



THE 2017 STATE EDUCATION CONVENTION:

“It Starts With Us”

The decisions that you make as local school leaders — school board members and administrators — profoundly impact our schools and, ultimately, the learning of our students. It has been well established by research that the work you do in establishing your district’s vision and mission as well as setting policy, budgeting and advocating for your schools is directly connected to the classroom.

Hence, the theme of the upcoming 2017 WASB-WASDA-WASBO State Education Convention is “It Starts With Us.” Taking place January 18-20 in Milwaukee, the annual convention, now in its 96th year, provides three days of programming designed specifically for Wisconsin school leaders. Whether you are new to your position or a seasoned veteran, the convention will provide an abundance of learning and networking opportunities.

This special issue of *Wisconsin School News* highlights the many break-out sessions, keynote speakers, special events and opportunities that will take place.

I’m proud to announce that our three general session keynote speakers are David Horsager, Liz Murray and Fredi Lajvardi. Mr. Horsager is the bestselling author of “The Trust Edge.” He has worked with companies and organizations around the world and is known for his insightful keynote addresses focused on how to establish trust

personally and as an organization.

Ms. Murray brings forth an inspiring message on the power of education. After living as a homeless teenager on the streets of New York City, she was able to turn her life around and get a scholarship to Harvard University because of her dedication and passion for learning. Her memoir, “Breaking Night,” is an international bestseller and the basis of a Lifetime movie, “From Homeless to Harvard.”

Mr. Lajvardi is a nationally recognized STEM educator. His story was told in the acclaimed documentary “Underwater Dreams” and the recent major motion picture “Spare Parts.” Both tell the amazing story of how Lajvardi and a team of diverse, migrant students entered a university-level national underwater robotics competition. They not only proved their skills and ability to compete at that level, but they placed first, defeating leading universities, including MIT.

The 2017 State Education Convention will also include dozens of timely and informative break-out sessions led by Wisconsin school districts, business partners, and other public education experts and stakeholders. They will cover a wide range of school leadership topics including school finance, board governance, community engagement, student achievement, and much more.

You’ll also want to check out our

pre-convention workshops to get even more out of your convention experience. You’ll be able to delve more deeply into school finance, effective board governance, culturally relevant teaching or adolescent mental health issues. In addition, thanks to our generous and committed sponsors, there will be a number of networking opportunities. You will be able to share ideas with school leaders from around the state and learn about possible solutions for some of the complex challenges you are facing.

With our inspiring keynote speakers, dozens of break-out sessions, and other special events, there will be something of interest for everyone who attends.

This special issue of *Wisconsin School News* provides a comprehensive overview of the upcoming convention, but it’s not the complete agenda. Watch for updates from the WASB and visit wasb.org/convention for more information on the sessions, speakers, and other events, including the large exhibit hall, which is on pace to be sold out by January. Also, I encourage you to download the complimentary 2017 State Education Convention mobile app when it becomes available later this year. Watch your email and the convention website for a link.

In the meantime, make sure to mark your calendars for January 18-20 in Milwaukee. I look forward to seeing you there! ■

If you haven’t already, visit wasb.org/convention for updates.