

Educating Hearts and Minds

A look at the keynote speakers for the **95th State Education Convention**

From Jan. 20-22, 2016, thousands of school board members and school leaders from around the state will be gathering in Milwaukee for the 95th State Education Convention.

The WASB is excited to introduce the keynote speakers who will join us in Milwaukee. Learn more about the upcoming convention at wasb.org/convention.

WEDNESDAY



Luis **CRUZ**

THURSDAY



Dr. John **MEDINA**

FRIDAY



Chris **LEHMANN**

Wednesday, Jan. 20

▶ LUIS CRUZ

Luis Cruz, a former principal of Baldwin High School in Los Angeles, has been nationally recognized for his work in building positive school cultures in which all students, including English as a second language (ESL) learners, can succeed. As an advocate for Latino students, Cruz significantly reduced the achievement gap at Baldwin High School between the general student population and ESL students by engaging teachers, students, parents, and school leaders.

Cruz writes, “This multifaceted approach is found in the areas of leadership, instruction, parent involvement, and a keen understanding of the role social emotional learning in the form of effective relationships between students and adults looks like throughout the organization.”

Cruz’s focus on improving school culture and social emotional education of minority students, has earned him many state and national awards. Cruz has won the New Teacher of the Year, Teacher of the Year, Administrator of the Year, and other community leadership awards.

Thursday, Jan. 21

▶ DR. JOHN MEDINA

Dr. John Medina has had a lifelong fascination with how the mind reacts to and organizes information. As a developmental molecular biologist, Medina has focused on the genes involved in human brain development and the genetics of psychiatric disorders. In his best-selling book *Brain Rules*, Medina explores how the brain sciences might influence the way we teach our children.

Using his infectious sense of humor and fascinating stories from years of research, Medina will present facts that we know about how the human mind works and how we can use this information to inform the education of our students.

Medina was the founding director of the Talaris Research Institute, a Seattle-based research center originally focused on how infants encode and process information at the cognitive, cellular, and molecular levels. Medina has been a consultant to the Education Commission of the States and a regular speaker on the relationship between neurology and education.

A prolific author, Medina’s books include: *Brain Rules*, *Brain Rules for Baby*, *The Genetic Inferno*, and *The Clock of Ages*.

Friday, Jan. 22

▶ CHRIS LEHMANN

As a renowned author and educator, Chris is recognized for his work in developing innovative schools that incorporate technology in new ways and engage students in real world issues. He is the founding principal of the Science Leadership Academy, an inquiry-driven, project-based, 1:1 laptop school high school in Philadelphia that is considered to be one of the pioneers of the School 2.0 movement nationally and internationally.

In his new book, *Building School 2.0: How to Create the Schools We Need*, Lehmann and co-author Zac Chase discuss and explore how education and physical school spaces should change to meet the evolving nature of our lives brought on by new technologies.

Lehmann has received many awards and recognitions including being named the 2014 winner of the McGraw Prize in Education. In June 2013, he was named Outstanding Leader of the Year by the International Society of Technology in Education. In September of 2011, Chris was honored by the White House as a Champion of Change for his work in education reform. ■