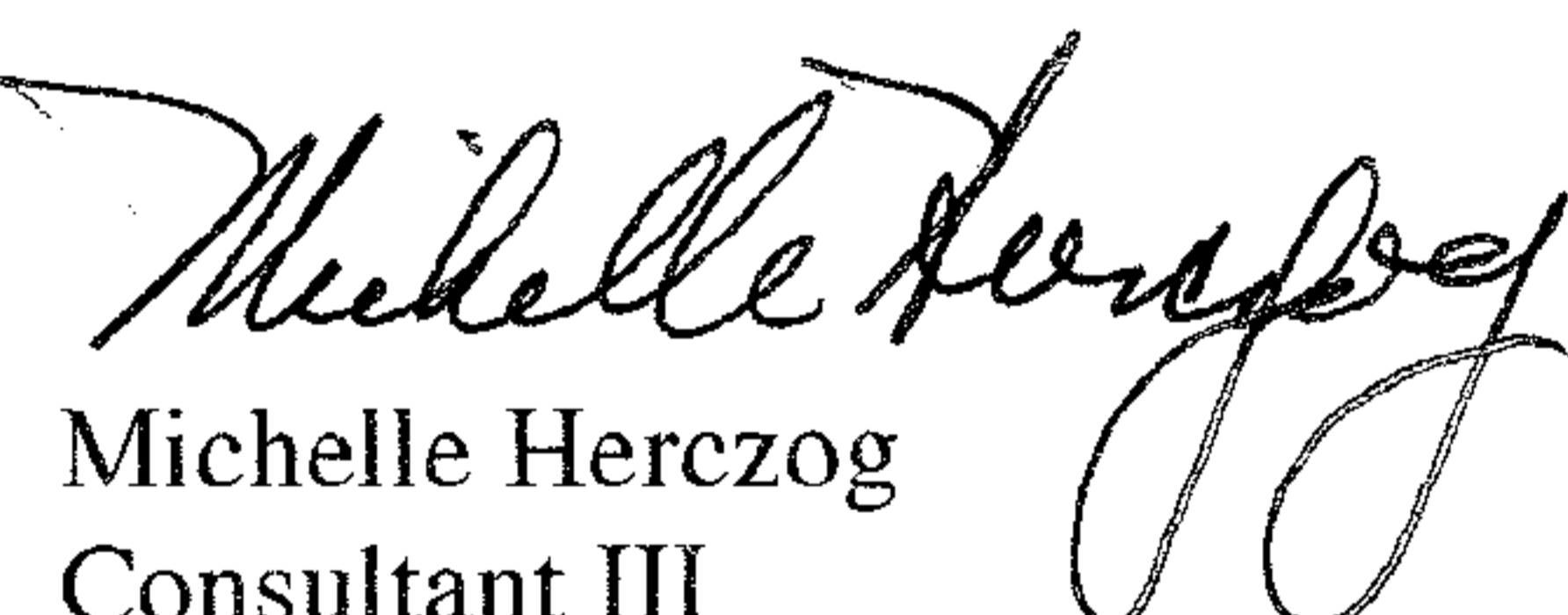
Words cannot express how extremely grateful we are for all you did to contribute to the success of our special event, *The Dropout Crisis: A Leadership Summit* on September 17 at the Hilton Hotel in Pasadena, California.

Your presentation provided educators and community partners with a deeper understanding of the complex issues surrounding the dropout crisis - the contributing factors and consequences on students, families, individuals, school communities, and our nation at large. As a result of your participation and collaboration with the Division of School Improvement and the Division of Curriculum and Instructional Services of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, educational leaders are returning to their schools with renewed inspiration and innovative resources to tackle the critical challenge of helping all students become successful graduates prepared for college and career in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Thank you for the extraordinary opportunity to work with you in supporting the educators and students of Los Angeles County.

With gratitude,

  
Juli Quinn  
Director  
Regional System of District and School Support  
Division for School Improvement

  
Michelle Herczog  
Consultant III  
History-Social Science  
Division of Curriculum and  
Instructional Services

cc: Henry Mothner  
Raynette Sanchez  
Lupe Delgado