

2019 National Forum Workshops, Tours, Breakouts*

*Subject to Change

Thursday, October 24th

School of Character Site Visit

Hope Community Public Charter School is a 2019 School of Character in Washington, DC. Sign up for this off-site tour to see the school in action during a regular day. This committed staff have made great strides to strengthen Principle 4 and 7 with their conflict carpets, JIF (Justice, Integrity, and Fun) and partnering with the community to expand character through athletic character cards and service projects. See what strategies and tools the staff, students, and parents utilize to implement *The 11 Principles of Effective Character*, and take back some ideas to consider adapting for your own community.

8a-12p | Principles 1-11 | Education | *Additional Fee: Sign up in registration.

Using Prosocial Data to Guide School Improvement

Jonathan Cohen, Phil Brown

The overall goal for this session is to support school leaders and leadership teams understanding and using data to promote Schools of Character. Specifically, school leaders will (1) review and reflect on current character education, social emotional learning (SEL), and school climate informed measurement tools and learning systems; (2) learn and use simple but powerful audit tools to consider your schools/districts measurement practices now; and, (3) begin to develop short and longer term action plans to measure prosocial student as well as school improvement efforts in the context of the Principle 11 indicators.

9a-12p | Principle 11 | Education | *Additional Fee: Sign up in registration.

National Evaluator Training

Remember the joy of your School of Character site visit? Want to make a difference and continue your character journey? Join this training to learn how to evaluate applicants for National Schools of Character. We'll go through the application, site visit, and report writing processes to teach you the skills you need to assess and encourage school personnel on their character journey while building your toolbox as well.

9a-1p | Principles 1-11 | Education | *Sign up in registration.

Education Advisory Council Meeting

This closed meeting is for members of Character.org's Education Advisory Council.

9a-1p

National Schools of Character Summit

Representatives from all 2019 National Schools and Districts of Character will come together for this session devoted to celebrating all of their achievements and also training them in their outreach and continued growth as character leaders. Photos will be taken at this time.

1:30p-4p | Principles 1-11 | Education

National Character Awards Gala

Join us as we celebrate people, families, and organizations who have made significant

contributions to their communities. We'll be recognizing individuals and groups who embody character in the areas of education, business, sports, and families.

6p-8p | *Additional Fee: Sign up in registration.

Friday, October 25th

Tribal Stories: The Art and Science of Amazing Storytelling!

Joe Beckman

Nothing engages the heart and mind of a student better than a story. You (yes you!) have hundreds of stories that are living inside of you...ready to be shared with the world. In this interactive and participatory workshop you will walk away with: ready-to-share stories you can use in your classroom; our "Story Cultivation" framework; tips, tricks, and tools on how to deliver your story for maximum impact. Watch your influence soar through the power of storytelling!

9:30a-10:45a | Principle 6 | Education

Promoting and Sustaining an Athletic Department of Character

Joe Trentacosta

In this session, the speakers will share best practices for athletic programs for involving the community, charitable events, and service learning in sports. At West Milford High School, each athletic program emphasizes character first. In the beginning, we realized a number of our teams were already doing this, but over time, character education in athletics has become an expectation that has grown from the bottom up at WMHS. Coaches intrinsically value community involvement and student-athletes gain much more from high school athletics due to this commitment to service learning and character-based, education-based athletics.

9:30a-10:45a | Principles 3, 4 | Sports

Schoolwide Gardens Rooted in Character

Timothy Winkelmann, Melanie Ryberg

Join us as we discuss how service learning impacted the culture and environment of Hillcrest STEAM Academy, a public school in suburban Kansas City. Attendees will hear the story of Hillcrest STEAM Academy, and how they have grown in the past few years. Specifically, attendees will learn how the school started a garden, and fostered learning experiences rooted in character. Individuals will learn about the full cycle of service learning, from idea development to servicing an entire community.

9:30a-10:45a | Principle 5 | Education

Advancing Character Beyond the K-12 Classroom

Dave Keller

Congratulations! You've successfully gotten your students to the K-12 finish line. Well done! Ever wonder what happens to their character development after that point? In this session, we will explore how one program at a Tier 1 research university approaches character development. This session is appropriate for both K-12 and post-secondary educators, as we will be exploring many of the common "character gaps" we see in new college students, and how we use specific, research-informed strategies to move beyond traditional right/wrong dichotomies. In short, we help them FIND their moral compass, FIX their moral compass, and FOLLOW their moral compass.

9:30a-10:45a | Principles 5, 6 | Higher Ed

From Chaos to Calm

Tracy Skripka

Teachers are crying out for help. The behaviors they face on a daily basis are exhausting and

overwhelming. Many teachers have amazing problem-solving skills and wonderful adult-child interactions. However, when faced with trying misbehavior over and over it is difficult to maintain the positive attitude they often have at the start of the day. In this session, teachers will learn more about changing feelings that lead to prosocial behavior. This session, focusing on the framework of Conscious Discipline, will inspire participants as we learn how to respond rather than react to perceived behavior problems. We will explore evidence-based strategies that create an emotionally/physically safe school environment as well as techniques to remain calm in the moments of chaos.

9:30a-10:45a | *Principles 4, 8 | Education*

It Took a Village: Empowered, Inspired, Paying it Forward

Jerono Phylis Rotich

Not too many girls from a small village in Kenya who are survivors of insurmountable adversities have made it all the way to becoming a full professor and have all the opportunities Rotich has been afforded. It took the village/community of parents, friends, educators, coaches, and leaders to help me overcome the challenges and setbacks she encountered growing up. Today, Rotich looks back in celebration and continues to seek ways to pay back and pay it forward as a parent, educator, and mentor.

9:30a-10:45a | *Principles 4, 9 | International*

Changing Families: One Virtue at a Time

Sonia Kaba Pardo

In this session you will explore how to develop the virtues in a family setting. You will be introduced to the 5 strategies of The Virtues Project, how they can be effectively applied in the family and their relationship with *The 11 Principles*. Through guided activities, concrete examples and reflections, you will develop a deeper understanding of a revolutionary and simple way to foster a culture of character in the family.

9:30a-10:45a | *Principles 1, 2 | Families*

The Virtues in Business: Does it Matter?

Dave Feldman

Justice, kindness, integrity are frequently used to describe a business's core values, mission statement or theories of leadership. Yet so many lack understanding how to develop or embed these qualities in practice. Do they only focus on maximizing returns or lack a moral or ethical compass to drive decisions? Great businesses create conditions to inspire and empower. Their leaders understand how virtues - universal positive qualities of character - impact the bottom line, attract employees, raise brand awareness, and optimize team performance. In this workshop, we share best practices, obstacles, initiatives (leadership development, diversity and inclusion, mindfulness, ethics), and strategies that translate virtues into daily practice.

9:30a-10:45a | *Principle 1 | Workplaces*

Character Development through Community: The PBS KIDS Story

Sara DeWitt

PBS KIDS harnesses the power of media, early childhood expertise, and innovative community engagement programs to enrich and inspire children ages 2-8, and to motivate and boost achievement, with a special focus on those most in-need. Through the PBS KIDS Character Development Program, PBS KIDS will increase awareness of and promote engagement with PBS KIDS resources for character development by fulfilling parents' need to connect by fostering a community through social media, and building real community cohorts through stations. These communities will not only connect parents with others, but will also serve as an opportunity to support parents in developing strategies to help their kids grow. The purpose of this program is to support the development of a model for community empowerment and content co-creation,

leveraging PBS KIDS resources for character development.

9:30a-10:45a | *Principles 1, 10 | Education*

Choose Love in Education: Be Part of the Solution

Scarlett Lewis

This is a powerful story of a mother's decision to become part of the solution following the murder of her young son in school. Scarlett Lewis created a worldwide movement to choose love and invites all of us to join. She will discuss a revolutionary no-cost program that shows us how we can help cultivate a safer, more peaceful and loving world through social and emotional learning. We all must take responsibility for the health and wellbeing of our children and there is something we can do! Learn an empowering formula that can lead educators and students to choose love in every situation.

11a-12:15p | *Principles 1, 2 | Education*

The Power of a Circle

John Converse

Join this session to experience community through circles, and take back ideas to use in your own classrooms that can help create stronger bonds among students (and staff). During this session, participants will understand the power of a circle by experiencing first hand topics that can be discussed while in circle. Topics will range from community building to harm issues. Participants will leave with the information needed to be an informed Circle Keeper.

11a-12:15p | *Principles 3, 4 | Education*

Digging Deep: Building Relationships with Our Toughest Students

Bridget Christmas, Brandy Johanson

This interactive and motivational session will remind educators why they started teaching. Participants will be encouraged to dive deep and embark on their own personal journey of identifying perceived roadblocks to building relationships. In addition, they will learn how to tap into their campus community to find those who are willing to make themselves vulnerable for the sake of building relationships and ultimately a culture of trust.

11a-12:15p | *Principles 2, 7 | Education*

Coaching Character: Empowering Servant Leaders and Sustaining Positive Culture

Andy DiDomenico

In this session, we will present a comprehensive overview of a character based, co-curricular athletic program. The presentation will provide an overview and rationale for implementing character based athletics, the building blocks for creating a sustainable culture, and interactive activities directed at empowering student-athlete leaders, examining service opportunities, and reinforcing culture.

11a-12:15p | *Principle 5 | Sports*

Elevating Character in College Admission: Catalyst for Educational Reform

David Holmes

Cognitive measures, such as the SAT and GPA, remain the coin-of-the-realm in college admission. Character strengths, such as perseverance, resilience and team work, are under-valued in deciding who gets in. Research has established, however, that character attributes are the strongest predictor -- long-term -- of success in school, work, and life. This session describes innovations across the U.S. that elevate character in the college process and shows how a national initiative, the Character Collaborative, (1) signals the importance of character education and (2) helps youth of character navigate their way to college and toward

an impactful future.

11a-12:15p | Principles 1, 11 | Higher Ed

Teaching Civil Discourse

Andrea Zimmerman

In this politically polarized climate, how can we teach our students to express their opinions and respond to opposing views within the boundaries of civil discourse? In this session, we will explore steps, resources, and tested lesson ideas that guide students toward this goal. Civil discourse is not achieved by a simple lesson or unit, but rather a graduated process throughout the school year. With each unit, students realize that worthwhile debate must be based on research, analysis, and an open mind to alternative perspectives. When students debate from a place of confidence they can fully enjoy the gift of meaningful discourse and a productive exchange of ideas.

11a-12:15p | Principle 6 | Education

The Impact of Character Education on the Workforce and Community

Colin Lemon, Diane Thorton

It is critical that students are given opportunities to gain and strengthen character traits. As educational institutions and youth advocacy organizations, it is important that students are raised to hold community service as a necessary value, and to be educated and well-informed citizens. Research has shown that students involved in the public safety career Exploring program in high school or earlier are developing into citizens who are more likely to vote, more likely to lead in their careers and communities, are physically and mentally fit, and are more engaged in their communities. Join this session to learn about the benefits of character development that span a lifetime.

11a-12:15p | Principles 7, 10 | Workplaces

Mighty Core Values

Shaysann Kaun, Liliana Borrero

Core values can transform and fuel advancement of your institution! This session will focus on the powerful impact of collectively selecting and defining a set of core values that infuse and inform the day-to-day life of the institution. Our school has reframed programs; ignited the practice of developmental, collaboratively-built classroom norms; and nurtured and strengthened all members of our community. Participants will have ample opportunity to consider current practices and ways that some of these ideas might lead to transformative change in their own institutions.

11a-12:15p | Principle 1 | International

Wholeness, Healing, and Well-being for Educators

Dara Feldman

Are you feeling overwhelmed by the challenging behaviors of some of your students? Are the challenges beginning to take a toll on you personally as well as professionally? If so, we invite you to participate in this highly engaging and meaningful session where you will learn simple strategies for putting on your own oxygen and creating a trauma responsive and inclusive culture of caring. You will leave refreshed and fortified with new tools and strategies, as well as with renewed idealism empowering you to create significance while maintaining joy both personally and professionally.

11a-12:15p | Principles 4, 8 | Education

Weaving SEL and Character into the Daily Fabric of Your School

Houston Kraft

From his experience being in over 600 schools, Houston Kraft will share the high-leverage tools

that have helped shape campus cultures toward more empathy, engagement, character, and compassion. Learn the low-burden, high-impact ways you can get students AND staff to focus on relationships with others by intentionally strengthening their character through simple and engaging activities. This resource-packed session is fast-paced, interactive, and will immediately help you impact school culture and climate.

2:30p-3:45p | Principle 3 | Education

Expanding Character Education to Professional Organizations

Andrew Francis

What does character education look like beyond the classroom? How can character education be emphasized after secondary education? This session will explore ways to teach character education in a professional environment while highlighting the cultural elements each organization needs for character education to thrive. Using past experiences, this session will review some practical applications to include implementation at the professional military education level.

2:30p-3:45p | Principles 7, 8 | Workplaces

One School's Journey to School of Character: First Steps

Lauren Boyher, Diana Cashion Dodson, Alejandra Martinez

Are you a newcomer to character development? This may be the perfect first stop to begin your journey! Five years ago, The 11 Principles were words on a paper, in a binder and on a shelf at Cambridge Elementary. Campus core values did not exist, and there was not a consistent character education committee to drive an initiative. This year, they were just recognized as a 2019 School of Character. Find out how they navigated their journey and the lessons they learned along the way. Highlights include service learning, curriculum integration, and how to help students to understand, reflect upon, and practice core values.

2:30p-3:45p | Principles 5, 6 | Education

Was Your School Culture Formed By Design—Or Default?

Joe Gauld, Robert Hassinger, Malcolm Gauld

School cultures seem disrupted today—misbehaving students, drugs, cliques, bullying, fear and anxiety, cheating, apathy, absenteeism, inconsistent parenting, home-school mistrust, etc. Successful organizations require a strongly united culture. Hyde School Founder Joe Gauld, seeking to develop the unique potential/character of students, discovered this truth during the last 50+ years. Halifax, PA. Superintendent Bob Hassinger then spent 23 years adapting this culture. This session will explore ways to create positive school culture intentionally.

2:30p-3:45p | Principles 3, 11 | Education

Innovative Strategies for Education Implementation

Tony Devine

Education systems around the world, schools and educators need to make a critical shift on what it means to educate. As we expand our understanding of the critical role of educators in building environments for learning, there needs to be corresponding efforts to find new ways to support and train school leaders and teachers. Educators will need to: participate in responsive professional development, learn to embrace team building, model character, values and skills in addition to being student-centered, master facilitators. To make this shift requires new ideas and more reflexive thinking in terms of professional development, investment in resources as well as an openness to experiential models that can inform practice. In this session, panelists will share on innovative educational models that borrow entrepreneurial approaches and out-of-the-box thinking to stimulate and inspire transformative changes across the education spectrum.

2:30p-3:45p | Principles 8, 11 | International

Gaining Stakeholder Buy-In for Schoolwide Character Skill Development

Tamara Fyke

Schools are overwhelmingly interested in teaching character skills and social-emotional development, but not all have a plan in place to accomplish these goals. Further, it is not always easy to get buy-in at all levels to contribute to a strategic SEL plan. In this session, participants will learn about 24 key character traits all students should learn and how to teach them in a practical and successful fashion. This will be followed by leadership strategies for influencing peers and stakeholders across the building and in the community to take implementation schoolwide.

2:30p-3:45p | Principles 3, 9 | Education

Compassion or Control: What Is Your Goal?

Tamra Nast

Providing opportunities for students/children to be intrinsically motivated is critical as we help them navigate their character journeys. We will explore how we can assist children with doing the right thing, because it is the right thing to do especially when they make mistakes. Our discussion will center on embedding the teaching of character with discipline. This session will include an activity, practical steps, and "take aways" for you to use in your home, classroom, and school.

2:30p-3:45p | Principles 2, 7 | Education

Klein Serves

Jenny McGown, El-Shymaa Mohamed, Andy DeGuzman, Nadia Siddiqui

Meet the founders of Klein Serves, an initiative created and led by students who are embodying the Klein ISD Profile of a Learner by being values-driven leaders who are unwaveringly committed to serving the greater good. Their event, designed to serve others, allowed students to model student leader traits of being grateful, kind, and selfless. Discover how they created a culture of we not me volunteerism beginning with a day of service to give back. Students will also discuss how character-building opportunities from Klein Serves are developing their servant leadership skills.

2:30p-3:45p | Principle 5 | Education

How to Raise (Human) Goodness in Our Students and School

Michele Borba

What can educators learn from the latest science on empathy? Plenty. Especially in today's plugged-in world of virtual workplaces, electronic communications and increasing personal disconnection. This session points out that we're all born hard-wired to care, but like all human qualities, the capacity for goodness must be constantly activated. You'll learn dozens of easy ways to help students learn simple habits that cultivate empathy and instill kindness, courage, and self-control. Borba's framework for nurturing goodness is from her latest book, *Unselfie*, and is a call to action for educators to transform the way we teach and how children learn to be good. This session offers dozens of ways to nurture the traits of humanity from K-12 and shows creative ways schools world-wide are following the science to teach kids the 4Rs: reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic and relationships!

4p-5:15p | Principles 5, 7 | Education

Strengthening Character Using a Trauma Informed Lens

Jennifer Frederico, Leslie Smith, Jaclyn Mongelluzzo

Educators often feel their responsibilities go far beyond the classroom. They feel they are not trained to address the myriad of emotional and social needs of their students. Nevertheless, educators strive to understand the students in front of them and the impact their past experiences have on learning and behavior. Participants will explore the effects of trauma and

the barrier it creates to learning. In this session, participants will receive tools and resources that help them reflect on their own practices and develop programs that can positively impact their students.

4p-5:15p | Principles 2, 4 | Education

Are Teens and College Students Becoming Less Empathetic?

Sara Konrath

Adults have been complaining about “kids these days” since the beginning of human history, and now is no exception. What are the implications of these views of youth? And are they justified by scientific research? This talk will summarize scientific research about generational changes in empathy, narcissism, and other related traits. Importantly, the work is based on young people’s own self-reports, rather than adults’ beliefs about them.

4p-5:15p | Principles 1, 2 | Higher Ed

Establishing a Community of Character: The Story of Abbotsford, BC, Canada

Vijay Manuel

Learn how a community of character was established in Abbotsford, BC, Canada. How was the community able to establish a vision that would go on to enlist the key leadership from across the city? What happens when leadership retires, and you need a new vision? The story of Abbotsford will highlight a process that is focused on long-term change as opposed to a quick launch. Join this session to hear how Abbotsford did it, and take back some strategies to put in place in your own community.

4p-5:15p | Principles 1, 10 | International

Identifying Core Ethical Values to Build Your School of Character

David Wangaard, Phil Brown

Core values are the foundation of comprehensive character education. Join 2 Schools of Character evaluators who recognize the challenge some schools face in distinguishing core ethical values from prosocial skills such as listening and conflict resolution and performance values such as grit and persistence. Participants will identify core values broadly and then the subset of core ethical values, define them behaviorally, discuss their application to a variety of school policy and academic objectives, and examples of how this process has supported successful Schools of Character applications.

4p-5:15p | Principles 1, 2 | Education

Harnessing the Power of Schools of Character: ASCENT’s Success Story

Eileen Dachnowicz, William Trusheim, Philip Fusco, Brendan Petersen

Come to this exciting session to find out what happens when 9 Schools of Character from 3 states coached 9 schools with similar demographics in a year-long collaboration using the 11 Principles as a guide. NJ, NY, and PA Schools of Character coordinators created the ASCENT project, an intentional coaching model that improved school culture and student/parent engagement in schools with vulnerable populations—children contending with poverty, a different culture, and the warring calls of the neighborhood. Learn about these transformations and the potential of ASCENT as a replicable school-change model.

4p-5:15p | Principles 4, 10 | Education

Love: Why Not?

Liz Huntley, Drayton Nabers

This session explores the importance of “love” in character formation. While schools of character have core values, rarely do schools claim “love” among them. Yet, love is the core of character formation. Why would schools omit “love” as a core value – the basis of character formation? Does it seem too religious, too ambiguous? Does it bring sexual or romantic connotations? Is

“love” too soft or feminine? The speakers will provide opportunity for participants to reflect on their core values and why “love” is included or excluded as a core value. Participants will interact to consider the role of love in character formation and in their schools.

4p-5:15p | Principle 1 | Education

Leveraging Professional Development and Mentoring to Promote School Leadership

Melinda Bier, Marvin Berkowitz

Join this session as we explain The Center for Character and Citizenship’s (University of Missouri-St. Louis) rationale for focusing so heavily on leadership development for character education over the past two decades. We will present our theories and related practices for effective character education through investing in the learning and development of school leaders. Attendees will leave the session with some of our professional development practices in Leadership in Character Education (LACE) and Character Education for Emerging Leaders (CEEL), and our model of the virtues of servant leaders, Cultivating Virtues in Leaders (CViL).

4p-5:15p | Principles 8, 9 | Education

Successfully Engaging Parents in Character Development

Steve Markel

This session will teach educators about how to effectively engage parents in the development of character, with their kids, at home and provide points for parents to better understand what character is and how to foster it within their children and themselves. In this session, we'll explore tools and strategies for parents and educators to utilize in developing character in their children and/or students.

4p-5:15p | Principle 10 | Families

Saturday, October 26th

I Came to This Great Conference: Now What?

Julie Hinshaw

Join this session to hear about the step-by-step, three year journey of these Texas educators that led to change in their school, inspired by simply attending the Character.org National Forum. Learn tips on how to start small, how to get buy-in from colleagues, and how to make change happen through working smarter, not harder. Leave this session with practical ideas and resources that will empower you to hit the ground running when you return home...no matter where you are on your journey!

9:15a-10:30a | Principles 1, 11 | Education

Education from a Parent-Teacher-Coach Perspective

Jeremy Thode

Acceptance and celebration of students must be our primary focus. In a complex industry, we must be cognizant of each individual child and their specific needs and background. One size does not fit all. We have to create unique opportunities to connect each child to a positive experience and adult who can facilitate their growth. The goal is to ensure each child understand their worth, finds a passion and reaches their potential. We must celebrate and accept individual differences. Cultivating these concepts are easily accomplished by creating a culture of respect and commitment to education with champions in your system.

9:15a-10:30a | Principle 6 | Education

It's Not About You

Ringnolda Tremain

Leaving baggage at the front door to provide a service to others is easier said than done, trust me! The mask I wore for several years blinded my ability to take care of myself and others effectively. My personal experience of suffering in silence while working through a family struggle four years ago, resulted in my renewed mission to focus on joy and adult care in the workplace. Hear ideas I have tried that have hit the mark, ideas that completely missed it and the need for adult self-care to be a focus for the workplace.

9:15a-10:30a | Principles 4, 8 | Workplaces

Leading with Cultural Intelligence

Greta Peay

This interactive session will review David Livermore's research regarding the strategies leaders must possess in order to create a caring school and organizational climate. We will discuss strategies including how to become culturally responsive and competent as a way to create and maintain a positive and successful organizational climate. Participants will do a self-assessment and share their thoughts with the rest of the group. Join this session, and walk away with useful tools to help improve your culture.

9:15a-10:30a | Principles 4, 8 | Education

Culture Eats Strategy for Breakfast

Linda Inlay

Drucker's "Culture eats strategies for breakfast" applies to schools, too. Culture, the "hidden curriculum," sends messages 24/7 without awareness of the unintended impact like a teacher shouting, "Don't shout." Students learn mostly from adult modeling. Awakening Wisdom, a school culture approach, focuses on adult "beingness," trust, and on school practices to promote SEL. Leaders learn how to promote adult SEL as well as to model the character habits desired of students for culture change.

9:15a-10:30a | Principle 8 | Education

Leadership through Sportsmanship

Mark Horbinski

Due to the popularity of sports in today's society, student-athletes are some of the most influential kids in your middle and high schools. The manner in which they conduct themselves, within the walls of your building and in your community, play a major role in establishing the perception of your school culture. How can we as coaches and educators help cultivate positive character within our student-athletes that promote a nurturing, welcoming atmosphere at our school? By creating opportunities to practice leadership through sportsmanship. With authentic, hands-on activities, students learn the sound practice of valuing the contributions of others, positively influencing their peers, and respecting those who make opportunities available to them.

9:15a-10:30a | Principles 5, 7 | Sports

Character Development Best Practices from the Philippines

Emanuel Rentoy

This session will offer some of the best practices from 5 Schools of Character recognized in the Philippines. Most of these are very practical, transformative and creative strategies that have made the schools earn the prestigious recognition from Character Education Partnership Philippines (CEP Phils) and the Center for 4th and 5th Rs Asia.

9:15a-10:30a | Principles 2, 11 | International

Good News, Kind Words, and Funny Things: Creating a Caring Community in Your Classroom

Hal Urban

Hal's #1 goal as a teacher was to bring out the best in his students. His motto and philosophy was "If you can reach 'em, you can teach 'em." It all started with building caring relationships. He taught his student the power of positive words and helped them create a caring community in his classroom. He individually welcomed each student daily, and began all of his classes with "Celebrate Today!" - sharing good news, expressing thankfulness, affirming words, and laughter. He explains these and other strategies in this lively and humorous session.

9:15a-10:30a | Principle 4 | Education

Rethinking Middle School: How Educators Can Bolster Kids' Relationships and Self-Regulation

Phyllis Fagell

Learn how every educator can reimagine the middle school experience and structures, and prioritize wellness and relationship-building at a time when kids' mental health disorders are spiking, and their sense of control over their destiny is evaporating. The presentation will include evidence-based practices, cutting-edge research and examples of innovations schools and individual educators can employ to encourage moral action, build kids' sense of agency, and heighten their resilience and self-regulation. Participants will leave with tools to better meet young adolescents' unique developmental needs.

10:45a-12p | Principle 7 | Education

Character Development through Home Based Practices

Ifeoma Udigwe

Health is defined as the state of complete physical, social and mental well being and not merely the absence of disease. This session will host discussions on how character can be developed through consistent observation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of a set goals and checklists we desire to see in our children and in ourselves.

10:45a-12p | Principle 2 | Families

If the Shoe Fits: Fostering Empathy Through Outreach and Community Involvement

Ed Porowski, Julie Anderson, Lisa Levin, Staci Gil, Brooke Kirschner

When defining and/or learning about empathy, most people encounter the well-known phrase, "put yourself in the other person's shoes." While this is a good way to learn about the concept, it is much more important to put empathy into practice. How can we do this? How can we foster empathy by involving students, families, and communities? In this session, participants will first learn about the various involvement and outreach initiatives that Campbell School has implemented to foster empathy in the school community and beyond. After that, participants will engage in a "make and take working session" with opportunities to collaborate with one another by brainstorming and constructing action plans to foster empathy through outreach in their own communities.

10:45a-12p | Principles 2, 10 | Education

Guiding Staff to Get Out of School and Into the Community

Kristy Roberts

This session will share ways teachers and school staff can go out into the community to build positive relationships with parents and other community members. By focusing outside of the school building, they can form great partnerships in the community, who can in turn do things to help the school be successful. Participants will learn about ideas such as home visits, staff service projects, and building successful mentoring programs.

10:45a-12p | Principles 4, 10 | Education

Character Remediation: Helping Kids Learn from Mistakes

Rick Rubel

We know that zero tolerance policies can be harmful for students. Imagine if someone wrote you off after one mistake. We're all human, and we all make mistakes. It's important to have the opportunity to learn from those mistakes and develop new practices. Through an interactive and fun talk, we will discuss how a proven program for character remediation in schools helps students learn from their errors in judgement.

10:45a-12p | Principles 5, 11 | Education

Developing Student Leadership in Elementary

Debra Warner, Maribeth Hall, Elizabeth Baisley

This session will provide an overview of the Lakeview Peer Leadership program including students training manual and badges. We will share the pre and post surveys we used to collect data and develop programs using the student voice. Lakeview has a host of student-led initiatives, and this session will explore how many of them work including Lakeview Lion Leaders, Morning Greeters, SMILE partners, Kindness Crew, service learning projects, and more. Additionally, we will discuss the use of social media to promote such programming. Participants will take away new tools to help you get started!

10:45a-12p | Principles 5, 7 | Education

The Innovation Pathway Changing Our World: Does Character Matter?

Clifton Taulbert

In 2008, old established financial institutions were failing. However, gold was once again discovered in California but this time in Silicon Valley. Optimism and the lure of "big bucks" had formed a modern day wagon train to the Valley. New technology was fueling innovation in nearly every sphere of influence, and everyone wanted in. Now, a decade later, we're in a time where innovation has captured more personal data than imagined, and the lure to make even bigger bucks at the expense of personal privacy now dominates the news media. Does character matter? And can character make a positive difference in how we travel and invite others along the innovative pathway?

10:45a-12p | Principles 2, 11 | Workplaces

Creating a District-Wide Comprehensive Character Initiative

Gary Smit

While a challenge to implement, successful district-wide character education initiatives do exist. These character development programs are making a significant difference in cultivating ethical, respectful, and caring school environments. By providing on-going professional development and support through Character Counts! with mentor/coaches, we have seen significant progress in changing attitudes and behaviors of adults and students. There are many schools with successful character programs, but fewer with comprehensive district-wide programs based upon effective practices. In this session, you will leave with the tools and techniques to replicate a character education program for a school district.

10:45a-12p | Principles 3, 9 | Education

Coordinating Member Meeting

Current coordinating members or anyone interested in helping to lead Character.org's regional efforts to expand the Schools of Character program is welcome to join this meeting.

2:45p-4:45p

11 Principles Workshop Part 1

Tamra Nast

Join this two-part workshop to take a deep dive into The 11 Principles of Effective Character, and start developing a plan for you to take back with you after the Forum concludes. Our certified

coaches will provide real life examples, resources, and walk you through this proven framework.
2:45a-4:45p | Principles 1-11 | Education

Sunday, October 27th

11 Principles Workshop Part 2

Tamra Nast

Don't miss the second half of this valuable workshop.

9a-1p | Principles 1-11 | Education