

MASSACHUSETTS ADMINISTRATORS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017 STATEWIDE CONFERENCE ... THEME & PRESENTATION DESCRIPTORS



Just When We Thought School Leadership Couldn't Get More Complicated or Demanding, It Did!
**Going Beyond Implementing Education Laws & Regulations:
Strategies for the 21st Century Leader**

KEYNOTE

The Anxiety Epidemic: Focusing on What Works For Staff and Students

Culture matters. How we model behavior, communicate and collaborate with one another, and provide support within and outside of our systems are major factors in a healthy school culture. The Keynote will highlight:

- ✓ Skills/strategies to manage those "high-stress" times during the academic year.
- ✓ Understanding the psychological needs of students within the educational setting- focusing on demystifying clinical terminology.
- ✓ Strategies for "focused" interaction that will provide systemic benefit to staff and students.
- ✓ Lessons learned from collaborative work in public school settings - examples that can be replicated.

Featuring Keynote Speaker:

Mona Potter, MD, Medical Director of McLean Child & Adolescent Outpatient Services, Director of MGH/McLean Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship School Consultation Training, with ...

Sigalit Hoffman, MD, Psychiatrist in Mclean School Consultation Service, McLean DBT Outpatient Services, and

Katie Thorpe Blaha, PhD, Psychologist in Mclean Anxiety Mastery Program, School Consultation Services



PLENARY SESSION

Anticipating the Future for Special Education Under the New U.S. Congress & Administration: Working Together to Advocate for Special Education Policies, Student and Staff Needs.

Session Focus: This presentation will highlight the anticipated changes in special education legislation and policies and the potential impact to school districts and students with disabilities. Additionally, the presentation will discuss how best to advocate and work together to influence our policy makers. Special strategies pertinent to local, state and national efforts regarding special education and the common areas of mutual advocacy among CEC, CASE and MA ASE will be discussed. There will also be a highlight on the upcoming Boston 2017 National CEC Convention to be held at the Hynes Convention Center from April 19-22.

Presenter: **Deborah A. Ziegler, Ed.D.**, Director of Policy & Advocacy, National Council for Exceptional Children

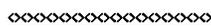


BREAKOUT SESSION

The Art of Resolving Conflict! Skills & Strategies for Managing Conflict Effectively, Especially to Promote Teamwork

Session Focus: Managing Conflict is an art! Learning a set of skills to manage conflict in the work setting can reduce stress and improve outcomes. This session will focus on strategies and techniques to improve conflict resolution within school based settings, relevant to working with the school special education evaluation team and with staff. Additionally, the session will highlight the proactive methods needed and how to stay focused to promote constructive conversation in the midst of difference of perspective/opinion.

Presenter: **Gail S. Packer, MSW**, Executive Director, Community Dispute Settlement Center, Inc., Cambridge, MA



BREAKOUT SESSION

Mindful Leadership: Leading with Compassion and Kindness

Session Focus: Living in our fast-paced world, stress and anxiety are a way of life. When we are in control of our physical, psychological and social interactions, with mindful awareness, our positive impact can have a farther reach. Incorporating mindfulness in the daily practice of leadership is essential to effective personal leadership growth to inspire teamwork and positive outcomes for school communities. This session will provide an overview of the principles of Mindful Leadership to include the research, why it is effective and will provide examples of Mindful Leadership relating to intrapersonal understanding and teamwork - essential components to building a repertoire for leadership skills.

Presenter: **Paula N. Black, M.Ed.**, Assistant Director of Student Services, Newton Public Schools



***"(We need) leadership that is tough enough to demand a great deal from everyone,
and leadership that is tender enough to encourage the heart"***

Thomas J. Sergiovanni