

Select-a-Session I: 9:30-10:15

Middle-Level Social Emotional Learning at YMS – Stateroom A & B

Kenny Loosvelt and Jen Badura – York Middle School

We will be discussing how at York Middle School we have found time to incorporate Social and Emotional Learning SEL. At YMS all students get SEL during the school day. Our MTSS process will be shared and we will discuss how we are addressing the "craziness" of a middle-level student.

Providing You and Your Staff a Better Walkthrough – Stateroom C

Grant Torpin– Wynot Public Schools

In this session, we will look at how Wynot Public Schools used Google Docs to create a better walkthrough experience for both administrators and teachers. By linking it to our instructional model in a unique way we were able to create a collaborative document that turned a mundane task into meaningful practice.

Top 10 Lessons Learned in Years 1-4 of Administration – Stateroom D

Dr. Jen Carson – Papillion La Vista Community Schools

Shawn Hoppes – Bennington Middle School

We will cover the top 10 list of lessons learned in our first four years as principals. Coming from two different districts, the experiences are similar, yet different. Whether opening a new building or joining one already established, we will share some helpful take-aways to assist newer administrators in getting off to a positive start in their administrative career. We can all learn from each other's experiences and make connections through networking to support efforts across all grade levels and districts.

1st & 2nd Year Special Education Directors - Getting Started on the Right Foot – Stateroom E

Terry Houlton – Millard Public Schools

McKayla LaBorde – ESU#3

Introduction to the NASES New Member program and supports.

A Tale of Early Childhood and School-Age Care for Families – Stateroom F

Shane Keeling – Auburn Public Schools

Byron Olsen – Gering Public Schools

This session addresses early childhood and school-age care through responsive planning, integrated programming, and collaborative support systems. The information shared is a unique blend of research and educational experiences across districts that is told through a personal narrative lens.

Out of the Frying Pan, Into the Fire: Hot Topics with KSB School Law – Loper North

KSB School Law

We're back for a 6th year of hot topics! After all the heat you took last year (from everyone, for everything), it's easy to feel like you're finally out of the frying pan – but you know better. This session will highlight the hottest topics in school law, so you can be prepared before someone is holding your feet to the fire!

EHA Update – Loper South

Greg Long – Educators Health Alliance

Cortney Ray and Brett Young – Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska and the EHA will be reviewing the tools within the Educators Health Alliance Website. The session will also be reviewing plan offerings that include the Alternative Networks.

How to Put Teachers Back Together When a Student Falls Apart in Their Classroom – Ballroom 2

Dr. Jean Anderson and Erica Johnson – ESU #10

Sometimes students have big reactions to events that can cause them to fall apart in the classroom. This is difficult for teachers and they need support to process what happened, how to welcome the student back, and how to potentially learn and grow from the event. This session will help administrators learn a process to support teachers who have been through a difficult event with a student.

Retire the Fire Hose: Implement Systems to Free Up Time and Proactively Focus on What's Most Important! – Ruby 6

Tessa Fraass – ESU #13

Casey Hurner – ESU #3

Do you start your day out behind before you even walk into the building? Do you feel like you spend more time putting out fires than focusing on what you know will impact your staff, families, and students? The NeMTSS Team and ESUs are here for you! Come and hear about the impact that NeMTSS is having statewide and how you can utilize this framework to positively impact ALL students together so you can eventually retire the fire hose!

Networking with New Principals – Ruby 7

Dr. Dan Ernst – Nebraska Council of School Administrators

This session is for first-time new or new-to-Nebraska principals or assistant principals. The session will highlight the NCSA Networking with New Principals Program and provide you with the opportunity to discuss concerns as new principals. This session will be led by the Networking Leadership Team that has years of successful experience in Nebraska schools. The NWNPP Leadership Team includes Carrie Kolar, Grand Island, Heather Daubert, Millard, Josie Floyd, Sutherland, Liz Stutzman, Friend, John Byrn, Ogallala, Brad Jacobsen, Ashland-Greenwood, and Dan Ernst, NCSA. Please join us, as this session is extremely important to get your year and career as a Nebraska Administrator off to a great start.

Creating a Voice with the Nebraska Legislature – Diamond 1

Mitch Kubicek and Josh Fields – Nebraska ASCD

James Wright – Congressman Bacon's Office

Senator Matt Williams – Nebraska Legislature

Senator Lynne Walz – Nebraska Legislature

Nicole Barrett – Education Committee of the Nebraska Legislature

Nebraska ASCD is dedicated to excellence in learning, teaching, and leading so that every child is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. One strategic goal of Nebraska ASCD is to serve as a resource and advocate for Nebraska educators on education policy and legislation. During this session Nebraska ASCD Board Members will facilitate a conversation with a panel of professionals from the Nebraska Legislature to share ideas on how to have your voice heard with policy makers. Highlights from education-related legislative topics from the 2021 Nebraska legislative session will also be shared. This session is for administrators who are new to the legislative advocacy process and for those who have had experience.

The Game Changer: Collective Efficacy (1 of 2: Double Session) – Diamond 2

Jen McNally and Jamie Mapp – ESU #5

Individual and collective efficacy within a school are key components when cultivating a healthy, positive, and productive culture and climate. During this past year, we have seen now more than ever the need to ensure school districts have the tools at hand to support the well-being of educators. This interactive presentation will provide school district leaders readily available tools and a step-by-step process on how to build and sustain a culture and climate which promotes efficacy.

Recent Trends in Personnel Matters – Diamond 6

Derek Aldridge and Josh Schauer - Perry Law Firm

This session will cover personnel matters, from the basics, to the unusual, to recent issues arising from remote working environments.

Falcon Families: Creating a Place Where Everyone Belongs – Diamond 7

Erin Sieh – Freeman Public Schools

Come learn about what Falcon Families are! Freeman began the process 3 years ago after recognizing in part that there was becoming a strong need for mental health support. The philosophy behind Falcon Families is that every child that leaves Freeman Public Schools feels like they belong and has an adult that they connect with.

You will learn about this unique design and how to easily implement it in your school. It can be done at all levels K-12 and involves all school personnel. You will also see examples and videos of Falcon Families in action.

Select-a-Session II: 10:30-11:15

Structured Systems within a MTSS at Wahoo Public Schools – Stateroom A & B

Josh Snyder, Marc Kaminski, Ben Kreifels, and Robert Barry – Wahoo Public Schools

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) help ensure students and staff are provided the support they need to be successful (academic & social-emotional). A structured system aids in the decision-making process, protects time to engage in these discussions and uses data tools to help ensure students are provided with necessary support. Wahoo Public Schools will walk you through their MTSS journey and current systems they have in place (and are developing) to meet the needs of their school community.

Change Theory in Action: Planning, Implementing, and Sustaining Change – Stateroom C

Dr. Todd Tripple – Millard Public Schools

Dr. Greg Betts – Westside Community Schools

Dr. Scott Blum – ESU #3

Pre-pandemic and post-pandemic, one thing has remained constant - change. Navigating the complex elements of change is a critical role and function of teachers and administrators. Join presenters from Millard Public Schools, Westside Community Schools, and Educational Service Unit #3 to discuss change theory in action. In this session, we will explore how we have planned for, and implemented, change initiatives leveraging resources like the Complex Change Matrix, the Concerns-based Adoption Model, Logic Models, and standards for professional learning.

Why Superintendents Leave: Nebraska Superintendent Research – Stateroom D

Kay Keiser – NAPSL

This session will be hosted by members of the newly chartered Nebraska Association of Professors of School Leadership (NAPSL). Longitudinal research compiled by Wayne State University will be shared as well as recent survey data from superintendents across the state. Research presented will help provide a “State of the State” view in terms of retention and job satisfaction of current and former superintendents. Future research topics on how to recruit and support superintendents will be shared.

Supporting Schools in Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education – Stateroom E

Sarah Forrest – Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers

Christy Prang – Child Advocacy Center in Lincoln

Lisa Schulze – Women’s Fund of Omaha

Join the Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers and the Women’s Fund to learn about evidence-informed practices that may be implemented in schools to help students prevent sexual abuse and sexual violence. Presenters will discuss how schools can provide age-appropriate, inclusive education to students regarding sexual abuse and violence, including concepts such as safe & unsafe touch, dating violence, sex trafficking, sexual harassment, and rape. This session will also include a discussion of how school staff can provide appropriate support to students who disclose experiences of sexual violence, as well as resources available to help reduce the risk of child sexual abuse in our state.

Jimmy Needs an Alternative Placement, Now What? – Stateroom F

Whitney Bell – Brook Valley School

Sarah Eades Hamilton – Papillion-LaVista Community Schools

This session will focus on topics that school teams may consider when deciding on an alternative placement for a student which is a Tier 3 + intervention within the MTSS model. Areas of focus include exhausting interventions prior to placement, IEP practices at placement meetings, maintaining a connection with the student and family during placement, and transitioning back from placement.

Principles for Principals: Getting Ready for the Next Year – Loper North

KSB School Law

Superintendents, you know we love you, but Principals are our real PALs. [Insert laughter here.] In all seriousness, we love how quickly we get to know our principals. From the first day of school on, principals are placed in positions of legal and practical significance that are central to our schools running smoothly and

present a ton of interesting legal questions. Although it feels like these obligations are never-ending, there are several common mistakes that are easy to avoid. This fast paced session will focus on getting new and returning principals alike the legal and practical information they need to be prepared for another successful school year and avoid mistakes on the simple stuff you can do before students and staff return.

A Marathon of School Improvements From Strategic Plan to Finished Product – Loper South

Dan Gross and Russ Koch – Tekamah-Herman Schools

Tekamah-Herman Public Schools Facilities Projects: You name it, we've attempted it, and have gotten it done! This session will be a discussion of the facility improvements and upgrades done at Tekamah-Herman Public Schools over the last five years using the design build, design bid build and construction manager at risk methods.

PICNIC: Problem in Chair, Not in Computer – Ballroom 2

William Pulte – ESU #3

Network and data security has always been considered a function of the IT department. Over the last several years, school districts have been increasingly targeted by bad actors. It has become imperative that all employees take a role in network and data security. During this conversation we will look at tools that can be used by schools such as Single Sign-On, Two Factor Authentication Password Managers. We will also discuss the importance of all employees staying diligent and what each person can do to help protect themselves and the district.

When Less is More . . . Providing Clarity and Support Through Teacher Induction and Evaluation – Ruby 6

Mitch Kubicek, Brandon Mowinkel, Cory Hartman, Kevin Wingard – Milford Public Schools

Cameron Soester – Louisville Public Schools

The teaching staff at Milford Public Schools has spent more than a decade fully immersed in the Marzano Instructional Framework to promote effective instruction in the classroom. In 2017, the district began to use the framework for the foundation for teacher evaluation. Guess what? Providing specific feedback for all 43 elements proved to be too cumbersome. It was also difficult to effectively train new teachers on so many topics. We needed to simplify and embrace the concept of “less is more” in order to provide more clarity for instruction and growth. Since 2017 the MPS administrative team has worked to reduce the number of elements used in the teacher evaluation process from 43 to 8. We will share how we determined the 8 elements from the Marzano Instructional model, and how these 8 elements promote teacher growth and how they are used as part of a new teacher induction program.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Gallery Walk – Ruby 7

Dr. Shavonna Holman – University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Participants in this session will have the opportunity to review a variety of school improvement initiatives developed by graduate students from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). During the gallery walk, participants may review program designs, interact with aspiring school leaders and meet members of the EDAD Department. Please come and review these innovative school improvement initiatives and engage in conversation about ways to impact student achievement and student success in Nebraska schools.

A Framework: Culturally Proficient Leadership – Diamond 1

Bess Sullivan Scott – Doane University

Now more than ever we must develop, nurture, and demand culturally proficient leaders who care more about the needs and success of others than their own; who are driven to help each and every adult and student create lives abundant in success, fulfillment, happiness, and joy; and who lead with the values of democracy, diversity, equity, and social justice. Participants will leave this session with an introduction to the Culturally Proficient Leadership Framework that strives to make this happen.

The Game Changer: Collective Efficacy (2 of 2: Double Session) – Diamond 2

Jen McNally and Jamie Mapp – ESU #5

Individual and collective efficacy within a school are key components when cultivating a healthy, positive, and productive culture and climate. During this past year, we have seen now more than ever the need to ensure school districts have the tools at hand to support the well-being of educators. This interactive presentation will provide school district leaders readily available tools and a step-by-step process on how to build and sustain a culture and climate which promotes efficacy.

Special Education Law Update – Diamond 6

Haleigh Carlson and Greg Perry – Perry Law Firm

No area of school law was more turned around in the pandemic than special education. But are we back to normal yet? Join Greg Perry and Haleigh Carlson from the Perry Law Firm to discuss the biggest issues surrounding special education for the 2021-2022 school year.

Communicating Strategies to Bring Calm to Your Chaos – Diamond 7

Annette Eyman and NebSRA Leadership - NebSPRA

Your phone is ringing, your email is buzzing and social media accounts are on fire.... what do I do now? This session is designed to give all school administrators communication strategies to survive and thrive through any given situation. Presented by school communication professionals from throughout Nebraska, this session will cover how to set your school, district or department up for communication success. We will cover how you establish a communication system that will build trust with your staff and community. We will also cover what to do when "it hits the fan". When do you communicate, what do you communicate and how? Particular strategies will be shared about how you "message" to bring calmness to the chaos.

Select-a-Session III: 2:45-3:30

SLD Evaluation through MTSS – Stateroom A & B

Carrie Foster, Troy Baker, Kathy Fergen, and Kristin Foreman – Lincoln Public Schools

Organizing data on a rubric is an effective way for MDT teams to determine if a student meets verification criteria for SLD through lack of response to interventions. We will share with you the rubrics we designed for initial and re-evaluations and take you through some case studies.

It Should Be Easier Than This!!! Improving Classroom Management Skills with Staff – Stateroom C

Matthew McNiff, Ph.D. – ESU #5

Behavior management is hard. As an administrator, not only do you have to have a plan to manage the behaviors of the students but training the teachers is not much easier. Just like the students in the teachers' classrooms, you too have teachers who need assistance in improving their skills. As an administrator, it is imperative that you have a plan to help teachers improve their classroom management skills for the sake of the students in your building. This session will discuss topics such as quick solutions and strategies, energizing and inspiring staff, perspective analysis, and conflict resolution.

Principals: How to Keep Your Special Educators Happy & Reduce Teacher Turnover – Stateroom D

McKayla LaBorde and Allison Kelberlau – ESU #3

Dr. Terry Houlton – Millard Public Schools

Melissa Stolley – Ralston Public Schools

Building principals are key personnel in cultivating a successful setting for our special education students and the staff who support them. Join us for a collaborative learning opportunity aimed at preparing you to handle difficult special education and legal situations, increasing your knowledge of special education, and assisting you to better support your special education staff and students.

Federal Opportunities to Accelerate and Renew Learning – Stateroom E

Jeff Cole and Josh Cramer – Nebraska Children and Family Foundation

The Nebraska Children and Family Foundation will help you focus on how to use ESSER III and other federal funding to start new and enhance existing afterschool and summer programs. Additionally, you'll learn strategies to accelerate and renew learning by deepening school-family-community partnerships to expand learning.

Afterschool Turnaround: Winning After the Bell – Stateroom F

Joel Bramhall – Crete Public Schools

Learn how Cardinal Community Learning Centers (CCLC) in Crete is rebuilding an afterschool program to better serve their students and families. In only one year, a series of innovative changes have led to remarkable improvements in enrichment learning, while a 'back to the basics' approach established a collaborative and productive workplace. The CCLC Director will discuss the following topics: alignment to the school day, experiential learning opportunities, safety, nutrition, student voice/choice, staff support and accountability, family engagement, community partnerships, and grant funding.

Special Education: Federal Obligations and State Modifications – Loper North

KSB School Law

Over the last year, we've seen a significant increase in the number of special education disputes, several of which led to due process petitions and Rule 51 complaints. This coincides with the Biden Administration's renewed focus on the processing of special education complaints on the federal level. As the stakes heighten around the provision of special education services, the Unicameral continues to take actions that make this complex area of federal law more complicated in our state. This session will focus on what has, and what hasn't, changed with respect to your obligations to provide special education services under state and federal law.

LB 322 - How it can help you – Loper South

Dr. Jolene Palmer – Nebraska Department of Education

Dr. Denise Bulling – University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

Susan Payne – Safe2Tell Colorado

NDE Safety & Security will provide information about the buzz around LB 322. This session will explain how Safe2HelpNE works, hear from Susan Payne, Founding Director of Safe2Tell Colorado, learn how your school can participate, and answer your questions.

Mission Writing 101: Writing an Actionable Mission Statement – Ruby 6

Dr. Derek Ippensen – Norfolk Public Schools

Writing and rewriting the mission statement is an important part of all school improvement cycles, and is essential to becoming mission-driven. In this session, Derek Ippensen will discuss the research on the purpose of mission statements, share insights from twelve principals from across the state, and provide recommendations for writing an actionable mission statement and for rewriting a current mission statement.

Real World Research – Ruby 7

Dr. Nick Pace – University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Facilitator);

Dr. Jill Johnson – Class Intercom

Dr. Beth Ericson – York Public Schools

This session will have two topics presented by recent UNL EdD graduates Dr. Jill Johnson and Dr. Beth Ericson. 1) Dr. Johnson: Principals in Nebraska have to deal with the negative ramifications of their students' social media interactions; however, some have faced the issue head-on with student-led social media teams. Learn the technology leadership skills needed in 21st century administrators to harness social media as a powerful communication and marketing tool to prepare their students and positively promote their schools. 2) Dr. Ericson: Learn about the challenges Nebraska principals face educating students with emotional dysregulation, the evidence-based strategies most widely used, the Nebraska resources most often utilized to educate this population of students, and how well equipped Nebraska principals feel they are to educate students with emotional dysregulation. You'll gain strategies and resources principals and administrators can access to help educate EVERY student in their school.

Building a Secure Future with Students: Film Q&A – Diamond 1

Brandy Buscher and Jeremiah (Jay) Johnson – North Platte Public Schools,

Sally Nellson Barrett – Nebraska Loves Public Schools

Join Brandy, Jay, and Nebraska Loves Public Schools for an interactive discussion on inherited trauma, generational poverty, drug abuse, neglect, and other home dynamics that complicate a student's path to academic success. Walk away with new tools and discussion prompts to enhance your staff meetings and professional development.

B.E.L.I.E.V.E.! In Growth Mindset: Relevant Strategies that Reward Resiliency and Rev Up Learning – Diamond 2

Dorina Sackman-Ebuwa

In this fun and highly active session, participants engage in activities that show the difference between growth and fixed mindsets. Participants will also learn ways to increase the power of positive thinking and see, hands on, how thinking happy can actually change the wiring of our brains. Now more than ever, our communities need positive vibes. Why not learn to be that vibe, so you can be that change you want to see.

Who Are You Who Are So Wise in the Science of Teaching? – Diamond 6

Rex Schultze – Perry Law Firm

Rex has written a book published in February 2021 entitled "Who are you who are so wise in the science of teaching?" The premise of the book is two-fold: First, it discusses the necessary preparation, foundation, teaching, communication necessary to qualify a principal (or assistant principal) as an expert witness in a certificated teacher termination or cancelation hearing for "just cause" under Nebraska Rule of Evidence "702. Testimony by Expert Witnesses." Second, and most importantly, the book is a course of study for building principals to "prepare" to perform the most function – assuring learning is occurring in the classroom through acquire the personal education, experience, teaching and writing skills and commitment to effectively evaluate teachers (your school's most important assets) in a positive, collaborative and a nurturing manner, and thereby

improve student performance. During the session Rex will provide an overview of his book and provide an introduction to the concepts, resources, skills training, and tasks needed to be an effective “teacher” to your professional teaching staff. It will hopefully be a fun and entertaining 45 minutes!

Hearing clearly is a measure of equity – Diamond 7

Steve Joel and Jenny Fundus – Lincoln Public Schools

Jeff Anderson - Audio Enhancement

Imagine a busy classroom in a busy school where it no longer matters where a student sits in order to hear the teacher instructing. Imagine a teacher that no longer has to rely on raising their teacher voice to gain attention of students. Finally, imagine a teacher that can be heard and understood clearly even when speaking through a mask. In LPS, a commitment was made to provide an audio solution to each classroom in the district. This session will demonstrate why this partnership and investment has made a significant difference in our schools.

Select-a-Session IV: 3:45-4:30

Creating Equitable Learning Experiences in Canvas – Stateroom A & B

Shara Johnson and Adam Moon – ESU #2

The student experience in Canvas can vary drastically, which has a direct impact on student learning, the anxiousness of the child, and their progress toward mastery. Depending on the teacher, the subject matter, and the directives of the administration, Canvas can be a well-built machine or a frustrating conundrum. Come see firsthand the impact this can have on learners while considering what best practices you should consider when moving your district forward with a consistent and united front.

Look at us Now!! Improving Behavior Across Tiers Through the Use of Video – Stateroom C

Matthew McNiff, Ph.D. – ESU #5

When looking at evidence-based interventions for PBIS or MTSS, video self-modeling (VSM) is the rare example that can effect change at all tiers. The mounting evidence of support for this intervention shows that it can be a valuable resource in helping students to increase their skill level simply by using a positive self-review of appropriate behavior. Whether a staff team is using video self-modeling to enhance group behaviors in tier 1 or aggressive behaviors in tier 3, this intervention can benefit a wide variety of students. Further, video self-modeling has shown to be an easy to implement, low cost, high reward intervention that often shows the immediate change. This session will demonstrate the steps on how to use video self-modeling with groups and individuals, what type of behaviors the intervention may help and why it is so effective.

Teacher Shortage: Breaking Barriers and Building Solutions – Stateroom D

Jenny Jansky – University of Nebraska-Kearney

Dr. April Buschelman – Creighton University

Dr. Sara Skretta – University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Dr. Darci Karr - Hastings College

Join the Nebraska Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (NACTE) for an honest exchange about the existing teacher shortage in Nebraska and how it affects us all. Nebraska shortage data and specific challenges and barriers will be shared to set the scene but we don't stop there! Current strategies and initiatives addressing shortage issues will also be presented. This session will leave you with basic strategies and set the stage for more innovative discussion and in-depth action plan development that will occur at the Educator Shortage Summit in October.

Collaboration over COVID: Nebraska Schools Teaming up Through NRCSA and ESUs – Stateroom E

Jack Moles – NRCSA

John Skretta – ESU #6

Vernon Fisher – Gibbon Public Schools

Kraig Lofquist and Andrew Easton – ESUCC

The Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association, ESUs, Nebraska Superintendents, and school district leaders across the state joined together in the 19-20 and 20-21 school years on two powerful collaborative projects that provided timely assistance to schools across the state. NRCSA and ESUCC subsequently published Considerations for Reopening Schools in late summer, 2020 and followed it with websites on Remote Learning Resources in winter, 2020. This session will review the robust collaborative effort and shared leadership approach initiated by NRCSA's Jack Moles and other key Nebraska education leaders to accomplish these ambitious, time-sensitive projects. The session will share strategic leadership lessons derived from the intensive professional networking conversations sparked by these efforts.

How to SAT From the Bottom Up! – Stateroom F

Jodi Wolf and Tellina Alvord – Minatare Public Schools

Come learn how Minatare Elementary redesigned its SAT process from the ground up to better fit the needs of MTSS. We'll walk you through Minatare Elementary's flow chart for making decisions as well as the forms used for documentation throughout the process. You'll learn how Minatare Elementary handles SAT meetings. After this presentation, the audience will be able to redesign their current SAT process and forms to better meet the needs of MTSS and be able to hold successful SAT meetings.

Blocked and Reported: Social Media, the First Amendment, and You – Loper North

KSB School Law

While the First Amendment hasn't changed since 1791, nothing changes faster than the latest social media trends (except Karen's shoes!) With those changes has come some fascinating (and entertaining) questions about what is, and what isn't, protected by the First Amendment when your students and staff hop online. With the Supreme Court taking a new look at student online speech, this session will provide a much-needed update on the interaction between the First Amendment and the social media issues affecting schools.

Data Walks: Seriously....They Don't Have to be Painful – Loper South

Brooke Kavan and Mark Brady – ESU #7

This session will highlight a Data Walk process and protocol that allows all teachers to analyze student achievement data in just a few hours. Join us to explore practical tools and strategies that can be utilized to plan and facilitate a meaningful district or building-wide data walk. Seriously...this session won't be painful!

How Mission Drives Practice – Ruby 6

Dr. Derek Ippensen – Norfolk Public Schools

The work of the principal is different in different schools. In this session, Derek Ippensen will share the results from his doctoral dissertation by discussing the work of twelve different principals and how their mission drives their practice. Principals from six districts were selected to participate and discuss their practices: two from (P)K-12 schools, four from districts with elementary and secondary schools, and six from districts with elementary, middle, and high schools.

Developing Guided Pathways to Help Students Succeed in Higher Education – Ruby 7

Steven Duke – University of Nebraska Central Administration

Matt Tracy and Colton Janes – University of Nebraska at Omaha

Tom McDonnell – Metropolitan Community College

In recent years, the community colleges, state colleges, and University of Nebraska campuses have begun to work together to develop "guided pathways" to help students achieve their personal, professional, and career-related goals. Guided pathways are intended to help students to be better informed about academic and curricular objectives and to know what courses they can take at a community college and then transfer to a four-year college. This session will include 25 minutes of presentation about resources and example pathways between Metropolitan Community College and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, followed by 20 minutes of Q&A to hear from K12 administrators about what information and resources might be best for their students before they graduate from high school.

Bancroft-Rosalie Early College High School Program – Diamond 1

Jon Cerny and Kyle Elsasser – Bancroft-Rosalie Community School

Bancroft-Rosalie School staff will share the components of their Early College High School Program that prepares all students to be college and career-ready. These components include "Teacher Advisors" with a weekly advisory period, collaborative partnerships with post-secondary institutions, personal learning plans requiring a career pathway, and the work-based learning program. The Early College High School reduces the cost of postsecondary education by providing opportunities for students to graduate college sooner with less debt.

B.E.L.I.E.V.E.! In Equity: Opening Eyes and Hearts to Elevate Effective Education of All – Diamond 2

Dorina Sackman-Ebuwa

This highly reflective session gets participants ready to engage in critical and courageous conversations. Using research from adult learning and emotional intelligence, participants will engage in opening activities that "open up" the brain for quality dialogue. Our world has changed. Now more than ever our role as educators must be one of understanding our role as advocates for children and ambassadors of change. Participants will have eye-opening "checks" on the differences of equal and equitable education and how to recognize, analyze and differentiate to ensure equity over equality in our classrooms of ALL. Let us recognize the successes of our students by embracing differences in culture, learning styles (that can fall under the umbrella of culture), as well as "checking ourselves" by learning how to be an educator of "reflequity!"

Hot Topics in School Law: What Administrators Need to Know – Diamond 6

Justin Knight – Perry Law Firm

This session will cover the hot topics in school law that every school administrator needs to know, including the recent United States Supreme Court cheerleader case, state and federal changes, transgender issues, and more.

5 Schools and a Clinical Psychologist: A Unique Approach to Comprehensive Special Education and Mental Health Services – Diamond 7

Cathy Brunz – Sutherland Public Schools

Josie Floyd – Sutherland Public Schools

Brett Julius – Hershey Public Schools

Dr. Luke McConnell - McConnell Psychological Solutions

Dustin Mitchell – Kearney Public Schools

Administrators today are often bombarded with significant mental health challenges with their students and staff. This session will discuss 5 districts' innovative approaches to addressing an increase in mental health needs and special education challenges in schools today. Specifically, this session will allow participants to understand a way to increase capacity by providing support and training to school counselors, special education teachers, and administrators. We will discuss case examples of what it looks like to combine clinical psychology with the needs of schools.