

# AntiBullying SUMMIT

Hosted by Auburn University

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Anti-Bullying Summit  
June 26-27, 2014 | Peachtree City, Georgia

## Workshop and Concurrent Sessions Preview

### Workshop Sessions (100 minutes)

Title/Presenter	Description
<i>Prevention and Intervention Strategies for Addressing Cyber Bullying</i> - Dr. Patricia Agatston	This workshop session will focus on key findings on cyber bullying that are based on research. The presenter will review effective school-wide prevention methods and resources and strategies for intervening in cyber bullying behavior among youth.
<i>The Fat Boy Chronicles: Movie Screening followed by Q&amp;A with the Authors/Screenwriters</i> – Mr. Michael Buchanan	<i>The Fat Boy Chronicles</i> movie has been seen by several million people around the world. Watch the film with co-author/screenwriter of the book and movie. Learn how it connects with students and why the book, movie, and curriculum guide are used by schools nationwide.
<i>Bullying Solutions: How to Intervene and Support the Student Being Bullied and the Student Bullying!</i> –Dr. Michael Carpenter	After collecting more than fifty case studies of students from the United States and abroad being bullied, bullying or being a bystander, there are common threads about how parents and educators should intervene and what works and doesn't work. Please join with the facilitator in an interactive discussion about how to address bullying from a research-based perspective.
<i>Risk Management: How to Develop a Comprehensive Safety Plan Approach Addressing What We Have Learned from the Research Around Reporting, Investigations, and Retaliation</i> – Dr. Michael Carpenter	This workshop will focus on a safety approach to address practical ways that schools can minimize the risk for bullying behaviors. The presenter will share a comprehensive plan that will address what is bullying, the common hot spots for each grade level, ages of boys and girls that are involved with more victimization and bullying, etc. This best practice prevention approach has a checklist of accountability standards that are simple to implement yet realistic.

*Theoretical and Practical Applications of Drama as an Approach for Bullying Prevention and Intervention* – Ms. Lyle Cogen

Artist/Educator, Lyle Cogen, blends theory and practice in this comprehensive workshop that shows how and why using the performing arts in school bullying prevention and intervention efforts can produce eye opening and life changing experiences. Based on research and her own experiences performing and speaking throughout the country, Lyle Cogen has found a highly effective way to use drama and music to increase perspective, tap into empathy and provide the opportunity to reflect and practice for some of life's challenges. This workshop will provide you with current research about learning through drama and why it is an important strategy that should be used in all programs. You will leave with strategies that can be easily duplicated and you will experience how using drama really does create a stronger community of allies.

*Giving Voice: Building Awareness Through Writing*  
– Ms. Priscilla Hancock Cooper

Participants will engage in a series of curriculum-linked writing exercises that may be used with young people and adults to encourage reflection, self-expression, and empathy.

*Unified Systems to Prevent Bullying in Schools and Communities: Applying the UCLA Center for Mental Health in Schools Framework* – Dr. Merrienne Dyer

The impact of bullying in schools and communities is a barrier to learning in school. Often the root causes of bullying are outside of the school's control. How do schools and communities create a unified system of prevention and intervention to address this? Gainesville City Schools (Georgia) has worked for four years with the UCLA Center for Mental Health in Schools to apply the framework developed by Dr. Linda Taylor and R. Howard Adelman to create "A Unified and Comprehensive System of Support." This has resulted in a dramatic decrease in the incidence of bullying and positive steps to involve students in creating their own solutions. This presentation will share the steps the district and schools took as well as provide participants with activities to analyze their current capacity and with specific strategies to implement in schools.

*Bullies - Be Gone! The Power of Social Emotional Learning in Children* – Ms. Betsy Fox

This session includes the research that confirms social and emotional learning enhances academic achievement, helps students develop self-management and self-control, improves relationships at all levels of the school-community, reduces conflict among students, and improves

teachers' classroom management, and helps young people to be healthier and more successful in school and in life. Participants will consider practices that integrate SEL with academic rigor and explore strategies that improve students' attitudes about themselves, others, and school.

*Legal Issues on Bullying* – Dr. Jim Jeffers

This workshop addresses the legal issues on bullying in the Alabama and Georgia laws. It provides assistance and helpful insights to schools and school leaders in meeting the requirements of the laws regarding bullying in schools.

*Social Media: The New Face of Bullying* -- Ms. Betty Marshall and Ms. Sharon Pugh

This session will address the issue of bullying via social media—the concerns of educators and parents in the prevention of this overwhelming malady. The presenters will explore the mindset of the bully, the victim, and the bystander. The introduction of the new concept of “Pals and Partners Against Social Media Bullying” will also be elaborated on and presented as a source of help in situations that involve bullying.

*Bully-proofing Your School: You Can Make it Happen!* – Mr. Bill Parsons

Participants will receive practical, research-based bully-proofing strategies that can be used in a classroom as well as school-wide implementation. Humor, high energy, and proven techniques will be shared for educators at every level; you can make it happen!

*Religious Harassment in Schools: Legal Protections for Students and Schools' Responsibilities* – Mr. Jay Singh

An interactive discussion on harassment in schools based on a student's religion or national origin, with the Southern Poverty Law Center attorney-fellow tasked with addressing the issue in schools in the Deep South. This workshop will outline current legal protections for students against religious harassment in schools and identify steps LEAs should take to address religious harassment. The workshop will also explore other considerations related to language access and school enrollment that further support the vision of a safe, welcoming school environment for all students and their families.

*Beyond Bias, Bullying, and Binary Boxes to Belonging: Welcoming Schools* – Ms. Rhonda Thomason

Why is her skin so dark? She called me gay—what does that mean? She talks funny! Research shows that bias based on identities such as sexual orientation, race, gender identity, and language develops at an early age. The interactive session will focus on unique opportunities that help

children recognize and appreciate difference, increase empathy, and empower responsibility to care for each other. Innovative film clips of students identifying bullying and telling how and when educators can help are supported by research and proven strategies that will deepen commitment and bolster achievement by freeing students from bias-based impediments.

**Concurrent Sessions (50 minutes)**

<b>Title/Presenter</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Bullying Prevention: How to ROCK Your School and Community</i> – Ms. Melanie Beasley and Ms. Laura Hicks	A partnership between the Montgomery County (Alabama) Public Schools, the Family Sunshine Center (the local domestic violence shelter), and the Stamp Idea Group (an award-winning advertising firm) has blossomed into a coordinated community response to the problem of bullying in Montgomery and surrounding communities. What started as the shelter’s teaching bullying prevention in the schools grew to a full-fledged school-based and public awareness campaign and eventually the River Region Task Force comprised of representatives from city and county governments, the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office, public and private schools, faith-based communities, and other area non-profit organizations, about 60 members strong. The campaign and task force are named ROCK (Respect Others, Create Kindness), emblematic of a positive response to the community challenge and emphasis on protective factors in addressing bullying prevention. Plans include special events, continued bullying prevention education, and outreach to groups such as daycares, scouts, summer camps, youth groups, etc.
<i>Social Marketing: Making Change Happen</i> – Ms. Bryetta Calloway	Social Marketing uses marketing principles and tools to influence target demographics behaviors in both the individual and the community at large. This discipline relies on strategically creating, communicating, and delivering information and ideas that have positive value for individuals, clients, partners, and society at large. This session will focus on three areas of Social Marketing that will inform the planning and implementation of prevention-based initiatives, public awareness campaigns, and more.

*“Finding Common Ground on Bullying: Alabama Citizens Actively Work to Address a Difficult Public Issue”* -- Ms. Cristin Foster and Mr. Robert Turner

Staff from the David Mathews Center for Civic Life will share insights and outcomes from the statewide Alabama Issues Forums (AIF) which focused on the bullying issue during 2012-2013. They will highlight common themes from the forums and relate actions that citizens are taking in their communities and schools. They will explore democratic practices and examine the role of public deliberation in fostering better decision-making in communities and schools across the state.

In recent years, there has been a great deal of public discourse on bullying in schools. Some may even feel that they have heard enough, until faced with a complaint, lawsuit, and/or news reporter. Even with a great deal of discussion on addressing bullying, new information continues to come out and new concerns and considerations are revealed. This session not only attempts to solidify best practices on addressing bullying, it also provides participants with new and vital information. It is expected that participants will leave the session with additional tools and renewed drive to eradicate bullying in schools.

*The Bully Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree: The Genetics of Bullying and How to Break the Contaminated Cycle* – Dr. Julie Graham

This presentation will examine the effects of parenting styles on student behavior and look at how administrators and teachers can create a bully-free educational environment with a variety of student personalities and backgrounds.

*Georgia's School Climate Star Rating* – Mr. Jeff Hodges and Ms. Marilyn Watson

In 2011, Georgia was the first state in the nation to include school climate as an early indicator in its academic accountability system. This session will focus on school climate as a leading indicator of student achievement. Attendees will learn how school climate data sets are used to calculate a School Climate Star Rating which is a diagnostic tool within the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI).

*Victims to Victors: Helping Students Overcome Bullying* – Mr. Kel Jackson

“Victims to Victors: Helping Students Overcome Bullying” appeals to students, teachers, and administrators by laying out sound practices for overcoming and eliminating bullying behavior. Having been bullied in his youth, Kel understands first-hand what bullying victims experience and what it takes to overcome these setbacks and achieve success in spite of them. Kel combines

experiences from his background with proven strategies to create powerful illustrations that crystallize the right approach to bullying in different situations.

*Urban Principals' Understanding of Cyber bullying*  
– Dr. Max Jean-Paul

With the advances in technology, cyber bullying has become increasingly a major problem in schools for all involved: victims, bullies, parents, and educators. Little is known in the literature about school administrators' awareness, communication, and support in dealing with this new phenomenon. This study sought to answer these questions and look at how leadership styles (team vs. transformational) affected urban school leaders' understanding and management of Cyberbullying. Data were obtained from a survey instrument CARES (Cyberbullying Administrative Review in Education for Schools) on the respondents' demographics, professional and school profiles, cyberbullying incidents, communication with teachers and parents, internal and external support, along with their sense of efficacy with addressing Cyberbullying and job satisfaction. The survey was sent to urban school administrators and principals. There were 251 respondents, with the majority of the respondents (92.4%) principals. This session will share the findings of the CARES research.

*Communities Against Bullying: A New Program to Address Bullying in K-12 Schools* – Dr. Joseph R. Jones

Researchers posit middle school environments are the most detrimental areas for bullying to transpire. Thus, educators must begin conceptualizing how they can create a safe and affirming environment for all students regardless of differences and "otherness." In such a capacity, this presentation provides participants with the knowledge necessary to un-normalize education and their classrooms and schools through an anti-bullying program.

*Increased Bullying of Muslim American Students in a Post 9/11 Era* – Ms. Soumaya Khalifa

Muslim American students are targets of increased bullying in schools across the nation. The results of the bullying are alarming and range from committing suicide to withdrawing from schools. The current climate and lack of understanding of Muslim Americans contribute to the situation. This session will provide an overview of the current state of bullying on the Muslim American students along with a deeper understanding of the

demographics, cultural practices and much more to equip educators with tool to use in intervention.

*Developing an Anti-Bullying School Culture* – Ms. Sylvia Phillips – This session will present current issues and trends related to a school culture that promotes bullying and align practical solutions to eliminate practices within the school culture that promote bullying. Participants will attain knowledge related to practices that inadvertently promote bullying within a school setting.

*Lost in Cyberspace Program* – Dr. Greg Price – Protecting our Youth in Cyberspace  
Troy University’s Cyberkids program aims to arm both youth and adults with the tools necessary to protect children in Cyberspace, and offers a collection of checklists, best practices and tools to program participants. The presentation draws from a decade of field experience gathered from the Alabama Computer Forensics Institute – an ICAC-related research and evidence processing facility.  
Through this program, the ACFI have reached youth in schools and community events that may have never learned the dangers of the Internet. Using real world examples, the ACFI exhibits dangers inherent with commonplace technologies

*“It Takes a Village”* – Ms. Felicia Simpson – “It Takes a Village” will address utilizing all Community Partners to increase awareness on the effects of bullying. After attending the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools National Conference in 2011, the presenter involved community leaders, legislators, and community members in organizing an Anti-Bullying Rally that hosted over 1300 people. This session will focus on how to establish and maintain community partners who will serve as advocates for your mission. You will be equipped with a Planners’ Guide to assist you in organizing an Anti-Bullying Rally. You will also learn where to locate the data to provide to community leaders to assist you in increasing awareness in your school system as well as in your community.

*Serious Fun: How to Tackle Serious Subject Matters in Fun, Creative Ways* – Dequadray White, Virginia Lawley & Colecia Griffin – This session is a youth led session with an emphasis and including all personality types and interests to create larger projects. Integration of various skill sets such as writing, acting, visual arts, logistical planning, and technology are discussed as ways to have large amounts of youth

experience leadership in group projects. Two recent examples of successful projects around bullying and teen suicide/self-harm prevention will be shared as examples. Participants will have the opportunity to ask a teen about his role and experiences as well as leave with a planning tool.

## Poster Sessions

Title/Presenter	Description
<p><i>School, Parental, and Ethical Issues in a Digital World: Cyberbullying and Schools</i> – Ms. Julie Chibbaro</p>	<p>This poster session will define cyberbullying and will also delineate what cyberbullying is not. It will also describe school policies, awareness, and interventions which may be used by parents to protect students. It will also describe ethical issues and the digital world – what are steps parents can take to help children make ethical choices when navigating the cyber-world.</p>
<p><i>Working in a Gray Area: State Laws and Cyberbullying</i> – Mr. James Vines</p>	<p>This session will consist of slides outlining information regarding state anti-bullying laws. In addition, it will provide an overview of court cases which have set legal precedence for school administrator’s ability to address bullying incidents. In the 30 minutes provided, poster session participants will gain some tips on how they can effectively address bullying incidents which may occur off school grounds.</p>

## Speaker Bios

**Patricia Agatston** is co-author of the book, *Cyber Bullying: Bullying in the Digital Age* with Robin Kowalski, Ph.D., and Susan Limber, Ph.D. and has co-authored a chapter for the book, *Expert Perspectives in Cyberbullying*. She is also co-author of the *Cyber Bullying Curriculum for Grades 6 – 12* and the *Cyber Bullying Prevention Curriculum for Grades 3 - 5*. Dr. Agatston is a certified trainer and technical assistance consultant for the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. She has been quoted in articles on cyber bullying in *The Washington Post*, *CNET news*, *Time Magazine*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*. She has appeared on CNN as well as other local and national radio and television programs to discuss cyber bullying and other youth online risky behavior.

**Melanie Beasley**, Public Affairs Director for the Family Sunshine Center, will co-present with Laura Hicks, Interactive Project Manager for Stamp Idea Group. Ms. Beasley has managed public relations, communications, development, and outreach/prevention for the Family Sunshine Center for nine years. Prior to that, she was director of Public Information and Community Relations for the Alabama Department of Mental Health for 13 years. She has a bachelor’s degree in education, completed the certified public manager program at Auburn-Montgomery, and is a graduate of Leadership Montgomery.

**Michael Buchanan’s** co-authored novel, *The Fat Boy Chronicles*, was released in 2010. The book won the National Parenting Publication’s Gold Award, and Mom’s Choice Award of Excellence, and is used by schools in the anti-bullying and childhood obesity efforts. Buchanan also co-wrote the screenplay for



the feature film. The movie won awards for its impacting, yet hopeful, depiction of an obese and bullied 9th grader's world. Buchanan has spoken at numerous conferences and to schools nationwide about issues raised in his work.

**Bryetta Calloway** has worked in Marketing and Communications with nonprofits nationally. With more than ten years of experience working in the nonprofit sector, she has conceptualized and implemented numerous marketing strategies and campaigns that seek to increase awareness and knowledge on issues ranging from AIDS and homelessness to youth-centric issues (e.g., bullying, violence, and underage and binge drinking).

**Michael R. Carpenter**, PhD, author of *Bullying Solutions*, *Setting the Tone*, and *Waging Peace*, is a violence, drug, bullying and suicide prevention consultant living in the Atlanta, Georgia area. Mike has worked in public and private school education statewide for the Departments of Education and Human Resources, and consulted throughout the United States and internationally. Dr. Carpenter is a National Bullying Prevention and Student Assistance Program Trainer.

**Julie Chibbaro** is Associate Professor at the University of West Georgia, Department of counseling and College Student Affairs. This is her tenth year of educating counselors. She has published articles nationally regarding cyberbullying as well as been invited to speak at the state and regional levels on the topic of cyberbullying. She has served as both a clinical mental health counselor and as a school counselor with 20 years of experience.

**Lyle Cogen** is a Commissioned Performing Artist and Educator who has written a play about bullying, songs about bullying and has developed a method for drama enhanced SEL-SECD learning. Lyle travels throughout the country singing, acting, teaching and motivating both children and adults to reflect on their own actions and look for opportunities to make a positive change. In 2012, she was a recipient of the Anti-Bullying Summit Hero Award. Lyle is a Teaching Artist with Tilles Center For The Performing Arts –Long Island University where she also earned a B.A. in Theater. Lyle is currently working on her first book about bullying.

**Priscilla Cooper**, a writer, dramatist and arts educator, believes in the power of the written and spoken word to inform, empower, enrich, and transform lives. She is a two-time recipient of an artist fellowship from the Alabama State Council on the Arts for her poetry. From 1998- 2012, she worked with incarcerated girls as the teaching writer for the "Writing Our Stories" Anti-Violence Creative Writing Program sponsored by the Alabama Department of youth Services (DYS) and the Alabama Writers Forum. Currently, she is Vice-President of Institutional Programs at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

**Merrienne Dyer** is serving as the superintendent of Gainesville City Schools. She has over 30 years of experience as a teacher, assistant principal, and superintendent in schools that serve children from low-wealth families and who are second-language learners. She has worked with the UCLA Center for Mental Health in Schools for four years through a collaborative which includes the AASA: The School Superintendent's Association and the Community Affairs division of the Scholastic Company. Dr. Dyer holds a Ph.D. in Education Policy from Georgia State University and an Ed.S. in Educational Leadership from the University of Georgia, and has completed institutes at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2000 and 2005. Dr. Dyer completed the Executive Program for Leadership for Educators at the Darden School of Business, University of Virginia, from 2009-2011.

**Cristin Foster** serves as Program Director for the David Mathews Center for Civic Life. She graduated from the University of Montevallo with a Bachelor of Arts in History. Cristin has several years' experience moderating and recording deliberative community forums with the Center. Originally from

Pensacola, Florida, Cristin currently resides in Montevallo, Alabama.

**Betsy Fox** has been a teacher, curriculum specialist, preschool director, principal (PreK-6), head of school (K-8), program manager, parent and foster parent for the past thirty years. With experience as a preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school teacher and administrator, Fox shares her expertise with teachers, administrators and parents. Working together with schools, she strives to help create the best possible educational opportunities for children. Her tailor-made interactive workshops and seminars are informative, practical, and engaging.

**Quentin Fretwell** is the Retired Director of Safe Schools and Student Relations for the DeKalb County School District, handling student discipline, revising the Code of Student Conduct and all disciplines/safety materials. Quentin has worked in the area of discipline/safety for 31 years. Recently, he was asked to return part-time as Safe Schools Coordinator, advising on projects from bullying to emergency planning. He has published articles, including one on bullying in the American School Board Journal. Additionally, he has presented on this and other related topics at local and state conferences. Quentin received his postsecondary and postgraduate education from Georgia State University and is currently doing a PhD. Dissertation focusing on the ability of school officials to effectively address student bullying.

**Colecia Griffin** was raised in Atlanta, but moved to Florida to pursue her education at the University of Florida in the Fall of 2006. She obtained her B.S degree in Health Education and Behavior in the Spring of 2010 and began her journey with the Boys & Girls Club soon afterwards. She has been serving as a Youth Development Professional for three years and began this great experience as a Teen Services Coordinator. She currently serves as the Education Director at the Jesse Draper Boys & Girls Club in College Park, GA where she plays a key role in ensuring that our youth's academic needs are met on a daily basis.

**Dennis Goodwin** is the co-founder of the Anti-Hazing Collaborative along with Dr. Dave Cattoi. Dennis has been an educator, coach for over twenty years. He currently teaches biology as adjunct faculty member at Massachusetts Bay Community College. Mr. Goodwin has spoken around the country to teachers, administrators, coaches, parents, and student athletes on classroom management and anti-hazing and bullying programs. In 2013, he was a keynote speaker at the Nevada Athletic Directors Conference as well as a presenter at Auburn University's Anti-Bullying Summit.

**Julie Graham** is currently the assistant headmaster of Glenwood School and a professor of Psychology at Troy University, Georgia Military College, and Columbus Technical College. As a former guidance counselor and family counseling therapist, Dr. Graham has developed expertise in child development, family relationships, and academic and social concerns within educational environments.

**Laura Hicks** joined the firm of Stamp Idea Group in 2001 and, working with designers and developers, she is heavily involved from start to finish in strategy/planning, supervision, testing, and brand integration of online media. She serves as the Interactive Project Manager for all community and tourism-related clients. With more than 10 years of interactive project management experience, Laura has managed basic to complex website projects, including CMS development, e-commerce and custom software, search engine marketing, and the integration of Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and many other social media platforms. After graduating from Troy University in Speech Communications, Laura worked initially with the Montgomery Advertiser. She has served on the Board of Directors for The Public Relations Council of Alabama, and The American Advertising Federation-Montgomery. In 2011, the Stamp Idea Group produced materials for the Montgomery Public Schools and Family Sunshine Center as part of an annual CreateAthon. In 2013, members of these groups saw the need for a Task Force to

tackle the ongoing issues of bullying, which in turn leads to violence later in life, and Laura serves on the steering committee of the Task Force.

**Kel Jackson** is a speaker, engineer, entrepreneur, and writer. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, he was a victim of bullying in his youth, but overcame those challenges to achieve success. In addition to his role as an engineer with a Fortune 100 company, he serves on boards for a number of government, business, and private organizations. He is an Auburn University Mechanical Engineering graduate, a published columnist, and an acclaimed orator.

**Max Jean-Paul** is an instructional leader with over ten years of experience. After receiving his B.A. from CUNY Brooklyn College, he completed his master's degree in science at Mercy College. He worked as a science teacher, then as an assistant principal at Excelsior Preparatory School. While enrolled in the doctorate program in education at Fordham University, he became interested in cyberbullying and its effects on all involved, not just the victims, but also the parents, the teachers, and the school community as a whole. This topic was the subject of his dissertation. He is currently the principal at Brooklyn Bridge Academy High School, a former failing school that recently earned an "A" in its progress report. Dr. Jean-Paul continues to have open discussions via forums throughout the school year to educate the school community and implement new ways for students to report any cases of cyberbullying.

**James Jeffers** received his bachelor's degree from Auburn University, his master's degree from Georgia State University, and his doctorate from The University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has served as a teacher and coach at the Westminster Schools in Atlanta, GA; as a Middle School Division Chair at Holy Innocent's Episcopal School in Atlanta; as Headmaster of Whitehaven Methodist Day School in Memphis, TN; as Headmaster of the Highlands School in Birmingham, AL, as Principal of Vestavia Hills Elementary School – Central, in Birmingham, AL; and as superintendent of Tallassee City Schools in Tallassee, AL.

**Joseph R. Jones** is a former English teacher and is known widely for his research addressing homophobia and bullying in educational environments. He has been interviewed extensively by media outlets and has published extensively about homophobia and bullying in schools. *Bullying in Schools: A Professional Development for Educators*, was released in the fall of 2012. More recently, he has co-constructed a K-12 anti-bullying program with an academic colleague. He currently teaches at Mercer University.

**Soumaya Khalifa** is the executive director and founder of the Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta. She is also an intercultural consultant. Ms. Khalifa's background is in Human Resources, diversity and training. She conducts cultural competency training for educators. She holds an MBA in Human Resources and is adjunct faculty at Emory University and the Federal Executive Institute where she teaches courses on Intercultural Communication and Human Resources Management.

**Virginia Lawley** is the Director of Character and Leadership for Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta, where she oversees programs and events for 26 clubs in 10 counties. Most recently Virginia was the Director of Academic Success for Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta. She began her career with the James T. Anderson Boys Club in Marietta, Georgia in 1986 as an Education Director. She has also worked in educational programming and coaching for children and families since 1985, including serving as the English as a Second Language and Hispanic family liaison in Shelby County, Alabama.

**Betty Marshall**, a native of Georgia educated in Atlanta Public Schools, is presently a Program Specialist/Assistant Principal in Dothan, Alabama. She currently works in the system's Alternative Schools, where bullying takes on many forms. Ms. Marshall has worked across the country in various

school systems. Ms. Marshall draws upon her 33 years as an educator which have provided her with an insight into economic deprivation, social disenfranchisement, and moral and social injustices in society.

**Bill Parsons** brings thirty-three years of successful experience in education to our conference. His leadership experience includes work at the elementary, middle, high school, and central office level. Professional accolades include everything from a nomination as the Milken National Educator of the Year, to top-ten placement for State Teacher of the Year as a classroom teacher. Mr. Parsons has provided practical bully-proofing workshops across the nation and is a favorite at our conference each year. Come prepared to laugh and receive practical ideas to bully-proof your school. You will leave energized and motivated to make it happen at your school.

**Sylvia F. Phillips** currently serves as Special Education leader for Bullock County School System (Alabama). She has developed plans for preventing bullying at all levels. She works closely with the Disciplinary Committee and was instrumental in changing policies related to appropriate dispensation of consequences and an education program that promotes changing inappropriate behavior. While disability harassment was the focus, she developed a district-wide plan that promoted anti-bullying within the schools. A combination of her extensive knowledge of school law and practical common sense applications leads to an approach that will affect the culture of any school.

**Greg Price** is Chief Technology and Security Officer at Troy University. At Troy, he manages the technology needs of 31,000 students and 64 site locations in 17 time zones. He began work with the Alabama Attorney General's Office in 2006 and helped develop a program to promote online safety measures.

**Sharon Pugh** is a native of Dothan, Alabama. She received both her B.S. and M.S. degrees in Elementary Education from Troy University in Troy, Alabama, and her master's in Counseling and Psychology from Troy University-Dothan. Ms. Pugh is presently a school counselor in an alternative school in Dothan City Schools and has also taught for several years.

**Rhonda Thomason** is dedicated to equity and helping all students thrive. Following 26 years in the classroom, Rhonda worked at Teaching Tolerance managing the education grants program and creating widely used anti-bias and anti-racist curriculum materials for school settings and online audiences. She has been actively engaged in safe schools work for over two decades at local, regional, and national levels. National Board Certified for over 15 years, Rhonda is an award winning educational leader, currently serving on the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Welcoming Schools National Advisory Council and as southern region educational consultant with Welcoming Schools.

**Caren E. Short** is a staff attorney at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama, where her work includes a wide range of policy work and civil rights litigation, including representing students with limited English proficiency who are facing discrimination and serving as counsel in SPLC's representation of a disabled veteran and her wife in a challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act. Before joining the Southern Poverty Law Center, Caren served as a law clerk for the Honorable Robert J. Cordy of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. She interned at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund as a Crowell & Moring Summer Public Interest Fellow in 2009. Additionally, she has interned at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University and the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

**Felicia Simpson** serves as Community Education Coordinator for Gadsden (Alabama) City Schools. Through her initiative and commitment to antibullying initiatives, the Gadsden City Community Education received the Alabama Community Education Association's Peggy Spain McDonald "Bright

Idea” Award in March 2012. She has assisted State Representative Blaine Gallaher in revising the “Alex Moore Act” to assist schools in recognizing, responding, and preventing bullying. She established partnerships with organizations such as “Stand for the Silent” and the “Megan Meier Foundation.” She has volunteered her serves to other school systems and assisted them in planning and organizing an Anti-Bullying Rally. She has received calls from police chiefs, captains, and other law enforcement officials to assist them in recognizing bullying; however, some were calls after students had committed suicide due to bullying. It is imperative that our message is spread locally, nationally, and globally to prevent tragic outcomes.

**Robert Turner** is Assistant Program Director for the David Mathews Center for Civic Life.

**Brenda Van Mol** is an experienced speaker and consultant, having worked for major publishing companies across the United States for over 25 years. Since the spring of 2013, Brenda has been a part of the Tools for Life organization, working with teachers and attending conferences dealing with emotional social learning. She has worked with teachers of all age groups and has taught first grade.

**James Vines** is a Ph.D. candidate in Educational Leadership in Higher Education at Clemson University. He is also pursuing a Policy Studies Certificate from the Strom Thurmond Institute of government and Public Affairs. James has worked as a mental health counselor prior to pursuing his Ph.D. Currently, Mr. Vines is working on his dissertation entitled “An Explanatory Embedded Case Study of the Proposed Megan Meier Cyberbullying Prevention and Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Statutes.”

**Dequadray White** has explored writing, directing, and producing at the Jesse Draper Boys & Girls Club. He wrote and directed a play called, “ No Nonsense” which depicted many of the challenges today’s youth face and challenged members to make sure no one feels unwanted or bullied. He has now served as Project Director for the Keystone National Project- “Help Wanted,” a multi-media project addressing Teen Suicide and Self Harm Prevention. He is dedicated to service in his club as has led several service initiatives including the “Stuff the Bus” campaign for the homeless, food drives, and Zumba parties to encourage healthy lifestyles. He has been recently elected as the President of his Keystone Club, a club focused on teen service and leadership. He is a Teen Ambassador and implemented a Literacy Day for all members aged six and seven. He has been at the Boys and Girls Club for six years. A sophomore at Tri-Cities High School Art Magnet Program, he lives by this quote by Stephen Covey, “The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing. College bound, the 100 Black Men of South Metro Rites of Passage Academy, National Arts Honors Society are activities he does to lead to a future in Directing/Producing. He plans to major in Illustration and/or Art Therapy.