Our Keynoters and Thought Leaders can help your school or district achieve success by design, not by chance.

Specializing in the areas of Innovation, Leadership, School Change, Career and Technical Education (CTE), Instructional Leadership, Dropout Prevention, Trauma Skilled Schools Model, and Literacy.
Raymond J. McNulty is the President of the National Dropout Prevention Center (NDPC), and the Successful Practices Network SPN). He is also a Senior Fellow to the International Center for Leadership in Education. Prior to that, Ray was Dean for the School of Education at Southern New Hampshire University which Fast Company magazine named the 12th most innovative organization in the world in its World’s 50 Most Innovative Companies. Ray has served as Chair of the National Dropout Prevention Network and was the Chief Learning Officer for Penn Foster a global leader in online education. Ray also was a senior fellow at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where he worked with leading educators on improving our nation’s high schools. Ray is a past president of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) and author of It’s Not Us Against Them — Creating the Schools We Need, published in 2009 by the International Center.

Ray is a presenter at the state, national, and international levels on the need for school systems to accept the challenges that lie ahead. He is committed to raising performance standards for both teachers and students and to building solid connections between schools and their communities. Ray believes strongly that education systems cannot wait for the children and challenges to arrive at school; rather, schools need to reach out and help forge solutions.

Dr. Sue Szachowicz served Brockton High School, a comprehensive urban high school of 4,300 students in Brockton Massachusetts, for her entire career and is Brockton High’s greatest cheerleader. A graduate of Brockton High herself, she served as a history teacher, department chair, Housemaster, Associate Principal, and for ten years as Principal. In that capacity she led the school’s literacy initiative and transformed the school culture resulting in numerous national and state awards for Brockton High. Her leadership at Brockton High was committed to “high expectations, high standards – no excuses.”

Currently Sue is a Senior Fellow with the Successful Practices Network and works with school and district leadership around the country on leadership, literacy, and transforming school culture.

She is the author of Transforming Brockton High School: High Standards, High Expectations, No Excuses, published in 2013 by the International Center for Leadership in Education.

Dr. Sandy Addis is the Director of the National Dropout Prevention Center and holds an EdD in Educational Leadership from South Carolina State University. He has 44 years of experience in public education in a variety of roles that include teacher, counselor, coach, principal, system-level administrator, and director of a regional educational service agency. He has designed and administered a variety of dropout prevention initiatives that include after-school programs, counseling, and service-learning. Dr. Addis has served as an alternative school principal and authored numerous grant proposals that funded summer programs, professional learning, family engagement, and character education. He has led educator teams in the development and distribution of student achievement measures and online systems for delivery of educator training. Dr. Addis has served on numerous professional boards, testified before legislative committees, and recently chaired the Educator Ethics Task Force of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

Ms. Bernadette Lambert is an author and literacy strategist. She is the author of Moving Beyond Quadrant A: Developing Rigor, Relevance, and Learner Engagement in Your Classroom. As a literacy strategist, she works with various districts and schools in the Southeastern United States, designing units and lessons that engage and accelerate learners. Her presentations highlight practical and effective instructional strategies. Bernadette’s experiences as a former middle school teacher, K-12 district-level literacy coach and teacher leader guide her as she recommends, and models deliberate and differentiated instruction to increase academic vocabulary use, weave writing across the curriculum, and support independent purposeful reading.

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Mr. Gailer is the Assistant Director for Outreach & Events for the National Dropout Prevention Center. He earned his Master’s Degree in Education from the University of Georgia and has more than 25 years of experience in the field of youth development in the contexts of youth at risk and third-culture kids. John has conducted leadership and team building workshops throughout the country at the local, regional, and national levels. He has served as a consultant in areas of program, intervention, and collaboration design. He has 15 years of experience in higher education leadership, classroom instruction, and nonprofit administration. In his current role with NDPC, John designs professional learning experiences that impact educators and youth practitioners nationwide.

Sherry St. Clair is Founder of Reflective Learning, LLC. Her organization works with schools around the world, creating specialized training and coaching services for school administrators and educators. She holds a master’s degree in Instructional Leadership, as well as a Rank I in Instructional Supervision. Sherry is a highly regarded national speaker and consultant, providing educational agencies with expertise in the areas of instructional leadership, effective classroom practices, classroom walkthroughs, project-based learning, effective use of data and guidance on how to create structures for successful classroom coaching. Coaching schools to best meet the needs of all students is Sherry’s passion.

She has published numerous professional learning activity guides and facilitated webinar series focused on leadership and effective instructional practices. Additionally, Sherry developed virtual instructional workshops for the CTE Technical Assistance Center of New York. Her newest book, Coaching Redefined: A Guide to Meaningful Instructional Growth, was just released.

Dwight Carter is an award-winning school leader from Central Ohio. His purpose is to positively change lives and impact futures. He believes reflection is at the heart of our practice and encourages principals, teachers, and students to focus on personal skill development to create the optimal conditions for learning to take place.

Because of his collaborative and innovative leadership as a principal, he was inducted into the Jostens Renaissance Educator Hall of Fame in 2010. He also was named a 2013 National Association of Secondary School Principals Digital Principal of the Year, the 2014 Academy of Arts and Science Education High School Principal of the Year, and the 2015 Ohio Alliance of Black School Educators Principal of the Year.

He is the co-author of three books: What’s In Your Space? Five Steps to Better School and Classroom Design (Corwin, 2015), Leading Schools in Disruptive Times: How to Survive Hyperchange (Corwin 2017), and 10 Perspectives on Innovation in Education (Routledge, 2019). All written from his experiences as a high school helping students, teachers, administrators, and parents navigate through the complexity of our world today.

Dick is a Senior Consultant for Successful Practices Network, Inc. and has varied and extensive education experience, and understands the importance of education in a changing world. Dick has worked with educators in all 50 states developing the commitment to school change and skills necessary to better prepare students for the future. Dick served in several leadership capacities for two decades in the New York State Education Department, responsible for implementing leadership programs, curriculum development, professional development, integration of education technology and school improvement. He has also worked in the private sector developing technology applications for schools. Dick has demonstrated his leadership in the creation of many new education programs. In his four decades as an educator, Dick has shared with hundreds of audiences his passion for learning and vision for the possibilities schools.

He has authored fourteen books on instruction and leadership. His philosophy is “To be an educator, you must never stop being a student.”
Tim is CEO, SPN and Director, CTE TAC of NY. He is a lifelong educator with more than 33 years of service to schools nationwide. He was named CEO of the Successful Practices Network in September 2010 and among his responsibilities, manages SPN’s CTE Technical Assistance Center. From 1996-2010 Tim worked closely with Bill Daggett at the International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE). As Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Tim oversaw all education initiatives for ICLE, including all major education contracts, and the annual Model Schools Conference and symposiums. Tim has significant experience and expertise in areas of School Leadership, Change Management, and all areas of Career and Technical Education.

Dr. Irving C. Jones, Sr., a native son of New York City’s South Bronx, spent thirty-four years in Public Education. Moving through the ranks from an English teacher to a high school Principal, and then an Executive Director, Dr. Jones has initiated a variety of mentorship programs for both students and teachers, developed partnerships between private industry, community colleges, Universities and high schools. Dr. Jones has been recognized as a leader on topics of educational leadership. Over the last twenty-five years, Dr. Jones has presented at International, National, State and Local conferences on topics including: minority student achievement; dropout prevention; interdisciplinary instruction in the secondary school; supervision of instruction; teaching strategies that engage active learning; career pathways; creating collaborative teaching and learning environments in schools; students transitioning from alternative placements; the transition of 9th graders into high school; and leadership in an age of accountability.

Dr. Jones serves on the faculty of Trauma-Skilled Schools, affiliated with the Dropout Prevention Center, a division of the Successful Practices Network, and has served as a Senior Consultant for the International Center for Leadership in Education, a division of Houghton Mifflin and Harcourt, since 2008. Dr. Jones also serves on the Board of Trustees for William Penn University, and is a professional development specialist for Urban Classroom Partners, Inc.

He is co-author of “Fearless Conversations School Leaders Have to Have” published in October 2017.

Jim Warford is a Senior Advisor and Keynote Speaker for the International Center for Leadership in Education. He was named in March 2003 as Florida’s first Chancellor of K12 Public Schools. He stepped down in September 2005 to become Executive Director of the Florida Association of School Administrators, representing over 10,000 Florida school leaders. Jim works with states, districts and schools to provide coaching and executive training and support to school leaders and their staffs.

As Florida’s Chancellor, he led the creation and state-wide implementation of Florida’s Continuous Improvement Model, FCIM, which resulted in that state’s dramatic gains in student achievement and an 80% reduction in the number low-performing schools. FCIM remains Florida’s required intervention for all low-performing schools.

Jim Warford is the author of, The Chemistry of Culture: Strategies You Can Use to Create a Culture of Learning.

Our Thought Leaders are available for keynote presentations, tailored consultations and professional learning sessions.

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