



Working Together to Cultivate Excellence

In a recent interview, Chester Elton, best-selling author and internationally recognized expert on leadership, was asked what he saw as barriers to success in today's business world. Elton pointed out several common problems, including:

"...a culture where people don't cross boundaries to work together. There is little positive teamwork and strong silos," Elton said.

While directed at the business world, the same is true for public education. Successful school districts are those where school boards, administrators, and staffs work together with the common purpose of supporting and providing opportunities for their students and boosting student achievement.

Unfortunately, amidst all of the challenges facing public education, priority is not always placed on building and maintaining strong and collaborative school district teams.

With this in mind, the theme of the 92nd State Education Convention is "Working Together to Cultivate Excellence." Our focus is on bringing people together to help them connect with colleagues from around the state and share what is working to improve student learning in districts.

Key Education Topics

Dozens of sessions presented by school board members, administrators, educators, business partners and other public education stakeholders will be offered at the State Education Convention. Sessions will address

numerous topics including: student achievement, school law, leadership, innovation, communication, human resources, facilities and school funding. Each session provides an opportunity for you to gain information, and hear ideas or success stories from districts in Wisconsin.

Whether it's learning the latest in how districts are boosting student achievement, fostering productive work environments, collaborating with community partners, or saving money, it's all here at the 92nd State Education Convention.

Innovative Keynote Speakers

Each of the three Convention keynote speakers offers a unique and diverse perspective. Noted author Tony Wagner's work focuses on the importance of developing innovators in public education who will shape the future and on the strategies to promote the kinds of innovative learning that will best prepare students for life beyond the classroom.

Best-selling author Chester Elton headlines day two of the convention. He is internationally recognized for his work on leadership training and motivation. His practical strategies for bringing people together to achieve a common purpose will be invaluable for school leaders as we work with our staffs through issues like teacher evaluation and performance pay.

Finally, Chef Jeff Henderson, host of *The Chef Jeff Project* and author of a best-selling memoir, will tell his amazing story, from his days as a

major drug dealer to his ascent as one of the nation's most acclaimed chefs. His story and his current work with troubled youth offer a powerful reminder of the importance of tapping into the potential in all students.

Additional Learning and Opportunities

In addition to our keynote speakers, dozens of sessions featuring education experts and school leaders from around the state, and an expanded networking opportunity, we will offer an afternoon of special, in-depth pre-convention workshops on Tuesday, Jan. 22. These special workshops feature notable education leaders and experts including Dr. William Parrett, an internationally recognized expert on school improvement from Boise State University. Dr. Parrett is particularly known for his work with small schools, alternative education, and helping districts better serve students at risk. For a complete listing of pre-convention workshops, see page 5.

Join Your Colleagues

To make the 2013 State Education Convention a success, we need you there. Every participant brings a unique perspective and a host of knowledge that adds value to the convention. I invite all of our school leaders to join your colleagues in Milwaukee for the 92nd State Education Convention. By working together, we can cultivate excellence in public education. ■

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