



Annual Parent Leadership Conference Agenda *Strengthening Partnerships to Achieve Student Success*

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, Madison, Wisconsin

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

7:45 - 8:30 Registration and Refreshments

8:30 - 9:50 General Session

Exhibition Hall A (Lower Level)

Welcome

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Keynote

Karen Mapp, PhD, a lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, is nationally-known for her work on family-school-community partnerships that support the educational development of children. She is co-author of numerous books, including *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships*. A former president of the Institute for Responsive Education in Boston, Karen is a recognized expert in parent and family engagement. Karen will offer lots of usable, down-to-earth wisdom about how family engagement can enhance learning at your school.

9:50 - 10:00 Break

2-Hour Morning Workshop 10:00 - Noon

A1. Hall of Ideas J

Unusual Suspects:

Tapping the Untapped Resources of Your Community

The gifts and talents of **all** community members will be required to close the achievement gap and strengthen our schools. Join an interactive discussion with DPI Education Specialist **Steve Kretzmann, PhD**, to learn about the principles of Asset Based Community Development and discover how under-used resources in your community can help your school reach its learning goals.

One-Hour Morning Workshops

10:00 - 10:55

A2. Hall of Ideas E-F

Increasing Student Achievement through Family and Community Engagement

Family and community engagement can be a strategy for getting students reading at grade level, closing achievement gaps, and motivating students for long-term educational success. **Karen Mapp** will offer a synthesis of "promising practices" on using school-family-community relationships to improve academic achievement.

A3. Hall of Ideas H-I

College-Ready Kids: What Families Need to Know

Planning for college is a whole-family endeavor that students and parents need to collaborate on. How do families find out what lies ahead for young people? **Amy Bechtum**, Wisconsin Covenant director, **Alexis Anderson-Reed**, education specialist with the Wisconsin Educational Opportunities Program, and **Megan Perkins**, Wisconsin's '529' College Savings Program director, offer a glimpse at opportunities -- and decisions -- young people and their families face to prepare for the world of higher education.

A4. Hall of Ideas G

Parents and Teachers Talking Together: Strategies for Building Relationships

Trust and good relationships happen when parents and teachers can meet and talk together. DPI VISTA Project Coordinator **Betsy Prueter** will describe a variety of proven methods that schools can use to engage parents and teachers in positive, productive conversations around children's learning. Includes interactive opportunities to learn about PT3 and World Cafe.

11:00 - Noon

B1. Hall of Ideas E-F

Marvelous Math! Ways to Help Every Child Succeed in (and Enjoy!) Math

Math is for everyone, especially for children struggling to learn it. DPI Math Consultant **Diana Kasbaum** will highlight painless activities that parents and teachers can use at school and home to help every child enjoy math. This practical, child-centered approach offers hands-on ideas for everyone. Be prepared to have fun with math!

B2. Hall of Ideas H-I

The Power of Parent Involvement: Making NCLB Work for You

DPI Title I Consultant **Shirley Moutry, PhD**, will join **Karen Mapp** to talk about putting the parent involvement requirements of No Child Left Behind to work for your child. Bring your stories, questions and thoughts to this lively, two-hour discussion and learning session.

B3. Hall of Ideas G

The Role of Parents in School Leadership

Learn more about the role of parents in school leadership and decision-making. Share your ideas about what works to get parents involved in shaping school programs from the ground up with **Mary Sobczak**, Wisconsin FACETS, and **Cheri Sylla**, CESA 1 parent education coordinator for the Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative (WSPEI).

Noon – 12:45 LUNCH

Exhibition Hall A (Lower Level)

Be sure to visit the displays describing innovative, effective partnership practices from the DPI VISTA project sites!

1:00 – 2:00 Afternoon Workshops

C1. Hall of Ideas E-F

Think Well, Read Well: A “Thinkshop” on Reading

Good thinkers become good readers. Learn how the whole environment affects a child’s ability to think and read. Oshkosh School District Reading Resource teachers **Katy Honish** and **Jane Eichhorn** will share and model activities and language that families and teachers can use to get elementary children thinking at higher levels as they launch into the wonderful world of reading and writing. Additional resources will be shared.

C2. Hall of Ideas G

What IS this thing called “The Action Team?!”

Meaningful, lasting family involvement begins with a group of parents and teachers connecting family involvement to school goals, often called the Action Team for Partnerships. **Jane Grinde**, DPI Community Learning and Partnerships team director, will lead “Fundamentals of Family Involvement” workshop trainees in exploring the challenges and rewards of developing a team, but all are invited to participate, and learn.

C3. Hall of Ideas H-I

Involving Families in Response to Intervention (RtI)

What is Response to Intervention and how should schools be involving families in creating positive learning environments that benefit all students? DPI Consultants **Abby Potter** and **Julia Hartwig** present an overview and strategies for ensuring that families feel welcome and well-informed about participating in this important process.

C4. Hall of Ideas J

The “New World” of Family Involvement in 21st Century Community Learning Centers

21st Century Community Learning Centers (CLCs) and other after-school programs offer new opportunities for families to form relationships with staff and encourage children’s learning. Learn about the many creative ways that CLC’s are reaching out to families and children after the school day is over. Facilitated by **Alison Wineberg**, DPI CLC 21st Century consultant.

2:00 – 2:10 Break

****Turn into the registration desk your nomination for a “Partnership Pal” prize! Give a team member attending the conference (or yourself!) the chance to be recognized for working to involve families!**

2:10 – 3:00 General Session

Exhibition Hall A (Lower Level)

Families Involving Schools: What Works Well and Why

Some would say we’ve got it backwards. Children learn first and most profoundly from families; it’s **schools** that have to get on board! **Patricia Ellis**, EdD, associate vice president of enrollment services – community outreach, Cardinal Stritch University, will lead an inspirational wrap-up session revealing why children and schools truly need the gifts and goodness of families. She will highlight successful ideas designed to start or improve the partnerships at your school.

Partnership Pal Award Drawings

3:00 Adjourn

Please Turn in Evaluations at the Registration Desk

Sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and Parents Plus.

Day at a Glance

7:45 – 8:30 Registration

8:30 – 9:50 General Session

Welcome
Keynote

9:50 – 10:00 Break

10:00 – Noon One, Two-Hour Morning Workshop

10:00 – 10:55 Three, One-Hour Morning Workshops

11:00 – Noon Three, One-Hour Morning Workshops

Noon – 12:45 Lunch and VISTA Displays

1:00 – 2:00 Four Afternoon Workshops

2:00 – 2:10 Break

Nominate a team member as a “Partnership Pal” to receive a prize!

2:10 – 3:00 General Session

Turn in Evaluations at the Registration Desk

3:00 Adjourn