Endless Possibilities 2022
Effective Family Engagement: Honoring Diversity for Successful Partnerships

Conference Sessions

**Keynote: Lifestyle Design: How I Built My Family’s Healthcare and Education Village**
This presentation details how one woman’s multigenerational caretaking journey, first as a sister and now, as a mother of two, aided her in providing the blueprint she needed for her to build the current multi-faceted village her family is thriving in today.

*Presenter: Lola Dada-Olley*

**Rise of the Advocate/Self-Advocate: Advancing Your Why**
This session allows for participants to craft how they can advocate or self-advocate by first establishing their "why" as the foundation. Once established, this "why" can be the starting point toward advocacy efforts targeted for different audiences without losing core messaging.

*Presenter: Lola Dada-Olley*

**Engaging Families through Equitable Virtual Education**
Strategies to Engage Families to support their students in a virtual learning format.

*Presenters: Sydney Bueno and Jesse Mosholder*

**Dispute Resolution Options for Families and Schools**
Sometimes issues/conflicts/disputes arise related to planning or implementing IEPs for children with special needs. The WI Special Education Mediation System ("WSEMS" for short) has been helping parents of children with disabilities and schools resolve these disputes since 1996. This session will cover the various free dispute resolution options available to families and schools in Wisconsin, how to access each option and what participants can expect from the process.

*Presenters: Nissan Bar-Lev and Courtney Salzer*

**It All Starts with Hopes and Dreams: Parent-Teacher Home Visits**
Building relationships with a family begins with getting to know the family. The first visit is designed to focus on hopes, dreams, and learning about one another. In this session, presenters will share what the Parent-Teacher Home Visit model is, how one district successfully piloted home visits, and how they plan to scale up this evidence-based practice.

*Presenter: Stephanie Adrihan*

**Systems Approaches to Family and Community Engagement**
Family engagement is a key practice in providing opportunities for all students and families. Learn about our systemic approach to family engagement through collaborative and equitable partnerships among families, educators, and community partners. Because of a strong foundation in place prior to the pandemic, we were able to seamlessly adjust to our new realities and find innovative and creative ways to connect with families. In this session, we will share strategies for engaging your earliest learners through a variety of activities: newborn bags, activity packs, community playgroups, storywalks and other early literacy resources and experiences. Learn how we have used technology to effectively communicate with all families and the community at large. Explore ways to engage strategic community partners to help meet the needs of the whole child, for each student. Finally, learn how we have invited and welcomed senior citizens into our schools and the educational process through different activities and programs such as the Senior Tax Exchange Program.

*Presenters: Lisa Elliott and Jessica Stein*
Overcoming Obstacles – Family Engagement Stories
Family engagement through the art of storytelling.
*Presenter: Sarah Goldman*

A Tenacious Population: Supporting Foster Youth
This session will cover some of the characteristics of foster youth and how trauma may impact their educational outcomes, health, and adulthood. Tips for educators, social workers, and those supporting foster youth will be shared.
*Presenter: Ozalle Toms*

Addressing Conflicts Effectively: Collaboratively Navigating Challenging Conversations
We often struggle to address conflicts effectively as they arise in our lives, whether in families, our communities, or the workplace. As leaders, we need to facilitate constructive conversations as conflicts undermine the efforts of those around us, especially as the disruptive challenges of our current time further stress our relationships. This highly interactive session is offered by veteran mediator and conflict resolution consultant Harry Webne-Behrman, who brings a wealth of experience in addressing workplace and community disputes. Harry will provide specific strategies by which participants may apply communication skills and problem-solving strategies to address conflict effectively, even in remote contexts such as those in our current environment.
*Presenter: Harry Webne-Behrman*

Speaking from the Inside of Disability
I will share my personal experience of being introduced to disability. Topics will include moving from “normal”, to becoming a part of a world completely foreign to a world of great potential. As I discuss how changes in my physical, emotional, and psychological functioning affected my recovery, I’ll share how my search for answers, resources, support, partnerships, and a connection to others led me to discovering that disability is the best thing that ever happened to me.
*Presenter: Cheryl Schiltz*

Engaging Families Using Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
School leaders are implementing multi-tiered systems of supports (MTSS), such as PBIS and RTI, to meet the needs of all students across three tiers of support, serving all students through Tier 1 universal supports and some students through Tiers 2/3 academic and behavioral interventions. Culturally responsive parent engagement is critical to successful MTSS so that the systems created reflect the values and needs of the community. This session will include examples and ideas for infusing parent voice within K-12 educational systems to create effective and equitable learning environments for all.
*Presenters: Jennifer Betters-Bubon and Jennifer Worley*

Models of Strong Family-School Partnership Practices
In this session, you will hear from parents and educators from three school districts who have set out on different journeys to engage and develop the skills, connections, and confidence of their families. Models include an advisory council, District Family Engagement Liaisons, engagement network, and family navigators. Learn from those who have done it!
*Presenters: Panel of parents and professionals*

Culturally Responsive Practices for Engaging Native American Families
This session will provide an opportunity to explore issues and best practices in engaging with Native American families and their students. Information about the various indigenous nations in Wisconsin as well as resources will be provided.
*Presenter: David O’Connor*