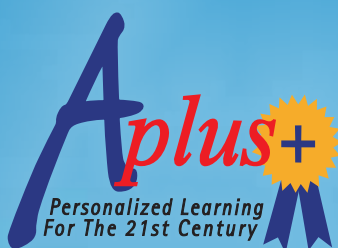


**APLUS+ PERSONALIZED LEARNING NETWORK ASSOCIATION  
CONFERENCE PROGRAM GUIDE 2023**

**20<sup>th</sup>**  
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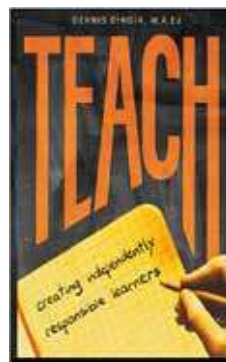
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Senior Director, Specialty Banking

Phone: 626-372-4548

[John.Helgeson@bancofcal.com](mailto:John.Helgeson@bancofcal.com)



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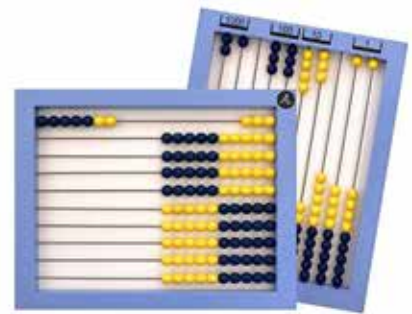
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# CALIFORNIA SENATE RESOLUTION SR36 JULY 2004: PERSONALIZED LEARNING TWENTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY!



## California Senate Resolution

Senate Resolution No. SR 36

Introduced by  
Senators Ackerman, Denham, Florez, Knight, McPherson, Morrow, and Otter  
Relative to

## Personalized Learning

**WHEREAS**, The personalized learning model has evolved in the public school system as an innovative and distinguished learning model and choice in California public education, including charter schools; and

**WHEREAS**, The personalized learning model shall be distinguished from other learning models through its creation of uniquely tailored, personalized learning programs that are developed through an ongoing partnership between certificated teachers, parents, pupils, and personalized learning schools, according to the individual needs of each and every enrolled pupil; and supported by the school through a broad-based and in-depth array of learning programs, environments, curriculum choices and options for each pupil; and

**WHEREAS**, The personalized learning model integrates key components from the latest education research as to how pupils learn successfully, including smaller class sizes; more frequent one-on-one interaction with certificated teachers; greater parental

involvement; direct pupil decisionmaking participation; emphasis on pupil learning responsibility; varied choices in curriculum; online learning options; assessments of learning styles, paces, and preferences; multiple assessments of state standards progress; and options in learning environments; and

**WHEREAS**, The personalized learning model blends learning environments both within and beyond the classroom, including facilities-based instruction that supports a wide array of instruction-related activities, home-based instruction, online instruction, and community-based instruction to help pupils learn successfully who, for various reasons, do not and cannot thrive in a full-time classroom-based structure alone; and

**WHEREAS**, The personalized learning model serves pupils of diverse learning needs, challenges, and backgrounds, and is a particularly effective alternative for those pupils at both the low end and high end of the bell curve who have become discouraged with their learning progress and disengaged with the traditional public education system; and

**WHEREAS**, The personalized learning model offers a promising and viable education choice within the California public education system for the growing percentage of pupils who need an alternative learning model to succeed; and

**WHEREAS**, The personalized learning model has demonstrated a proven track record over the past 10 years of helping many of pupils in California public education to learn successfully who had previously struggled in a traditional classroom model; and

**WHEREAS**, The personalized learning model is passionately supported by many of elected officials, business leaders, education leaders, advocacy groups and representatives, administrators, teachers, parents, and pupils throughout California; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**, That the Senate of the State of California commends personalized learning and calls upon Californians to recognize personalized learning as a distinct learning model in California public education and to further recognize the benefits and contributions of personalized learning as a promising choice in the California public education system for the growing number of pupils who need an alternative choice to learn successfully; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

Adopted in the Senate July 12, 2004

*John F. Burton*  
President pro Tempore of the Senate

*Jack Ackerman*  
Senator 33<sup>rd</sup> District

*Gregory P. Schmitt*  
Secretary of the Senate



### APLUS+ PERSONALIZED LEARNING NETWORK ASSOCIATION 2023





# Welcome!

## Welcome to the Twentieth Annual APLUS+ Network Conference 2023!

Welcome to our 20th annual APLUS+ Network Conference 2023! Twenty years of APLUS+ conferences are ample reason to come together in Sacramento and celebrate!

After twenty+ years of enduring the misguided and misleading statutory term known as “nonclassroom-based instruction” (NCB), this year we pivoted from defense to offense. We sought to turn the tide from the negative to the positive by affirming who we are in the public charter school segment as flex-based Personalized Learning Public Charter Schools. In so doing, our goal was to foster greater clarity and understanding among those outside our segment. The problematic NCB term has been an albatross around our necks. The ongoing confusion and misunderstanding around this term among



lawmakers and policymakers have resulted in harmful policy decisions that continue to disadvantage the more than 200,000 largely challenged and marginalized students in our segment. These consequences have created unjustified inequities among public

education students, including numerous exclusions from state school facilities subsidy programs, the moratorium on the establishment of new flex-based charter schools, and more recently, exclusions from enrollment growth and hold harmless funding provisions. It's time we stand united to affirm who we are as public charter schools all founded upon flexibility and send a strong message that we reject continuing to be wrongly labeled by what we are not with a derogatory, negative, and disrespectful term. It's time to call in the F.B.I.!

Our APLUS+ Network conference annual theme this year is “Personalized Learning: The Pinnacle of Flex-Based Instruction”. Though all public charter schools within our segment are united by our ability to create diverse and innovative models by leveraging varying degrees of flexibility, the pinnacle of flexibility among these models is Personalized Learning. Our Personalized Learning model not



only proved resilient and highly adaptable to the unforeseen and unprecedented circumstances through the recent pandemic, which by contrast, forced the long-term closure of the majority of classroom-only models, our model also proved successful in advancing our students to greater academic achievement and preventing learning losses that many students in classroom-only models experienced.

Just two years ago we had miraculously survived perhaps the most extreme attack ever by our adversaries against the very heart and foundation of our Personalized Learning model, who shamelessly engaged in false and misleading talking points to try to misguide lawmakers into voting for harmful policies that would have severely undermined our flexibility. Our steadfastness in our commitment to our Personalized Learning students through all challenges, attacks and threats remains firmly rooted in the highest standards of integrity, transparency, accountability, and academic excellence.



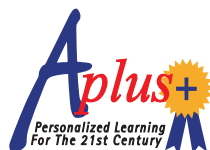
Our dedication and commitment to these highest standards in serving our students, our schools, and our Personalized Learning model and movement have yielded tremendous and very positive student academic growth achievement. According to our latest APLUS+ network statewide data reports, our Personalized Learning students have demonstrated significant positive growth results on statewide indicators during the period from 2018-19 through 2021-22 in both ELA and Math, compared to similar students in traditional public schools who suffered significant learning losses in both ELA and Math. Congratulations! Let us celebrate together our student data achievement successes within our Personalized Learning model and movement.

Recent surveys reveal that parents in growing numbers are becoming more enlightened about the benefits of a more flexible, adaptable and student-centered education delivery model like Personalized Learning for their children. Parents who are frustrated by the status quo system are seeking to play a much more active role in their children's education, as well as wanting to ensure for their children a safer environment and more engaging education experience. APLUS+ member schools and our Personalized Learning model are pioneering the path to what high quality and flexible education delivery should be in the 21st century for the growing number of students for whom a rigid, conformity-based, institution-centric model is not a good match for their academic success.



Cheers and Best Wishes,

Jeff Rice, Founder/Director



The Association of Personalized Learning Schools & Services, Jeff Rice, Founder/Director

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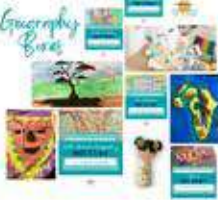
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## APLUS+ Personalized Learning Network Association Preferred Partners

The APLUS+ Preferred Partner program has been developed to facilitate collaborative relationships between APLUS+ network member schools and high quality organizations offering business and educational services/resources to our member schools at the best possible value.

The APLUS+ Preferred Partner Program is an exclusive APLUS+ member service benefit intended to create a win-win partnership for schools and organizations that are dedicated to the Personalized Learning vision, model, and movement!

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#### Aim Academy Online, LLC

Debra Bell, PhD, Executive Director  
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8500 Balboa Blvd., Suite 140; Northridge, CA 91325  
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Web: <http://charterschoolcapital.org>

#### CharterSmart

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Web: <https://www.gravityassist.us/>

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Email: hello@historyunboxed.com;  
Web: [www.historyunboxed.com](http://www.historyunboxed.com)

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Sharon Suhr, Client Growth Associate  
Phone: 310-437-9487  
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## **Home Science Tools**

Scott Burns, National Sales Director  
665 Carbon St, Billings, MT 59102  
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Karl Yoder, Founder & Managing Partner  
500 Capitol Mall, Suite 2350, Sacramento, CA. 95814  
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## **Mr. D Math**

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Amy Sage, MA, MS, NCC, Co-founders  
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## RightStart™ Mathematics by Activities for Learning, Inc.

Kathleen Cotter Lawler, Vice President  
321 Hill Street, Hazelton, ND 58544  
Phone: 701.782.2000 or 888.272.3291 ext. 102  
Email: Kathleen@RightStartMath.com  
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## School Food Solutions

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Phone: 707-628-4965  
Email: ryan@schoolfoodsolutions.org;  
Web: <https://www.schoolfoodsolutions.org/>

## School Pathways

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Web: <http://www.schoolpathways.com>

## Software MSP

Preet Singh, Principal Consultant  
Phone: 949-704-2206  
Email: info@softmsp.com; Web: <https://softmsp.com/>

## The Healthy School Food Collaborative

Bill Gray, Business Development Director  
701 Loyola Avenue Suite 403-H, New Orleans LA 70113  
Phone: 770-366-1368  
Email: bgray@thsfc.com; Web: [www.thsfc.com](http://www.thsfc.com)

## The Nomadic Professor

Nate Noorlander, Co-founder  
Phone: 986-213-4822  
Email: nn@nomadicprofessor.com;  
Web: [nomadicprofessor.com](http://nomadicprofessor.com)

## TomoClub

Avinash Bansal, Co-founder  
126 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, CA.  
Phone: 650-547-8082  
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Web: <https://www.tomoclub.org/>

## Total Education Solutions (TES)

Meaghan Donahue, Vice President  
625 Fair Oaks Ave., Suite 300, South Pasadena, CA 91030  
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Email: mdonahue@tesidea.com  
Web: <http://www.tesidea.com/>

## WriteAtHome.com, Inc.

Brian Wasko, President and Founder  
Melanie Wasko, Vice President & Charter School Liaison  
Phone: 757-749-6000; Email: melanie@writeathome.com  
Web: <https://www.writeathome.com/>

## Young, Minney & Corr, LLP

Paul C. Minney; pminney@mycharterlaw.com  
James E. Young; jyoung@mycharterlaw.com  
Lisa A. Corr; lcorr@mycharterlaw.com  
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Web: <http://mycharterlaw.com/>



# APLUS+ Member Schools

## APLUS+ Personalized Learning Network Association Member Schools

(as of October 1, 2023)

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#### **CORE Butte Charter School**

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Phone: 530-809-4152; Web: <http://www.corebutte.org/>

#### **Evergreen Institute of Excellence**

19500 Learning Way, Cottonwood, CA 96022

Phone: 530-604-9066

Web: <http://www.evergreenusd.com/institute-of-excellence>

#### **Golden Eagle Charter School**

2226 S. Mt. Shasta Blvd., Suite C; Mt Shasta, CA 96067

(530) 926-5800; Web: <http://www.gecs.org/>

#### **Lincoln Street School**

1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080

Phone: 530-528-7301;

Web: <https://www.lincolnstreetschool.org/>

#### **Northern Summit Academy**

2301 Balls Ferry Rd, Anderson, CA, 96007

Phone: 530-377-5885; Web: <http://ns-academy.org/>

#### **Northern United—Humboldt Charter School**

2120 Campton Road, Suite A, Eureka, CA 95503

Phone: 707-445-2660; Web: <http://www.nucharters.org/>

#### **Northern United—Siskiyou Charter School**

423 South Broadway, Yreka, CA 96097

Phone: 530-842-4509; Web: <http://www.nucharters.org/>

#### **Phoenix Charter Academy**

2195 Larkspur Lane, Redding, CA 96002

Phone: 530-222-9275; Web: <https://www.ourPCA.org/>

#### **Redding Collegiate Academy**

3200 Adams Lane, Redding, CA. 96002

Phone: 530-224-4240; Web: <https://rca.eesd.net/>

#### **Shasta Charter Academy**

307 Park Marina Circle, Redding, CA 96001

Phone: 530-245-2600; Web: [www.sca-edu.org/](http://www.sca-edu.org/)

#### **William Finch Charter School**

607 E Tehama St, Orland, CA. 95963

Phone: 530-865-1683; Web: <https://www.glenncoe.org/Schools/Wm.-Finch-Charter-School/>

### Lower Northern California Region

#### **CalPac Sonoma Charter School**

14630 Armstrong Woods Road, Guerneville, CA 95446

Phone: 855-225-7227

Web: <https://www.californiapacificchartersonoma.org/>

#### **Choices Charter School**

4425 Laurelwood Way, Sacramento, CA 95864

Phone: 916-979-8378; Web: <http://choicescharter.org/>

#### **Circle of Independent Learning (COIL)**

4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont, CA 94538

Phone: 510-797-0100; Web: <http://www.COILk12.net>

#### **Compass Charter Schools of Yolo**

850 Hampshire Rd., Suite P, Thousand Oaks, CA 91361

Phone: 855-937-4227; Web: <https://www.compasscharters.org/>

#### **Connecting Waters East Bay Charter School**

703 C Street, Union City, CA 94587

Phone: 800-808-9895 -Ext. 390; Web: <http://www.cwestbay.org/>

#### **CORE Charter School**

321 16th St., Marysville, CA 95901

Phone: 530-742-2786; Web: <https://www.corecharter.org/>

#### **Forest Charter School**

470 Searls Ave., Nevada City, CA 95959

Phone: 530-265-4823; Web: <http://www.forestcharter.com>

#### **Heritage Peak Charter School**

631 L Street Rio Linda, CA 95673

Phone: 866-992-9033

Web: <https://pacificcharters.org/about/schools/heritagepeakcharterschool/>

#### **Kairos Public Schools**

129 Elm Street, Vacaville, CA. 95688

Phone: 707-453-7234

Web: <https://www.kairospublicschools.org/>

#### **Marconi Learning Academy**

2444 Marconi Ave., Sacramento, CA 95821

Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: [www.marconilearning.org](http://www.marconilearning.org)

#### **Ocean Grove Charter School**

4535 Missouri Flat Road, Suite 1A, Placerville, CA 95677

Phone: 800-979-4436; Web: <http://www.ogcs.org/>

#### **Pathways Charter School**

150 Professional Center Drive, Suite C, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Phone: 707-585-6510; Web: <http://pathwayscharter.org/>

#### **South Sutter Charter School**

4535 Missouri Flat Road, Suite 1A, Placerville, CA 95677

Phone: 800-979-4436; Web: <http://www.sscs.cc/>



# APLUS+ Member Schools

## APLUS+ Personalized Learning Network Association Member Schools

(as of October 1, 2023)

### **Sutter Peak Charter Academy**

3934 Broadway, Live Oak, CA. 95953

Phone: 916-468-4044; Web: <https://www.sutterpeak.org/>

### **Twin Ridges Home Study Charter School**

111 New Mohawk Road, Nevada City, CA 95959

Phone: 530-478-1815; Web: <http://www.twinridgeshomestudy.org/>

### **Visions in Education Charter School**

5030 El Camino Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608

Phone: 916-883-1601

Web: <http://www.viedu.org/>

## **Central California Region**

### **Ambassador Phillip V. Sanchez II**

830 Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93706

Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: <https://ambsanchezcharter2.org/>

### **Carter G. Woodson Charter School**

1313 P Street, Suite 205; Fresno, CA. 93721

Phone: 559-486-1166; Web: <http://www.agapecorp.com/>

### **Connecting Waters Central Valley Charter School**

2000 West Briggsmore Avenue, Suite A; Modesto, CA 95350

Phone: 800-808-9895 -Ext. 9

Web: <http://www.cwcentralvalley.org/>

### **Connecting Waters Charter School**

12420 Bentley Street, Waterford, CA 95386

Phone: 209-874-1119; Web: <http://www.connectingwaters.org/>

### **Crescent Valley II**

116 East Main Street, Ste. 200, Visalia, CA 93291

Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: <https://crescentvalley2.org/>

### **Crescent View South II**

4348 West Shaw Ave., Ste. 5, Fresno, CA 93722

Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: <http://cvsouth2.org/>

### **Crescent View West**

1901 East Shields Ave., #R105, Fresno, CA 93726

Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: [www.cvwest.org](http://www.cvwest.org)

### **Endeavor Charter School**

777 West Shaw Ave. Fresno, CA 93704.

Phone: 559.248.0471; Fax. 559.248.0482;

Web: <https://www.endeavorcharter.org/>

### **Glacier High School Charter**

41267 Highway 41, Oakhurst, CA 93644

Phone: 559-642-1422; Web: <http://glacierhighcharter.org/>

### **Kings Valley Academy II**

312 West 7th Street, Hanford, CA 93230

Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: <http://kingsvalleycharter2.org/>

### **Mountain Home School Charter**

41267 Highway 41, Oakhurst, CA 93644

Phone: 559-642-1422

Web: <http://www.mountainhomecharter.org/>

### **Rio Valley Charter School**

1110 W. Kettleman Lane, Ste. 10, Lodi, California 95240

Phone: 866-992-9033

Web: <https://pacificcharters.org/about/schools/riovalleycharterschool/>

### **Sierra Charter School**

1931 N. Fine Ave., Fresno, CA 93727

Phone: 559-490-4290; Web: <http://www.sierracharter.org>

### **Valley View Charter Prep**

31400 S Koster Rd. Tracy, CA 95304

Phone: 209-941-3273

Web: <https://pacificcharters.org/schools/valleyviewcharterprep/>

### **W.E.B Dubois Charter School**

1313 P Street, Suite 205; Fresno, CA 93721

Phone: 559-486-1166; Web: <http://www.agapecorp.com/>

## **Central California Coast Region**

### **Family Partnership Charter School**

PO Box 490, Santa Maria, CA 93454

Phone: 805-348-3333; Web: <http://www.fpcharter.org/>

### **Golden Valley Charter School**

3585 Maple St., Ste. 101, Ventura, CA 93003

Phone: 805-642-3435; Web: <http://www.goldenvcs.org/>

### **Olive Grove Charter School—Buellton**

240 East Highway 246, Suite 100, Buellton, CA 93427

Phone: 805-695-5201

Web: <https://olivegrovecharter.org/locations/buellton/>

### **Olive Grove Charter School—Lompoc**

820 North H Street, Suites BCD, Lompoc, CA 93436

Phone: 805-757-5301

Web: <https://olivegrovecharter.org/locations/lompoc/>

### **Olive Grove Charter School—Orcutt-Santa Maria**

5075 Bradley Road, Suite 234, Orcutt, CA 93455

Phone: 805-623-1123

Web: <https://olivegrovecharter.org/locations/orcutt-santa-maria/>

# APLUS+ Member Schools

## APLUS+ Personalized Learning Network Association Member Schools

(as of October 1, 2023)

### **Olive Grove Charter School—Santa Barbara**

1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 1, Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Phone: 805-695-5231

Web: <https://olivegrovecharter.org/locations/santa-barbara/>

### **Peak Prep Pleasant Valley Charter School**

2150 Pickwick Drive #304, Camarillo, CA 93010

Phone: 855-900-PEAK; Web: <https://peak-prep.org/>

### **River Oaks Academy Charter School**

920 Hampshire Rd., Suite X, Westlake Village CA 91361

Phone: 805-777-7999; Web: [www.riveroakscharter.com](http://www.riveroakscharter.com)

### **Trivium Charter School**

1600 Berkeley Drive, Lompoc, CA 93436

Phone: 805-819-0892; Web: <http://www.triviumcharter.org/>

### **Trivium Charter School—Adventure**

1600 Berkeley Drive, Lompoc, CA 93436

Phone: 805-819-0892; Web: <http://www.triviumcharter.org/>

### **Trivium Charter School—Voyage**

1600 Berkeley Drive, Lompoc, CA 93436

Phone: 805-819-0892; Web: <http://www.triviumcharter.org/>

### **Vista Real Charter High School**

401 South A Street, Ste. 3, Oxnard, CA 93030

Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: [www.vrchs.org](http://www.vrchs.org)

## **Upper Southern California Region**

### **Alta Vista Innovation High School**

689 West 2nd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410

Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: [www.innovationaltavista.org](http://www.innovationaltavista.org)

### **Assurance Learning Academy**

14355 Roscoe Blvd., Panorama City, CA 91402

Phone: 818-452-4683; Web: [www.assurancelearning.org](http://www.assurancelearning.org)

### **AV Academy High School**

37212 47th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550

Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: [www.avahs.org](http://www.avahs.org)

### **Compass Charter Schools of Los Angeles**

850 Hampshire Rd., Suite P, Thousand Oaks, CA 91361

Phone: 855-937-4227; Web: <https://www.compasscharters.org/>

### **Desert Sands Charter High School**

44130 24th Street West, Lancaster, CA 93534

Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: [www.dschs.org](http://www.dschs.org)

### **Empower Generations**

44236 10th Street West, Lancaster, CA 93534

Phone: 661-429-3264; Web: <https://empowergenerations.org/>

### **Gorman Learning Center**

1826 Orange Tree Ln., Redlands, CA 92374

Phone: 909-307-6312; Web: <https://www.gormanlcen.org/>

### **Gorman Learning Center San Bernardino/Santa Clarita**

1826 Orange Tree Ln., Redlands, CA 92374

Phone: 909-307-6312; Web: <https://www.gormanlcen.org/>

### **iLead Hybrid Charter School**

28060 Hasley Canyon Road, Castaic, CA 91384

Phone: 661-618-2078; Web: <https://ileadschools.org/>

### **iLead Online Charter School**

3720 Sierra Hwy, Acton, CA 93510

Phone: 661-618-2078; Web: <https://ileadonline.org/>

### **Mission View Public Charter**

26334 Citrus Street, Valencia, CA 91355

Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: [www.missionview.org](http://www.missionview.org)

### **Sage Oak Charter School**

1473 Ford St Suite #105, Redlands, CA 92373

Phone: 888-435-4445; Web: <http://www.sageoak.education/>

### **Sage Oak Charter School—Keppel**

1473 Ford St Suite #105, Redlands, CA 92373

Phone: 888-435-4445; Web: <http://www.sageoak.education/>

### **Sky Mountain Charter School**

4535 Missouri Flat Road, Suite 1A, Placerville, CA 95677

Phone: 800-979-4436; Web: <http://skymountaincs.org/>





# APLUS+ Member Schools

## APLUS+ Personalized Learning Network Association Member Schools

(as of October 1, 2023)

### Lower Southern California Region

#### California Pacific Charter School

4101 Birch Street #150, Newport Beach, CA 92660  
Phone: 855-225-7227; Web: <http://www.cal-pacs.org/>

#### California Pacific Community Collaborative Charter School

4101 Birch Street #150, Newport Beach, CA 92660  
Phone: 855-225-7227; Web: <http://www.cal-pacs.org/>

#### Citrus Springs Charter School

27740 Jefferson Avenue, Temecula, CA 92590  
Phone: 951-252-8800; <https://www.springscs.org>

#### Compass Charter Schools of San Diego

850 Hampshire Rd., Suite P, Thousand Oaks, CA 91361  
Phone: 855-937-4227; Web: <https://www.compasscharters.org/>

#### Diego Hills Central Public Charter School

4348 54th St, San Diego, CA 92115  
Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: <https://dhcentralcharter.org/>

#### Diego Valley East Public Charter School

511 North 2nd Street, El Cajon, CA 92021  
Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: <http://diegovalleyeast.org/>

#### Empire Springs Charter School

27740 Jefferson Avenue, Temecula, CA 92590  
Phone: 951-252-8800; Web: <https://www.springscs.org>

#### Epic Charter School

100 South Anaheim Blvd. #150, Anaheim, CA 92805  
Phone: 657-220-1000; Web: <https://epiccalifornia.org/>

#### Excel Academy Charter School

1 Technology Drive, Ste. I-811, Irvine, CA 92618  
Phone: 949-387-7822  
Web: <https://www.excelacademy.education/>

#### Excel Academy Charter School East

1 Technology Drive, Ste. I-811, Irvine, CA 92618  
Phone: 949-387-7822  
Web: <https://www.excelacademy.education/>

#### Harbor Springs Charter School

27740 Jefferson Avenue, Temecula, CA 92590  
Phone: 951-252-8800; <https://www.springscs.org>

#### Motivated Youth (MY) Academy

100 East San Marcos Blvd., Ste 350, San Marcos, CA 92069-2989  
Phone: 619-535-2222; Web: <https://myacademy.org/>

#### Orange County Workforce Innovation High School

505 North Euclid St., 1st Floor, Anaheim, CA 92805  
Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: [www.innovationhigh.org](http://www.innovationhigh.org)

#### Pacific Springs Charter School

27740 Jefferson Avenue, Temecula, CA 92590  
Phone: 951-252-8800; Web: <https://www.springscs.org>

#### Pacific View Charter School

3670 Ocean Ranch Blvd, Oceanside, CA 92056  
Phone: 760-757-0161; Web: <https://pacificview.org/>

#### River Springs Charter School

27740 Jefferson Avenue, Temecula, CA 92590  
Phone: 951-252-8800; Web: <https://www.springscs.org>

#### Sage Oak South Charter School

1473 Ford St Suite #105, Redlands, CA 92373  
Phone: 888-435-4445; Web: <http://www.sageoak.education/>

#### San Diego Workforce Innovation High School

2 North Euclid Ave., Ste. A, National City, CA 91950  
Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: [www.innovationhigh.org](http://www.innovationhigh.org)

#### The Learning Choice Academy

9950 Scripps Lake Dr. #105, San Diego, CA 92131  
Phone: 619-463-6849; Web: <http://www.learningchoice.org/>

#### The Learning Choice Academy Chula Vista

881 Kuhn Dr. #200, Chula Vista, CA 91914  
Phone: 619-656-4220; Web: <http://www.learningchoice.org/>

#### The Learning Choice Academy East County

4215 Spring St., Suite 104, La Mesa, CA 91941  
Phone: 619-463-6801; Web: <http://www.learningchoice.org/>

#### Vista Springs Charter School

27740 Jefferson Avenue, Temecula, CA 92590  
Phone: 951-252-8800; Web: <https://www.springscs.org>



# Schedule-at-a-Glance

Monday, October 23rd	Times	Location
Registration	10:00 am—5:30 pm	Ballroom Foyer
Workshops I	12:30 pm—2:30 pm	See Schedule
Refresher Break	2:30 pm—3:00 pm	Ballroom Foyer & Gardenia Ballroom
Workshops II	3:00 pm—5:00 pm	See Schedule
APLUS+ Welcome Reception	5:15 pm—6:00 pm	Ballroom Foyer & Gardenia Ballroom
Monday DINNER ON YOUR OWN		

Tuesday, October 24th	Times	Location
Registration/Breakfast	7:00 am—9:00 am	Foyer
Spotlight Session	8:00 am—8:30 am	Magnolia Ballroom
APLUS+ Network Pioneer Awards	8:30 am—9:00 am	Magnolia Ballroom
Spotlight Session	9:30 am—10:45 am	Magnolia Ballroom
Breakout Sessions I	9:30 am—10:45 am	See Schedule
Spotlight Session	11:00 am—12:15 pm	Magnolia Ballroom
Breakout Sessions II	11:00 am—12:15 pm	See Schedule
LUNCH/Keynote Address	12:15 pm—1:45 pm	Magnolia Ballroom
Conference Exhibitor Networking	1:45 pm—2:30 pm	Foyer/Gardenia
Spotlight Session	2:45 pm—4:00 pm	Magnolia Ballroom
Breakout Sessions III	2:45 pm—4:00 pm	See Schedule
Spotlight Session	4:15 pm—5:30 pm	Magnolia Ballroom
Breakout Session IV	4:15 pm—5:30 pm	See Schedule
Tuesday Reception	5:30 pm—6:15 pm	Ballroom Foyer & Gardenia Ballroom

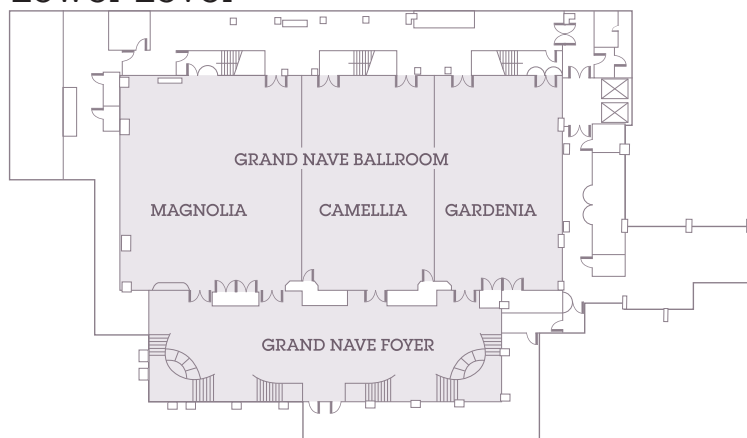


# Schedule-at-a-Glance

Wednesday, October 25th	Times	Location
Breakfast	7:00 am—8:15 am	Magnolia Ballroom
APLUS+ Conference 2023 Exhibitors	7:00 am—8:15 am	Foyer/Magnolia
Spotlight Session	8:30 am—9:45 am	Magnolia Ballroom
Breakout Sessions V	8:30 am—9:45 am	See Schedule
Spotlight Session	10:00 am—11:15 am	Magnolia Ballroom
Breakout Sessions VI	10:00 am—11:15 am	See Schedule
Farewell Reception/Drawing	11:30 am—12:00 pm	Magnolia Ballroom
Conference Ends	12:00 pm	

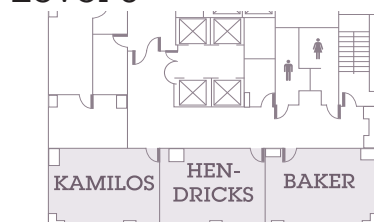
**Please complete your 2023 APLUS+ Network Conference evaluation forms prior to the end of the conference!**

Lower Level

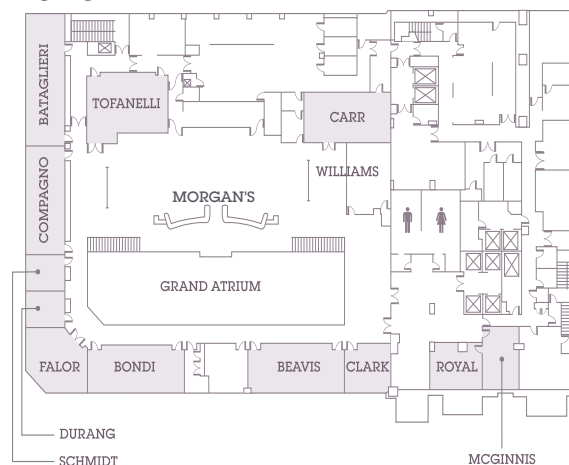


**Sheraton Grand  
Sacramento**  
HOTEL

Level 3



Level 2



Lobby Level

Public Market Bar  
Glide's Event Space

Level 4

Sheraton Fitness  
Swimming Pool  
Executive & Sales-Catering Office

# Schedule-at-a-Glance

**Monday Afternoon, October 23rd**

Best Practice Workshop Strands	Location	10:00 am-5:30 pm	12:30 pm-2:30 pm	2:30 pm-3:00 pm	3:00 pm-5:00 pm	5:15 pm-6:00 pm	6:00 pm-
<b>General Conference Events</b>	Magnolia & Camellia Ballroom  See Hotel Floor Map	Conference Registration-Ballroom Foyer	Workshops I	Afternoon Break Foyer/Gardenia	Workshops II	APLUS+ Conference Welcome Reception-	Dinner on Your Own
<b>Administrative Leadership</b>	Tofanelli		Distinguishing Myth from Fact: Meal Program Obligations for California's Personalized Learning Charter Schools		Keepin' It Real: A School Leader Roundtable Discussion		
<b>Data Assessment &amp; Achievement Strategies</b>	Compagno		Renewal Recipe: Stay Prepared to Present Verified Data		Conquer the CAASPP—Gamified		
<b>General Compliance</b>	Camellia Ballroom		Leveraging Credential Opportunities		Demystifying Funding Determination Submissions		
<b>Legal Compliance</b>	Magnolia Ballroom		Independent Study Compliance: Refresher & Updates		Managing the Most Common Issues Related to Transitioning Special Education Students into Independent Study		
<b>Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement</b>	Bataglieri		Big Hairy Audacious Goals For Student Success		Connection and Compassionate Curiosity: Personalized Learning Super Powers		
<b>Math Strategies for Student Achievement</b>	Bondi		Teaching Math With Card Games? Yes, You Can!		A Hands-On Geometric Approach to Middle School Math		
<b>Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students</b>	Beavis		Social, Emotional and Behavioral Consequences from COVID Isolation		Building a Solid eSports Program—You CAN do it!		
<b>Preferred Partner Deep Dive Training</b>	Falor		Mr. D Math Why Do Students Love It?		The Latest from School Pathways—Software for Personalized Learning Program Management		
<b>Preferred Partner Deep Dive Training</b>	Carr		Parsec Education Part 1: Creating a More Robust Data System		Parsec Education Part 2: Creating a More Robust Data System		



# Conference Workshops

**Monday Afternoon, October 23rd**

## **Workshops I: 12:30 pm-2:30 pm**

*Workshop descriptions in conference mobile app*

### **Administrative Leadership**

#### **Distinguishing Myth from Fact: Meal Program Obligations for California's Personalized Learning Charter Schools**

Monday, October 23: 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

Location: Tofanelli

Presenters: Holly Hungerford Cocking,  
Director of Nutrition Services, Springs Charter Schools;  
Ryan Gomes, Client Manager, School Food Solutions

### **Data Assessment & Achievement Strategies**

#### **Renewal Recipe: Stay Prepared to Present Verified Data**

Monday, October 23: 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

Location: Compagno

Presenters: Elizabeth Robitaille, Chief Schools Officer;  
California Charter Schools Association;  
Andrea Comer, Account Executive, NWEA;  
Nate Jensen, Vice-President of District Research, NWEA;  
Skyler Daviss, School Quality Support,  
California Charter Schools Association

### **General Compliance**

#### **Leveraging Credential Opportunities**

Monday, October 23: 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

Location: Camellia Ballroom

Presenter: Joy Springer, Executive Director—Educator Support;  
Ventura County Office of Education

### **Legal Compliance**

#### **Independent Study Compliance—Refresher & Updates**

Monday, October 23: 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

Location: Magnolia Ballroom

Presenter: Lisa Corr, Partner/Attorney-at-Law;  
Young, Minney & Corr, LLP

### **Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement**

#### **Big Hairy Audacious Goals for Student Success**

Monday, October 23: 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

Location: Bataglieri

Presenters: Kathleen Hermsmeyer, Superintendent; Springs Charter  
Schools; Heather Ferenc, Senior Director of Education;  
Springs Charter Schools

### **Math Strategies for Student Achievement**

#### **Teaching Math with Card Games? Yes, You Can!**

Monday, October 23: 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

Location: Bondi

Presenter: Teresa Foltin, School Liaison; Activities for Learning—  
RightStart Math

### **Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students**

#### **Social Emotional and Behavioral Consequences from COVID Isolation**

Monday, October 23: 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

Location: Beavis

Presenter: Dr. Emi Koga, Executive Director;  
Anchor Counseling & Education Solutions

### **Preferred Partner Deep Dive Trainings**

#### **Mr. D Math—Why Do Students Love It?**

Monday, October 23: 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

Location: Falor

Presenter: Dennis DiNoia, Mr. D; Mr. D Math

### **Parsec Education Part 1: Creating a More Robust Data System**

Monday, October 23: 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

Location: Carr

Presenters: Ryan Royer, Director of Partner Engagement;  
Parsec Education;  
Eugene Park, Co-Founder; Parsec Education

### **30 MINUTE REFRESHER BREAK**



# Conference Workshops

**Monday Afternoon, October 23rd**

## **Workshops II: 3:00 pm–5:00 pm**

*Workshop descriptions in conference mobile app*

### **Administrative Leadership**

#### **Keepin' It Real: A School Leader Roundtable Discussion**

Monday, October 23: 3:00 pm–5:00 pm

Location: Tofanelli

Presenters: Cynthia Rachel,  
Director of Communications and Development; IEM Schools;  
Denise Burchett, Former Executive Director;  
Gorman Learning Charter Network;  
Mary Cox, Executive Director; CORE Butte Charter School

### **Data Assessment & Achievement Strategies**

#### **Conquer the CAASPP—A Hands-On Workshop**

Monday, October 23: 3:00 pm–5:00 pm

Location: Compagno

Presenters: Dennis DiNoia, Mr. D; Mr. D Math;  
Melanie Wasko, C.O.O. & Schools Liaison; WriteAtHome

### **General Compliance**

#### **Demystifying Funding Determination Submissions**

Monday, October 23: 3:00 pm–5:00 pm

Location: Camellia Ballroom

Presenters: Jason Sitomer, Managing Director; Charter Impact;  
Jim Surmeian, Director of Client Finance; Charter Impact

### **Legal Compliance**

#### **Managing the Most Common Issues Related to Transitioning Special Education Students into Independent Study**

Monday, October 23: 3:00 pm–5:00 pm

Location: Magnolia Ballroom

Presenters: Lisa Corr, Partner/Attorney-at-Law;  
Young, Minney & Corr, LLP;  
Mariam Babayan, Senior Counsel/Attorney-at-Law;  
Young, Minney & Corr, LLP

### **Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement**

#### **Connection and Compassionate Curiosity: Personalized Learning Super-Powers**

Monday, October 23: 3:00 pm–5:00 pm

Location: Bataglieri

Presenters: Leina Ball, Coaching Teacher; River Oaks Academy;  
Sara McGuire, Coaching Teacher; River Oaks Academy

### **Math Strategies for Student Achievement**

#### **A Hands-On Geometric Approach to Middle School Math**

Monday, October 23: 3:00 pm–5:00 pm

Location: Bondi

Presenter: Teresa Foltin, School Liaison; Activities for Learning—  
RightStart Math

### **Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students**

#### **Building a Solid Esports Program—You CAN Do It!**

Monday, October 23: 3:00 pm–5:00 pm

Location: Beavis

Presenter: Diane Grotjohn, Accountability Administrator; Learn4Life

### **Preferred Partner Deep Dive Trainings**

#### **The Latest from School Pathways—Software for Personalized Learning Program Management**

Monday, October 23: 3:00 pm–5:00 pm

Location: Falor

Presenters: Oliver Wreford, CEO; School Pathways;  
Kacie Jester, Director of Customer Success; School Pathways

#### **Parsec Education Part 2: Creating a More Robust Data System**

Monday, October 23: 3:00 pm–5:00 pm

Location: Carr

Presenters: Ryan Royer, Director of Partner Engagement;  
Parsec Education;  
Eugene Park, Co-Founder; Parsec Education





# Welcome Reception

*Monday Evening, October 23rd, 5:15 pm - 6:00 pm*

## Welcome Reception

**Location: Ballroom Foyer and Gardenia Ballroom**

Join us for our APLUS+ Conference 2023 Welcome Reception.  
Enjoy networking with your friends and colleagues while sampling tasty hors d'oeuvres and beverages.



# Schedule-at-a-Glance

***Tuesday Morning, October 24th***

Best Practice Session Strands	Location	7:00 am-9:00 am	8:00 am-9:00 am	9:30 am-10:45 am	11:00 am-12:15 pm
General Conference Events  Breakout Sessions	Magnolia & Camellia Ballroom  See Hotel Floor Map	Registration  Breakfast  Exhibitor Networking		Breakout Sessions I	Breakout Sessions II
<b>SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS</b>	Magnolia Ballroom		State of the Personalized Learning Movement  APLUS+ Network Pioneer Awards	Leadership Forum Panel— Meet Your 2023 APLUS+ Network California Distinguished School Leaders	Policy Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities Going Into 2024
Administrative Leadership	Tofanelli			You've Got Spirit, YES You Do!	mo-men-tum- Strength or Force Gained By Motion, or by a Series of Events
Budget Planning	Carr			Tracking and Planning Your Way Off the Funding Cliff	Charter School Legislative Update & Review Of 2023-24 CA Budget
Human Resources	Falor			HR Administration for Personalized Learning Public Charter Schools	CalSTRS- My Retirement Benefits
Legal Compliance	Camellia Ballroom			Preparing for Charter Renewal	Are Your Student Policies & Notices Up to Date?
Universal Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement	Compagno			Designing & Implementing a Targeted Support Program to Maximize Student Achievement	Soft Skills, Cohesive Culture- A Discussion of Homeroom and the Aloha Spirit
Subject-Based Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement	Bataglieri			How to Teach Media Literacy That Works	Do Better With the Science of Reading
Preparing Students for Their Goals in Life	Bondi			Attendance! Engagement!	Goal Setting
Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students	Clark			Those Who Do the Work Do the Learning	Effective Strategies for Integrating Special Education Within the Flex Model
Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students	Beavis			TK Table Talks	Another Black Boy Lost
Preferred Partner Training Sessions	Williams Boardroom			The Oak Meadow Experience	Art of Problem Solving (AoPS): Challenging and Engaging Math



# Spotlight Session

*Magnolia Ballroom, 8:00 am – 8:30 am*

## The Current State of the Personalized Learning Movement: “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly”

### **PRESENTER**

***Jeff Rice, Founder/Director; APLUS+***



*Join APLUS+ Founder and Director, Jeff Rice, to kick off our Tuesday morning breakfast and premiere conference day for our annual light, medium, and heavy 35,000 ft. big picture introductory overview summary of the current state of our Flex-Based Personalized Learning movement in California. Jeff will highlight the key good, the bad and the ugly challenges, obstacles and opportunities that lie before us and loom ahead to help keep you in the loop with where we currently stand moving forward as cutting-edge, innovative pioneers in Flex-Based Personalized Learning.*

### **About Jeff Rice, Founder/Director; APLUS+**

Jeff Rice is the Founder and Director of the APLUS+ Personalized Learning Network Association, a statewide membership association whose mission is to advance the Flex-based, Personalized Learning education model and to support schools that provide a personalized education for their enrolled students. Now in its 22nd year, the APLUS+ network is comprised of more

than 90 Flex-Based Personalized Learning public charter schools that collectively serve more than 90,000 students in 56 of the 58 counties in California. Jeff has also been the longest standing member of the California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) member council, having served since 2004.

### **Takeaways**

- Learn about the big picture heading into the 23-24 school year, highlighting the good, the bad and the ugly of the current state facing our Flex-Based Personalized Learning movement.
- What you can do to take action to build support for your school community.

# Pioneer Awards

***Tuesday Morning, October 24th, 8:30 – 9:00 am***

## APLUS+ 2023 Pioneer Awards



Location: Magnolia Ballroom

APLUS+ is honored to recognize the following 2023 APLUS+ Pioneer Award winners for their outstanding contributions to the Personalized Learning model and movement. Congratulations!

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

#### CALIFORNIA 2023 DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS:

Circle of Independent Learning (COIL)

Connecting Waters East Bay

Excel Academy Helendale

Excel Academy Warner

Phoenix Charter Academy

River Oaks Academy

### CREDO ACHIEVEMENT GAP BUSTERS

iLEAD California

Springs Charter Schools

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Sherri Nelson

*Connecting Waters Charter Schools*

Stephanie Walton

*Circle of Independent Learning (COIL)*

### SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY

#### 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

William Finch Charter School

Charter #0634 | Established: July 1, 2004

20-year anniversary

The Learning Choice Academy

Charter #0659 | Established: September 7, 2004

20-year anniversary

### 25-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Pacific View Charter School

Charter #0247 | Established: September 7, 1999

25-year anniversary

Visions in Education

Charter #0248 | Established: July 1, 1999

25-year anniversary

Shasta Charter Academy

Charter #0256 | Established: August 18, 1999

25-year anniversary

W.E.B. DuBois Charter School

Charter #0270 | Established: January 18, 2000

25-year anniversary

Choices Charter School

Charter #0275 | Established: September 7, 1999

25-year anniversary

Gorman Learning Center Charter School

Charter #0285 | Established: February 9, 2000

25-year anniversary

### 30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mountain Home School Charter

Charter #0063 | Established: August 15, 1994

30-year anniversary

### LEGISLATIVE CHAMPIONS OF THE YEAR

Senator Roger Niello, Senate District 6

Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil, Senate District 4

# Breakout Sessions

***Tuesday Morning, October 24th***

## **Breakout Sessions I: 9:30 am-10:45 am**

*Session descriptions in conference mobile app*

### **Administrative Leadership**

#### **You've Got Spirit, YES You Do!**

Tuesday, October 24: 9:30 am-10:45 am

Location: Tofanelli

Presenters: Tammy Jackson, Senior Director, Individualized Learning Programs; Springs Charter Schools; 8 Homeschool Staff Team Members; Springs Charter Schools

### **Budget Planning**

#### **Tracking and Planning Your Way Off the Funding Cliff**

Tuesday, October 24: 9:30 am-10:45 am

Location: Carr

Presenters: Jason Sitomer, Managing Director; Charter Impact; Stacie Ivery, Chief Financial Officer; The Cottonwood School

### **Human Resources**

#### **HR Administration for Personalized Learning Public Charter Schools**

Tuesday, October 24: 9:30 am-10:45 am

Location: Falor

Presenters: Karla Ksan, Director, Human Resources Partner; CharterSAFE; Blair Reese, Senior Manager, Human Resources Partner; CharterSAFE

### **Legal Compliance**

#### **Preparing for Charter Renewal**

Tuesday, October 24: 9:30 am-10:45 am

Location: Camellia Ballroom

Presenter: Janelle Ruley, Partner/Attorney-at-Law; Young, Minney & Corr, LLP

### **Universal Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement**

#### **Designing & Implementing a Targeted Support Program to Maximize Student Achievement**

Tuesday, October 24: 9:30 am-10:45 am

Location: Compagno

Presenter: Chelsea Cook, Reading Teacher/Personalized Learning Teacher; CORE Butte Charter School

### **Subject-Based Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement**

#### **How to Teach Media Literacy That Works**

Tuesday, October 24: 9:30 am-10:45 am

Location: Bataglieri

Presenter: Nate Noorlander, Co-founder; The Nomadic Professor

### **Preparing Students for Their Goals in Life**

#### **Attendance! Engagement!**

Tuesday, October 24: 9:30 am-10:45 am

Location: Bondi

Presenter: Neil Peterson, Founder, Chairman and CEO; Edge Foundation

### **Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students**

#### **Those Who Do the Work Do the Learning**

Tuesday, October 24: 9:30 am-10:45 am

Location: Clark

Presenter: Kimberly Bennett, Instructional Technologist and Systems Specialist; Bridgeway Academy

### **TK Table Talks**

Tuesday, October 24: 9:30 am-10:45 am

Location: Beavis

Presenter: Heather Ferenc, Senior Director of Education; Springs Charter Schools

### **Preferred Partner Training Sessions**

#### **The Oak Meadow Experience**

Tuesday, October 24: 9:30 am-10:45 am

Location: Williams Boardroom

Presenter: DeeDee Hughes, Curriculum Director; Oak Meadow Independent Learning





# Spotlight Session

*Magnolia Ballroom, 9:30 am – 10:45 am*

## Leadership Forum Panel— Meet Your 2023 APLUS+ Network California Distinguished School Award Leaders

### MODERATOR

***Jeff Rice, Founder/Director; APLUS+***

### PANELISTS

***Teresa Abercrombie, Executive Director/Principal;  
Circle of Independent Learning (COIL)***

***Heidi Gasca, Executive Director; Excel Academy Charter Schools***

***Sherri Nelson, Executive Director/CEO; Connecting Waters Charter Schools***

***Claudia Weintraub, Executive Director; River Oaks Academy Charter School***

*Of the 356 public schools that were honored and recognized this year as 2023 California Distinguished Schools by the California Department of Education (CDE), six are APLUS+ network member schools. Join us this morning for this very engaging and interactive discussion with leaders from our 2023 APLUS+ network California Distinguished Schools. Find out what they are doing so successfully to earn the distinguished honor of being named among 356 top public schools in California this year.*

### Takeaways

- Meet your 2023 APLUS+ member California Distinguished School Award Winner leaders.
- Learn more about their schools and what they are doing so successfully to elevate them to distinguished school recognition in 2023.
- Find out some insider tips to take away to help your school get in the running for future recognition as a California Distinguished School.

# Spotlight Session

## Magnolia Ballroom, 9:30 am – 10:45 am

### ABOUT OUR PANELISTS

#### **Teresa Abercrombie**

*Executive Director/Principal  
Circle of Independent Charter School  
(COIL)*

After changing careers, Teresa embarked on her journey in education back in 2007, setting the stage for a dedicated career in the field. Over the years, she has taken on various roles within charter schools, gaining valuable experience and expertise.

Today, Teresa holds the role of Executive Director/Principal at the Circle of Independent Learning Charter School (COIL) in Fremont, California. COIL is a small school with 408 students, but it carries a strong legacy, recently celebrating over 25 years of operation. Teresa firmly believes that building trust and inspiring others are the primary responsibilities of effective leadership, whether in the workplace or elsewhere.

#### **Heidi Gasca**

*Executive Director  
Excel Academy Charter Schools*

Heidi Gasca started her career in education in 1997 in Irvine Unified School District. From there she worked in Capistrano Unified for eight years before moving to the charter world. Heidi has held a variety of roles in charter schools since 2010 and is now the Executive Director of Excel Academy Charter Schools authorized in San Diego and San Bernardino counties.

Excel Academy is a Flex-Based Personalized Learning charter school with 1,920 students and an incredibly dedicated staff. Heidi is a proud member of the APLUS+ Advisory Council and ACSA, region 18. She contributes much of her

professional development to an incredible network of Flex-Based charter leaders throughout California.

Heidi is passionate about the power of positive leadership and enjoys reading books by Jon Gordon and Simon Sinek. Her favorite quote this year is: "You will be exactly as happy as you decide to be." Heidi lives in Orange County close to the Excel Academy administrative office in Irvine. If you're ever by Irvine Spectrum stop on in!

#### **Sherri Nelson, M.Ed.**

*Executive Director/CEO  
Connecting Waters Charter Schools*

Sherri Nelson has been serving as the Executive Director of Connecting Waters Charter Schools since its inception in 2002. CWCS is a network of three schools that serves over 2,000 students in California. Mrs. Nelson has worked in education for over 28 years. Prior to working at Connecting Waters Charter Schools, she served as a teacher and worked in various capacities at various charter schools as a teacher and administrator.

Sherri earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering Computer Science from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master of Education in Leadership degree from California State, Stanislaus. She holds a California Clear Administrative Credential as well as a Clear Multiple Subject Teaching Credential.

Sherri is passionate about supporting parents and teachers in providing personalized education programs for students. Her own children were taught

through personalized learning. Her children are contributing, successful adults in the 21st century; Sherri knows first-hand that this type of education works! She has brought together a team of like-minded educators who share the vision and have been key in contributing to the success of Connecting Waters Charter Schools for the past 21 years.

#### **Claudia Weintraub**

*Executive Director  
River Oaks Academy Charter School*

After teaching at a comprehensive high school and University, Claudia started her work at a personalized learning charter school in 2007 as the school's Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator. During that time, she learned as much as possible about charter schools, measurement and curriculum and personalized learning. In 2010 Claudia was asked to build the homeschool program for two local charter schools. She built two successful programs that both had significant waiting lists.

In 2013 she joined River Oaks Academy Charter. In the last 10 years, she successfully renewed ROA's charter twice, received a 6-year WASC re-accreditation twice and received a \$600,000 career pathway grant. Claudia helped ROA establish a 2nd facility in Ventura County and has tripled ROA's student population. Three years ago, ROA started its own summer school program, which served over 550 students during the 2023 summer term. To serve and support ROA's staff better, ROA implemented a childcare co-op last year. Claudia considers it a privilege to work with ROA's dedicated, brilliant, and amazing staff.



*Teresa Abercrombie*



*Heidi Gasca*



*Sherri Nelson*



*Claudia Weintraub*

# Spotlight Session

*Magnolia Ballroom, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm*

## Policy Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities Going Into 2024

### PRESENTERS

***Lisa Yarbrough, PR Consultant; KP Public Affairs;***

***Diana Dang, PR Consultant; KP Public Affairs***

*A state budget deficit, new legislative leadership, and increased scrutiny on Personalized Learning public charter schools will be front and center in 2024. Learn how you can help guard against legislative challenges and maximize opportunities to educate policymakers about the benefits of flex-based learning. We'll also discuss how AI is transforming education and do a deep dive on how the different AI tools work – both to your advantage and disadvantage.*

### ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS

**Lisa Yarbrough, KP Public Affairs**  
*PR Consultant; KP Public Affairs*



Lisa Yarbrough has extensive experience in leading communications programs for corporate, nonprofit, and government clients throughout the state. She has provided strategic counsel, media relations, coalition building, and

grassroots outreach for education, water, public health, transportation, and municipal clients. Lisa provides public relations counsel, media relations, message development, and materials creation for APLUS+ to raise visibility of Personalized Learning and the need for flexible education. Previously, Lisa led an outreach effort involving public opinion polling, stakeholder outreach, and media relations for Sacramento-area transportation funding program. She

also crafted a communications strategy to launch a new cradle-to-career educational and economic development initiative in West Sacramento. Lisa graduated cum laude from the University of California Los Angeles and she is currently a board member of the Sacramento Children's Home.

**Diana Dang, KP Public Affairs**



***PR Consultant; KP Public Affairs***

Diana Dang is a PR consultant at KP Public Affairs and has a strong background in digital marketing communications and social media. Her extensive knowledge of digital and social

media strategies and creative tactics have been applied to local and statewide PR campaigns to drive brand awareness, increase reach and engagement, and educate

key audiences on legislative and regulatory issues. She has managed local and statewide campaigns for a variety of industry associations, businesses, nonprofits, and government entities such as the League of California Cities, Google, Donate Life, Association of Regional Center Agencies, among others.

Recent projects that Diana managed include designing print and digital ad campaigns for the state's 450 newspaper publishers as a part of a grassroots advocacy campaign to urge legislators to grant the industry a one-year exemption from AB 5. She also spearheaded an influencer marketing campaign on Instagram to promote a product line from Quest Diagnostics, which included targeted pitching, product test coordination, and social media postings. This program earned over 12k engagements and increased the brand's visibility to 55k+ followers. She also conducted social media audits to inform strategic program recommendations for local and statewide government entities including the City of Davis and League of California Cities.

### Takeaways

- Learn about key policy issues facing Personalized Learning, flex-based schools in 2024.
- Find out what it takes to be an effective advocate and why telling your story matters.
- Hear about the different AI tools, pros and cons of AI in education, and what to expect next year from a legislative and regulatory perspective.



# Breakout Sessions

***Tuesday Morning, October 24th***

## **Breakout Sessions II: 11:00 am-12:15 pm**

*Session descriptions in conference mobile app*

### **Administrative Leadership**

#### **Mo-men-tum—Strength or Force Gained by Motion, or by a Series of Events**

Tuesday, October 24: 11:00 am-12:15 pm

Location: Tofanelli

Presenters: Mary Cox, Executive Director/Superintendent;  
Bernadine Janke, Human Resources Officer; CORE Butte Charter School

### **Budget Planning**

#### **Charter School Legislative Update & Review of 2023-24 CA Budget**

Tuesday, October 24: 11:00 am-12:15 pm

Location: Carr

Presenters: John Helgeson, Senior Director Specialty Banking, Charter Schools; Banc of California;  
Branche Jones, Lobbyist and Political Consultant;  
The Branche Jones Lobbying Firm

### **Human Resources**

#### **CalSTRS—My Retirement Benefits**

Tuesday, October 24: 11:00 am-12:15 pm

Location: Falor

Presenter: Preston Jackson, Defined Contribution Manager;  
California Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS)

### **Legal Compliance**

#### **Are Your Student Policies & Notices Up to Date?**

Tuesday, October 24: 11:00 am-12:15 pm

Location: Camellia Ballroom

Presenter: Mariam Babayan, Senior Counsel/Attorney-at-Law;  
Young, Minney & Corr, LLP

### **Universal Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement**

#### **Soft Skills, Cohesive Culture— A Discussion of Homeroom and the Aloha Spirit**

Tuesday, October 24: 11:00 am-12:15 pm

Location: Compagno

Presenters: LaDawn Black, Personalized Learning Teacher,  
High School Spanish Teacher;  
Rowan Wilson, Personalized Learning Teacher,  
High School Science Teacher; CORE Butte Charter School

### **Subject-Based Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement**

#### **Do Better with the Science of Reading**

Tuesday, October 24: 11:00 am-12:15 pm

Location: Bataglieri

Presenters: Whitney Anderson, Homeschool Collaborative Teacher;  
Springs Charter Schools;  
Kathleen Hermsmeyer, Superintendent; Springs Charter Schools

### **Preparing Students for Their Goals in Life**

#### **Goal Setting**

Tuesday, October 24: 11:00 am-12:15 pm

Location: Bondi

Presenter: Dennis DiNoia, Mr. D; Mr. D Math

### **Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students**

#### **Effective Strategies for Integrating Special Education Within the Flex Model**

Tuesday, October 24: 11:00 am-12:15 pm

Location: Clark

Presenters: Kristin Browning-Patterson, Program Specialist;  
Kim Sullivan, Inclusion Specialist;  
Kim Cavallo, Inclusion Specialist; Gorman Learning Charter Network

### **Another Black Boy Lost**

Tuesday, October 24: 11:00 am-12:15 pm

Location: Beavis

Presenter: Ron Thomas, Associate Director of Equity and Student Engagement; Visions in Education

### **Preferred Partner Training Sessions**

#### **Art of Problem Solving (AoPS): Challenging and Engaging Math**

Tuesday, October 24: 11:00 am-12:15 pm

Location: Williams Boardroom

Presenter: Grayson Maas, VP of Sales; Art of Problem Solving



# Schedule-at-a-Glance

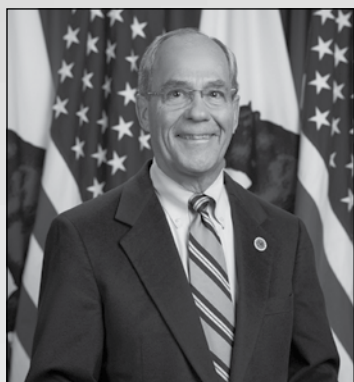
***Tuesday Afternoon, October 24th***

Best Practice Session Strands	Location	12:15 pm-1:45 pm	1:45 pm-2:30 pm	2:45 pm-4:00 pm	4:15 pm-5:30 pm	Tuesday Reception
General Conference Events  Breakout Sessions	Magnolia & Camellia Ballroom  See Hotel Floor Map	Lunch/Keynote Presentation	Exhibitor Networking-Foyer & Gardenia Ballroom	Breakout Sessions III	Breakout Sessions IV	Tuesday Reception 5:30 pm-6:15 pm Ballroom Foyer & Gardenia Ballroom
SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS	Magnolia Ballroom			Tell Your Students' Stories: Communications As Unique As Your School	Using Street Data To Measure What We Value	
Administrative Leadership	Tofanelli			Building Fiscally Savvy Board Members: Financial Presentation Key Indicators	Unlocking Potential: Mastering Performance-Based Evaluation and Pay	
Budget & Finance	Carr			Effective Charter School Cash Management in an Inflationary Environment	Timing is Everything: A Guide to Preparing for the Perfect Moment to Buy Your School	
Human Resources	Falor			Remote Employee HR Horror Stories—Lessons Learned!	Managing Employee Performance Issues & Leaves/Accommodation Requests in a Remote Work Environment	
Legal Compliance	Camellia Ballroom			Special Education Legal Decisions	Keeping Your Fingers On the Pulse of Labor and Employment Hot Topics	
Universal Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement	Compagno			We Can't Give Away What We Don't Have: Improving Student Performance Through Parent Education	Engaging New Parents Through the Use of a Charter School Introductory Course	
Subject-Based Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement	Bataglieri			Bringing History to Life for the YouTube Generation	Math—Does It Matter How You Teach?	
Preparing Students for Their Goals in Life	Bondi			Improving College and Career Outcomes Through Dual Enrollment: Considerations for Equity	CTE: Striking a Balance Between Failure and Success	
Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students	Clark			Taming the Circus of Tier 2 Intervention	ChatGPT Thinktank	
Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students	Beavis			When Courses, Academic Support and After School Align to Help the Whole Child Thrive	Navigating Change	
Preferred Partner Training Sessions	Williams Boardroom			Discover What Matters for Personalized Learning	Get to Know Bright Thinker	

# Lunch/Keynote Presentation

*Magnolia Ballroom, 12:15 pm – 1:45 pm*

## Stories From the Capitol with Special Guest Senator Roger Niello



*During the 2022-23 Legislative session, Senator Roger Niello and his team stepped up to be the APLUS+ Network's top legislative champion by authoring SB 426, our APLUS+ Network sponsored bill to change the longstanding misguided term "nonclassroom-based instruction" to "flex-based instruction" in charter school statute.*

*Senator Niello and his team fought diligently and passionately to move our bill through the challenging Senate process, succeeding in passing the bill through the Senate Education Committee (on 4/26!) and bypassing altogether the Senate Appropriations Committee. While the bill fell just a few votes short of reaching a majority on the Senate floor, our victory of raising greater awareness and understanding among the entire 40 member Senate roster of the many flex-based innovative models in the NCB sector was achieved!*

*Today, we honor and recognize Senator Niello as our top legislative champion of the year and our very special APLUS+ Conference 2023 guest of honor.*

### About Senator Roger Niello (R, Senate District 06)

Senator Roger Niello was elected to represent portions of South Placer, suburban Sacramento and Sutter and Yuba counties in the State Senate in 2022. He first began his career as a Certified Public Accountant and then joined his family business, the Niello Auto Group, running retail automobile dealerships. Senator Niello has previously served as a Sacramento County Supervisor and a

member of the California State Assembly. Following his time in the Assembly, he accepted the appointment as President and CEO of the Sacramento Metro Chamber.

In the State Senate, Senator Niello is the Vice Chair of the Budget and Fiscal Review, Banking and Financial Institutions, and Transportation Committees. He is a member of the Business, Professions, and Economic

Development, Insurance, Judiciary, Legislative Ethics, Joint Fairs Allocation and Classification, and Joint Legislative Budget Committees.

Throughout his career, Roger has been a dedicated community and civic volunteer serving in a number of capacities. He, and his wife, Mary, live in Fair Oaks.

## Personalized Learning

Our Personalized Learning model's success is rooted in choice, flexibility, adaptability, student-centered personalization, a diverse array of educational choices, and a strong collaborative partnership between students, parents, teachers, the school, and the greater community.



# Conference Exhibition

*Foyer & Gardenia Ballroom 1:45 pm – 2:30 pm*

## APLUS+ Conference Exhibitor Networking

APLUS+ is honored to welcome the following exhibitors to the 2023 APLUS+ Conference:  
In Alphabetical Order by Company Name (Exhibit Locations: F=Foyer; G= Gardenia Ballroom)

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**Anchor Counseling & Education Solutions (G26)**  
Phone: 949.622.5432; Email: [admin@anchorcounseling.solutions](mailto:admin@anchorcounseling.solutions);  
Web: <https://www.anchorcounseling.solutions/>;  
Instagram: @anchor\_counselingandeducation

**Art of Problem Solving (G16)**  
Phone: (619) 839-7541; Email: [sales@aops.com](mailto:sales@aops.com); Web: [www.aops.com](http://www.aops.com)

**Banc of California (F10)**  
**(AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**  
Phone: 626-372-4548; Email: [John.Helgeson@bancofcal.com](mailto:John.Helgeson@bancofcal.com)  
Web: [www.bancofcal.com/charterschools](http://www.bancofcal.com/charterschools)

**Blackbird & Company (G10)**  
Phone: 800-421-7096; Email: [takeflight@blackbirdandcompany.com](mailto:takeflight@blackbirdandcompany.com)  
Web: [www.blackbirdandcompany.com](http://www.blackbirdandcompany.com)

**BookShark (F9)**  
**(AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**  
Phone: 720-215-6064; Email: [msuter@bookshark.com](mailto:msuter@bookshark.com)  
Web: <https://www.bookshark.com/about/for-schools>

**Bright Thinker (F7)**  
**(AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**  
Coach Joe Marino  
P: 732.814.4641; E: [JMarino@BrightThinker.com](mailto:JMarino@BrightThinker.com);  
Web: [www.BrightThinker.com](http://www.BrightThinker.com)

**BYU Independent Study (G7)**  
Phone: 1-800-914-8931; Email: [trenton\\_mccall@byu.edu](mailto:trenton_mccall@byu.edu);  
Web: <https://is.byu.edu/>

**California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) Pension2 Program (G17)**  
**(A+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**  
Phone: 888-394-2060; Email: [Pension2@CalSTRS.com](mailto:Pension2@CalSTRS.com);  
Web: <https://www.calstrs.com/>

**Charter Impact (F5)**  
**(AAA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**  
Phone: 323-484-5070; Email: [info@charterimpact.com](mailto:info@charterimpact.com);  
Web: [www.charterimpact.com](http://www.charterimpact.com)

**Charter School Capital (F4)**  
**(AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**  
Ryan Eldridge  
Phone: (971) 269-6602; Email: [reldridge@charterschoolcapital.com](mailto:reldridge@charterschoolcapital.com)

**Cobalt Ed (G27)**  
Phone: (480) 225-0315 Email: [cole.richardson@cobalted.com](mailto:cole.richardson@cobalted.com)  
Web: <https://cobalted.com/>

**Delta Managed Solutions (DMS) (F12)**  
**(AAA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**  
Phone: 916-649-6461; Email: [info@charteradmin.com](mailto:info@charteradmin.com);  
Web: [www.charteradmin.com](http://www.charteradmin.com)

**Edge Foundation (G28)**  
Phone: 206-910-7515; Email: [npeterson@edgefoundation.org](mailto:npeterson@edgefoundation.org)  
Web: [www.edgefoundation.org](http://www.edgefoundation.org)

**Edovate Learning Corp. (G22/G23/G24/G25)**  
**Bridgeway Academy; Discover!; Elephango**  
**(A+ CONFERENCE SPONSORS)**  
Phone: (610) 266-9016; Email: [info@bridgewayacademy.com](mailto:info@bridgewayacademy.com);  
Web: <https://edovate.com/>; <https://homeschoolacademy.com/>;  
<https://discoverk12books.com/>; <https://elephango.com/>

**FlexPoint Education Cloud (G21)**  
**(A+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**  
Phone: 407-212-1866; Email: [mmurphy@flexpointeducation.com](mailto:mmurphy@flexpointeducation.com)  
Web: <https://www.flexpointeducation.com/>

**Gravity Assist (G2)**  
**(A+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**  
Phone: 310-343-1311; Email: [jay@gravityassist.us](mailto:jay@gravityassist.us);  
Web: <https://www.gravityassist.us/>

**Hiveclass (G11)**  
Phone: (516) 218-0156; Email: [info@hiveclass.co](mailto:info@hiveclass.co);  
Web: [www.hiveclass.co](http://www.hiveclass.co)

**History Unboxed (G14)**  
Phone: 607-862-6933; Email: [hello@historyunboxed.com](mailto:hello@historyunboxed.com)  
Web: [www.historyunboxed.com](http://www.historyunboxed.com)

# Conference Exhibition

*Foyer & Gardenia Ballroom, 1:45 pm – 2:30 pm*

## APLUS+ Conference Exhibitor Networking

APLUS+ is honored to welcome the following exhibitors to the 2023 APLUS+ Conference:  
In Alphabetical Order by Company Name (Exhibit Locations: F=Foyer; G= Gardenia Ballroom)

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### **Homeschool In A Box Inc. (G20)**

#### **(A+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**

Phone: 559-905-7480; Email: [info@homeschoolinabox.com](mailto:info@homeschoolinabox.com);

Web: <https://www.homeschoolinabox.com/>

### **Home Science Tools (F8)**

#### **(AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**

Phone: 406-867-5131; Email: [Scott@homesciencetools.com](mailto:Scott@homesciencetools.com)

Web: <https://www.homesciencetools.com/schools-organizations>

### **Mr. D Math (F1)**

#### **(AAA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**

Dennis DiNoia, M.A.Ed;

Phone: 941-237-0448; Email: [dennis@mrddmath.com](mailto:dennis@mrddmath.com);

Web: <https://mrddmath.com/>

Podcast: <https://aplusparents.com/>

### **Moving Beyond the Page (G3/G4)**

#### **(A+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**

Phone: (979) 314-9938; Email: [orders@movingbeyondthepage.com](mailto:orders@movingbeyondthepage.com)

Web: [www.movingbeyondthepage.com](http://www.movingbeyondthepage.com)

### **Oak Meadow (G18/G19) (A+ SPONSOR)**

Phone: (802) 251-7250; Email: [schoolliaison@oakmeadow.com](mailto:schoolliaison@oakmeadow.com);

Web: <https://www.oakmeadow.com>

### **Online Purchasing System (OPS) (G15)**

Phone: 951-259-0716, Email: [joe@opslr.com](mailto:joe@opslr.com), Web: [www.opslr.com](http://www.opslr.com)

### **Parsec Education (F3)**

#### **(AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**

Phone: 559-235-9602; Email: [ryan@parseceducation.com](mailto:ryan@parseceducation.com);

Web: <https://www.parseceducation.com/>

### **Partners In Special Education (G8)**

Phone: 661-965-8459; Email: [cmisapel@partnersped.com](mailto:cmisapel@partnersped.com);

Website: <https://partnersped.com/>

### **R&B Communications (G13)**

Phone: (530) 478-1137; Email: [jacobg@rb-com.com](mailto:jacobg@rb-com.com)

Web: <https://rb-com.com> and <https://rb-schools.com>

### **RightStart Mathematics (G9)**

#### **(A+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**

RightStart™ Mathematics

Phone: 888-775-6284; Email: [Info@RightStartMath.com](mailto:Info@RightStartMath.com);

Web: [RightStartMath.com](http://RightStartMath.com)

### **School Food Solutions (G5)**

Phone: 707-628-4965; Email: [ryan@schoolfoodsolutions.org](mailto:ryan@schoolfoodsolutions.org);

Web: <https://www.schoolfoodsolutions.org/>

### **School Pathways (F6)**

#### **(AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**

[hello@schoolpathways.com](mailto:hello@schoolpathways.com) 866-200-6936 and

<https://schoolpathways.com/>

### **Software MSP (G1)**

#### **(AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**

Phone: 949-704-2206; Email: [info@softmsp.com](mailto:info@softmsp.com);

Web: <https://softmsp.com/>

### **The Nomadic Professor (G6)**

#### **(A+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**

Phone: 986-213-4822; Email: [nn@nomadicprofessor.com](mailto:nn@nomadicprofessor.com);

Web: [nomadicprofessor.com](http://nomadicprofessor.com)

### **TomoClub: Game based SEL Curriculum (G29)**

Phone: 650-547-8082; Email: [avinash@tomoclub.org](mailto:avinash@tomoclub.org);

Web: <https://www.tomoclub.org/>

### **Total Education Solutions (TES) (G12)**

Phone: 323-341-5580; Email: [mdonahue@tesidea.com](mailto:mdonahue@tesidea.com);

Web: <http://www.tesidea.com/>

### **WriteAtHome (F2)**

#### **(AAA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**

Phone: 757.749.6000 ext. 2; Email: [schools@writeathome.com](mailto:schools@writeathome.com);

Web: [WriteAtHome.com](http://WriteAtHome.com)

### **Young, Minney & Corr, LLP (F11)**

#### **(AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)**

Phone: 916.646.1400; Email: [info@ymclegal.com](mailto:info@ymclegal.com)

Web: [ymclegal.com](http://ymclegal.com)

# Spotlight Session

*Magnolia Ballroom, 2:45 pm – 4:00 pm*

## Tell Your Students' Stories: Communications As Unique As Your School

### PANELISTS

**Peter Faragia**, CEO; Lifelong Learning (LLAC)

**Bob Morales**, Chief External Affairs Officer; Lifelong Learning (LLAC)

**Ann Abajian**, Vice-President of Communication; Lifelong Learning (LLAC)

**Robert Berry**, Vice-President of Marketing; Lifelong Learning (LLAC)

**Greg Burnias**, Director—Office of the CEO; Lifelong Learning (LLAC)

**Will Thornhill**, Director of Community Outreach and Partnership; Lifelong Learning (LLAC)

*Telling the stories of your students is one of the best ways to break through the clutter in press coverage, social media and advertising. Storytelling gives real-life examples of how your school is changing lives and enables you to build strong community relationships and advocacy. Strategic messaging, both internally and externally, gets the word out so families can select an education model that works best for their children. And, positive messages about personalized learning education models will reach lawmakers and school policymakers, too. Just as your schools understand the need to educate students in a setting that best fits them, we understand that communications do not look the same for every school. Join us for a panel discussing communication tools to differentiate your school, attract students and build support in the community.*

### Takeaways

- How to differentiate your school from others.
- How to inspire families to choose your school.
- How powerful communications can change the outlook of education in California.
- Ways to create stronger bonds in the community.



# Spotlight Session

**Magnolia Ballroom, 2:45 pm – 4:00 pm**

## ABOUT OUR PANELISTS

### **Pete Faragia, CEO**

As CEO of Lifelong Learning, Pete Faragia leads all aspects of business operations and divisions: finance, education, IT, communications, marketing, public relations, leadership development, innovation, business affairs, legal, strategic planning and management.

He manages and supports multiple division heads through evaluation, coaching and mentoring to ensure the delivery of high-quality support services and products to staff, students, parents and community members for Lifelong Learning's nationwide network of client schools. A servant leader, he has proven success in building organizational culture, decision-making, staff development, community partnerships, financial management and board relations.

### **Bob Morales, Chief External Affairs Officer**

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure." — Colin Powell

As Chief External Affairs Officer, Morales oversees Lifelong Learning's federal, state and local government affairs efforts and manages the community relations consultants.

Prior to joining Lifelong Learning, Morales was a founding partner of DePinto Morals Communications, Inc. (DMCI), a firm specializing in corporate communications, public affairs, brand and consumer marketing, and ethnic/community marketing and outreach. His deep knowledge and sensitivity to Latino and other diverse communities and cultures has enabled Bob to design and implement issues and communications campaigns to inform, educate and inspire Californians of diverse backgrounds.

### **Ann Abajian, Vice-President of Communications**

Ann Abajian is a seasoned public relations executive with more than 30 years of experience in the education, nonprofit, business, financial and corporate communications space. As the VP of Communications for the education service organization Lifelong Learning, Ann applies her specialty in strategic messaging, media relations, community outreach and crisis management for the benefit of the organization and the network of schools it supports nationwide.

She fosters collaboration and ensures alignment among Lifelong Learning's internal and external communications, resulting in optimized productivity and brand consistency. Her expertise in the development and safeguarding of key messaging, she has helped to raise awareness and understanding of Learn4Life and Flex High Schools's unique personalized learning model and successful approach to serving at-risk students. Ann enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends, finding new adventures and keeping fit.

### **Robert Berry, Vice President of Marketing**

Robert Berry is the Vice President of Marketing at Lifelong Learning. He brings more than 22 years of dedicated experience in the education sector, specializing in supporting personalized learning charter schools. Robert has a wealth of expertise and a deep commitment to advancing flexible educational opportunities for students across the country. As Vice President of Marketing, he continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of education and empowering students to reach their full potential.

Throughout his career, Robert has been a tireless supporter of personalized learning charter schools, recognizing their unique role in providing innovative and tailored educational experiences. His extensive experience includes developing and executing comprehensive marketing strategies that have significantly contributed to the growth and success of the schools in the Lifelong Learning portfolio.

### **Greg Burnias, Director, Office of the CEO**

Greg Burnias serves as director in the Office of the CEO at Lifelong Learning where he plays a pivotal role in fostering collaboration among C-Suite executives across all divisions. With a passion for education that spans his entire career, Burnias has marked his journey with a commitment to the growth and achievements of students, parents and the organization.

His career began as a teacher, which instilled in him a deep appreciation for the transformative power of education. He then served as director of Enrollment and Community Partnerships at a private school, where his dedication and innovative approach led to a consistent increase in enrollment year over year. With 17 years' experience in both private and public education sectors, Burnias brings a wealth of expertise to his role at Lifelong Learning. He continues to invest in the future of education, offer insights into effective strategies or engaging stakeholders, and utilize his experience and academic background to lead and oversee initiatives that empower individuals and transform organizations.

### **Will Thornhill, Director of Community Outreach and Partnership**

Will Thornhill serves as the Director of Community Outreach and Partnership for Lifelong Learning, where he is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of partnerships. During his 5 years with the organization his team helped to develop more than 400 partnerships, including 50 federally funded WIOA Partners.

Thornhill's work focuses on supporting Learn4Life Schools to become integral and valued members of their respective communities. His team works closely with community liaisons across the Learn4Life network to develop strategies aimed at building robust relationships with like-minded organizations that can offer direct services to Learn4Life schools and their students.



*Pete Faragia*



*Bob Morales*



*Ann Abajian*



*Robert Berry*



*Greg Burnias*



*Will Thornhill*

# Breakout Sessions

**Tuesday Afternoon, October 24th**

## Breakout Sessions III: 2:45 pm-4:00 pm

*Session descriptions in conference mobile app*

### **Administrative Leadership**

#### **Building Fiscally Savvy Board Members: Financial Presentation Key Indicators**

Tuesday, October 24: 2:45 pm-4:00 pm

Location: Tofanelli

Presenters: Jason Sitomer, Managing Director; Charter Impact;  
Shannon Green, Director of Fiscal Services;  
California Pacific Charter Schools (CAL-PACS)

### **Budget & Finance**

#### **Effective Charter School Cash Management in an Inflationary Environment**

Tuesday, October 24: 2:45 pm-4:00 pm

Location: Carr

Presenter: John Helgeson, Senior Director Specialty Banking,  
Charter Schools; Banc of California

### **Human Resources**

#### **Remote Employee HR Horror Stories— Lessons Learned!**

Tuesday, October 24: 2:45 pm-4:00 pm

Location: Falor

Presenters: Karla Ksan, Director, Human Resources Partner;  
CharterSAFE;  
Blair Reese, Senior Manager, Human Resources Partner; CharterSAFE

### **Legal Compliance**

#### **Special Education Legal Decisions**

Tuesday, October 24: 2:45 pm-4:00 pm

Location: Camellia Ballroom

Presenter: Lisa Corr, Partner/Attorney-at-Law;  
Young, Minney & Corr, LLP

### **Universal Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement**

#### **We Can't Give Away What We Don't Have: Improving Student Performance Through Parent Education**

Tuesday, October 24: 2:45 pm-4:00 pm

Location: Compagno

Presenters: Michelle Sullivan, Homeschool Educational Specialist and  
Parent Certification Coordinator;  
Kim Hein, Homeschool Educational Specialist and  
Unique Learning Coordinator; Springs Charter Schools

### **Subject-Based Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement**

#### **Bringing History to Life for the YouTube Generation**

Tuesday, October 24: 2:45 pm-4:00 pm

Location: Bataglieri

Presenter: Nate Noorlander, Co-founder; The Nomadic Professor

### **Preparing Students for Their Goals in Life**

#### **Improving College and Career Outcomes Through Dual Enrollment: Considerations for Equity**

Tuesday, October 24: 2:45 pm-4:00 pm

Location: Bondi

Presenter: Alana Althaus-Cressman, School Coordinator;  
Golden Eagle Charter School

### **Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students**

#### **Taming the Circus of Tier 2 Intervention**

Tuesday, October 24: 2:45 pm-4:00 pm

Location: Clark

Presenters: April Saade, Elementary Principal;  
Excel Academy Charter School;  
Tamara Murphy, Intervention Coordinator; Excel Academy Charter School

#### **When Courses, Academic Support, and After-School Align to Help the Whole Child Thrive**

Tuesday, October 24: 2:45 pm-4:00 pm

Location: Beavis

Presenters: Jay Mitsch, Gravity Assist Global Education Founder;  
Patrick Dyer, Gravity Assist Global Education Program Director;  
Gravity Assist Global Education (GAGE);  
Irene Hsieh, Peak Prep Instructional Administrator and Teacher;  
Peak Prep TK-12 Public School

### **Preferred Partner Training Sessions**

#### **Discover What Matters for Personalized Learning**

Tuesday, October 24: 2:45 pm-4:00 pm

Location: Williams Boardroom

Presenter: Melanie Pierson, Bridgeway Admissions Manager;  
Bridgeway Academy

# Spotlight Session

*Magnolia Ballroom, 4:15 pm – 5:30 pm*

## Using Street Data to Measure What We Value

### **PRESENTER**

***Babatunde Ilori, Co-Owner & CEO, Parsec Education***



*Across school systems nationwide, substantial investments have been made in collecting and interpreting academic, attendance, and discipline data. This effort has been pivotal in driving instructional enhancement and acknowledging accomplishments. Yet, there remains a glaring gap: the underinvestment in the collection of “Street Data.” Unlike conventional datasets, Street Data is rooted in the grassroots, capturing the raw, unfiltered pulse of our school communities. This data emerges from intentional listening, keen observations, and the authentic lived experiences of students, parents, educators, and community members.*

*We will explore effective methods to gather and analyze Street Data, with the ultimate goal of building deep relational capital. By leveraging this invaluable information, participants will be equipped to foster genuine trust, initiate meaningful dialogues, and complete holistic, authentic cycles of review, ensuring that every voice becomes an integral component of our collective journey toward educational excellence.*

### **About Babatunde Ilori**

Babatunde Ilori is Co-Owner and CEO of Parsec Education. Prior to this Babatunde was the Executive Director of Accountability and Communications for Madera Unified. His department oversaw the district's research, data systems, and communications. Babatunde has extensive experience in developing and updating the Local Control Accountability Plan. Madera Unified was awarded the local engagement exemplar prize for parent engagement across the state. Additionally, Babatunde's department recently received statewide recognition from the California

Public Relations Association for the communication efforts in special events, tactics, and media relations.

In April of 2022, Babatunde received the Public Health Champion of the Year award. Of particular interest to Babatunde is the intersection of data, district/school improvement efforts, and student voice. Babatunde's focus is on gathering data at the ground level through deep listening, observations, and lived experiences of students, parents, staff, and other people who are a part of the school community.

## Takeaways

- **Unlocking the Potential of Street Data:** Understand how ground-level insights can complement and enhance the information gained from traditional academic, attendance, and discipline metrics.
- **Strategizing for Your Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP):** Acquire actionable methods to seamlessly integrate Street Data into your LCAP, revealing game-changing insights that propel your continuous improvement initiatives.
- **Methodologies Behind Street Data Gathering:** Delve into the techniques of deep listening and observations and grasp how they lead to a profound understanding of the lived experiences of students, parents, and staff.
- **Amplifying the Voices in Your School Community:** Grasp the significance of community feedback and discover how prioritizing Street Data can help your institution truly resonate with and address the needs of those you serve.



# Breakout Sessions

**Tuesday Afternoon, October 24th**

## Breakout Sessions IV: 4:15 pm-5:30 pm

*Session descriptions in conference mobile app*

### **Administrative Leadership**

#### **Unlocking Potential: Mastering Performance-Based Evaluation and Pay**

Tuesday, October 24: 4:15 pm-5:30 pm

Location: Tofanelli

Presenter: Trisha Vais, Executive Director;

Trivium Charter School Network

### **Budget & Finance**

#### **Timing is Everything: A Guide to Preparing for the Perfect Moment to Buy Your School**

Tuesday, October 24: 4:15 pm-5:30 pm

Location: Carr

Presenter: Ryan Eldridge, Senior New Business Specialist;

Charter School Capital

### **Human Resources**

#### **Managing Employee Performance Issues & Leaves/Accommodation Requests in a Remote Work Environment**

Tuesday, October 24: 4:15 pm-5:30 pm

Location: Falor

Presenters: Karla Ksan, Director, Human Resources Partner;

CharterSAFE;

Blair Reese, Senior Manager, Human Resources Partner; CharterSAFE

### **Legal Compliance**

#### **Keeping Your Fingers on the Pulse of Labor and Employment Hot Topics**

Tuesday, October 24: 4:15 pm-5:30 pm

Location: Camellia Ballroom

Presenters: Chastin Pierman, Partner/Attorney-at-Law;

Young, Minney & Corr, LLP;

Anthony Serraro, Senior Counsel/Attorney-at-Law;

Young, Minney & Corr, LLP;

### **Universal Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement**

#### **Engaging New Parents Through the Use of a Charter School Introductory Course**

Tuesday, October 24: 4:15 pm-5:30 pm

Location: Compagno

Presenter: Kelly Harrel, Educational Specialist; Springs Charter Schools

### **Subject-Based Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement**

#### **Math—Does it Matter How You Teach?**

Tuesday, October 24: 4:15 pm-5:30 pm

Location: Bataglieri

Presenter: Teresa Foltin, School Liaison; Activities for Learning—

RightStart Math

### **Preparing Students for Their Goals in Life**

#### **CTE: Striking a Balance Between Failure and Success**

Tuesday, October 24: 4:15 pm-5:30 pm

Location: Bondi

Presenters: Julia Knight, Executive Director; Northern Summit Academy;

Melisa Armstrong, CTE Coordinator/Instructor;

Northern Summit Academy

### **Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students**

#### **ChatGPT Thinktank**

Tuesday, October 24: 4:15 pm-5:30 pm

Location: Clark

Presenters: Shirley Jones, Principal of Journey High School;

Springs Charter Schools;

Jackie Dee, Principal of Venture Online Program; Springs Charter Schools

Kathleen Hermismeyer, Superintendent; Springs Charter Schools

### **Navigating Change**

Tuesday, October 24: 4:15 pm-5:30 pm

Location: Beavis

Presenters: Bree Evans, Intermediate Director;

CORE Butte Charter School;

Mary Cox, Executive Director; CORE Butte Charter School

### **Preferred Partner Training Sessions**

#### **Get to Know Bright Thinker**

Tuesday, October 24: 4:15 pm-5:30 pm

Location: Williams Boardroom

Presenter: Coach Joe Marino, Educational Consultant; Bright Thinker



# APLUS+ Signature Reception

*Tuesday Evening, October 24th, 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm*

## Evening Reception

**Location: Ballroom Foyer and Gardenia Ballroom**

Join us for our APLUS+ Conference 2023 Tuesday night signature reception. Enjoy networking with your friends and colleagues while sampling tasty hors d'oeuvres and beverages.



# Schedule-at-a-Glance

**Wednesday Morning, October 25th**

Best Practice Session Strands	Location	7:00 am-8:15 am	8:30 am-9:45 am	10:00 am-11:15 am	11:30 am-12:00 pm
General Conference Events Breakout Sessions	Magnolia & Camellia Ballroom  See Hotel Floor Map	Breakfast-Exhibitor Networking-	Breakout Sessions V	Breakout Sessions VI	Farewell Reception & Prize Drawing—Magnolia/Camellia Ballroom
SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS	Magnolia Ballroom		A Chat With Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil	Mastering Communication and Life Skills: Helping Schools Create Educational Podcast Programs	
Administrative Leadership	Tofanelli		The Burnt Out Educator-How to Use Ed Tech to Have a Work Life Balance!!	Updates From CDE	
Advocacy	Beavis		Enrollment Marketing 101—Kids to Fill Your School	The Power of Your Voice: Influencing State Elected Representatives On Charter School Policies	
Budget & Finance	Carr		SB740 Funding Determination Processes and Procedures	Open	
Human Resources	Falor		Why Are Salary Schedules, Calendars, and Job Descriptions Important for Retirement Reporting?	CalSTRS-Start Saving Now	
Universal Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement	Compagno		TEACH—Creating Independently Responsible Learners	Ideas Are Genius	
Subject-Based Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement	Bondi		Math H.E.L.P. Hope in Educating Your Students With Learning Problems	Journal Writing Without Tears	
Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students	Camellia Ballroom		Effective Student-Driven Implementation of Accommodations and Modifications in the Homeschool Setting	Before the SST	
Technology	Bataglieri		Unleashing Personalized Learning Digitally	Unlocking the Potential: Enhancing Personalized Learning With ChatGPT	
Preferred Partner Training Sessions	Clark		How to Improve Productivity With Workflow Automation	Mr. D Math-Why Do Students Love It?	
Preferred Partner Training Sessions	Williams Boardroom		Bridging Futures: Empowering Personalized Education	Introducing The Nomadic Professor	



# Spotlight Session

*Magnolia Ballroom, 8:30 am – 9:45 am*

## A Chat with Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil on the Current Legislative Climate

**FACILITATOR** *Jeff Rice, Founder/Director, APLUS+*

**SPECIAL GUEST** *Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil (D, Senate District 04)*



Many APLUS+ members were first introduced to now Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil during last year's APLUS+ Conference 2022 in San Diego while she was in the final weeks of her first campaign running for California State Senator to represent District 4. Since that time, Senator Alvarado-Gil not only won her

election, but hit the ground running in her first year in office as a true charter school and school choice champion!

Among her many heroic accomplishments during her first year in office, Senator Alvarado-Gil authored SB 739 to support the charter school movement's top advocacy priority to extend all charter school renewals by one full year. The bill passed the Senate floor by an overwhelming 28-0 vote. Thereafter, her support culminated in the Governor including the one-year charter renewal extension in his budget trailer bill this past summer, thereby avoiding what would likely have been a very contentious battle once the bill ventured over to the Assembly side.

In addition, Senator Alvarado-Gil signed on as co-author of the APLUS+ sponsored bill, SB 426 (Senator Niello), that sought to change the misleading term nonclassroom-based instruction to flex-based instruction, making our bill truly bi-partisan. Senator Alvarado-Gil spoke and campaigned passionately in support of our bill as it progressed through the Senate. While our bill fell just a few votes short of passing the Senate floor, Senator Alvarado-Gil's strong support helped to elevate greater awareness and understanding among her Senate colleagues that the term nonclassroom-based instruction was a misnomer, and that the so-called nonclassroom-based sector was achieving great results through innovative, flexible, and personalized instruction delivery.

Today we honor and recognize Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil as our second legislative champion of the year and our very special guest of honor. Come join Senator Alvarado-Gil and APLUS+ Founder/Director Jeff Rice for a discussion of her experiences as a first-year Senator, what we may look forward to next year, and how APLUS+ member school representatives can build greater support in the Legislature for their flex-based Personalized Learning model moving forward.

### About Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil (D, Senate District 04)

California State Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil was elected in 2022 and represents the counties of Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Inyo, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Stanislaus and Tuolumne as an independent leader in the Legislature.

Senator Alvarado-Gil is the Chair of the Senate Human Services Committee and serves on several committees including; Agriculture, Business & Professionals, Government Organization, Insurance, Military & Veterans, and is the Senate liaison to the California Department of Education's Advisory Commission on Special Education. In addition, she is the vice-chair of the Rural Caucus and active in the Problem Solvers Caucus; both common-sense coalitions for bipartisan and bicameral policymaking.

Marie is a native Californian whose fondest memories of her childhood were spent in the classroom and summers

visiting with her extended family in Mexico. Growing up on farmland in the Bay Area, she played in rows of apricot and cherry tree orchards behind her childhood home before learning to shuck corn and grind masa at her grandmother's tortilla factory in Jalisco as a teenager. Marie was the first female to go to college in her family. She attended UC Davis to study Animal Science before pivoting from her education to raise three amazing children as a single parent in rural northern California. While building a promising career in both the public and nonprofit sectors, Marie returned to college mid-career earning both a Bachelor and Master Degree in Public Administration with emphasis in Health Services Administration from the University of San Francisco.

Marie has a professional background in charter school growth and administration, community organizing and ad-

vocacy, and coalition building. She has dedicated her life to public service leadership while balancing the demands of a growing family and an executive career woman. Policy issues that she has led in the Senate include resource equity for rural communities, wildfire relief for homeowners insurance and protections of farms and water rights across the central valley. The Senator's tough stance on crime and fiscally conservative voice of the supermajority has earned her the title of The Western Blue Dog.

Marie lives in Amador County among the forested mountains of the Sierra Foothills. She and her husband Cesar are owners and principals at STUDIS Partners, an education consulting firm that represents charter schools and other public school institutions throughout the United States and Central America.

# Breakout Sessions

**Wednesday Morning, October 25th**

## Breakout Sessions V: 8:30 am-9:45 am

*Session descriptions in conference mobile app*

### Administrative Leadership

#### **The Burnt-Out Educator— How to Use Ed Tech to Have a Work Life Balance!!**

Wednesday, October 25: 8:30 am-9:45 am

Location: Tofanelli

Presenter: Coach Joe Marino, Educational Consultant; Bright Thinker

### Advocacy

#### **Enrollment Marketing 101—Kids to Fill Your School**

Wednesday, October 25: 8:30 am-9:45 am

Location: Beavis

Presenters: Ryan Eldridge, Senior New Business Specialist;

Charter School Capital

Ashley MacQuarrie, Senior Director of Enrollment Marketing;

Charter School Capital

### Budget & Finance

#### **SB 740 Funding Determination Processes & Procedures**

Wednesday, October 25: 8:30 am-9:45 am

Location: Carr

Presenters: Joanne Fountain, CEO; Delta Managed Solutions, Inc;

Debbie Howard, Finance Director; Delta Managed Solutions, Inc.

### Human Resources

#### **Why Are Salary Schedules, Calendars, and Job Descriptions Important for Retirement Reporting?**

Wednesday, October 25: 8:30 am-9:45 am

Location: Falor

Presenters: Kari Wallace, Payroll Services Department Head;

Delta Managed Solutions, Inc.;

Tiffany Divine, Supervisor—Retirement; Delta Managed Solutions, Inc.

### Universal Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement

#### **TEACH—Creating Independently Responsible Learners**

Wednesday, October 25: 8:30 am-9:45 am

Location: Compagno

Presenter: Dennis DiNoia, Mr. D; Mr. D Math

### Subject-Based Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement

#### **H.E.L.P.! Hope in Educating your Students with Learning Problems**

Wednesday, October 25: 8:30 am-9:45 am

Location: Bondi

Presenter: Teresa Foltin, School Liaison; Activities for Learning—  
RightStart Math

### Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students

#### **Effective Student-Driven Implementation of Accommodations and Modifications in the Homeschool Setting**

Wednesday, October 25: 8:30 am-9:45 am

Location: Camellia Ballroom

Presenter: Sage McNeely, Lead Education Specialist & Compliance  
Officer; The Learning Choice Academy

### Technology

#### **Unleashing Personalized Learning Digitally**

Wednesday, October 25: 8:30 am-9:45 am

Location: Bataglieri

Presenter: Kimberly Bennett, Instructional Technologist and Systems  
Specialist; Bridgeway Academy

### Preferred Partner Training Sessions

#### **How to Improve Productivity with Workflow Automation**

Wednesday, October 25: 8:30 am-9:45 am

Location: Clark

Presenter: Jacob Griscom, CEO; R&B Communications

### **Bridging Futures: Empowering Personalized Education**

Wednesday, October 25: 8:30 am-9:45 am

Location: Williams Boardroom

Presenter: Melanie Pierson, Bridgeway Admissions Manager;

Bridgeway Academy



# Spotlight Session

Magnolia Ballroom, 10:00 am – 11:15 am

## Mastering Communication and Life Skills: Helping Schools Create An Educational Podcast Program

### PRESENTERS

**Lisa Skinner**, Director of Communications; Global Media Network, LLC

**Lillian Cauldwell**, CEO/President; Global Media Network, LLC (Remote)

**Betsy Wurzel**, Co-Host, Lest We Forget; Passionate World Talk Radio Network (Remote)

*Learn how to integrate communication skills and podcasting into your Charter Schools' curriculum and course options. Presenters Ms. Cauldwell, Skinner, and Wurzel will emphasize how these skills will prepare students for effective communication in their academic, personal, and business life.*

### ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS

#### Lisa Skinner



Author Lisa Skinner is a behavioral specialist with expertise in Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. In her 30+ year career working with family members and caregivers, Lisa has taught them how to successfully navigate the many challenges that accompany this heartbreaking disease. Lisa

is both a Certified Dementia Practitioner and is also a certified dementia care trainer through the Alzheimer's Association. She also holds a degree in Human Behavior.

Her latest book, "Truth, Lies & Alzheimer's – Its Secret Faces" continues Skinner's quest of working with dementia-related illnesses and teaching families and caregivers how to better understand the daunting challenges of brain disease. Her #1 Best-seller book "Not All Who Wander Need Be Lost," was written at their urging. As someone who has had eight family members diagnosed with dementia, Lisa Skinner has found her calling in helping others through the struggle they can have a better-quality relationship with their loved ones through education and offering workshops on counter-intuitive solutions and tools to help people effectively manage the symptoms of brain disease. Lisa Skinner has appeared on many national and regional media broadcasts. Lisa helps explain behaviors caused by dementia, encourages those who feel burdened, and gives practical advice for how to respond. Lisa is also one of the show hosts as well as the Director of Communications at Passionate World Talk Radio Network.

#### Lillian Cauldwell



Ms. Lillian S. Cauldwell lives in Warrensville, PA. She's a graduate of Columbia High School, Maplewood, New Jersey (1969) and Hartford College for Women, a two-year college in Hartford, CT (1971). In her junior year of college, Ms. Cauldwell attended the University of New Hampshire and majored in

Speech Pathology and Audiology. One year later, she dropped out of school, married, and homesteaded.

Ms. Cauldwell had her first non-fiction book published in 1996, *Teenagers! A Bewildered Parent's Guide* by Silvercat Publishing. Atrium ranked it number ten in the top newly published books, and the book went into a second printing in 2003. Ms. Cauldwell wrote a historical science fiction book, *Sacred Honor*, which was published by a Print on Demand Publisher. Between 1996 and 2003, Ms. Cauldwell spent her time writing short stories, doing book reviews, and mentoring high school students in learning how to write.

Ms. Cauldwell owns and operates an all-women Internet talk radio network, Global Media Network LLC. She taught at an Online school operated by Denise Casino. Currently, Ms. Cauldwell remains quite active working on one play, a Black Comedy, *A Camp David Christmas*, the third book in *The Anna Mae Mysteries: Mayan Relic*, and her first epic, *World Fusion*. In 2023 Ms. Cauldwell released her first non-fiction book, "Gold Nuggets For Podcast" the first week of July by Amazon.

#### Betsy Wurzel



Ms. Betsy Wurzel is a mom of an adult son who has a cognitive disability. She worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse, and a Teacher's Aide in a preschool/daycare program. Ms. Wurzel was discovered by Jeanne White, who is Station Manager of PWTRN in June 2018

when Jeanne saw her video about caregiving. Jeanne interviewed Ms. Wurzel on her Connect Show and asked her to talk weekly on her show about caregiving.

In September 2019 Ms. Wurzel was given her own show entitled, "Chatting with Betsy". Chatting with Betsy is about helping others know they are not alone and to provide people with resources. Ms. Wurzel interviews a wide variety of guests about various topics!

Ms. Wurzel is also co-host on Lest We Forget-Historical with Lisa Skinner and Lillian Cauldwell on Passionate World Talk Radio Network, and Founder and Creator of #KickAlzheimer's Ass Movement Group on Facebook and Recipient of Caregiving Visionary Advocate Award in 2021 from Caregiving.com.

## Takeaways

- Learn the 7 C's of Communication.
- Learn Podcast Skills: Presentation, Research, Writing, Copyright, Voice Tone, Format/Script Writing, Editing, Audio/Video, Production, Teamwork.
- Teach communication and podcasting skills to students on how to communicate and use podcasting skills to develop self-confidence, critical thinking, emerging technology, and secure their business opportunities in an ever-changing technological environment.



# Breakout Sessions

**Wednesday Morning, October 25th**

## Breakout Sessions VI: 10:00 am-11:15 am

*Session descriptions in conference mobile app*

### **Administrative Leadership**

#### **Updates From CDE**

Wednesday, October 25: 10:00 am-11:15 am

Location: Tofanelli

Presenter: Diane Grotjohn, Accountability Administrator; Learn4Life

### **Advocacy**

#### **The Power of Your Voice Influencing State-Elected Representatives on Charter School Policies**

Wednesday, October 25: 10:00 am-11:15 am

Location: Beavis

Presenters: Kimberly Tumambing, Partner Engagement Manager; Parsec Education;

Julianna Hubbell, Director of Charter Relations; Springs Charter Schools; Cynthia Rachel, Director of Communications and Development; IEM Charter Schools

### **Budget & Finance**

#### **Open**

Wednesday, October 25: 10:00 am-11:15 am

Location: Carr

### **Human Resources**

#### **CalSTRS—Start Saving Now**

Wednesday, October 25: 10:00 am-11:15 am

Location: Falor

Presenter: Pablo Bermudez, Defined Contribution Manager; California Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS)

### **Universal Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement**

#### **Ideas Are Genius**

Wednesday, October 25: 10:00 am-11:15 am

Location: Compagno

Presenter: Clare Bonn, Lead Teacher, Charter School Representative; Blackbird & Company

### **Subject-Based Instructional Strategies for Student Achievement**

#### **Journal Writing Without Tears**

Wednesday, October 25: 10:00 am-11:15 am

Location: Bondi

Presenter: Kelly Harrel, Educational Specialist; Springs Charter Schools

### **Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students**

#### **Before the SST**

Wednesday, October 25: 10:00 am-11:15 am

Location: Camellia Ballroom

Presenters: Teresa Abercrombie, Executive Director/Principal; Circle of Independent Learning Charter School; Carli Kim, Student Support Services Coordinator; Circle of Independent Learning Charter School

### **Technology**

#### **Unlocking the Potential: Enhancing Personalized Learning with ChatGPT**

Wednesday, October 25: 10:00 am-11:15 am

Location: Bataglieri

Presenters: Sarah McFarland, Director of Instruction, Independent Study/U Prep; Visions in Education; Uriel Gonzalez, Director of Technology; Visions in Education

### **Preferred Partner Training Sessions**

#### **Mr. D. Math—Why Do Students Love It?**

Wednesday, October 25: 10:00 am-11:15 am

Location: Clark

Presenter: Dennis DiNoia, Mr. D; Mr. D Math

### **Introducing The Nomadic Professor**

Wednesday, October 25: 10:00 am-11:15 am

Location: Williams Boardroom

Presenter: Nate Noorlander, Co-Founder; The Nomadic Professor



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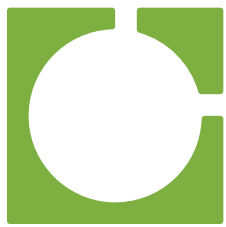
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## APLUS+ Conference 2023 Farewell Reception

# “Have Your Cake and Eat It Too”

Time: 11:30 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Magnolia Ballroom

In sincere appreciation for your attendance to the very end of the 2023 APLUS+ Network Conference, you are cordially invited to join us for our traditional Farewell Reception “Have Your Cake and Eat It Too!” on Wednesday morning, October 25th, from 11:30 am until 12:00 noon. We’ll bid you a fond farewell with some caffeine and tasty treats and give you an opportunity to win one of several fabulous fond farewell prizes! You must be a registered attendee of the conference and be present to win. Simply deposit your business card (or we’ll give you a blank one on which you can put your name) into our drawing receptacle located at the APLUS+ Conference registration desk. (NOTE: Only standard-sized business cards are eligible to win. Any other sized cards or paper or other nonbusiness-card modified entries will be disqualified). All APLUS+ session presenters, in appreciation for sharing their best practices this year, may deposit two business cards for double the chance to win!

Our heartfelt thank you to the following organizations for their generous donations of these fabulous farewell reception prizes:

- |                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ★ APLUS+                          | ★ Online Purchasing Systems (OPS)  |
| ★ BookShark                       | ★ Parsec Education                 |
| ★ Charter Impact                  | ★ Partners in Special Education    |
| ★ Delta Managed Solutions (DMS)   | ★ RightStart Mathematics           |
| ★ Moving Beyond the Page          | ★ School Pathways                  |
| ★ Mr. D Math                      | ★ Software MSP                     |
| ★ Oak Meadow Independent Learning | ★ Young, Minney & Corr, LLP (YM&C) |
|                                   | ★ WriteAtHome                      |



# Farewell Reception

*Wednesday Morning, October 25th, 11:30 am – 12:00 pm*

## Sit on the edge of your seat for a chance to win one of the following prizes:

- ★ Qty 1 INSWAN INS-1 USB Document Camera (Donated by Charter Impact)
- ★ Qty 1 RightStart Mathematics Tutoring Multiplication and Division Kit (Donated by RightStart Mathematics)
- ★ Qty 1 \$100 Visa Gift Card (Donated by Mr. D Math)
- ★ Qty 1 \$100 Visa Gift Card (Donated by Mr. D Math)
- ★ Qty 1 \$200 Visa Gift Card (Donated by WriteAtHome)
- ★ Qty 1 \$250 AMEX gift card (Donated by School Pathways)
- ★ Qty 1 Apple HomePod Mini (Donated by Software MSP)
- ★ Qty 1 Kindle Paperwhite (8GB) with case (Donated by Moving Beyond the Page)
- ★ Qty 1 Pair of Apple AirPods Pro (2nd Gen) Wireless Earbuds (Donated by BookShark)
- ★ Qty 1 Pair of Apple AirPods Pro (Donated by Partners in Special Education)
- ★ Qty 1 Set of Handmade Candles “Handcrafted With LOVE” (Donated by Online Purchasing Systems (OPS))
- ★ Qty 1 Sony WH-1000XM4 Over the Ear Wireless Black Headphones (Donated by APLUS+)
- ★ Qty 1 Exclusive YM&C Navy Blue Canvas Messenger Bag Including a \$200 Gold Belly Gift Card (Donated by Young, Minney & Corr (YM&C))
- ★ Qty 1 Vermont Gift Basket including Vermont Maple Syrup, Gourmet Foods, PLUS assorted Vermont Made Products (Donated by Oak Meadow Independent Learning)
- ★ Qty 1 Nintendo Switch OLED (Donated by APLUS+)
- ★ Qty 1 Apple Watch Series 8 Midnight Sport Band (Donated by APLUS+)
- ★ Qty 1 Apple iPad 10.9-inch 10th Generation 64GB Silver Wi-Fi (Donated by APLUS+)
- ★ Qty 1 Intel Notebook (Donated by Delta Managed Solutions (DMS))
- ★ **GRAND PRIZE:** Qty 1 Apple Watch Series 9 Midnight Sport Band (Donated by APLUS+)
- ★ **GRANDEST PRIZE:** Qty 1 Apple 13” MacBook Air Midnight (Donated by Parsec Education)



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# Thank You!

May I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to you for joining us for our landmark twentieth anniversary APLUS+ Network Conference 2023 celebration. I hope that this year's event was informative, fun, and worthwhile for you, and that you were able to find valuable information and best practice ideas to help your job and your school. It is especially important in these challenging times for us to stand united and committed to sharing best practices with each other, and to helping each other find more creative, innovative, imaginative, and cost effective ways to deliver high quality educational choices and opportunities for our students to help them succeed.

Each year, our goal is to improve our annual conference to better serve your needs. Please take a moment to complete our conference evaluation form to let us know how we did this year, and what we can do in the future to improve our annual conference for you! Thanks again for joining us and helping to enrich our conference experience!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey Dece".

The advertisement features a dark background with a world map showing numerous red location pins. In the center, there is a photograph of a classical building with columns. The text is arranged as follows:  
Top left: "THE **NOMADIC** PROFESSOR" in white, with a compass rose icon replacing the 'O' in 'NOMADIC'.  
Bottom left: "History filmed ON-LOCATION, all over the world" in white, with "ON-LOCATION," in all caps.  
Bottom left: "nomadicprofessor.com" in white.  
Bottom right: "The new standard for" in white, followed by "high school history" in large, bold, white letters on a red background.

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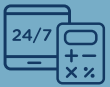
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