


Together Towards Tomorrow: Improving Outcomes for Students with Disabilities through Collaboration and Support Special Education Directors' Conference

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

8:00 – 5:00	Information Desk Open	Hotel Lobby
1:00 – 2:30	IDEA Grant Overview: ISBE Grant Team	Plaza I
2:30 – 4:00	State and Federal Special Education Funding: ISBE Funding and Disbursements Team	Plaza I

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

7:30 – 10:00	Information Desk Open	Hotel Lobby
7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast Buffet	Pre-function Area
8:15 – 8:45	Welcome: Heather Calomese	General Session: Ballroom
8:45 – 10:15	 <p>BE THE ONE! DR. JOHN HODGE The education of America's youth is a challenging prospect when one considers the many burdens faced by impoverished children and their families. Research indicates that poverty need not be a barrier to academic excellence. As co-author of the book <i>Standing in the Gap</i>, Dr. Hodge states, "Across the nation, schools are demonstrating that it can be done: That students can reach high standards, that all children can succeed, that the gap between white and minority students, poor and affluent, can be closed." More often than not, one caring adult can make all the difference in the world. Today's presentation will encourage all of you to BE THE ONE!</p>	Keynote Speaker: Ballroom
10:30 – 11:30	Breakout Sessions	First Floor Plazas
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch	Ballroom
12:30 – 1:30	Breakout Sessions	First Floor Plazas
1:35 – 2:35	Breakout Sessions	First Floor Plazas
2:35 – 3:00	Break	Pre-function Area
3:00 – 4:00	Breakout Sessions	First Floor Plazas
4:00 – 5:00	Social Hour	Ballroom

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Thursday, August 2, 2018

7:30 – 10:00	Information Desk Open	Hotel Lobby
7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast Buffet	Pre-function Area
8:15 – 8:45	ISBE Announcements: Heather Calomese	General Session: Ballroom
8:45 – 10:15	 <p>FROM DISABILITY TO POSSIBILITY: ACHIEVING AN INCLUSIVE LIFE Dr. Patrick Schwarz</p> <p>With the goal of building current and lifelong skills for the classroom community, Patrick offers the most promising authentic processes and supports to help leaders transform school districts into meaningful inclusive practices. Included are embracing students' interests and passions, working toward students' dreams, promoting leadership, self-advocacy, self-determination, effective classroom supports and how we characterize and depict students. With an overview of supports and compelling stories of how they have helped real students and real teachers in real classrooms, Patrick empowers leaders to combine the science and art of teaching all learners. This keynote gives everyone hope, direction, and inspiration to turn learning possibility into educational success!</p>	Keynote Speaker: Ballroom
10:30 – 12:00	Hot Topics in Special Education Law: Deusdedi Merced Deusdedi Merced will discuss various legal cases in special education that were published in the last two years. The selected cases will provide lessons with practical significance related to how you carry out your duties and responsibilities as a special education director. Mr. Merced will also Discuss the practical considerations of applying Endrew F. across local school districts.	Featured Speaker: Ballroom