



# **The First NISCE Conference on Student-Centered Education**

**Friday, April 5, 2013**

Hilton Boston  
Logan Airport  
Boston, MA

**The Forum for Education  
and Democracy  
and  
The Coalition of Essential  
Schools (CES)  
want to congratulate the  
National Institute for Student-  
Centered Education (NISCE)  
on INSPIRE 2013.**

**All students deserve the chance to reach their fullest potential. We look forward to working, meeting and connecting with educators, parents, leaders, students and concerned stakeholders who will be at the conference and who care about the future of education and today's student.**



[www.forumforeducation.org](http://www.forumforeducation.org)



[www.essentialschools.org](http://www.essentialschools.org)

# Table of Contents

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Conference Welcome Letter .....             | 1     |
| About Our Organizations .....               | 2     |
| Our Sponsors .....                          | 2     |
| Schedule-at-a-Glance .....                  | 3-4   |
| Continuing Education Credits .....          | 5     |
| Hotel Floor Plan .....                      | 5     |
| Honorary Conference Chair and Speaker ..... | 6     |
| Keynote Speakers .....                      | 6     |
| Conference Session Descriptions .....       | 7-14  |
| Exhibitors and Sponsor Descriptions .....   | 15-17 |
| Notes .....                                 | 18-19 |

# Conference Welcome Letter

## Greetings and Welcome to INSPIRE 2013: The First NISCE Conference on Student-Centered Education.



We are thrilled to offer a conference designed to inform, challenge and inspire those working across the PK-12 educational continuum. Our goal is to bring people from a broad range of public and private schools together for spirited discussion and new learning. You are among people who are seeking creative ways to engage children in their own learning. You are parents, teachers, administrators and researchers who share a commitment to creating schools that better fit all of our children.

At NISCE, it is our core belief that schools should be encouraged to continue seeking better ways of teaching to ‘the inner spark to learn’ possessed by every child who enters our classrooms. We have chosen to highlight that belief by using the term ‘student-centered education’ to focus our work. We invite you to join us in reminding each other to take joy in the complexity and diversity of our students ... and to teach to their needs and passions.

We know that there are challenges: Teachers feeling a pressure to teach to statewide tests when already overwhelmed in our classrooms; parents working to find schools and programs that will best fit their student(s); school leaders dealing with ever increasing regulatory demands; reformers seeking dwindling financial resources to support initiatives that would create sustainable change in education; and, perhaps most importantly, students struggling to stay motivated and engaged in educational arenas they often find boring or irrelevant. The list goes on and on.

At **INSPIRE 2013**, we are bringing together people who are enthusiastic about finding ways to address such challenges on behalf of their students. Dr. Larry Myatt, longtime passionate education reformer, will act as our host and chair and lead us through the day. Our keynote speaker Todd Rose, an educational neuroscientist at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, will get us started with an inspiring presentation on variability in learning. That will be followed by a strong line up of presentations, workshops and discussions. After lunch, Taylor Mali, a teacher advocate and slam poet, will be sure to ‘light our fires’ and set the stage for an afternoon of engaging workshops. We will end the day with a very special treat: ‘Ignite presentations’ that will spark your creativity and lead to some spirited conversation at the closing cocktail reception. And please stop to visit our exhibitors and sponsors and discuss your interests with them. We deeply appreciate their support.

We are delighted you have chosen to join us. We look forward to being inspired with you! Have a ‘NISCE’ day!

***Dr. Ted Wilson***

Executive Director, NISCE

President, Schools for Children, Inc.

# About Our Organizations

## ABOUT NISCE

Founded in 2012 by the Massachusetts nonprofit **Schools for Children, Inc.**, **The National Institute for Student-Centered Education (NISCE)** seeks to catalyze grassroots support for a vision of education where students—not politics, not tests, not expediency—are at the center of learning, and where all students have the opportunities and resources they need to succeed. For more information visit [www.nisce.org](http://www.nisce.org).

## ABOUT SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN, INC.

**Schools for Children, Inc.** is a Massachusetts nonprofit organization that creates and manages great schools and educational services. For more information, please visit [www.schoolsforchildreninc.org](http://www.schoolsforchildreninc.org).

## Our Sponsors



Ellis & Rapacki

M I D I O R  
CONSULTING



Cambridge Trust Company



S. B. GODDARD & SON CO.  
INSURANCE SINCE 1884



Health Solutions Insurance Agency



# Schedule-at-a-Glance

## MORNING PROGRAM

|  |  |   |   |  |   |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.<br>Registration, International Pre-Function  |  |   |   |  |   |
| 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.<br>Exhibits Open, International Pre-Function   |  |   |   |  |   |
| 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.<br>Opening Session, Keynote Speaker, International Ballroom ABC<br><b>Variability Matters: Getting to Student-Centered Learning</b><br>Todd Rose, Educational Neuroscientist, Harvard Graduate School of Education |  |   |   |  |   |
| 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.<br>Coffee Break, International Pre-Function  |  |   |   |  |   |
|  | Relationships and Resilience   | Assessment  | Differentiated Instruction  | Student Engagement   | Redefining Leadership   |
| Time   | International Ballroom ABC   | International D   | Middlebury  | Wellesley  | International E   |
| 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.   | <b><i>The Power of Mindsets: Nurturing Motivation and Resilience</i></b><br><br>Dr. Robert Brooks, Psychologist, Author and Faculty Member, Harvard Medical School | <b><i>Performance Assessment as a Lever for Student-Centered Learning</i></b><br><br>Christina Brown, Co-Director of the Principal Residency Network, Center for Collaborative Education<br><br>Laurie Gagnon, Director of Quality Performance Assessment, Center for Collaborative Education | <b><i>Envisioning New Realities for Education in a Traditional Setting</i></b><br><br>Erik Walker, Head of English Department, Plymouth South High School<br><br>Katrina Kennett, Consulting Practitioner, Education Resources Consortium & English Teacher, Plymouth South High School | <b><i>Design and Perception: The Keys to Unlocking Student Engagement, Access and Comprehension</i></b><br><br>Kristina Lamour-Sansone, Chair of Design and Associate Professor, Lesley University       | <b><i>We Are All Leaders: Finding Your Place Within Today's Educational Landscape</i></b><br><br>Dr. Larry Myatt, Founder, Education Resources Consortium (ERC) |
| <b>Learning Networks</b>   |  |   |   |  |   |
|  | Group 1  | Group 2   | Group 3   | Group 4  | Group 5   |
| Time   | International D  | International Ballroom ABC  | Wellesley   | Middlebury   | International E   |
| 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  | <b><i>Implementing Massachusetts' New Supervision and Evaluation Framework</i></b><br><br>John D'Auria, Director, Teachers 21                                      | <b><i>Building Resilience Through Relationships</i></b><br><br>Dennis Barr, Director of Program Evaluation, Facing History and Ourselves  | <b><i>Expanding Time to Enhance Student-Centered Learning</i></b><br><br>David Farbman, Senior Researcher, National Center on Time & Learning   | <b><i>Creating Synergies in Learning: K-12 and Beyond</i></b><br><br>Alan Kramer, Dean of Magnet Schools, Goodwin College<br><br>William Magnotta, Director of Magnet and School Choice, Goodwin College | <b><i>Advocating for Your Child</i></b><br><br>Rachel Wilson, President, Educational Advocacy and Consulting Services, Inc.                                     |

# Schedule-at-a-Glance

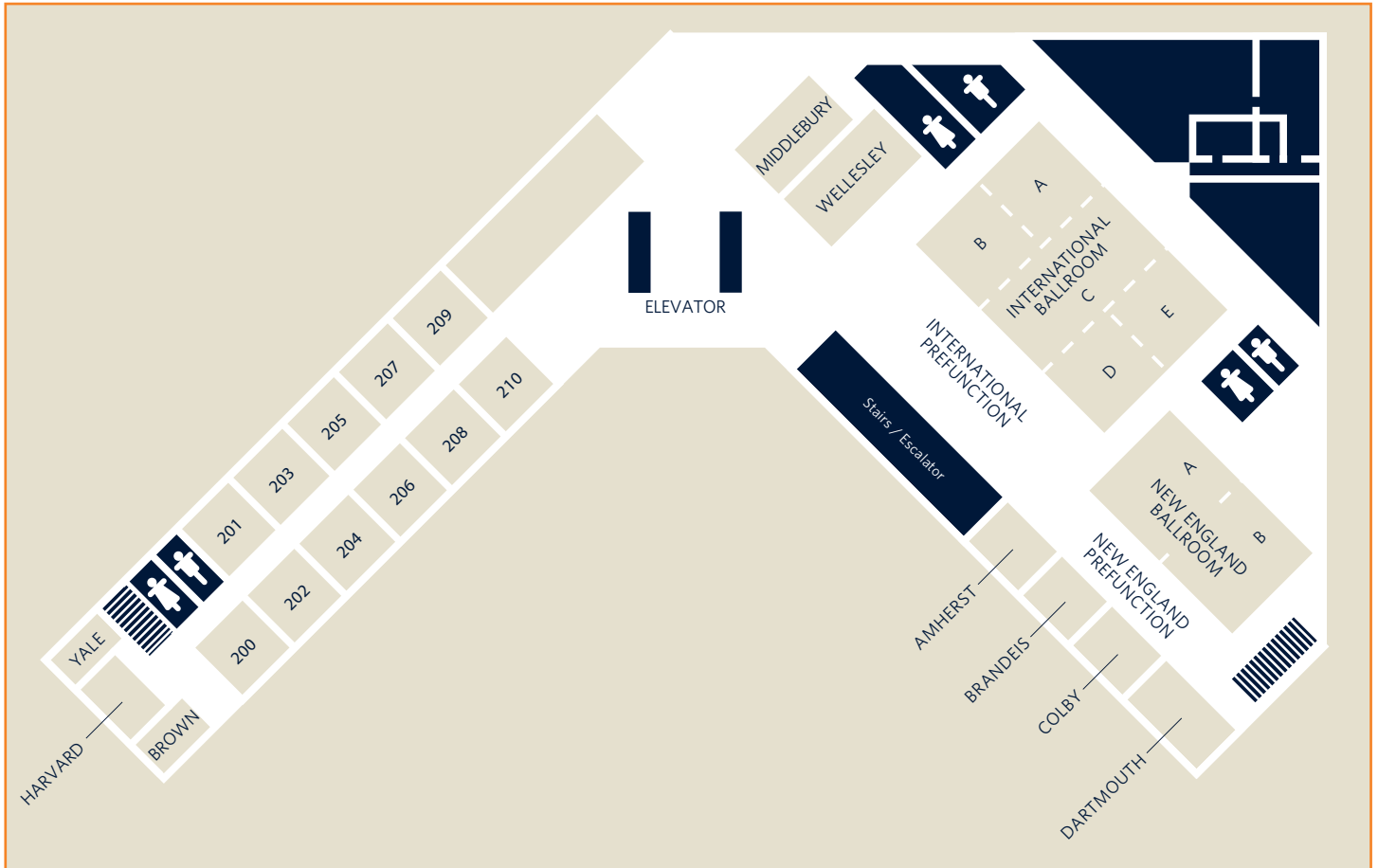
## AFTERNOON PROGRAM

|  |  |  |   |   |  |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.<br>Lunch and Exhibits, International and New England Pre-Functions  |  |  |   |   |  |
| 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.<br>Afternoon Session, Keynote Speaker, International Ballroom ABC<br><b><i>Lighting Fires Instead of Putting Them Out</i></b><br>Taylor Mali, Poet and Teacher Advocate  |  |  |   |   |  |
| 2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.<br>Coffee Break, International Pre-Function  |  |  |   |   |  |
|  | Relationships and Resilience   | Assessment   | Differentiated Instruction  | Student Engagement  | Redefining Leadership  |
| Time   | International Ballroom ABC   | International D  | Middlebury  | Wellesley   | International E  |
| 2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.  | <p><b><i>Creating Villages: Strategies for Preparing Students for Successful Futures</i></b></p> <p>Dr. Ingrid Tucker, Head of School, Cambridge Montessori School</p> <p>Panelists:<br/>Michele Albert, Principal, Mother Caroline Academy and Education Center</p> <p>Katelyn Ryan, Program Director, Cambridge Montessori School</p> <p>Charles Terranova, Montessori Resource Teacher, Tobin Montessori School</p> | <p><b><i>Making It Personal: Students' Perspectives on Meaningful Learning</i></b></p> <p>Meg Maccini, Education Consultant, The Center for Secondary School Redesign (CSSR)</p> | <p><b><i>Teaching Students to Ask the Right Questions</i></b></p> <p>Luz Santana, Co-Director, The Right Question Network</p> | <p><b><i>Relationships, Rigor and Relevance: The 3 R's of Academic Achievement and Engagement</i></b></p> <p>Dimitry Anselme, Director of Program Staff Development, Facing History and Ourselves</p> <p>Jeremy Nesoff, Program Associate, Facing History and Ourselves</p> <p>Dr. Anna Romer, Associate Director of Program Evaluation, Facing History and Ourselves</p> | <p><b><i>Student-Centered Education Starts with Student-Led Reform</i></b></p> <p>Keith Catone, Principal Associate, Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University</p> <p>Alexa LeBoeuf, Research Assistant, Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University</p> <p>Panelists:<br/>Kianna Comartie<br/>Teena-Marie Johnson<br/>Anay Leek<br/>Rosa Ramos<br/>Julian Santiago<br/>Monay Threats-McNeil</p> |
| 3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.<br>Ignite Presentations, International Ballroom ABC<br><b><i>EdTech Innovation: Keeping it Real</i></b><br>Ken Hayes, Co-Founder, BoomWriter<br><b><i>Advice for Parents - Helping Your Child Succeed in School - and Life</i></b><br>Barbara Cervone, President, What Kids Can Do<br><b><i>Visualizing Science: A Digital Education Paradigm</i></b><br>Sepi Hashemi, Chief Operating Office, Digizyme<br><b><i>Eye Know: Assessing Students in 12 Muscles or Less</i></b><br>Megan Hudson, Executive Director, Center for Balanced Health and Learning<br><b><i>Connections Count!</i></b><br>Alan Kramer, Dean of Magnet Schools, Goodwin College<br>William Magnotta, Director of Magnet and School Choice, Goodwin College<br><b><i>Student Support - 6 Reasons Why Special Education Shouldn't Be So 'Special'</i></b><br>Laura Vantine, Coordinator of Academic Support, Winsor School<br><b><i>Small Communities Create Big Results</i></b><br>Pam Erickson, Director, Coastal School for Girls<br><b><i>The Tipping Point in Education: A Call for All Hands on Deck</i></b><br>Amy Carrier, Founder, Empowerment Through Education |  |  |   |   |  |
| 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.<br>Cocktail Reception, International Pre-Function  |  |  |   |   |  |

# Continuing Education Credits

This program has been approved for 6 Social Work Continuing Education Hours for relicensure, in accordance with 259 CMR. Collaborative of NASW and the Boston College and Simmons Schools of Social Work Authorization Number D60581.

## Hotel Floor Plan





## Honorary Conference Chair And Speaker



**Dr. Larry Myatt**

***Founder, Education Resources Consortium (ERC)***

Dr. Myatt has over three decades of experience in education. The founder and President of the Education Resources Consortium (ERC), and the co-founder of Boston's Center for Collaborative Education, Dr. Myatt was also the founder of Fenway High School in Boston, a model small school for the nation, and its head of school for 20 years before accepting an assignment to advise Boston's High School Renewal Initiative.

In addition, Dr. Myatt designed and directed the Boston Principal Residency Network at Northeastern University from 2000-2008 and is a recipient of the Harry S. Levitan Prize from Brandeis University for career accomplishments in education. He is a former Coalition of Essential Schools National Faculty member at Brown University and consultant at the Annenberg Institute for School Reform. He has led and consulted to school redesign efforts in numerous cities and states and is a Founding Convener for The Forum for Education and Democracy and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Green Academy.

## Keynote Speakers



**Todd Rose**

***Lecturer, Educational Neuroscientist, Harvard Graduate School of Education***

Todd's background is in cognitive neuroscience, dynamic systems and developmental psychology. He currently serves on the faculty at the Harvard Graduate School of Education where he teaches a course on educational neuroscience. He also co-chairs Harvard's Mind, Brain and Education Institute. Todd lectures nationally and internationally on learning variability, the importance of working memory in K-12 classrooms and the role of neuroscience in education. He is the author of the highly acclaimed *Square Peg: My Story and What It Means for Raising Innovators, Visionaries, and Out-of-the-Box Thinkers*, (Hyperion, 2013).



**Taylor Mali**

***Poet and Teacher Advocate***

Taylor Mali is one of the best known poets to have emerged from the poetry slam movement and a vocal advocate of teachers. He spent nine years in middle school classrooms, teaching everything from English and history to math and SAT test preparation. He has performed and lectured for teachers all over the world, and his 12-year-long Quest for One Thousand Teachers, completed in April of 2012, helped create 1,000 new teachers through "poetry, persuasion and perseverance." Mali is also an author, most recently of *What Teachers Make: In Praise of the Greatest Job in the World* (Putnam 2012) as well as two books of poetry, *The Last Time As We Are* (Write Bloody Books 2009) and *What Learning Leaves* (Hanover 2002). He received a New York Foundation for the Arts Grant in 2001 to develop Teacher! Teacher! a one-man show about poetry, teaching and math and was the winner of the jury prize for best solo performance at the 2001 Comedy Arts Festival.

# Conference Session Descriptions

## MORNING PROGRAM

---

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

### KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

#### *Variability Matters: Getting to Student-Centered Learning*

Todd Rose

Educational Neuroscientist, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Modern neuroscience has transformed the way scientists think about learning. Rejecting the myth of the “average” learner, this new approach instead emphasizes the reality of variability, the influence of context, and the importance of understanding the individual learner. This presentation will consider what brain research tells us about the origins of learning variability and what this means for the way we develop learning environments capable of realizing the promise of student-centered education in the 21st century.

9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#### Relationships and Resilience PRESENTATION

#### *The Power of Mindsets: Nurturing Motivation and Resilience in Students*

Dr. Robert Brooks

Psychologist, Author and Faculty Member, Harvard Medical School

Learning will be most effective when students do not experience an inordinate amount of stress and when they feel safe, confident and accepted in the school setting. In such an environment their motivation and resilience will be reinforced as will their ability to learn. An understanding of the mindset and accompanying behaviors of effective educators is essential if we are to develop a positive school environment where both students and staff thrive.

#### Goals:

- Identify the mindset of educators who are effective in first reaching and then teaching students.
- Outline exercises that will promote empathy and understanding.
- Appreciate the significance of a strengths-based approach in which each student’s ‘islands of competence’ are identified and reinforced.
- Develop specific strategies for responding to your population of students that nurture motivation, self-discipline, self-dignity, care, responsibility, hope and resilience.

## Balanced and Comprehensive Assessment

### WORKSHOP

#### *Performance Assessment as a Lever for Student-Centered Learning*

**Christina Brown**

Co-Director of the Principal Residency Network, Center for Collaborative Education

**Laurie Gagnon**

Director of Quality Performance Assessment, Center for Collaborative Education

Schools and students benefit from assessment approaches that are classroom-based. When assessment is aligned with curriculum, instruction and learning goals, it becomes another pathway for learning. Assessment that enhances the learning experience provides better feedback to students and teachers and deepens student engagement. Performance assessments also provide students with meaningful opportunities to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they've worked to acquire. This workshop will introduce tools for educators to design and implement performance assessments that are aligned with their school's vision for student-centered learning.

#### **Goals:**

- Rethink the intersections between teaching, learning and assessment through meaningful and transferable learning.
- Engage in collaborative protocols to examine student work.
- Explore how all stakeholders can support student-centered performance in ways that deepen student learning, teacher growth and community engagement.
- Leave with tools and strategies to support the use of student-centered performance assessment.

## Approaches to Differentiated Instruction

### WORKSHOP

#### *Envisioning New Realities for Education in a Traditional Setting*

**Erik Walker**

Head of English Department, Plymouth South High School

**Katrina Kennett**

Consultant, Educational Resources Consortium & English Teacher, Plymouth South High School

Instruction that respects diversity and learning variability offers students a wider range of educational opportunities. As educators, we must have the courage to acknowledge and respect the realities of our students' lives and implement more nuanced instructional practices in our classrooms. In this session, we'll look at some approaches that use technology in the public high-school setting to create opportunities for students to express themselves—and also meet state testing standards.

#### **Goals:**

- Learn how student knowledge is being cultivated in traditional classroom grade-levels, and time and space redefined through an innovative poetry project, The Universal Human Experience Project.
- Listen to feedback on what inspires students to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Explore new educational technology tools and strategies and their potential for enriching student learning.

## Fostering Student Engagement and Achievement

### PRESENTATION

#### *Design & Presentations: The Keys to Unlocking Student Engagement, Access and Comprehension*

Kristina Lamour-Sansone  
Chair of Design and Associate Professor, Lesley University

For today's students, perception can be everything. The handouts, posters, whiteboards and online tools employed by educators often have an influential effect on a student's capacity for engagement. We can promote student engagement by tailoring the look and feel of educational materials to help students better comprehend and appreciate challenging subjects. This workshop will examine the ways in which specific details like font, spacing, text and image placement and color play an important role in creating effective classroom supplements.

#### Goals:

- Explore the latest graphic design trends and devise strategies that can be employed in the classroom immediately.
- Gain an understanding of the graphic design process from which educators can flexibly construct their own content.
- Learn how to predict individual questions that might arise as students approach these new materials.

## Redefining Leadership and Vision in a Student-Centered Education

### WORKSHOP

#### *We Are All Leaders: Finding Your Place Within Today's Educational Landscape*

Dr. Larry Myatt  
Founder, Education Resources Consortium (ERC)

The current education landscape is one that has been dramatically impacted for a generation by a deep focus on "accountability" in the form of measurement—statistical averages, test scores, labels and budgets—and with an emphasis on standardization and uniformity. To address the unintended adverse consequences on students, families and educators, we can and should focus on ensuring that we can attend to each child's individual needs. To act now in building towards a successful experience for all learners we have to explore where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. Leadership is called for among parents, community organizations, educators, businesses and philanthropies. We need to ask and address pressing questions and issues.

#### Goals

- Explore the challenges, opportunities and realities of being student-centered in today's public education context.
- Outline ways to advocate against one-size-fits-all education in any educational landscape.
- Explore ways to lead, engage or funnel activities/conversations in a way that supports each student.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**LEARNING NETWORKS**

Learning Networks give conference participants a great way to engage in spirited conversations with other participants. These group sessions will revolve around discrete topics and will be facilitated by an exciting array of innovative educators. The goal is to create new connections and to inspire meaningful dialogue on topics of importance to attendees.

***Implementing Massachusetts' New Supervision and Evaluation Framework***

John D'Auria  
Director, Teachers 21

***Building Reliance Through Building Relationships***

Dennis Barr  
Director of Program Evaluation, Facing History and Facing Ourselves

***Expanding Time to Enhance Student-Centered Learning***

David Farbman  
Senior Researcher, National Center on Time & Learning

***Creating Synergies in Learning: K–12 and Beyond***

Alan Kramer  
Dean of Magnet Schools, Goodwin College

William Magnotta  
Director of Magnet and School Choice, Goodwin College

***Advocating for Your Child***

Rachel Wilson  
President, Educational Advocacy and Consulting Services, Inc.

**AFTERNOON PROGRAM**

---

12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

**LUNCH AND EXPO**

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

***Lighting Fires Instead of Putting Them Out***

Taylor Mali  
Performance Poet and Teacher Advocate

W. B. Yeats said that education was not about filling a bucket but lighting a fire. Metaphorically speaking, it is therefore unfortunate when teachers and administrators refer to their jobs as “putting fires out all day.” But that’s what happens sometimes when we forget why we chose to walk the path of education in the first place. This session, through a mix of poetry, spoken word, and storytelling, will remind you.

2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.  
**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**Relationships and Resilience**

**PANEL**

***Creating Villages: Strategies for Preparing Students for Successful Futures***

**Facilitator:**

Ingrid Tucker  
*Head of School, Cambridge Montessori School*

**Panelists:**

Michele Albert  
Principal, Mother Caroline Academy and Education Center

Katelyn Ryan  
Program Director, Cambridge Montessori School

Charles Terranova  
Montessori Resource Teacher, Tobin Montessori School

For many students, success comes not only from a supportive school system, but also an involved community. Parents, extended relatives, neighbors, coaches and other community members can offer counsel and constructive criticism that play a substantial role in encouraging students to take ownership of their education and personal growth. As educators, we must be willing to look beyond the walls of the classroom and cultivate this “village” of community support.

**Goals:**

- Discuss strategies for “creating villages” that will prepare young people to take full advantage of the learning opportunities available to them.
- Discover how these “new villages” can help students prepare for successful futures outside the classroom.
- Leave with strategies that enable educators to outline individualized paths for their students.

**Balanced and Comprehensive Assessment**

**PRESENTATION**

***Making it Personal: Students’ Perspectives on Meaningful Learning***

Meg Maccini  
Education Consultant, The Center for Secondary School Redesign (CSSR)

What makes students care about learning? What makes for a meaningful learning experience? How can/do these learning experiences connect with “21st century skills” being discussed as part of the common core? In this session, participants will share their experiences with personalized learning approaches. The discussion will be set against a backdrop of the competency and performance-based assessment work currently gaining traction in some New England states.

**Goals:**

- Explore perspectives on what makes learning personal and what different kinds of learning experiences create success.
- Participate in a collegial discussion about assessment successes and challenges
- Outline practical ideas for promoting personalized learning experiences and consider ways students can ‘show what they know’ using suggestions and reactions from participants in our workshop.

## Differentiated Instruction

### PRESENTATION

#### *Teaching Students to Ask the Right Questions*

**Luz Santana**  
Co-Director, The Right Question Network

Asking thoughtful questions is a critical skill for students, educators and citizens. Students become more efficient, effective and self-directed learners when they are able to produce, improve and strategize on how to use their own questions. Asking the right questions helps improve learning for all students in the classroom.

#### **Goals:**

- Explore the Question Formulation Technique (QFT) and understand how its components boost students' question asking skills.
- Review how educators have integrated the Question Formulation Technique (QFT) into their curriculum.
- Map out diverse activity plans that will encourage students (across grades and subjects) to use this strategy in their school work and as a life skill.

## Fostering Student Engagement and Achievement

### WORKSHOP

#### *Relationships, Rigor and Relevance: The 3 R's of Academic Achievement and Engagement*

**Dimitry Anselme**  
Director of Program Staff Development, Facing History and Ourselves

**Jeremy Nesoff**  
Program Associate, Facing History and Ourselves

**Dr. Anna Romer**  
Associate Director of Program Evaluation, Facing History and Ourselves

In the ongoing debate on modern education, test scores have come to stand for student achievement and teacher proficiency. But as educators, we should not allow ourselves to lose sight of the 3 Rs: relationships, rigor and relevance. Schools that prioritize these academic considerations will put their staff and students in the best position for effective teaching and learning.

#### **Goals:**

- Investigate research that allows us a measured portrait of academic success.
- Brainstorm ways to make academic content directly relevant to student lives and allow us to build more student-centered classrooms.
- Evaluate how sharpening classroom principles and developing more specified teaching materials can engage students more deeply, shape school culture and strengthen student voices.



## PANEL

### *Student-Centered Education Starts with Student-Led Reform*

#### Facilitators:

**Keith Catone**

Principal Associate, Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University

**Alexa LeBoeuf**

Research Assistant, Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University

#### Panelists:

**Kianna Comartie**

Young Organizers United (Y.O.U.)

**Teena-Marie Johnson**

Youth on Board

**Anay Leek**

Young Organizers United (Y.O.U.)

**Rosa Ramos**

Young Organizers United (Y.O.U.)

**Julian Santiago**

Young Organizers United (Y.O.U.)

**Monay Threats-McNeil**

Youth in Action

Students experience the strengths and weaknesses of our schools daily. They are the most talked-about constituency in our schools and are on the front lines of school reform, but are seldom consulted for their ideas about school change. This panel will discuss the practical benefits and promising potential of empowering youth voice in educational improvement efforts. By implementing strategies such as building relational power, engaging students as co-constructors of program initiatives and using their experiences and perspectives to shape issue identification, schools will find that young people are ready and capable partners in shaping student-centered learning policies and practices.

#### Goals:

- Understand the benefits of empowering youth voice in school reform efforts.
- Compare transformative methods for creating change in entrenched educational systems.
- Review key action strategies used successfully in schools by a variety of organizations.
- Examine how these methods can be applied across educational roles and settings.



3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
**IGNITE PRESENTATIONS**

***EdTech Innovation: Keeping it Real***

Ken Hayes  
Co-Founder, BoomWriter

***Advice for Parents - Helping Your Child Succeed in School - and Life***

Barbara Cervone  
President, What Kids Can Do

***Visualizing Science: A Digital Education Paradigm***

Sepi Hashemi, Chief Operating Office, Digizyme

***Eye Know: Assessing Students in 12 Muscles or Less***

Megan Hudson  
Executive Director, Center for Balanced Health and Learning

***Connections Count!***

Alan Kramer  
Dean of Magnet Schools, Goodwin College

William Magnotta  
Director of Magnet and School Choice, Goodwin College

***Student Support - 6 Reasons Why Special Education Shouldn't be So 'Special'***

Laura Vantine  
Coordinator of Academic Support, Winsor School

***Small Communities Create Big Results***

Pam Erickson  
Director, Coastal School for Girls

***The Tipping Point in Education: A Call for All Hands on Deck***

Amy Carrier  
Founder, Empowerment Through Education

# Exhibitors and Sponsors

## Exhibitors

**BoomWriter** is a Cambridge, MA based digital education company that engages children and educators in collaborative storytelling. Our innovative, web-based publishing platform brings passionate educators, technology experts, corporate sponsors, enthusiastic parents, and students together to promote and develop creativity, writing, reading, and essential 21st century technology skills. BoomWriter partners with professional and aspiring authors, celebrities, and educators to provide story starts, beginnings that open kids' imaginations, and inspire story collaboration with classmates and children worldwide in competitions for publication. Teachers and students in over 3,000 schools spread throughout more than 50 countries have already joined the BoomWriter community.

**Cambridge College School of Education** welcomes adult learners based on motivation, prior life achievement, and commitment to realizing life goals. We don't ask for standardized exam scores. Our degree programs, teaching approach, and supportive culture are designed specifically for practical, adult learning. When you connect what happens in class with what happens in your life and workplace, education takes on a whole new relevance.

**Cardinal Cushing Centers**, since 1947, has been recognized for its pioneering endeavors in Special Education. It is a place where children and adults find possibilities, opportunities and hope: the possibility to achieve greater levels of success in all areas of life; the opportunity to learn in nurturing, innovative and individualized programs; and the hope that each tomorrow will bring personal fulfillment, new experiences and shared happiness.

**Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD)** treats individuals of all ages who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), with 23 treatment centers around the globe and a staff of nearly 1,000. CARD was founded in 1990 by leading autism expert and clinical psychologist Doreen Granpeesheh, PhD, BCBA-D. CARD treats autism spectrum disorders using the principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis (ABA), which has been empirically proven to be the most effective method for treating individuals with autism and is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the US Surgeon General. For more information about the Center for Autism and Related Disorders, visit: [www.centerforautism.com](http://www.centerforautism.com) or call (855) 345-2273.

**Mass Relay** is a free, confidential 24/7 service enabling hearing people or people who do not use a text telephone (TTY) to communicate over regular telephone lines with people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, late deafened, or speech disabled.

**Inspired Physical Rehab** was developed to reach special populations within the community that need physical therapy. We are a small clinic set-up to provide one-to-one care and attention to patients including: pediatrics, individual of all ages with disabilities-neurological orthopedic, bariatrics and geriatrics. In addition, patients can be evaluated for custom mobility aides at our clinic.

Our founder, Rachel Buonopane, enjoys a creative approach utilizing the interests and talents of children into therapy sessions to maximize their participation and outcomes. Rachel has also been a dance instructor, basketball coach and martial arts assistance instructor. She has worked hard to be a positive role model to the children she has encountered in her life.

Inspired Physical Rehab will provide top notch physical therapy services with individualized attention to individuals with disabilities. Special care will be taken to accommodate for patients with cognitive and behavioral impairments. The one-to-one set-up allows for adjustments based on the needs of an individual patient. The layout of the clinic was specifically designed to be accessible to individuals using wheelchairs and other assistive devices. Our clinic also has a mechanical lift, if needed, to assist those that are unable to transfer to and from equipment.

**Race to Nowhere** is a film that calls us to challenge current thinking about how we prepare our children for success. Named by TakePart.com as one of "10 Education Documentaries You Don't Want to Miss", "Race to Nowhere" brings communities together to spark dialogue and galvanize change in America's schools.

**Professional Books** is a unique book store that stocks all the latest titles in the mental health field from a wide range of publishers. We're located on 232 California Street in Newton, just down the road from both Watertown Square and the Mass Pike.

**SageGauge** is an ultra touch-friendly LMS for language and skills-based classes. Teachers can take and send attendance, provide corrective/constructive feedback, store student contact info, set classroom expectations to reward points and post-academic grades, all in real-time. SageGauge was also developed by teachers and students. This streamlined LMS runs on all mobile devices, including Ipads and Iphones, and all computers. It's free in beta. We're currently looking for more educators to give feedback and help shape future developments for the platform.

## Lead Sponsors

**Cambridge Trust Company** is a subsidiary of Cambridge Bancorp and based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the heart of Harvard Square. Cambridge Trust Company is a 123-year-old Massachusetts chartered commercial bank with \$1.4 billion in total assets and 12 Massachusetts locations in Belmont, Boston, Cambridge, Concord, Lexington, Lincoln, and Weston.

Cambridge Trust Company is one of New England's leaders in wealth management with \$1.8 billion in client assets under management. In addition, Cambridge Trust Company of New Hampshire offers wealth management services at two New Hampshire locations, Concord and Portsmouth.

**Clark, Hunt, Ahern & Embry** has existed for over 25 years and despite minor changes in the name of the firm, our commitment to providing personal service and fighting for favorable outcomes on behalf of our clients has remained constant.

As a full-service law firm, we represent clients' interests in a variety of forums, including state and federal courts, governmental and regulatory agency hearings, zoning boards of appeal, probate courts, and at mediation and arbitration. Our clients have the assurance that an experienced and attentive attorney is working on their behalf to achieve the best possible outcome.

**Coalition for Essential Schools** is based on the work of founder Theodore Sizer. The CES Network includes hundreds of schools and Affiliate Centers. Diverse in size, population and programmatic emphasis, Essential Schools serves students from pre-kindergarten through high school in urban, suburban, and rural communities, exemplified by small, personalized learning communities in which teachers and students know each other well in a climate of trust, decency and high expectations for all.

**Education Resources Consortium** is the strategic advisor of choice for schools, districts, non-profit organizations, and philanthropies, providing a broad menu of services, high-level expertise and thought partnership through a network of expert practitioners. Recognizing that there are no silver bullets when it comes to solving complex educational challenges, Founders Larry Myatt and Wayne Ogden and their ERC colleagues set out to build a unique consulting group to apply the science of school renewal, rather than the business of school reform. Our responsibility is to provide a blend of expert coaching and a combination of analytical tools to generate actionable insights and deliver results. We base our success on long-term relationships focused on building the capacity of our clients to perform at high levels.

**Ellis & Rapacki LLP** provides legal services for victims of serious accidents and their families, and for consumers injured by corporate wrongdoing.

Because we handle only a small number of matters at a time, we are able to devote the resources necessary for successfully prosecuting complex litigation. The firm has obtained hundreds of millions of dollars in verdicts and settlements for its clients over the last ten years.

**Healthcare Solutions** is an independent insurance agency specializing in employee benefits. With two offices located in Connecticut and Massachusetts, we easily service the entire Northeast. Our specialty is in employee benefits. We create and implement strategies, using a variety of methods, including but not limited to, defined contribution, Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRA) and Health Savings Accounts (HSA) to improve the quality and cost of employers benefit packages, and advise on Health Care Reform, keeping our clients in compliance with this ever changing law. Our seasoned professionals have, on average, over 20 years, each, of benefit experience, and work with a vertically integrated team that includes; the Consultant, a dedicated Account Manager, and a Client Service Representative.

**Midior Consulting** is a management consulting and technology services firm focused on the financial services, technology and industrial products/manufacturing sectors. With a specialty in the disciplines of innovation, product development and product management, MIDIOR helps clients seize new opportunities and respond to changing markets. In our management consulting practice, we provide clients with accurate market analysis, keen customer insight, optimized product portfolios and high performing product teams. In our technology services practice, we leverage our experience as engineers and entrepreneurs to support clients with complex systems implementations, data conversion and platform modernization projects. MIDIOR inspires organizations to challenge conventional thinking and develop the skills necessary to build a sustainable pipeline of successful new products and services, underscored by modern, relevant and effective technology platforms.

**Racepoint Group** is a global communications firm at the intersection of influence and action. Our seasoned professionals harness the power of print, broadcast, social media and stakeholder management to influence consumer decision-making and behavior, build communities, drive brand awareness and establish our clients as leaders. Our clients range from the Fortune 5 to venture backed startups. Racepoint Group is headquartered in Boston with offices across the US, Europe and Asia.

**S.B. Goddard Insurance** has been a vital part of the business community since 1884. For over 100 years we have provided insurance protection for families, hundreds of companies and professional organizations both large and small. We offer our clients a range of valuable services and first-rate protection plans at affordable prices. Whether your company is a small start-up or larger established business we can help you make informed insurance decisions. Our highly trained professionals take time to assess your personal and/or company's requirements and will work hand in hand with you to design a solid, effective insurance program, one that takes into account your present situation and your plans for the future.

**The Forum for Education and Democracy** is a national education "action tank" committed to the public, democratic role of public education — the preparation of engaged and thoughtful democratic citizens. At The Forum, we work to promote a public education system worthy of a democracy, one characterized by strong public schools, equity of educational resources, and an informed, involved citizenry.

**The Nellie Mae Education Foundation** is the largest charitable organization in New England that focuses exclusively on education. The Foundation supports the promotion and integration of student-centered approaches to learning at the middle and high school levels across New England. To elevate student-centered approaches, the Foundation utilizes a three-part strategy that focuses on: developing and enhancing models of practice; reshaping education policies; and increasing public understanding and demand for high quality educational experiences. The Foundation's initiative areas are: District Level Systems Change; State Level Systems Change; Research and Development; and Public Understanding and Demand. Since 1998, the Foundation has distributed over \$154 million in grants. For more information, visit [www.nmefoundation.org](http://www.nmefoundation.org).

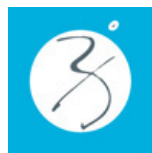






The logo features the word "inspire" in a bold, blue, lowercase sans-serif font. The letter "i" is partially overlaid by a stylized sunburst composed of orange dots of varying sizes. To the right of "inspire" is the year "2013" in a green, lowercase sans-serif font.

# inspire 2013



National Institute for  
Student-Centered Education

.....  
*Engage. Inspire. Learn.*

NISCE  
20 Academy Street  
Arlington, MA 02476  
781.641.5986  
info@nisce.org  
www.nisce.org