APLUS+ PERSONALIZED LEARNING NETWORK ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE PROGRAM GUIDE 2023

Personalized Learning: The Pinnacle of Flex-Based Instruction

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California Senate Resolution SR 36
July 2004: Personalized Learning Twenty Year Anniversary!

Personalized Learning

Whereas, the personalized learning model has evolved in the public school system as an innovative and distinctive 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 ongoing partnership between certified 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 projects, 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 certified teachers; greater parental involvement; direct pupil decision making participation; emphasis on pupil learning responsibility; varied choices in curriculum; online learning options; assessments of learning styles, pace, and preferences; multiple assessments of student progress; and variations in learning environments; and

Whereas, the personalized learning model blends learning environments both within and beyond the classroom, including student-based instruction that supports a wide array of instructional-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; and

Whereas, the personalized learning model serves pupils of diverse learning needs, challenges, and backgrounds, and is a particularly effective alternative for those pupils who are both under- and high functioning students 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 option 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 is passionately supported by many of elected officials, business leaders, education leaders, advocacy groups and representatives, administrators, teachers, parents, and pupils throughout California; and therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate of the State of California commend personalized learning and extend open California's recognition of personalized learning as a distinct learning model in California public education and be 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 P. Burton
President pro Tempore of the Senate

Dick Ackerman
Senator 35th District

Randy R. Sabatini
Secretary of the Senate

APLUS+ Personalized Learning Network Association 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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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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Melanie Wasko, Vice President & Charter School Liaison
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# APLUS+ Member Schools

### APLUS+ Personalized Learning Network Association Member Schools

(as of October 1, 2023)

## Upper Northern California Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Web</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alder Grove Charter School</strong></td>
<td>714 F Street, Eureka, CA 95501</td>
<td>707-268-0854</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aldergrovecharter.org">www.aldergrovecharter.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CORE Butte Charter School</strong></td>
<td>2847 Notre Dame Blvd, Chico, CA 95928</td>
<td>530-809-4152</td>
<td><a href="http://www.corebutte.org/">http://www.corebutte.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evergreen Institute of Excellence</strong></td>
<td>19500 Learning Way, Cottonwood, CA 96022</td>
<td>530-604-9066</td>
<td><a href="http://www.evergreenusd.com/institute-of-excellence">http://www.evergreenusd.com/institute-of-excellence</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lincoln Street School</strong></td>
<td>1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080</td>
<td>530-528-7301</td>
<td><a href="https://www.lincolnstreetschool.org/">https://www.lincolnstreetschool.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northern Summit Academy</strong></td>
<td>2301 Balls Ferry Rd, Anderson, CA, 96007</td>
<td>530-377-5885</td>
<td><a href="http://ns-">http://ns-</a> academy.org/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northern United—Humboldt Charter School</strong></td>
<td>2120 Campton Road, Suite A, Eureka, CA 95503</td>
<td>707-445-2660</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nucharters.org/">http://www.nucharters.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northern United—Siskiyou Charter School</strong></td>
<td>423 South Broadway, Yreka, CA 96077</td>
<td>530-482-4509</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nucharters.org/">http://www.nucharters.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phoenix Charter Academy</strong></td>
<td>2195 Larkspur Lane, Redding, CA 96002</td>
<td>530-222-9275</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ourpCA.org/">https://www.ourpCA.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Redding Collegiate Academy</strong></td>
<td>3200 Adams Lane, Redding, CA 96002</td>
<td>530-224-4240</td>
<td><a href="https://rca.cesd.net/">https://rca.cesd.net/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shasta Charter Academy</strong></td>
<td>307 Park Marina Circle, Redding, CA 96001</td>
<td>530-245-2600</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sca-edu.org/">www.sca-edu.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>William Finch Charter School</strong></td>
<td>607 E Tehama St, Orland, CA, 95963</td>
<td>530-865-1683</td>
<td><a href="https://www.glenncoe.org/Schools/Wm.-Finch-CharterSchool/">https://www.glenncoe.org/Schools/Wm.-Finch-CharterSchool/</a></td>
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## Lower Northern California Region

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<tr>
<td><strong>CalPac Sonoma Charter School</strong></td>
<td>14630 Armstrong Woods Road, Guerneville, CA 95446</td>
<td>855-225-7227</td>
<td><a href="https://www.californiapacificchartersonoma.org/">https://www.californiapacificchartersonoma.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Choices Charter School</strong></td>
<td>4425 Laurelwood Way, Sacramento, CA 95864</td>
<td>916-979-8378</td>
<td><a href="http://choicescharter.org/">http://choicescharter.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Circle of Independent Learning (COIL)</strong></td>
<td>4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont, CA 94538</td>
<td>510-797-0100</td>
<td><a href="http://www.COIlk12.net">http://www.COIlk12.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Connecting Waters East Bay Charter School</strong></td>
<td>705 C Street, Union City, CA 94587</td>
<td>800-808-9895 -Ext. 390</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cweastbay.org/">http://www.cweastbay.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CORE Charter School</strong></td>
<td>321 16th St., Marysville, CA 95901</td>
<td>530-742-2786</td>
<td><a href="https://www.corecharter.org/">https://www.corecharter.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Forest Charter School</strong></td>
<td>470 Scarls Ave., Nevada City, CA 95959</td>
<td>530-265-4823</td>
<td><a href="http://www.forestcharter.com">http://www.forestcharter.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heritage Peak Charter School</strong></td>
<td>631 I Street Rio Linda, CA 95673</td>
<td>866-992-9033</td>
<td><a href="https://pacificcharters.org/about/schools/heritagepeakcharterschool/">https://pacificcharters.org/about/schools/heritagepeakcharterschool/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kairos Public Schools</strong></td>
<td>129 Elm Street, Vacaville, CA. 95688</td>
<td>707-453-7234</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kairospublicschools.org/">http://www.kairospublicschools.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marconi Learning Academy</strong></td>
<td>2444 Marconi Ave., Sacramento, CA 95821</td>
<td>877-360-5327</td>
<td><a href="http://www.marconilearning.org/">http://www.marconilearning.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ocean Grove Charter School</strong></td>
<td>4535 Missouri Flat Road, Suite 1A, Placerville, CA 95677</td>
<td>800-979-4436</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ogcs.org/">https://www.ogcs.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pathways Charter School</strong></td>
<td>150 Professional Center Drive, Suite C, Rohnert Park, CA 94928</td>
<td>707-585-6510</td>
<td><a href="http://pathwayscharter.org/">http://pathwayscharter.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>South Sutter Charter School</strong></td>
<td>4535 Missouri Flat Road, Suite 1A, Placerville, CA 95677</td>
<td>800-979-4436</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sscs.cc/">http://www.sscs.cc/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.agapcorp.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

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: 559642-1422; 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.T 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.agapcorp.com/

Central California Coast Region

Family Partnership Charter School
PO Box 490, Santa Maria, CA 93454
Phone: 805-348-3333; Web: http://www.fpcharters.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

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

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.gormanlcn.org/

Gorman Learning Center San Bernardino/Santa Clarita
1826 Orange Tree Ln., Redlands, CA 92374
Phone: 909-307-6312; Web: https://www.gormanlcn.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: ileadonline.org/

Mission View Public Charter
26334 Citrus Street, Valencia, CA 91355
Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: 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
4555 Missouri Flat Road, Suite 1A, Placerville, CA 95677
Phone: 800-979-4436; Web: http://skymountaincs.org/

Upper Southern California Region

Alta Vista Innovation High School
689 West 2nd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92541
Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: www.innovationaltavista.org

Assurance Learning Academy
14355 Roscoe Blvd., Panorama City, CA 91402
Phone: 818-452-4683; Web: www.assurancelearning.org

AV Academy High School
57214 47th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550
Phone: 877-360-5327; Web: www.avahs.org

Compass Charter Schools of Los Angeles
Phone: 855-957-4227; 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
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
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. 1811, Irvine, CA 92618
Phone: 949-387-7822
Web: https://www.excelacademy.education/

Excel Academy Charter School East
1 Technology Drive, Ste. 1811, 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

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://www.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

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
## Monday, October 23rd

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>10:00 am—5:30 pm</td>
<td>Ballroom Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops I</td>
<td>12:30 pm—2:30 pm</td>
<td>See Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refresher Break</td>
<td>2:30 pm—3:00 pm</td>
<td>Ballroom Foyer &amp; Gardenia Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops II</td>
<td>3:00 pm—5:00 pm</td>
<td>See Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APLUS+ Welcome Reception</td>
<td>5:15 pm—6:00 pm</td>
<td>Ballroom Foyer &amp; Gardenia Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday DINNER ON YOUR OWN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Tuesday, October 24th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration/Breakfast</td>
<td>7:00 am—9:00 am</td>
<td>Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotlight Session</td>
<td>8:00 am—8:30 am</td>
<td>Magnolia Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APLUS+ Network Pioneer Awards</td>
<td>8:30 am—9:00 am</td>
<td>Magnolia Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotlight Session</td>
<td>9:30 am—10:45 am</td>
<td>Magnolia Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakout Sessions I</td>
<td>9:30 am—10:45 am</td>
<td>See Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotlight Session</td>
<td>11:00 am—12:15 pm</td>
<td>Magnolia Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakout Sessions II</td>
<td>11:00 am—12:15 pm</td>
<td>See Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUNCH/Keynote Address</td>
<td>12:15 pm—1:45 pm</td>
<td>Magnolia Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Exhibitor Networking</td>
<td>1:45 pm—2:30 pm</td>
<td>Foyer/Gardenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotlight Session</td>
<td>2:45 pm—4:00 pm</td>
<td>Magnolia Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakout Sessions III</td>
<td>2:45 pm—4:00 pm</td>
<td>See Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotlight Session</td>
<td>4:15 pm—5:30 pm</td>
<td>Magnolia Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakout Session IV</td>
<td>4:15 pm—5:30 pm</td>
<td>See Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday Reception</td>
<td>5:30 pm—6:15 pm</td>
<td>Ballroom Foyer &amp; Gardenia Ballroom</td>
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</table>
### Schedule-at-a-Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>7:00 am—8:15 am</td>
<td>Magnolia Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APLUS+ Conference 2023 Exhibitors</td>
<td>7:00 am—8:15 am</td>
<td>Foyer/Magnolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotlight Session</td>
<td>8:30 am—9:45 am</td>
<td>Magnolia Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakout Sessions V</td>
<td>8:30 am—9:45 am</td>
<td>See Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotlight Session</td>
<td>10:00 am—11:15 am</td>
<td>Magnolia Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakout Sessions VI</td>
<td>10:00 am—11:15 am</td>
<td>See Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farewell Reception/Drawing</td>
<td>11:30 am—12:00 pm</td>
<td>Magnolia Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Ends</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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**Sheraton Grand Sacramento HOTEL**

- **Level 1**: Lower Level
  - Grand Nave Ballroom
  - Magnolia
  - Camellia
  - Gardenia
  - Grand Nave Foyer

- **Level 2**: Level 2
  - Grand Atrium
  - Morgan’s
  - Williams
  - Caer
  - Toffanelli
  - Daza
  - Glimps
  - Randi
  - Schmidt
  - Zurbarg
  - Bonaire
  - Hilo
  - Linda
  - Robin
  - Royal
  - Moginnis

- **Level 3**: Level 3
  - Kamilos
  - Hendricks
  - Baker

- **Level 4**: Lobby Level
  - Public Market Bar
  - Glide’s Event Space

- **Sheraton Grand Fitness**: Swimming Pool
- **Executive & Sales-Catering Office**:
# Schedule-at-a-Glance

**Monday Afternoon, October 23rd**

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

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<th>Best Practice Session Strands</th>
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<th>8:00 am-9:00 am</th>
<th>9:30 am-10:45 am</th>
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<td>Administrative Leadership</td>
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<td>You’ve Got Spirit, YES You Do!</td>
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<td>HR Administration for Personalized Learning Public Charter Schools</td>
<td>CalSTRS-My Retirement Benefits</td>
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<td>Camellia Ballroom</td>
<td>Preparing for Charter Renewal</td>
<td>Are Your Student Policies &amp; Notices Up to Date?</td>
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<td>Attendance! Engagement!</td>
<td>Goal Setting</td>
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<td>Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students</td>
<td>Clark</td>
<td>Those Who Do the Work Do the Learning</td>
<td>Effective Strategies for Integrating Special Education Within the Flex Model</td>
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<td>TK Table Talks</td>
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<td>Preferred Partner Training Sessions</td>
<td>Williams Boardroom</td>
<td>The Oak Meadow Experience</td>
<td>Art of Problem Solving (AoPS): Challenging and Engaging Math</td>
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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.
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
- The Learning Choice Academy
  - Charter #0659 | Established: September 7, 2004

**25-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

- Pacific View Charter School
  - Charter #0247 | Established: September 7, 1999
- Visions in Education
  - Charter #0248 | Established: July 1, 1999
- Shasta Charter Academy
  - Charter #0256 | Established: August 18, 1999
- W.E.B. DuBois Charter School
  - Charter #0270 | Established: January 18, 2000
- Choices Charter School
  - Charter #0275 | Established: September 7, 1999
- Gorman Learning Center Charter School
  - Charter #0285 | Established: February 9, 2000

**30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

- Mountain Home School Charter
  - Charter #0063 | Established: August 15, 1994

**20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

- William Finch Charter School
  - Charter #0634 | Established: July 1, 2004
- The Learning Choice Academy
  - Charter #0659 | Established: September 7, 2004

**LEGISLATIVE CHAMPIONS OF THE YEAR**

- Senator Roger Niello, Senate District 6
- Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil, Senate District 4
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 Bennet, 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.
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 Sineck. 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.
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 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
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<th>4:15 pm-5:30 pm</th>
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<td>Breakout Sessions IV</td>
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<td>When Courses, Academic Support and After School Align to Help the Whole Child Thrive</td>
<td>Navigating Change</td>
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<td>Discover What Matters for Personalized Learning</td>
<td>Get to Know Bright Thinker</td>
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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.
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)

Anchor Counseling & Education Solutions (G26)
Phone: 949.622.5432; Email: admin@anchorcounseling.solutions;
Web: https://www.anchorcounseling.solutions/;
Instagram: @anchor_counselingandeducation

Art of Problem Solving (G16)
Phone: (619) 839-7541; Email: sales@aops.com; Web: www.aops.com

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

Blackbird & Company (G10)
Phone: 800-421-7096; Email: takeflight@blackbirdandcompany.com
Web: www.blackbirdandcompany.com

BookShark (F9)
(AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)
Phone: 720-215-6064; Email: 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;
Web: www.BrightThinker.com

BYU Independent Study (G7)
Phone: 1-800-914-8931; Email: 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;
Web: https://www.calstrs.com/

Charter Impact (F5)
(3A+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)
Phone: 323-484-5070; Email: info@charterimpact.com;
Web: www.charterimpact.com

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

Cobalt Ed (G27)
Phone: (480) 225-0315 Email: cole.richardson@cobalted.com
Web: https://cobalted.com/

Delta Managed Solutions (DMS) (F12)
(3AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)
Phone: 916-649-6461; Email: info@charteradmin.com;
Web: www.charteradmin.com

Edge Foundation (G28)
Phone: 206-910-7515; Email: npeterson@edgefoundation.org
Web: 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;
Web: https://edovate.com/; https://homeschoolacademy.com/;

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

Gravity Assist (G2)
(A+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)
Phone: (516) 218-0156; Email: jay@gravityassist.us;
Web: https://www.gravityassist.us/

Hiveclass (G11)
Phone: (516) 218-0156; Email: info@hiveclass.co;
Web: www.hiveclass.co

History Unboxed (G14)
Phone: 607-862-6933; Email: hello@historyunboxed.com
Web: www.historyunboxed.com
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)

Homeschool In A Box Inc. (G20)
(A+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)
Phone: 559-905-7480; Email: info@homeschoolinabox.com;
Web: https://www.homeschoolinabox.com/

Home Science Tools (F8)
(AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)
Phone: 406-867-5131; Email: 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@mrdmath.com;
Web: https://mrdmath.com/
Podcast: https://aplusparents.com/

Moving Beyond the Page (G3/G4)
(A+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)
Phone: (979) 314-9938; Email: orders@movingbeyondthepage.com
Web: www.movingbeyondthepage.com

Oak Meadow (G18/G19) (A+ SPONSOR)
Phone: (802) 251-7250; Email: schoolliaison@oakmeadow.com;
Web: https://www.oakmeadow.com

Online Purchasing System (OPS) (G15)
Phone: 951-259-0716, Email: joe@opslr.com, Web: www.opslr.com

Parsec Education (F3)
(AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)
Phone: 559-235-9602; Email: ryan@parseceducation.com;
Web: https://www.parseceducation.com/

Partners In Special Education (G8)
Phone: 661-965-8459; Email: cmispagel@partnersped.com;
Website: https://partnersped.com/

R&B Communications (G13)
Phone: (530) 478-1137; Email: jacobg@rb-com.com

RightStart Mathematics (G9)
(A+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)
RightStart™ Mathematics
Phone: 888-775-6284; Email: Info@RightStartMath.com;
Web: RightStartMath.com

School Food Solutions (G5)
Phone: 707-628-4965; Email: ryan@schoolfoodsolutions.org;
Web: https://www.schoolfoodsolutions.org/

School Pathways (F6)
(AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)
hello@schoolpathways.com 866-200-6936 and
https://schoolpathways.com/

Software MSP (G1)
(AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)
Phone: 949-704-2206; Email: info@softmsp.com;
Web: https://softmsp.com/

The Nomadic Professor (G6)
(A+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)
Phone: 986-213-4822; Email: nn@nomadicprofessor.com;
Web: nomadicprofessor.com

TomoClub: Game based SEL Curriculum (G29)
Phone: 650-547-8082; Email: avinash@tomoclub.org;
Web: https://www.tomoclub.org/

Total Education Solutions (TES) (G12)
Phone: 323-341-5580; Email: mdonahue@tesidea.com;
Web: http://www.tesidea.com/

WriteAtHome (F2)
(AAA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)
Phone: 757.749.6000 ext. 2; Email: schools@writeathome.com;
Web: WriteAtHome.com

Young, Minney & Corr, LLP (F11)
(AA+ CONFERENCE SPONSOR)
Phone: 916.646.1400; Email: info@ymclegal.com
Web: 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.
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.
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 Hermssmeyer, 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location/Strand</th>
<th>General Conference Events</th>
<th>Breakout Sessions</th>
<th>SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS</th>
<th>STAFF DEVELOPMENT</th>
<th>PREFERRED PARTNER TRAINING SESSIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 am-8:15 am</td>
<td>Magnolia &amp; Camellia Ballroom</td>
<td>Best Practice Session</td>
<td>Breakfast-Exhibitor Networking</td>
<td>Magnolia Ballroom</td>
<td>A Chat With Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil</td>
<td>How to Improve Productivity With Workflow Automation</td>
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<td>8:30 am-9:45 am</td>
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<td>10:00 am-11:15 am</td>
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<td>11:30 am-12:00 pm</td>
<td>Magnolia/Camellia Ballroom</td>
<td>Breakfast-Exhibitor</td>
<td>Mastering Communication and Life Skills: Helping Schools Create Educational Podcast Programs</td>
<td>Magnolia Ballroom</td>
<td>Enrollment Marketing 101—Kids to Fill Your School</td>
<td>Bridging Futures: Empowering Personalized Education</td>
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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 budget trailer bill this past summer, thereby avoiding what we may look forward to next year, and how APLUS+ and our very special guest of honor. Come join Senator 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, 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, 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, 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, today we honor and recognize Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil as our second legislative champion of the year and our very special guest of honor.
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 Warrenton, 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 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 # Kick Alzheimer’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


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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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+
- BookShark
- Charter Impact
- Delta Managed Solutions (DMS)
- Moving Beyond the Page
- Mr. D Math
- Oak Meadow Independent Learning
- Online Purchasing Systems (OPS)
- Parsec Education
- Partners in Special Education
- RightStart Mathematics
- School Pathways
- Software MSP
- 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:

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- 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 AirPod Pro (2nd Gen) Wireless Earbuds (Donated by BookShark)
- Qty 1 Pair of Apple Airpod 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+)
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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!
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