



THE 2015 STATE EDUCATION CONVENTION:

Every Child, Every Day

We are excited to announce the 2015 State Education Convention agenda with a focus on “Every Child, Every Day.”

Throughout the year, WASB President Mike Blecha has talked about the unique and inspiring mission of public education — to educate and serve every child, every day. Regardless of background or ability, our state’s public schools welcome and educate any and all children that arrive at our school doors.

The 94th Annual Joint State Education Convention in January 2015 will celebrate and share the many innovative and inspiring ways that public school districts from around the state provide exciting education opportunities to their students.

The lineup of sessions reflects the great work going on in our school districts. Break-out sessions featuring state and national experts will delve into such topical issues as: school board governance, advocacy, health care reform, educator effectiveness, school safety, employment and labor law, school funding and much more. In addition, there will be in-depth pre-convention workshops on the roles and responsibilities of school boards, school funding, governance, and technology. With nearly 100 sessions to choose from over the course of three days, there is something for every school leader.

In addition to a wide range of sessions featuring district leaders and

education experts, our lineup of keynote speakers will inspire, educate and motivate you. They include: Kevin Honeycutt, Richard Gerver, and Rosalind Wiseman.

Kevin Honeycutt specializes in using technology to expand student learning, but he also has a powerful personal story to share. Kevin grew up in poverty and attended school in 20 states, giving him a unique perspective on what it takes to educate every child, every day.

Our second keynote speaker — Richard Gerver — is a failed actor, turned star educator. Richard was recognized as one of the top teachers in England for his work in leading a school on the brink of closure to becoming one of the most innovative in the world. He works closely with Sir Ken Robinson who cites Richard as one of the world’s most exceptional educators.

Author Rosalind Wiseman has been recognized for her work as an advocate for the unique challenges facing students and school leaders today, including bullying, the use of social media, and media literacy. She is noted for transcending cultural and economic boundaries in her appeal to ensure children’s and teenagers’ well-being.

I’m also excited to introduce our keynote speaker for the WASB Breakfast program — Neil Willenson. A Wisconsin native, Neil is the founder of One Heartland —

a non-profit organization that seeks to improve the lives of children who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. After befriending a five-year-old boy with AIDS and witnessing the discrimination, pain and sadness that he experienced, Neil created a camp where children can feel accepted and speak openly about the disease. I hope you will join us for the WASB Breakfast program and hear Neil’s powerful story.

With this strong lineup of sessions and speakers, I’m confident the 2015 State Education Convention will continue the strong Convention tradition of providing inspiring speakers and timely information. And, of course, there will be numerous opportunities to network and exchange ideas with colleagues from around the state. And you’ll want to leave time to explore the Exhibit Hall, meet vendors and bring their ideas for cost-saving initiatives and products back to your district.

Visit the Convention website (wasb.org/convention) to get more information and use the itinerary tool to help plan out your Convention experience. The popular Convention mobile app will be out soon – watch for the notice so you can download the 2015 State Education Convention app to your device.

I hope you are looking forward to the State Education Convention — I’ll see you in Milwaukee! ■

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