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Steve's Sound-Off

November 2016

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Organizations, like schools, are in a state of constant flux and change. Crisis and renewal are an integral part of gaining fresh perspective and reaching new thresholds. Unexpected challenges can guide us to different ways of doing things, and innovation.

So take this holiday season as time to reflect, refresh your outlook and rejuvenate!

The Edwards Ed Team wishes you the best of holidays and hopes for renewal in the New Year.

All the best,
Steve Edwards



Leading and Learning



Embracing Excellence

2016 Leadership Summit
Annual Conference of the
West Virginia Association of Elementary and
Middle School Principals (WVAEMSP)
and the
West Virginia Association
of Secondary School Principals (WVASSP)

November 13 - 15, 2016
The Greenbrier at White Sulphur Springs, WV

The annual conference of West Virginia Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals was held from November 13th to 15th at The Greenbrier in West Virginia. Dr. Todd Whitaker was a keynote speaker who is one of the nation's leading authorities on staff motivation, teacher leadership, and principal effectiveness. He has written over 30 books, including the best seller: *What Great Teachers Do Differently*. He is currently a professor of education leadership at Indiana State University.

Leland Melvin, a former Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee, was an honorary guest who is the only person drafted into the National Football League that has flown in space. As a researcher, former athlete, and astronaut, he shares his story of perseverance and excellence to inspire school communities for lasting positive change.



Dr. Todd Whitaker



West Virginia Cohort 4 at The Greenbrier

In Alabama, Edwards Ed Consultant Mike Evans was conducting leadership training in Montgomery at Walter McKee Middle School. The PACT South Cohort was focusing on Standard 4 of the ISLLC Standards (Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium), Community Resources and Family Engagement. Cohort members engaged in lively discussion with local police officers, fire department personnel and Mayors on how schools can connect with the community in order to support schools and students.



Global Happenings in Copenhagen and Bulgaria

Steve traveled to Copenhagen to meet with leaders from around the globe that are engaging in innovative practices in their respective schools world-wide. This group of entrepreneurs and innovative thinkers are from the GSA or Global Schools' Alliance.

The Global Schools' Alliance was formed in 2012 by progressive schools worldwide because they realized that while the world is rapidly changing, education and schools are not. The GSA wants to change that.

Member schools are among the highest rated schools in their respective countries and have agreed to bring their experience and knowledge to work together to improve the standards of education globally.

GSA connects child-focused innovators with like-minded educational institutes around the world by sharing research, support, and peer critiques with the goal of revolutionizing education and institutionalizing child-centered learning.



The GSA in Copenhagen

Steve also presented to prospective MBA students at the VUZF University of Finance, Business and Entrepreneurship in Sofia, Bulgaria. His presentation focused on the 10 Things All Successful Entrepreneurs Do.



Steve and MBA students in Sofia, Bulgaria

Dates!

Save the Date newsflash! The West Virginia Cohort will be holding its 2017 Institute at the Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, WV on June 12th, 13th and 14th of 2017. The Institute is open to all individuals who are looking to expand their expertise in leadership, and engage in meaningful and productive conversations about how to improve teaching and learning in schools. The world is changing rapidly and we need to be ready to face the challenges to come, together.

More information to come soon!

On April 18th, 2017, Dr. Laurie Barron, National Principal of the Year and current superintendent, will be presenting in Lexington, KY. Dr. Barron believes that building relationships with students while celebrating what students do right is the key to success in schools and changing a school's culture is essential to school improvement.

Again, more information to come soon!

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All the best,

The ED Educational Team
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