



Concurrent Sessions

Friday, November 7th

Time	Room	Presenter	Title
9:45 - 10:45	Seaside 2	Sharon D. Lilly	Beyond the Ceiling: What Administrators Should See and Support for Advanced Learners in Every Classroom
	Seaside 3	Dr. LaTanya Sothern	From the Carpet to the Conference Room: What Kindergarten Can Teach Us About Leading with C.A.R.E.
	Seaside 4	Dr. Rachel Edoho-Eket	Boundaries before Burnout: How to Sustain Joy as a School Leader
	Seaside 5	Diane Roberts	Beyond Pizza and Jeans Days: A Wellness Framework That Works
	Seaside 6	Kelly McVey	Using data and blended coaching framework to meet School Improvement Goals

Time	Room	Presenter	Title
11:00 - 12:00	Seaside 2	Dr. Sedrick Smith & Justin Holbrook	A beautiful marriage: How schools and communities can work together to increase student outcomes
	Seaside 3	Jordan Salkeld Krish Putta Michael Gannon Esther Ryu	Advocacy Beyond the Classroom: How Students Can Influence Policy (MASC)
	Seaside 4	Dr. Ryan Daniel	Leading with Culture: Empowering Communities through Responsive Leadership
	Seaside 5	Dr. Andrea Thompson Dr. Patricia Wells-Frazier Dr. Sharon Hill Dr. LaTonya Wright	Every School is a Community School: Leading through Needs-Based Partnerships
	Seaside 6	Dr. Sonia Matthew Jeffrey Monroe	Instructional Leadership with a Pulse

Time	Room	Presenter	Title
2:30 - 3:30	Seaside 2	Kareem Penn	Diversifying the Educator Workforce: Leveraging HBCU Graduates Through School-Based Administrator-Led Recruitment
	Seaside 3	James Allrich Ashley Moore	Lead Like a DJ: Remixing Leadership for Maximum Impact
	Seaside 4	Dr. Ryan Daniel Kelly McVey Kris Hemstetter	NDP/POY Panel- Our distinguished panel of nationally recognized principals will share their stories.
	Seaside 5	Dr. Sharon H. Porter	Mic'd Up Leadership: Using Podcasting to Build Culture, Connection, and Community
	Seaside 6	Rian Reed	Unlocking Wellness with AI: Funding Pathways and Design Strategy for School-Wide Educator Wellness Programs

Session Descriptions & Presenter Bios

Beyond the Ceiling: What Administrators Should See and Support for Advanced Learners in Every Classroom

Strand-Fostering Strong Instructional Leadership

Presenter-Sharon D. Lilly



Administrators play a critical role in ensuring that advanced learners are not limited by expectations of meeting minimal proficiency but are instead challenged and engaged to reach their full potential within the general education setting. This session equips school leaders with a clear lens for identifying what high-quality instruction looks like for gifted and advanced students during classroom walkthroughs and evaluations. Participants will learn what to look for in questioning techniques, pacing, student autonomy, and evidence of depth and complexity. Practical tools, look-fors, and coaching language will be shared to help

administrators support teachers in creating responsive learning environments where all students, even advanced learners, continually grow.

Sharon Lilly is the Supervisor of G & T, Advanced Academics, and Virtual Learning for Carroll County Public Schools in Maryland. With over 25 years of experience in education, she has served as a principal, assistant principal, academic facilitator, department chair, and English teacher, bringing a comprehensive perspective to school leadership. Ms. Lilly's leadership has been recognized at the state and district levels, including the Maryland State Department of Education and State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education's 2024 award for outstanding leadership in gifted education. She received Carroll County Public Schools' Rita Board Dowd Outstanding Principal Award in 2020 and the Outstanding Assistant Principal Award in 2017.

From the Carpet to the Conference Room: What Kindergarten Can Teach Us About Leading with C.A.R.E.

Strand-Enhancing School Climate & Inclusivity

Presenter-Dr. LaTanya Sothern



The best teaching practices in kindergarten—building trust, modeling empathy, setting clear expectations, celebrating growth, and creating joyful routines—aren't just for little learners. These same strategies can also shape a strong, supportive school culture for adults. In this engaging workshop, participants will explore how foundational classroom practices can inform effective instructional leadership. Using the C.A.R.E. framework—Collaboration, Authenticity, Relationships, and Excellence—we'll reimagine school leadership through the lens of what works best in kindergarten: meeting people where they are, building community, and leading with heart and purpose. Special attention will be given to navigating the unique

needs and values of an intergenerational workforce, because the same principles that help five-year-olds grow can help teachers of all generations flourish—when we lead with C.A.R.E.

Dr. LaTanya Sothern is a passionate educator, leader, and advocate with nearly 30 years of experience in public education. A proud Washington, D.C. native, she holds degrees from American University, Howard University, and the University of Maryland, where she earned her doctorate in School System Leadership. As a National Board Certified educator and NAESP-certified mentor principal in Prince George's County Public Schools, Dr. Sothern has led two schools with distinction, navigating complex challenges—including the COVID-19 pandemic—with a focus on equity, excellence, and student growth. Dr. Sothern is a published author, entrepreneur, and community volunteer. Her work has been featured at national conventions, including the NAACP and the Congressional Black Caucus. She currently serves as the Immediate Past President of the American University Alumni Board and has been a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for 35 years.

Boundaries before Burnout: How to Sustain Joy as a School Leader

Strand-Leading for School Wellness

Presenter- Dr. Rachel Edoho-Eket



Are you feeling overwhelmed and exhausted as a school leader? Do you struggle to find joy in your work with the daily demands and ongoing pressure? Join this powerful session designed specifically for teachers and school administrators who are seeking practical solutions to prevent burnout and reignite their passion for education. In this session, you'll learn practical and actionable strategies to maintain joy and balance in your professional and personal life. Through insightful discussions and real-life examples, you'll gain valuable tools to manage stress, prioritize self-care, and create a healthier work environment without feeling guilty! By attending, you'll connect with like-minded leaders, share experiences, and develop a

personalized plan to enhance your well-being and effectiveness. Don't miss this opportunity to transform your leadership approach and rediscover your joy as a school leader!

Dr. Rachel Edoho-Eket is a principal, TEDx speaker, author, and the 2025 President of the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals. With decades as a teacher and leader, she has earned the reputation as a passionate educational advocate. Named as one of the Top 100 Influencers in Education by District Administration magazine, Dr. Edoho-Eket's belief in fostering meaningful relationships serves as the foundation for everything she does. During her career, she has proudly served as a teacher, team leader, Assistant Principal, and Principal. Her first best-selling book, "The Principal's Journey: Navigating the Path to School Leadership" provides a helpful blueprint for educators to follow as they transition into new leadership roles. Her newest book, "Relational

Intelligence: The Key to Exceptional School Leadership" centers on the importance of trusting and authentic relationships to drive school success.

Beyond Pizza and Jeans Days: A Wellness Framework That Works

Strand- Leading for School Wellness

Presenter- Diane Roberts



Let's be real, pizza parties and jeans passes are nice, but they won't hold up under the weight of burnout, high expectations, and emotional fatigue. If we want staff to show up whole, we have to lead with more intention. This action-oriented session gives school leaders a practical Wellness Framework, a sustainable structure built on five core pillars: emotional safety, consistent communication, restorative leadership, professional affirmation, and embedded SEL practices. We'll explore how each pillar strengthens staff retention, boosts morale, and transforms school climate. Through honest reflection and real-world strategies, you'll assess

what's working, what's not, and walk away with a plan to build a school culture where your team feels seen, supported, and valued. This session is for leaders who are ready to go beyond surface-level support and create the kind of environment where adults thrive because when we care for the people who care for kids, everybody wins.

Diane Roberts is a nationally recognized educator, educational consultant, and leadership trainer with over 25 years of experience in K–12 schools and community-based youth programs. A former high school principal and the current Assistant Director of Youth Services at Employ Prince George's, Diane leads innovative programs that prepare young people for college, careers, and lifelong success across Prince George's County, Maryland. Her areas of expertise include trauma-informed practices, crisis management, brain-based instruction, and social-emotional wellness—for both students and the adults who serve them. As a Certified Workforce Development Professional (CWDP), Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF), and Gurian Institute-trained consultant, Diane equips educators with practical, research-driven strategies to lead with clarity, empathy, and purpose.

Using data and blended coaching framework to meet School Improvement Goals

Strand- Fostering Strong Instructional Leadership

Presenter- Kelly McVey



Participants will reflect on best practices for using student data and instructional coaching to effectively support progress toward School Improvement Goals. This session will explore practical protocols for analyzing and debriefing student data, with a focus on identifying priority standards and developing targeted action steps for students who have not yet demonstrated mastery. We will also examine how to take a partnership-based approach to

coaching during collaborative planning—emphasizing equity by both celebrating bright spots and addressing learning gaps. Participants will leave with strategies to ensure coaching and data conversations are solution-oriented, student-centered, and aligned with the school's improvement priorities.

Kelly McVey began her career teaching social studies in Howard County before moving into school leadership eight years ago. In 2021, she became principal of Southern Middle School and is now beginning her tenure as principal of MacArthur Middle School in Fort Meade, Maryland. During her leadership at Southern, the school consistently earned three stars on the Maryland Report Card and showed notable academic growth, particularly in English Language Arts (ELA). In the 2023–2024 school year, Southern's English Language Development students

tied for second in ELA growth among all comprehensive middle schools in the county, and its seventh-grade students posted the highest overall ELA growth. The school was recognized as a 2024 Wellness School of Distinction for its commitment to the health and well-being of students, staff, and the broader community.

A beautiful marriage: How schools and communities can work together to increase student outcomes

Strand- Enhancing School Climate & Inclusivity

Presenters- Dr. Sedrick Smith & Justin Holbrook



As our state is constantly changing and more diverse students enroll, it is critical as school leaders that we honor those cultures and include families in the school improvement process. Participants will learn strategies used by two schools on opposite ends of Baltimore City to increase family engagement, student attendance and academic outcomes as a part of a school turnaround process. Participants will create a year-long family engagement plan to be implemented in SY 25-26.

Dr. Sedrick Smith is the principal of Fallstaff Elementary Middle School in Northwest Baltimore. A proud graduate of Baltimore City Public Schools, he taught in the district for 16 years before becoming an administrator. He also serves as an adjunct professor at Loyola University Maryland, training new teachers for local school systems. Dr. Smith earned his Ph.D. in Language, Literacy, and Culture from UMBC in 2020, focusing on education and media studies. His work has been published in outlets including the Baltimore Sun, Howard Journal of Communication, and Chicago Tribune.

Justin Holbrook is the principal at Armistead Gardens Elementary Middle. Previously, he served as an assistant principal for three years and trained for one year as a resident principal in Baltimore City Schools. Holbrook was named as the 2017 Baltimore City Schools Teacher of the Year and a finalist for Maryland Teacher of the Year. Most recently, he was named as a 2023 Connected School Leader by the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP). He is the current MAESP President Elect. Holbrook holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Goucher College with a minor in Spanish and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Loyola University Maryland.

Advocacy Beyond the Classroom: How Students Can Influence Policy (MASC)

Strand- Leveraging Student Voice & Agency

Presenters- Jordan Salkeld, Krish Putta, Michael Gannon, Esther Ryu

In this workshop, students from the Maryland Association of Student Councils will share their insights on how to support students in advocating for changes in school policy, ranging from dress codes to discipline systems. The session will dive into advocacy strategies, student council structures, and practical tools to strengthen student voice. School based administrators will leave with actionable steps to engage students in meaningful policy discussions and create a more impactful student council.

Jordan Salkeld, *Towson High School (Senior) - Baltimore County*



Jordan Salkeld (he/him) is a senior at Towson High School in Baltimore County. The Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) is dedicated to developing student leaders, supporting student advocacy, and fostering communication among students statewide. As President of MASC, Jordan is excited to advance this mission, with a strong emphasis on elevating advocacy at both the state and national levels. Leading a staff of 35 student leaders from across Maryland, he is confident in their ability to achieve these goals together.

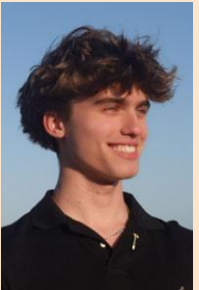
Outside of school and leadership, Jordan enjoys cooking, spending time with friends, and watching movies with his family. During his term as President, he looks forward to strengthening student advocacy across Maryland and continuing to grow MASC as an inclusive and impactful community for student leaders.



Krish Putta, *Poolesville High School (Senior) - Montgomery County*

Krish Putta (he/him) is a senior at Poolesville High School in Montgomery County. As 1st Vice President of the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC), Krish is dedicated to fostering a welcoming, supportive environment where student leaders feel empowered to grow and connect. His focus is on expanding MASC's membership and strengthening the sense of community that makes the organization feel like a family.

Beyond school and leadership, Krish enjoys exploring new cuisines, going on long drives, and hiking. During his term as Vice President, he is committed to creating inclusive spaces where all student voices are heard and valued, and he looks forward to helping MASC continue to grow as a supportive community for student leaders across Maryland.



Michael Gannon, *Colonel Zadok Magruder High School (Senior) - Montgomery County*

Michael Gannon (he/him) is a senior at Magruder High School in Montgomery County, where he is both a PEAC Humanities Scholar and a student in the Academy of Finance. He currently serves as Senior Class President, representing his peers and advocating for his school community. At the county level, Michael is in his second term as Legislative Affairs Director for the Montgomery County Regional Student Government Association (MCR-SGA). In this role, he leads a team in legislative research, coordinates trips to Annapolis and Washington, D.C., and trains students to testify and advocate for youth-focused policies.



Esther Ryu, *James M. Bennett High School (Senior) - Wicomico County*

Esther Ryu is a senior at James M. Bennett High School in Wicomico County. She currently serves as the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) Division 8 Liaison, representing Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico Counties. Passionate about amplifying student voices, Esther is dedicated to creating positive changes in school environments and ensuring that education meets the needs of all students.

At school, Esther plays violin in the orchestra, delivers the morning announcements, and is a member of the varsity tennis team. She is actively engaged in student life and is committed to making school a more exciting and welcoming place. Through her leadership role, Esther strives to strengthen student voices, promote equity, and expand opportunities for her peers.

Leading with Culture: Empowering Communities through Responsive Leadership

Strand- Building Leadership Capacity

Presenter- Dr. Ryan Daniel



In today's diverse educational landscape, culturally responsive leadership is essential for fostering an inclusive environment that promotes student success and community engagement. This session will explore effective leadership strategies for school leaders to embrace and celebrate cultural diversity within their schools. Leaders will learn how to create a culturally responsive framework that not only supports student learning but also empowers families and communities. Together, we will build a bridge toward a more inclusive educational experience for all students.

Dr. Ryan Daniel currently serves as the Principal of Fort Foote Elementary School located in Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). Dr. Daniel displays a sincere dedication to serving as an innovative educational leader. Transforming learning environments for students to feel supported, seen and valued is her mission as an educational leader. Currently Dr. Daniel serves as the Director At Large, Minority for the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). Dr. Daniel has contributed to the book entitled *She Leads: A Women's Guide to a Career in Educational Leadership* which highlights the voices and stories of women educational leaders. In 2023, Dr. Daniel was named as the Washington Post Principal of the Year for Prince George's County Public Schools and has mostly recently been named the 2025 Maryland National Distinguished Principal.

Every School is a Community School: Leading through Needs-Based Partnerships

Strand- Building Leadership Capacity

Presenters: Dr. Andrea Thompson, Dr. Wells-Frazier, Dr. Hill, & Dr. LaTonya Wright



This engaging session will guide school leaders through a strategic process to transform their schools into vibrant community hubs by identifying and addressing student needs. Participants will systematically assess needs using tools such as our needs monitoring forms, categorize and prioritize these needs, and evaluate current partnerships for effectiveness. Central to this approach is understanding how addressing specific needs aligns with the core pillars of a successful community school: a strong and proven curriculum, high-quality teaching, inclusive leadership, positive behavior practices, family and community partnerships, and community support services. Leaders will be equipped with practical strategies to develop leadership capacity that fosters sustainable, impactful partnerships and create equitable learning environments for all students.

Dr. Thompson is an Ed Consultant, Leadership Development Coach/Coordinator, as well as a University Professor who has had the honor of being an NAESP outstanding school leader (NOAP). In addition to working in K-12 for 30+ years, she worked in Higher Education simultaneously for 20 years teaching leadership and research courses, and Chairing dissertation committees. She has been a Fellow for NAESP's Center for Women in Leadership, and is NAESP Mastermind Coach. Dr. Thompson is a Lead Reviewer for CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) where she reviews leadership preparation programs. She is also one of MSDE's Expert

Reviewers. Dr. Thompson is the founder of "Parents as Tutors" where she supports schools in partnering with parents to build their academic capacity, and collaborate for family engagement. .

Dr. Patricia J. Wells-Frazier is a principal, and CAEP Reviewer (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation). She is known for spearheading numerous initiatives and garnering significant recognitions (Alliance for a Healthier Generation and Maryland Green School). She is a community collaborator, instructional leader, and is committed to special education inclusivity. In addition to her role as an NAESP National Mentor, she is an active member of the NAESP Professional Learning Advisory Committee, providing insights on pre-K–8 school leader needs, as well as serving as a University of Maryland PDISAN Lead Fellow, CAEP Program Reviewer, NAESP Editorial Advisory Board member, and NAESP Mastermind participant.

Dr. Sharon Hill is currently an elementary school principal with a passion for family and community engagement, and a CAEP Reviewer (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) . She has been an educator for over 30 years and is an exemplary leader who demonstrates a shared vision for student achievement. She is really adept at utilizing data to drive student achievement and realizes that it takes all stakeholders. This is why she focuses so heavily on school and community engagement for student learning.

Dr. LaTonya Wright is an elementary school principal, an educator for over 24 years, and a CAEP Reviewer (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation). She has a wealth of knowledge about teaching and learning, and has served in several instructional and teacher leadership capacities. She has a passion for growing and developing educators and is equally passionate about retention. Dr. Wright has also dedicated her time to developing women as leaders, and enjoys building their capacity through her monthly women in leadership book club. Dr. Wright can be found volunteering on several community service projects and enjoys collaborating with internal and external stakeholders to provide opportunities for her students.

Instructional Leadership with a Pulse

Strand- Fostering Strong Instructional Leadership

Presenters- Dr. Sonia A. Matthew & Jeffrey Munroe



Instructional leadership transcends mere data; it's fundamentally about people. In this energizing session, we'll explore how to lead with both heart and strategic insight by keenly tuning into the emotional pulse of your school community. You'll engage in reflective Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) practices using the CASEL 5 framework, unpack your own emotional well-being, and apply real-world leadership scenarios to cultivate empathy-driven decision-making. Discover how one principal transformed a school by centering dignity and emotional intelligence—and walk away with actionable strategies and practical tools to thrive as an instructional leader who champions people alongside performance.

Dr. Sonia Matthew is a seasoned educator with over 27 years of experience as a teacher, reading specialist, gifted coordinator, and assistant principal in Maryland. She serves on the board of MAESP and co-chairs its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. A National Board-Certified Teacher and MSDE Master Teacher, Dr. Matthew mentors national-board candidates statewide and has contributed to state-level advisory boards and course facilitation. Named the 2025 Maryland National Assistant Principal of the Year by MAESP and NAESP, she leads

innovative youth mentoring programs through her nonprofit, Imagine Inc. She is passionate about inspiring leaders through her consulting work, Lead Now.

Jeffrey Monroe is a first-generation educator and the youngest of three boys born and raised by two first-generation college & HBCU graduates. He is an equity-focused instructional leader with a passion for developing school cultures rooted in collective teacher efficacy, instructional equity, academic excellence, and the social & emotional well-being of all school community stakeholders. During his career as a teacher leader, district leader, and most recently, the Principal of Promise Academy Hollywood, he has developed a set of guiding leadership principles referred to as “E.T.H.I.C.S.” (Equity, Transparency, Humility, Integrity, Compassion, and Straight – Talk) and “V.A.L.O.R.” (Vulnerability, Active-Listening, Lifelong-Learning, Open-Mindedness, and Respect). Jeffrey has been a Memphis Education Fund (MEF) IncubatedED Fellow, New Leaders National Aspiring Principals Fellow, Principal Learning Center (PLC) Fellow, Relay GSE Principal Academy Fellow, and is currently a finalist for the Education Pioneers Impact Fellowship.

Diversifying the Educator Workforce: Leveraging HBCU Graduates Through School-Based Administrator-Led Recruitment

Strand- Enhancing School Climate & Inclusivity

Presenter- Kareem Penn



Diversifying the Educator Workforce: Leveraging HBCU Graduates Through School-Based Administrator-Led Recruitment is a comprehensive literature review that tackles the racial imbalance within America’s teaching force. With Black students comprising 15% of public school enrollment but only 7% of teachers, the report argues that systemic disparities in hiring must be addressed through strategic, equity-driven action. The review proposes a five-phase recruitment model that centers school-based administrators as key ambassadors for recruiting graduates from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). These phases include targeted outreach, immersive shadowing experiences, mentorship programs, and ongoing professional development to support retention. The study emphasizes the cultural strengths and pedagogical training HBCU graduates offer—assets often overlooked by traditional recruitment methods. Data and case studies show that students benefit academically and socially when taught by teachers who share their racial or cultural background.

Kareem Penn serves as the Assistant Principal at Guilford Park High School within the Howard County Public School System. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Virginia State University and a Master's degree in Education Administration from Strayer University. Currently, Kareem is pursuing a Doctoral degree in Urban Educational Leadership at Bowie State University. A staunch advocate for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Kareem co-hosts the YouTube podcast "HBCU SOUL" and runs a weekly LinkedIn feature, "HBCU SOUL FRIDAY," where he spotlights different HBCUs and their pivotal roles in American society. Notably, he collaborated with the Human Resources department of HCPSS on a new recruitment and retention initiative focused on hiring diverse educators. He also organized the first HBCU College Fair for Howard County Public Schools, greatly expanding educational opportunities for many students.

Lead Like a DJ: Remixing Leadership for Maximum Impact

Strand- Building Leadership Capacity

Presenters- Ashley L. Moore, James Allrich



School leaders and DJs have more in common than you think: both manage the vibe, read the room, and keep the crowd engaged. This interactive workshop brings the turntables to the table—merging DJ culture with leadership strategy. Together, we'll explore how to remix your leadership style for better culture, stronger relationships, and real-time impact. Co-led by two school leaders who both are professional DJs, this session uses live music, crowd energy, and practical leadership moves to help you lead like we spin—intentional, responsive, and unforgettable.

Ashley Moore, Principal of The Empowerment Academy Elementary/Middle in Baltimore, Maryland. Her journey to the Principalship began her teaching career in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, covering grades 3 through 12 serving as a General and Special Education teacher. Her experiences include general, special education, and specialized programming. As an administrator, she has implemented school-wide programs such as Accelerated Learning, Gifted and Talented, Arts Integration, and STEM. Moore's diverse experiences has also led to her national certification as a Principal mentor. Committed to her personal mission of "doing what's best for kids" and the belief that "all students can learn and achieve," she looks forward to utilizing her skills to assist others with their leadership journey.

James Allrich is a student-centered, restorative school leader committed to ensuring the success of every child through high expectations, collaboration, equitable access, and excellence in teaching and learning. He has been the principal of Argyle Middle School, a whole-school tech magnet in Montgomery County, Maryland, for eleven years. Mr. Allrich serves on the board of directors for both the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP), and he is the middle school chair of the Montgomery County Association of Administrators and Principals (MCAAP). He was named the Maryland Principal of the Year for 2023 and was a Washington Post Principal of the Year finalist. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree at Bowie State University, focusing his research on restorative justice in schools.

Mic'd Up Leadership: Using Podcasting to Build Culture, Connection, and Community

Strand- Enhancing School Climate & Inclusivity

Presenter- Dr. Sharon H. Porter



In an age of fast-paced communication and ever-evolving school dynamics, school leaders need innovative tools to strengthen trust, visibility, and relationships across their communities. This interactive session, Mic'd Up Leadership, introduces podcasting as a powerful and accessible

leadership strategy to amplify voices, foster belonging, and enhance school climate. Participants will explore how podcasting can humanize leadership, promote transparency, and create space for authentic storytelling that reflects the heart of their school culture. Whether used to spotlight student achievements, celebrate staff contributions, or share reflective leadership messages, podcasting serves as a bridge to deepen partnerships and inspire collective ownership of school goals. Through guided activities, small-group collaboration, and hands-on practice, leaders will plan their first episode, explore user-friendly tools, and even record a short podcast segment. Attendees will leave with a customized plan to launch or enhance a podcast that aligns with their school's vision and values.

Dr. Sharon H. Porter is a nationally recognized educator, author, and leadership coach with over two decades of experience in K–12 education. She currently serves as an elementary school principal in Maryland and is the Executive Director and Founder of The Next In Line to Lead Aspiring Principal Leadership Academy (APLA), where she trains and mentors assistant principals from across the country preparing for school leadership roles. Dr. Sharon is a graduate of Howard University, Walden University, Johns Hopkins University, National-Louis University, and Winston-Salem State University. She is a part of the Harvard University Women in Leadership 2019 Cohort. She is a member of the Forbes Coaches Council (FCC) I and serves as the FCC Podcasting Member Leader. She is a member of several professional organizations, including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and serves on the Board of Advisors for The Women of Prince George's.

Unlocking Wellness with AI: Funding Pathways and Design Strategy for School-Wide Educator Wellness Programs

Strand- Leading for School Wellness

Presenter- Rian Reed



This dynamic session will equip school leaders and educators with the essential tools to design, fund, and sustain impactful wellness programs for their entire school community with AI. We'll delve into practical strategies for identifying and securing diverse funding streams, drawing insights from the successful implementation of an Educator Wellness Grant at a middle school with over 60 educators and staff in an urban setting. Participants will learn how to craft compelling proposals that resonate with potential funders, leveraging real-world data and compelling narratives to showcase the vital importance of educator well-being. Beyond securing resources, we'll explore best practices in program design, focusing on creating comprehensive and equitable initiatives that genuinely support staff needs.

Rian Reed is a passionate advocate for educator well-being and a seasoned expert in securing resources for impactful school initiatives. As a dedicated school leader in an urban middle school serving over 60 educators and staff, Rian has firsthand experience navigating the complexities of program design and grant implementation. Most recently, Rian successfully spearheaded an ambitious Educator Wellness Grant, transforming a vision for a healthier school environment into a tangible reality for their community. With a deep understanding of the unique challenges and triumphs within urban education, Rian brings a practical, solutions-oriented approach to fostering staff well-being. Rian is committed to empowering other school leaders to unlock similar opportunities, believing that investing in educator wellness is the cornerstone of a thriving school.