



A Forum on Colorado Education in the 21st Century

Presenting Sponsor:



The Foundation for Character Development (FFCD)



Forum Schedule

8:00 am - 8:15 am
Registration/Networking
A Robust Continental Breakfast

8:15 am - 8:30 am
Summary of Morning &
Introductions

8:30 am – 9:30 am
Speakers Roundtable

9:30 am – 10:30 am
Small Group Discussions /
Key Questions

10:30 am
Break

10:45 am - 11:00 am
Recorders Report - Out Discussion

11:00 am - 11:45 am
Small Group Discussions -
Visioning/Prioritizing Key Activities

11:45 am -12:00
Next Steps &
Closing Remarks



Purpose of the Forum

The *Forum on Colorado Education in the 21st Century* is being initiated to stimulate in-depth discussion, gain insights, and to develop an action plan to provide the resources to transform and strengthen three key elements of education: **school executive leadership, teacher effectiveness and student engagement**. Most would agree all three have significant impact on the following outcomes valued in all schools.

- Increased academic achievement
- Reducing drop-outs
- Schools that are emotionally/physically safer

In a survey of 400 major employers (Conference Board 2006) respondents were asked to project the necessary skills that will be needed in an ever-increasing global marketplace where workers must transition from an industrial to a knowledge-based economy. The survey revealed a significant skills gap in those entering the workforce. They found that recent high school/college graduates lacked applied skills such as professionalism, teamwork, ethics and social responsibility. Employers ranked these skills even higher in importance than basic skills such as reading, writing and math.

These findings are not surprising because achievement in K-12 schools has been primarily defined on the basis of testing these basic skills. In order to close this gap, educators need innovative and intentional strategies to infuse and integrate the applied skills not only into classrooms but in the entire culture of schools. All staff within schools today must model 21st century skills so that students know that adults value them and they can see what they look like! The Foundation for Character Development's intention is to advocate, promote and plan for the necessary resources in schools to close this gap.

Who Should Attend?

We have invited a wide range of educational stakeholders (district/school leadership, CDE, foundations, business, CEA, higher education, elected officials, and other selected community partners) to participate in this forum. The intent of this discussion is to invite those that have interest in a more intentional focus on two underlying, often hidden aspects, of education:

Relationships among school leadership, teachers, students, parents and school climate

Overview

Research has shown (Bryk & Schneider, 2002) that schools with high relational trust among school executive leadership, teachers, students and parents and a healthy school climate are linked to increased student achievement and high teacher productivity. A University of Illinois study (Lleras, 2009) suggests that classroom disruptions and psychologically hostile school environments can contribute to a climate in which good students have difficulty learning and students who are behind have trouble catching up. Bullying and cheating are pervasive in many schools. When the school environment is extremely toxic, learning can be severely compromised.

What will happen at the Forum?

Several distinguished panelists representing education, business and philanthropy (please see bios) have been invited to share brief comments to stimulate discussion. However, for most of the day, you will be asked to share your ideas in a carefully designed think tank format. We will be posing questions to forum participants for small group discussion. Responses will be reported to the entire group for further discussion and documentation.

The day will begin with brief remarks from school leadership, parents and students representing three successful Colorado schools (based on annual yearly progress)

Also presenting throughout the day, will be representatives from business and a national foundation that have made significant investments in activities that have had positive impact on relationships and climate in schools. They will discuss the rationale for those investments and share lessons learned.

The following summarizes what presenters will be sharing to stimulate discussion, and is by no means an attempt to address all of the important factors impacting education:

School Executive Leadership

- What skills do school leaders require to foster a climate of trust that leads to high quality teaching and learning?
- How to gain agreement among teachers on what high quality work looks like among students
- Facilitating a healthy school environment in which every student feels cared for by all adults in the building
- Hiring, retaining and rewarding teachers based on the personal and technical skills needed for effective 21st century teaching and learning

Teacher Effectiveness

- How to create a classroom in which every student is making their best effort
- Integrating key 21st century performance competencies such as perseverance and self-discipline into every classroom
- How to reduce disciplinary distractions so that more time is spent on teaching and learning

Student Engagement

- Increasing student voice in the classroom and school-wide and how it connects to 21st century skills
- How to create a school touchstone that fosters a climate of engagement, cooperation and pride in his/her school
- Promoting pro social behavior rather than just anti-bullying

Forum Details

**Where: Denver Botanic Gardens (Gates Hall)
1005 York Avenue, Denver, CO**

When: Friday, June 11, 2010

Time: 8:00AM-Noon

Cost: No cost but space is limited.

RSVP is required.

Please RSVP by Friday, June 4, 2010



[\(click here to enlarge map and get directions\)](#)

To RSVP for this Forum
please go to:

<http://www.blacktie-colorado.com/rsvp>

in upper right corner, enter event code:
Education21

or call the FFCD
303-516-1234

What are the goals of the Forum?

1. Gain collective deeper insights into how an intentional focus on interpersonal relationships among school communities and a positive school culture impacts student achievement, drop-out rates, school safety and the acquisition of 21st century skills.
2. Develop the framework for action planning steps to identify pilot implementation opportunities, test strategies, and learn more about what specific practices can be linked to increased student achievement, reducing drop outs, improved school safety and the acquisition of 21st century skills.
3. Determine what roles participants might have in initiating and sustaining the action plan.



Our Presenters



Dr. Arthur Schwartz, Former Executive Vice-President, John Templeton Foundation.

The John Templeton Foundation in Philadelphia is currently funding the work of the Institute for Excellence & Ethics (IEE) to connect character with 21st century skills in schools nationwide. He will discuss the Foundation's goals, why they chose to fund the IEE and why character development has historically been a priority at the John Templeton Foundation. Prior to joining the John Templeton Foundation, Dr. Schwartz taught at Harvard Graduate School of Education, and before that he served for several years as director of dropout prevention programs for the School District of Philadelphia. In 1990, he was recognized for successful efforts to reduce school dropouts at a White House ceremony hosted by President George H.W. Bush. Dr. Schwartz received his doctorate in moral education from Harvard University and is the recipient of an honorary law degree from College of the Ozarks, where he was commencement speaker in 1999.

Jonathan Smith, Sprint Communications; is a leader in the telecommunication field with 22 years experience. He has extensive experience in leading organizations and deploying new technologies. For the Past 10 years he has lead Sprint for the Colorado, New Mexico and El Paso markets. Prior to that Smith ran Airtouch (which is now Verizon) for Colorado. As the General Manger Smith runs all aspects of a market and has managed and lead the effort of merging Sprint and Nextel into one company, Sprint. His high content, high quality, high energy leadership style is well received and as an Executive he is commonly referred to as being down to earth and a people person. Jonathan is looked to as an industry expert and leader in wireless communications. He has given lectures at universities, and has taught courses in Wireless Communications. Currently Jonathan serves On the Board of Directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado. In January 2010 Coloradobiz magazine ranked Jonathan as one of Colorado's 25 Most Powerful people in Sales. Jonathan has been married 20 yrs and has 3 children.



Rebecca Holmes, Executive Director, KIPP Schools Colorado.

Rebecca will be describing key practices that have helped make KIPP Sunshine Peak Academy in Denver, so successful. Specifically, how student voice and a focus on interpersonal relationships among staff, students and parents have had significant impact on the success of students. Rebecca previously worked as a Senior Consultant with Deloitte Consulting in San Francisco and as a Fellow/Program Associate at the El Pomar Foundation in Colorado Springs. She also taught language arts and social studies at the Wyatt-Edison Charter School in Denver. Rebecca is a Denver native, is a graduate of both Yale University (Bachelor of Arts in History, 2000) and Harvard Business School (MBA, 2007).



Julie Williams, Principal of Charles M. Russell Middle School in CSSD#11,

has been an educator for twenty-two years. Prior to her educational career, she was a computer programmer for several years. She has an AAS in Data Processing, a BA in Mathematics and an M Ed. in Educational Technology. Ms. Williams taught mathematics in Decatur, IL for eleven years, including middle and high school. She has been an educator in Colorado Springs School District #11 for the past eleven years including one year at Holmes Middle School and six years at Doherty High School as a mathematics teacher and department chair. She spent three years as an Assistant Principal at Doherty and then moved to the new Jack Swigert Aerospace Academy to help open the school as an Assistant Principal. Ms. Williams was a member of the Colorado State Math Standards Review Committee this past year. She has presented at CASE Conferences and Breaking Ranks Conferences on RTI and PBS.





John Youngquist, Principal of East High School, Denver.

John's impassioned community leadership and collaborative approach to developing effective school programs results in continued significant achievement gains for his students. In his experiences as a teacher, counselor, principal and area superintendent, he has served communities in the urban, suburban and mountain regions of Colorado. East High School is the flagship school of the Denver Public School system. He has also been an Area Superintendent in the Denver Public Schools, an elementary school principal in Denver and Summit County and has worked as a school leader and teacher in both the Cherry Creek and Denver school districts. In 2009 and 2010, John has been honored by New Leaders for New Schools with the E.P.I.C. Tier 2 and Tier 1 awards in successive years. In 2000, John was recognized as the National Distinguished Principal for the State of Colorado (N.A.E.S.P.). He was selected for the Outstanding Young Coloradoan Award (Jaycees; 2001), and awarded with the University of Colorado's Alumni Leadership Award (2003). John holds a Masters in Educational Leadership from the University of Colorado at Denver, a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Colorado at Boulder, is a licensed secondary teacher and K-12 principal and has taught as an adjunct instructor of School Leadership at the University of Northern Colorado and the University of Colorado at Denver.

*About the **FFCD***

Mark Jennings, M.Ed., a local philanthropist, has established the FFCD, a Colorado based 501(C)(3) non-partisan, non-sectarian organization. FFCD was created to support professional development, evaluation and coaching to help schools be more intentional in fostering a climate in which competencies such as perseverance, integrity, respect and empathy are integrated into the culture of schools in Colorado. Please visit our website: <http://ffcd.us>

*We look forward to seeing you at the Forum. Please don't forget to **RSVP** by clicking below*

<http://www.blacktie-colorado.com/rsvp>

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