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Steve's Sound-Off

September 2016

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

A new school year always brings the promise of accomplishments, and challenges to meet and overcome. As educators, those challenges include a focus on teaching and learning, keeping expectations high, and making every day in your schools a great day for students!

~Steve

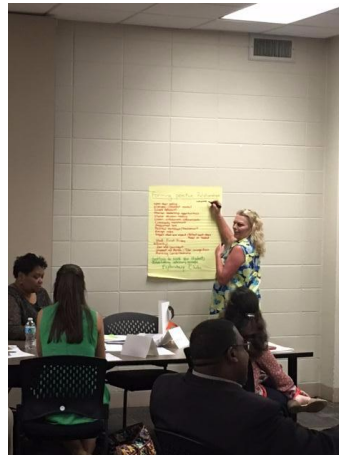
September Institute

During the weekend of September 16-19, 2016, educators from West Virginia and Alabama convened at Samford University as Turnaround School Leaders. The Institute premise was to build a collaborative culture among school leaders from Alabama and West Virginia. The cohort participants developed individual action plans for continued personal growth and development. This collective group of leaders will become the change agents of the future.

Christine Spears, from the Alabama State Department of Education, wrote: "I'm tired but still grateful. This is the 4th and last day of the leadership conference. It has been a wonderful learning and networking opportunity for educators from Alabama and West Virginia. Here are a few takeaways: 1. Always follow the "Code of the West" 2. Know the difference between Collaboration and Cooperation 3. Student Compliance is not Student Engagement 4. Leadership must be purposeful 5. What got us to where we are won't get us to the next place (adjust and modify your practices) 6. Intentionally create situations in your school that allow for innovative practices 7. Take care of yourself 8. Plan your life in 5 year increments 9. Keep your skills sharp 10. Continuously present ideas that cause people to think There is so much more, but I don't have the time to share it all. I will leave you with this quote from Dr. Steven Edwards. This is for all educators. "The world we live in is a dynamic, rapidly changing, interconnected, and unpredictable environment. We can either choose to embrace it or we need to get out of the way."



Christine Spears, Mike Evans, Dr. Franks,
and Dr. Anderson



Participants linking presentations to turnaround
practices and action plans



Dr. Hannah presenting Best Practices
in Turn Around Schools

GITZ (Getting in the Zone) with Mary Lu McCorkle

After a full day of speakers, networking, and sharing of ideas on Friday evening and Saturday, Sunday morning (September 18th) came early for our participants. The Turning Around Together Leadership Institute, which combined cohorts of exceptional teachers and school leaders from Alabama and West Virginia, was in full swing.

Dr. Mary Lu McCorkle started the day with a GITZ (Getting in the Zone) activity. She posted Forming Positive Relationships, Building Capacity, Making Data Driven Decisions, Communicating a Clear Vision, Supporting a Collaborative/Cohesive Culture, Communicating with Parents and Community on large poster paper. Each participant was then given a number so they could be partnered with a mixture of school teachers and leaders representing both Alabama and West Virginia.

The purpose of the activity was to encourage each individual to think in terms of their personal perspectives and through the lens of the school in the context of the aforementioned school reform components.

After a short gallery walk, all participants were able to share best practices in these critical school improvement indicators. The school-based leaders were able to take away explicit frameworks of how they could impact their schools in new and fresh ways, with concrete examples of next steps for making it happen.

iLead Opportunities

EES is looking for all interested iLead members and coaches (present and past) to help us create a digital version and/or app of the iLead books. We want to hear your suggestions and recommendations on all aspects of this new iLead app!

We are also looking for volunteers (iLeaders and coaches past and present) to take part in video interviews with Risi Ademola, an iLead alum who is now working with us to digitize iLead materials (and who started an iLead program at UNC Chapel Hill). We want to know if/how iLead has impacted your life.

For more information, please contact [Rebecca](#).



Stay Tuned! Information about upcoming workshops and conferences with Dr. Steven Edwards, National and International Trainer, Speaker and Presenter; Muriel Summers, Educational Leadership Consultant; and, Dr. Yong Zhao, Foundation Distinguished Professor at the School of Education, University of Kansas. Save the Dates notifications are forthcoming!

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All the best,

The ED Educational Team
Edwards Educational Services, Inc.

