



**National Conference Planning Committee  
April 2018 Meeting Notes**

The National Conference Planning Committee met via telephone on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 1:00PM Eastern (12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT & 10:00AM MST & PDT).

Those in attendance were: Sonya Morris (Chair – FL); Ken Banter (GA); Gail Clark Dickson (MD), Paula Daniels (MI); Julia Cowell (MO); Theresa Villmer (MO), Kathryn Nichol (NH), Bernell Cook (LA).

A+ Events Staff: Bob Harmon (NAESPA CEO—WA); Monica Kemper (NAESPA Director of Events—CA)

**Meeting Agenda**

1. Identify the kinds of keynote speakers to include. (Specific names are important, but better to have general themes and types of presentations.)

The committee discussed the Conference theme description:

Gone are the days when the sole emphasis was on federal education program compliance. Now, our focus has shifted to identifying and addressing the specific needs of the children who are beneficiaries of the programs funded by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). While students in our schools face many challenges and barriers, we recognize that access to and involvement in integrated, innovative, and collaboratively designed programs leads to successful outcomes. The National ESEA Conference in Kansas City, Missouri will feature a multitude of opportunities for each of us to INTEGRATE, INNOVATE, and COLLABORATE in ways that seek and yield better results for the students we serve.

Sonya explained the concept of focusing the six keynote presentations around the theme by associating two of the keynote sessions with the term “Integrate,” two other keynote sessions with the term “Innovate,” and the final two keynote sessions with the term “Collaborate.” The committee was very receptive to this idea and offered the following suggestions for possible keynote speakers in the three categories:

**INNOVATE**

- **Sam Redding** from IDEA – worked with WestEd
- **David DeShryver** – works with Whiteboard. He is an attorney who has innovative ways of thinking.

- **Horacio Sanchez** – He is the author of *The Educational Revolution* – in which he writes about bridging the gap between neuroscience, psychology, and educational practice.

#### INTEGRATE

- **Dr. Amy B. McCart** – She is from the University of Kansas and Co-Principal Investigator of SWIFT (School-wide Integrated Framework for Transformation)
- **Linda Darling Hammonds** – She has consulted widely with federal, state and local officials and educators on strategies for improving education policies and practices and has more than 500 publications on education.

#### COLLABORATE

- **Andrea Honigsfeld** – She provides leadership support and professional development training and coaching focused on effective differentiated strategies and collaborative practices for English as a Second. Author of *Collaboration and CoTeaching for English Language Learners*.
- **Joanne Cashman** – Director of IDEA Partnership, she co-wrote *Leading by Convening*.

#### UNDECIDED THEME CATEGORY

- **Teacher of the Year** – has been a keynote last 2 years – very positive and inspiring, well received. Important current message (through CCSSO) Fits with innovation?
- **Steven Costantino** – He worked at VA State Department of Education and is now the VA Superintendent of Public Instruction. He has written books on engaging families and communities and we was very well received when he spoke at conference in Virginia.
- **Jessica Salano** – She was the 2017 Florida Teacher of the year and is involved in family engagement via social media such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, etc.
- **Florida Parkland High Students** – Sonya discussed the idea of reaching out to some of the students to speak as a keynote session. Her only hesitation is the need to steer the discussion away from politics, so it is focused on not on gun control, but on safety in the classroom and how that impacts student learning.

Bob explained some of what goes into keynote selection. First, the date and time of the Conference must fit with their schedule, and topics have to be varied so are not two keynotes speaking about the same topic. In addition, the cost of having them speak must fit within the Conference budget.

Sonya reminded the committee that the Association is widening the tent – and the committee should be thinking about the focus of the keynotes broadening as well.

Bob Harmon introduced this timeline for keynote suggestions by committee members:

- **THURS 4/26:** Send your recommended keynote names to me (bob.harmon@eseanetwork.org) and Monica Kemper (mkemper@aplusevents.com) by Thursday, April 26, 2018. As much as possible include: a photo, brief biographical statement, and link(s) to speaker in action.
- **THURS 5/3:** We will incorporate the keynote information into an email and send it out to all Committee members for your review and priority ranking. You'll have one-week to complete this important task.
- **THURS 5/10:** Responses are due to Bob and Monica.
- **THURS 5/17:** The prioritized ranking of the keynote speakers will be shared and discussed at the May NCPC conference call.

2. *Reminder:* Proposal submission process open May 1st - June 15th.

- [View Proposal Submission Guidelines](#)

The committee agreed the proposal submission guidelines look great.

3. Other

The next National Conference Planning Committee Meeting is on **Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 1:00pm EDT.**