

# *The Power of Authentic Connections*

## **AGENDA: Day 1 – Adult Track**

**Tuesday, November 1, 2016**

Grand Sierra Resort – Reno, Nevada

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.  
(Tahoe Room)

### **REGISTRATION and BREAKFAST BUFFET**

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
(Reno Ballroom)

### **GENERAL SESSION**

Welcome and Introductions

*Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment (OSRLE)*

Victoria (Vickie) Blakeney, M.Ed.

Marco Erickson, M.S.

Patricia (Pat) Sanborn, MAOD

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.  
(Reno Ballroom)

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS** Grant Korgan

*"Turning Attitude into Action: Possibility Through Positivity"*

Record-holding Antarctic Explorer and world-renowned athlete, adventurer, author, loving husband, and motivational speaker, Grant Korgan lives an unlimited life around the globe even after sustaining a life-altering spinal cord injury in March of 2010. With his heart-felt, uplifting, self-empowering, and adventure-driven presentations, Grant shares with his audience the unbound, and often hidden personal power, of overcoming adversity via choosing positivity. Grant shares with his audience the unbound, and often hidden personal power, of overcoming adversity via choosing positivity. **Grant's custom words speak to leadership, teamwork, maintaining your course regardless of obstacle, and doing it all by winning at life through utilizing the endless power of positivity.**

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
(Grand Salon)

### **BREAK**

Conference Strands: Strand A: Connecting to Self      Strand C: Connecting to Schools  
Strand B: Connecting to Students      Strand D: Connecting to Policy

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

**Session A1: Authentic Self-Connectedness, Part One**

(Carson 1) “Mirror, mirror on the wall. Who let *that guy* roam the halls?”

The blistering truth is that we are constantly being judged. If it were just from other people, that would be bad enough. But we judge ourselves, either by not living up to their standards or to our own. In this session, I will briefly and in an engaging way uncover the basic science explaining how over-extended rules lead to devastating, harmful self-judgment and rigid interactions with others. Then I’ll introduce you to a series of practices that bring self-judgment into a broader, more self-compassionate focus.

*Thomas Szabo, Ph.D.*

**Session B1: Students: An Alien Species?**

(Carson 2) This workshop will give educational leaders the opportunity to dissect the seemingly alien species we call “students” through the lens of social connections and human needs theories. Through a fun and engaging process of inquisitive discovery, workshop participants will uncover additional insights regarding the characteristics of the student species and be challenged to form new hypotheses regarding the connections between the student species and a variety of species of “educators” (Spoiler alert: we’re not as different as you think...)

*Amber Reid, MSW*

**Session C1: Using Restorative Practices to Address the Social Emotional Learning Needs of our Students**

(Carson 3)

Restorative Practices is an emerging social science that views high accountability and high support as a recipe for a healthy educational environment. Through a didactic and experiential process, participants will learn what it means to operate from a Restorative lens and how Restorative Practices can be used to meet the social-emotional learning of students. Resources for further study will be provided.

*Chauna Perry Finch, MSW*

**Session D1: Using WIDA Early Years to Build Authentic Relationships**

(Carson 4)

Nevada is leading the country: Connecting State Policy to Practice through a National Early Childhood Partnership with WIDA Consortium *Using WIDA Early Years to build authentic relationships*. Participants will learn about an exciting partnership that Nevada is helping lead in the country to develop and implement an early childhood suite of assessments for dual language learners (DLL) to help identify and improve instruction for DLLs.

This session will also explore the WIDA “Can Do” Philosophy that allows educators to learn how to enrich the learning environment with the linguistically and culturally diverse learners in their classrooms. We will share ways to build authentic relationships with dual language learners and their families so that they share their experiences, knowledge, culture, skills, and interest while engaged in the learning process.

*Kayelynn Ogne, M.Ed. and Kulwadee Axtell*

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

**LUNCH BUFFET**

(Tahoe Room)

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12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.  
(Reno Ballroom)

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS** Kent McIntosh, Ph.D.

*“Integrating Practices using an MTSS Model”*

We select practices to improve student outcomes, but they can improve student outcomes only if they are implemented well. So, beyond selecting the most effective practices, what can we do to ensure that they are implemented well, sustainable, and are having the intended outcomes? Multi-tiered Systems of Support is a framework for selecting, implementing, and evaluating all of the various practices for establishing a safe and respectful learning environment.

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1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Session A2: Social and Emotional Competencies for Leaders**

(Carson 1)

“Do as I say, not as I do!” Have you heard that said? Brain research around supports that kids will not only “do as I do”, but will also often “feel as I feel” and “think as I think.” Thus, as we go deeper into the realm of social and emotional learning (SEL) for our students, it’s important for us to take an honest look at our own SEL skills and how to bring out our best when working with students.

*Victoria Blakeney, M.Ed. and Amber Reid, MSW*

**Session B2: Fostering Healthy Relationships with Students**

(Carson 2)

Fostering stronger student relationships is a session that will provide techniques and ideas for the classroom setting that reduce behavioral problems, create more time for teaching, and build stronger relationships with students. This is a high energy interactive session with role play, real classroom stories, examples and opportunities to have more tools available to handle tough classroom situations.

*Marco Erickson, M.S.*

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1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Session C2: Implicit Bias in School Discipline Decisions: Strategies to Enhance Equity**

(Carson 3) Disproportionality in school discipline (e.g., by race, disability status) is a common and important problem to address, but many efforts to reduce it have not been effective. However, there are some promising strategies for reducing disproportionality within a PBIS framework. This session will describe a 5-point intervention approach to achieve equity in school discipline. Attendees will learn about implicit bias and practical strategies to minimize its effects on discipline decisions and enhance the cultural responsiveness of school systems.

*Kent McIntosh, Ph.D.*

**Session D2: Using Restorative Practices to Create Equitable District Policies and Procedures**

(Carson 4) Restorative Practices is an emerging social science that many school districts are adopting in response zero-tolerance policies and procedures that are negatively impacting our school communities. Through a didactic and experiential process, participants will explore how Restorative Practices can be used to create policies and procedures that decrease disparities in academic achievement and suspension rates, support educating the whole-child, meet the social emotional learning needs of all students, and support students with mental health needs.

*Chauna Perry Finch, MSW*

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

**BREAK**

(Grand Salon)

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Session A3: Authentic Self-Connectedness, Part Two**

(Carson 1) *“All the people who say I’m a control freak need to shut up.”*

Self-control is usually spoken of as a good thing. Skillful educators change the environment to make self-control easier for themselves and others. But there’s one area where it’s next to impossible to control what goes on by yourself, and that’s the space between your own ears. Just try NOT to thinking about the intercom right now. Don’t hear it in your head. See what I mean? Now don’t think about the trouble you’ll be in if tomorrow’s IEP due process hearing goes south...Try to regulate the things over which you have limited control is a recipe for suffering – and for making others suffer, too. In this session, I will detail the evidence regarding things that are within and outside your control. Then I’ll introduce you to a set of practices that undermine unproductive control agendas, foster acceptance, and bring attention to the present moment.

*Thomas Szabo, Ph.D.*

**Session B3: Building Connections to Students through Hands-On-Experiences**

(Carson 2) This session will be organized from a Macro to a Micro level; sharing activities that allow participants to build connections classroom wide, in small groups and individually. Come and see the power of authentic connections in action, as we not only teach activities but provide you a research-based framework for including them in your day-to-day instruction. Be prepared for active engagement and a good time!

*Victoria Blakeney, M.Ed. and Jodie Soracco, M.Ed., BCBA*

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3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Session C3: Universal Bully Prevention**

*(Carson 3)*

This session will focus on evidence-based bully prevention strategies to be embedded within a School-Wide Tier I system. The BP-PBS “Stop, Walk, Talk” and “Expect Respect” content, practices, and resources will be shared as well as outcome data.

*Kaci Fleetwood, M.Ed., BCBA*

**Session D3: Implementation How-To's for NDE's Guidance Letter for Supporting Sex/Gender Diverse Students**

*(Carson 4)*

This workshop is being provided as a resource to districts leaders, administrators, educators, and student support professionals in conjunction with the release of NDE's Guidance Letter for Supporting Sex/Gender Diverse Students. Following a review of the development of the Guidance Letter we will have a facilitated discussion with a panel of experts in the field of sex/gender diversity, educational leaders, and students with opportunities for workshop participants to engage with and ask questions of the expert panel as well.

*jane heenan, M.S., MFT, Laura Hernandez, Kristina Hernandez, Katherine Loudon, Brook Maylath, Amber Reid, MSW, and Gina Sessions*

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Reflection and Youth Session Debrief** – *Facilitator: Keith Brown*  
*(Reno Ballroom)*

**Closing Remarks**

*Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment (OSRLE)*

Victoria (Vickie) Blakeney, M.Ed.

Marco Erickson, M.S.

Patricia (Pat) Sanborn, MAOD

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
*(Crystal 4, 5)*

Youth Experiential Learning Activity/Reception  
*Brian Griggs/Marco Erickson*