KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

"Finding Your Purposeful Path: Dare to Take Charge"  
Presenter: Judge Glenda Hatchett

Judge Hatchett will identify the root of bullying, its various forms, its impact on self and others, and the effect of social networks and other media on the evolution of bullying in the collegiate atmosphere. She will encourage students to redirect their energies to focus on enhancing their own lives, especially while transitioning into the “real world.” She will establish a blueprint to maintaining a purposeful life by encouraging hard work, continued personal growth, and individuality, stressing that a person’s past does not have to dictate his or her future.

"Be A Game Changer"  
Presenter: Liz Huntley

Liz will share her personal story of how game-changing people set her on the right path to success, and will challenge the audience to see the opportunities for them to have a similar impact in others' lives.

"Children's Bullying: From Awareness to Action"  
Presenter: Melissa C Mercado, PhD MS MA

Bullying is a form of youth violence and a public health problem that can result in physical injury, social and emotional distress, and even death. Furthermore, it can have a long-term adverse impact on children’s overall development. For nearly 10 years, the Division of Violence Prevention at CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control has collaborated with federal and non-federal partners to better understand, monitor and prevent bullying – from developing a compendium of psychometrically-validated bullying assessment tools and a uniform definition of bullying, to supporting bullying surveillance among US high school students and building local capacity to use evidence-based bullying prevention programs. CDC’s historical and current bullying prevention efforts – including collaboration with the Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention and StopBullying.gov – will be discussed during this closing keynote session.
“Together We Can Overcome Bullying” Presenters: Bruce Griggs, Sir Rod Patterson and Belinda Ramsey
This session gives attendees the opportunity to engage in dialogue with youth and youth-serving adults aimed at identifying collaborative solutions for overcoming the many negative impacts of bullying.


Nature Matters (2016) tells the story of ten teenaged digital natives who discover their sense of place in the natural world. These students embark on a journey as strangers and become friends as they develop a sense of empathy for both nature and each other. These students learn how to work collectively to protect and conserve precious natural ecosystems. This film illustrates how providing intentional opportunities for young people in nature creates empathetic bonds that extend into all areas of life. Consequently, this growing empathy allows these students to see the world through eyes of kindness, making the world a safer place to live.

“Working with High Conflict Persons” Presenter: Kevin Coonrod
Do you have a disruptive employee or supervisor who is unable to accept responsibility for unrealized goals and tasks? Are you walking on eggshells due to the behavior of a person constantly in turmoil, overly dramatic or self-obsessed? Does he or she regularly blame external circumstances or other people for his or her own failure to meet responsibilities? If so, you may be working with a High Conflict Person. In this interactive seminar, learn how to spot behaviors that may indicate a person has narcissistic, histrionic, borderline or anti-social high conflict traits. Although this presentation is not intended to educate in scientific diagnosis or treatment, it will offer techniques that may help you constructively interact with a difficult person in the workplace.

“Why Do I Have to Work With You?” Presenters: Roger Dinwiddie and Teresa Whitaker
Differences in styles, personalities, philosophies and belief systems create organizational challenges. In the era of high tech, low touch communications, this topic will help professionals focus on having crucial conversations and build relationships with colleagues, clients, community relationships, or businesses. A special emphasis on the importance of addressing workplace bullying and harassment and developing high empathy environments is addressed.
“Applying the Ethical Decision-Making Model to Cyber-bullying Situations” Presenters: Kanessa Miller Doss, Sherrionda Crawford, and Korinne H. Babel

The increased use of technology and the popularity of social media have revolutionized the act of bullying, establishing cyber-bullying (the act of bullying through technology). Therefore, ethical and illegal issues addressing cyberbullying are increasingly presenting dilemmas for mental health professionals and educators alike. This workshop educates participants in addressing ethical issues specific to cyber-bullying, applying the ethical decision-making model.

“Strong Youth, Strong Communities” Presenter: Darrell Green

An Interactive Workshop especially for youth attendees

Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrell Green’s presentation includes life stories and life lessons, as well as an interactive Q & A. Following an initial presentation, attendees split up into small groups, where they share and discuss issues and topics related to bullying, active thinking, and sound judgment. The groups then come back together to share intervention strategies. An informal tailgate supper, conversation, and music close out the workshop.

“School Climate, Georgia’s School Climate Star “Rating and the Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports Implementation Framework” Presenters: Justin Hill, Jeff Hodges, and 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 survey data, discipline data, and attendance data are used to calculate a School Climate Star Rating for all Georgia schools. Attendees will also learn how implementation of the Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) framework improves school climate.

“Using Experiential Activities to Implement (SEL) Skills and Eliminate Cyber-Bullying” Presenter: Dr. Kortney Peagram

The goal for this presentation is to demonstrate how team building and experiential learning activities can help increase social emotional learning skills. Using a whole school approach model and applying restorative practices, Dr. Kortney Peagram will demonstrate how to facilitate these activities to build empathy, collaboration, and teamwork in your schools. The interactive presentation will provide educators with tools to help increase social emotional learning skills in group setting and in the classrooms. The presentation is highly engaging, giving participants the opportunity to practice using experiential activities. Participants will also be able to collectively develop new strategies to address negative social conflict (gossip, rumors, exclusion) as well as bullying/cyberbullying. Educators will walk away with useful strategies to implement immediately in their schools.
“Eliminating School Bullying Will Increase Graduation Rates”  Presenter: Dr. Franklin Schargel

Both physical and nonphysical forms of bullying can happen anywhere in the school and even online. “Over 13 million American kids will be bullied this year, making it the most common form of violence experienced by young people in the nation” (Hirsch, 2012). Research has indicated that school leaders, classroom teachers, support personnel, parents, and students can, by doing something about bullying, increase graduation rates. The workshop includes cyberbullying.

“Helping All Students Graduate: Strategies and Tools to Increase Academic Success”  Presenter: Dr. Franklin Schargel

School dropouts are a plague that affects the entire country. While dropout rates in some communities reach over 50 percent, no school, no community, regardless of how affluent, is exempt. Building on research for his books, he worked with the National Dropout Prevention Center and developed strategies which the National Education Goals Panel has called “the most effective strategies to help solve our school dropout problem.” All educators want ALL children to thrive and to graduate.

“Using Exemplary Texts and Readers’ Theatre to Develop Empathy in the Classroom”  Presenters: Dr. Kristen Pennycuff Trent and Dr. Stephanie Richards

Are you looking for a research-based instructional strategy that will also help develop empathy among students in your classroom? If so, Readers’ Theatre is what you’ve been searching for! Come ready to participate and learn how to build classroom culture, improve reading fluency and comprehension, AND develop empathy among students! Techniques and scripts will be shared as well as access to online materials and a community of like-minded professionals.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS (1 HOUR):

Choice Bus

The Choice Bus is an experience-based learning tool designed to show young people the power of education as well as the likely consequences of choosing to drop out of school. The bus contains a full scale replica of a prison cell which is hidden behind a curtain and flat screen television. Upon entering the bus, a short movie will quiz the audience on the earning potential of a dropout versus a high school and college graduate. The movie also features several powerful testimonials from people who regret dropping out—prison inmates. When the movie is finished, the cell is revealed demonstrating the stark reality experienced by many dropouts. Students are then invited into the prison cell to briefly experience the uncomfortable living conditions. Choice Bus will be on-site continuously throughout the day on June 21.
“There’s An App for That: Mobile Resources for Bullying Prevention”  Presenters: Korinne H. Babel, Sherrionda Crawford, and Kanessa M. Doss

Technology is a promising way to address and discourage bullying. Software developers and advocates have begun to use elements of technology to create mobile apps aimed at addressing bullying. These apps provide ways for students to anonymously report bullying or harassment. These apps will not directly prevent all incidents of bullying. It is thought that knowledge of such apps being used in the schools can become a deterrent, causing students to consider again before acting on aggressive impulses.


“Responding to Cyberbullying in Your Schools: A Guide for Administrators” is a scenario/interactive presentation designed in response to increased acts of bullying through the use of technology. Presentation participants will gain knowledge of federal, state, and local laws that address cyberbullying and will be equipped with useful strategies and guidelines for effectively and efficiently investigating reports of such in their schools.

“Improving Pro-Social Behaviors: An Important Part of Anti-Bullying Work”  Presenters: Adrienne Duke, Synithia Flowers, and Margaret Odom

Anti-bullying work is not just the reduction of problem behaviors. In this presentation, we will highlight how prosocial behaviors can be an integral part of bullying prevention. An enriching conversation will provide the latest research on pro-social behaviors and will help practitioners improve their programming efforts. Examples will be shared from the Be SAFE program that can be utilized to promote a positive environment for youth.

“It’s Not Just Kids Being Kids—The Long-term Effects of Bullying on Youth”  Presenter: Alan Eisenberg

This presentation focuses on the long-term effects that bullying has on people, particularly youth bullying. Discussion topics include Cyberbullying, Ignoring, Verbal, and Physical bullying. Alan will share with the audience his own personal story of the long-term effects of bullying and interactive activities to keep the audience engaged. Discussion of correct approaches that work to help survivors and bullies and what most do wrong will be looked at, as well as a strong focus on empathy vs. sympathy.
“Using Dramatic Arts to Address Bullying in the Local School”  Presenters:  Entertainers of Tomorrow from Randolph County High School (Alabama), Performers with Mr. Brance Taylor, Faculty Sponsor

Statistics show that 3.2 million students are victims of bullying each year, and 45% of these incidents take place on school property. What better voices to be heard about this growing trend than those of the students themselves? In this session, Entertainers of Tomorrow, a small drama club from Randolph County High School in Wedowee, Alabama, will perform an original dramatic presentation inspired by true events and personal experiences. The script, written and produced by the students themselves, is designed to address multiple forms of bullying, including Race, Sexual Orientation, Personality, Appearance, and Reputation. The script will be available for participants to take back and adapt to their local school culture. The session will conclude with a panel discussion where the students will entertain questions from the participants.

“Combatting the Normalization of Bullying Through Practical Policies, Procedures, and Practices”  Presenter:  Dr. Quentin Fretwell

Yes, this is war! In this “fight” to keep our children safe and promote their academic success and well-being into adulthood, we are battling against bullying being normalized in several ways. Although this normalization is not new, it has now taken other forms that seek to infuse it into today’s “social and behavioral lexicon.” This interactive session will identify how bullying and harassment are being normalized and discuss practical policies and procedures that will assist us in this “fight.”

“How to be a GamE Changer”  Presenter:  LaSaundra Gafford

Advocates for C.H.A.N.G.E. was founded in 2016 and is headquartered in Atlanta, GA. LaSaundra Gafford, survivor of bullying, is dedicated to advocating for those who have experienced bullying, low self-esteem, and other related issues. Her session will focus on the 5 principles of CHANGE:  Change your perception; Have a positive mindset; Accept yourself and others; Never blame youth for being bullied; become a GamE changer.

“A Police Whistle-Blower’s War on Corruption, Hazing, and Harassment”  Presenter:  Justin Hopson

The New York Times article “New Jersey Agrees to Settle Trooper’s Harassment Suit” reported on Justin Hopson’s federal lawsuit in 2007. With only 11 days on the job, Trooper Hopson blew the whistle on his training officer after he unlawfully arrested a citizen and falsified a police report. As a result of reporting the corruption, Hopson was physically assaulted and relentlessly bullied by a secret society of state troopers known as the Lords of Discipline. Hopson articulates his harrowing story.
“Bullying Prevention through the Lens of Cultural Competence” Presenters: Eric Johnson and Roger Dinwiddie

Understanding and appreciating the richness of diversity and cultural backgrounds is key in promoting civil discourse in schools and the workplace. In this session, participants will explore cultural competency and diversity in terms of culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, spiritual beliefs, socio-economic status, and language as it relates to best practices in fostering kindness and empathy and reducing bullying and harassment.

“Relational Pedagogy: A New Way to Prepare Teachers to Address Bullying in Schools” Presenters: Joseph Jones and Adam Crownover

Bullying continues to be a systemic problem in schools. Forty-five percent of students engage in bullying behaviors and 25% of students are bullied on a regular basis. As such, teacher preparation programs must begin examining methods to prepare pre-service teachers to address this problem. In this presentation, we discuss a model where teachers and administrators can establish positive relationships with students, an approach which we and others term “relational pedagogy.”

“Putting Feet to Your Policy—A Practical Approach to Bully Prevention” Presenter: Melissa Licali

This session will leave attendees with concrete implementation steps that can be applied almost immediately. Beginning with student reporting, session-goers will learn the process that is helping to build student self-regulation and follow-up. Reporting, Investigating, Follow-up, and Parental Contact will all be covered in this data-driven workshop.

“Bullying Students Who Are Muslim: How Can Teacher Educators Intervene?” Presenters: Saoussan Maarouf and Joseph Jones

This presentation discusses the problem of bullying as it relates to Muslim students. The authors posit teacher education programs can impact how Muslim students are treated in schools. In doing so, the authors provide practical avenues teacher educators can use to prepare pre-service teachers to address the problem.

“WE.auburn: Reducing Power-Based Personal Violence through Bystander Intervention” Presenter: Molly Moore

WE.auburn is part of the national Green Dot movement aimed at empowering bystanders to intervene and reduce incidents of power-based personal violence including sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking/harassment. Developed by Dr. Dorothy Edwards at the University of Kentucky and implemented on college and high school campuses, military bases, and in communities across the nation, Green Dot has contributed to a decrease of incidents of violence as high as 50% (Coker et al., 2014). Implemented on Auburn’s campus October of 2015, WE.auburn has reached almost 11,000 students, faculty, and staff members to date by providing trainings and overview sessions to the campus community.
“Creating a Moral Compass: Key Concepts That Unite Adolescents in Action”  
Presenter: Jasmine Miller-Kleinhenz

The Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment program is a global initiative with the objective of empowering its middle-school-aged participants to serve humanity through the development of their spiritual perceptions, enhancement of their power of expression, and the building of a sound moral structure. The program is designed to mold the capacities of these youth by assisting them to recognize the moral issues underlying everyday decisions and identify the moral implications of speech and action.

“Identifying and Using GBLT Picture Books to Encourage Diversity and Inclusion”  
Presenter: Hannah Pickworth

This presentation will include display and “book talk” showcasing good books to share with the picture book audiences. These books include positive images of GBLT characters (some are animals; some are people), their families, and their communities. The audience will also be guided in ways to locate appropriate books featuring GBLT communities and will assist attendees in understanding why so few of these books are in the mainstream of public schools and libraries.

“Bullying the Bully: How’s That Working for You?”  
Presenters: Sandy Resa and Sheniqua Griffin

What consequences have you or your district implemented to deal with bullies? Many of the consequences employed only model the actions of a bully and fail to offer the desired result. Consider restructuring the school environment and implementing teaching opportunities to work with the troubled students to allow all to feel safe and achieve.

“The Bully Proof Vest”  
Presenter: Kelly Robbins

After her youngest daughter’s suicide attempt and subsequent week in the behavioral health unit, Ms. Robbins knew something more had to be done to address bullying. So she returned to school herself to become a Cognitive Behavioral Group Facilitator in order to help kids who were victims of bullying. Her idea was to teach kids how to reframe their thinking in order to restore autonomy and empowerment in their lives. By doing so she helps kids create their own bully-proof vest.

“HEAR! HEAR! Helping Everyone Achieve Respect!”  
Presenter: Amy Smith

The purpose of this session is to share methods of youth empowerment used in HEAR—Helping Everyone Achieve Respect. HEAR is a student workshop, created by experts at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Harvard University, that impacts middle and high school students’ thinking about bullying prevention and respect-building. Content, resources, and opportunities to schedule HEAR workshops in your community will be discussed, including support from Project HEAR US Foundation.
Research Summary—Title TO BE ANNOUNCED
Presenter: Jonathan Todres

Long tolerated as a rite of passage into adulthood, bullying is now recognized as a significant public health issue. The consequences of bullying—for those who are bullied, those who bully, and the witnesses—include poor physical health, anxiety, and depression, increased risk for suicide, poor school performance, and future delinquent and aggressive behavior. Despite efforts to address bullying at the law, policy, and programmatic levels, there is still much to learn about the consequences of bullying and the effectiveness of various responses. In 2016, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine published a report entitled Preventing Bullying through Science, Policy and Practice, which examined the evidence on bullying, its impact, and responses to date. This presentation, by one of the study committee’s members, summarizes the report’s key findings and recommendations related to bullying prevention. The presentation focuses in particular on the policy components of the issue. Finally, the presentation situates the problem of bullying in the broader context of violence against children and offers recommendations for fostering safer environments in which every child can grow to his or her fullest potential.

“It’s Not Programs, It’s People! Why Emotional Intelligence is Crucial to Combat Bullying”
Presenters: Stephen White, Melissa Licali, and Tara Mason

At Belle Chasse Academy our Student Affairs Department believes that student and teacher goals are best achieved through a school culture with an emphasis on fostering Emotional Intelligence grounded in empathy. Helping students to recognize their differences as well as commonalities gives our entire community a chance to work together toward fair and equitable solutions. Belle Chasse Academy (Louisiana) is located on a military base. Our students face many of the same challenges as civilian children. However, children in military families also face frequent long distance moves, heightened fear of harm to loved ones and care providers, and increased rates of divorce and domestic violence. Such circumstances have challenged us to find solutions that can also be universally applied to the general population.

Title: TBA
Presenter: Mark Winne

Mark Winne, a WSB reporter with Channel 2 News in Atlanta, will share his experiences as an investigative reporter.

POSTER SESSIONS (30 MINUTES)
• **DR. KORINNE H. BABEL** has 5 years’ experience as an elementary educator, 3 years’ experience as a children’s counselor, and 6 years’ experience as a mental health counselor educator. Dr. Babel has earned a bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education, master’s degree in School Counseling, Graduate Certificate in Play Therapy, and Ph.D. in Counselor Education. Dr. Babel’s research interests include Self-Efficacy, Animal-Assisted Play Therapy, and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

• **C. KEVIN COONROD** is Ombudsperson for students, faculty and staff at Auburn University. He is a frequent speaker on conflict resolution topics at conferences and workplace retreats, where he enjoys conveying his confidence in the ability of people to resolve their own conflicts through creativity and self-empowerment. Coonrod is a member of the International Ombudsman Association, the California Caucus of College and University Ombuds, and the Northwest Ombuds Group. He is a Certified Organizational Ombudsman Practitioner and a member of the Alabama State Court Mediator Roster. Coonrod came to the South from the Pacific Northwest, where he received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington and his juris doctorate from the University Of Idaho College Of Law. In addition to his Working with High Conflict Persons session, Kevin presents seminars and workshops entitled Bullying and Mobbing in the Workplace and Academe; The Art and Productive Capacity of Active Listening; Identifying Underlying Interests: Tips from Nature, History and the Cinema; and, Teamwork: Building Results Collaboratively and Amicably.

• **SHERRIONDA CRAWFORD**, assistant professor of Clinical Mental Health counseling at Troy University, earned her Ph.D. in counselor Education from Auburn University. She is a Nationally Certified Licensed Professional Counselor and Certified School Counselor in Alabama. She has many years of experience in clinical mental health and school counseling. Her research interests include trends in school counseling and skill acquisition of counselors-in-training.

• **ADAM CROWNOVER** is a high school social studies teacher in Charlotte, NC, and a doctoral student at Mercer University. His research focuses primarily on the development and maintenance of positive teacher-student relationships. He believes that adopting a relational approach to teaching will enable teachers and students to enjoy the full benefits of an affective and modern, re-humanized education.

• **ROGER DINWIDDIE, M.ED.**, is the CEO of STARS (SAMHSA/NREPP). He is the Immediate Past President of the International Bullying Prevention Association. He is an Olweus Technical Assistance Consultant, Safe Dates and Building Assets Reducing Risks trainer/consultant. He provides training and consultation to leaders in business and in school districts on healthy/productive workplace relationships. He was most recently recognized as one of Nashville’s “Most Admired CEOs” by the Nashville Business Journal.
• CAYCIE D. DIX, ESQ., is a licensed attorney and mediator in the State of Georgia. She is employed with DeKalb County School District as one of four Hearing Officers appointed by the Superintendent to hear evidence concerning charges of student misconduct in that capacity. Ms. Dix has presided over hundreds of local level disciplinary hearings, many of which have involved allegations of bullying and cyberbullying, and she annually trains administrators on student discipline and updates in the law.

• DR. KANESSA MILLER DOSS is an assistant professor of Psychology at Troy University. She is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist and National Certified Counselor. She received her M.Ed. in School Counseling and Ph.D. in School Psychology at Auburn University. She has nine years of experience as a public school educator. Dr. Doss’s research interests are social emotional functioning with an emphasis on violence and bullying, school psychology advocacy, and accessibility issues.

• DR. ADRIENNE DUKE IS an assistant professor and extension specialist in Human Development and Family Studies at Auburn University. She earned a M.A. in Pan-African Studies from the University of Louisville, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has been leading a state-wide bullying prevention initiative in Alabama schools for four years focused on teaching youth pro-social and defender behaviors.

• ALAN EISENBERG has, since 2007, dedicated his time focusing on helping people deal with bullying and youth trauma recovery in order to move forward with their lives. He is a certified Life Coach, Solutions-Focused Coach, Health /Wellness, and Transformational Coach. He dedicates his time to coaching others to thrive after trauma or to build back their authentic self (self-esteem). He is the author of two novels on bullying: A Ladder in the Dark, his memoir about youth bullying, and Crossing the Line.

• ENTERTAINERS OF TOMORROW FROM RANDOLPH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL (ALABAMA) is a little club with big goals. This nine-year-old drama club is entirely extra-curricular, self-sufficient, and student-governed. We have a current membership of thirty-seven students in grades 8 – 12, which is approximately 10% of the student body, who are given the opportunity to participate in a variety of capacities within the club. Mr. Brance Taylor is the faculty sponsor for this club. One of his goals since taking over as faculty sponsor of Entertainers of Tomorrow, has been to create opportunities for the kids to experience the arts in ways that they might never have been able to do - either for cultural reasons or financial reasons or both- and to provide a platform for untapped talents of the students. Each year the members of Randolph County High School’s Entertainers of Tomorrow drama club are committed to producing two on-campus productions, traveling to see at least one professional touring show, and participating in community outreach service projects. They have participated in full costume in the local Christmas parade and recently produced a well-received show in honor of Black History Month- the first ever show of its kind at
Randolph County High School. As one club member says, “When someone tells us that we are too ambitious or that a show is too difficult for us, then that immediately becomes our next production. We are like the little engine that could.” The kids create the production from the ground up. They decide the content, write the scripts, build the sets, acquire the costumes, publicize, and perform in each production. As a result, the productions provided by Randolph County High School’s *Entertainers of Tomorrow* are among the more anticipated events throughout the year both at school and in the community.

- **SYNITHIA FLOWERS** is a regional extension agent in Family and Child Development for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. She holds a B.S. in Communication Disorders with a concentration in Psychology and a M.Ed. with a focus in Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Technology from Auburn University. Synithia has served as an Extension agent for 15 years. She conducts anti-bullying programming across seven counties in Alabama, in conjunction with other youth and family-focused efforts.

- **DR. QUENTIN FRETWELL**, as a local school and district-level administrator, has worked over 20 years addressing student bullying, harassment, hazing, discipline, and safety in schools. He earned a Ph.D. from Georgia State University with a dissertation entitled “Addressing Bullying in Schools: The Perceptions, Thoughts, and Beliefs of Middle School Principals.” His efforts have been published in the American School Board Journal and through presentations around the region and in media interviews.

- **LASAUNDRA GAFFORD**, a resident of Atlanta, is the founder of Advocates for C.H.A.N.G.E., dedicated to advocacy for those who have experienced bullying, low self-esteem, and other related issues. She conducts training sessions utilizing poetry, writing, and role playing for youth in schools and community centers and is the author of There’s a Story Behind Every Poem (2013).

- **DARRELL GREEN** is no stranger to success. In addition to his record-setting 20-year career with the Washington Redskins, his on-field accomplishments include two Super Bowl victories, seven selections to the Pro Bowl, four NFL Fastest Man competitions, and a 2008 induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Darrell is also well-known for his work off the field. A long-time proponent of education, service, and moral development, he founded The Darrell Green Youth Life Foundation (DGYLF) to provide a wide range of academic and values-based after-school and summer programs to help youth develop into leaders that positively influence their families and communities. Likewise, through the Centene partnership on Strong Youth, Strong Communities (SYSC), a three-year initiative targeting middle and high school youth, Darrell is investing in youth nationwide by using his real life on- and off-field experience to illustrate strategies for success. In addition, Strong Youth Strong Communities aims to put a stop to bullying through education and empowerment of parents, teachers, and students.
• **SHENIQUA GRIFFIN**, a native of Dadeville, Alabama, is a certified John C. Maxwell coach, speaker, and trainer, and assistant women’s basketball coach at Southern Union State Community College in Wadley, Alabama. Ms. Griffin has extensive experience in student leadership development, mentoring, and organizational event planning and has worked with a wide variety of educational leaders. She is also a program co-coordinator of the L.E.A.D (Loachapoka Exploring Auburn Day) initiatives in the Truman Pierce Institute, College of Education at Auburn University. Sheniqua is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Auburn University’s Adult Education program where she also holds a master’s degree in Adult Education, minor in Sport Management, and bachelor’s degree in Psychology. Sheniqua is a graduate of Steve Harvey’s 1st Inaugural Business Acceleration Class of 2016 where she has collaborated in learning communities with successful entrepreneurs from across the world.

• **BRUCE GRIGGS**, retired Detention Officer, former CBS Talk Radio Host, and Concert Promoter founded Operation Correct Start, Incorporated (OCS) in 1995 while recovering from a career ending injury in law enforcement. His "don't quit" attitude led OCS to grow from providing school supplies to homeless youth, to an agency that has served over 3500 youth to date, providing assistance with abuse, school drop outs, suicide, teen pregnancy, economic hardships and violence prevention. The mission of OCS is to increase the awareness of at-risk, disadvantaged and homeless youth with a focus on developing positive attitudes valuing and achieving higher educational levels, and developing high moral values that will increase their ability in succeeding and achieving life's goals.

• **JUSTIN HILL** was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee. He received his bachelor’s degree from Georgia State University, a master’s degree from the University of Tennessee and an Education Specialist Degree from Georgia College and State University. He has over 20 years of experience in public education. He has been a high school and middle school teacher, school administrator and specialist for two state agencies. Hill currently serves as Georgia’s State Coordinator for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) at the Georgia Department of Education. Hill manages PBIS implementation in 50% of Georgia’s school districts involving 1,000 K-12 schools. Georgia is among only 8 states that have over 1,000 schools trained in PBIS. Hill is also an 18-year veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces and of Operation Enduring Freedom. He is currently a Commander in the Naval Information Force Reserve.

• **JEFF HODGES** currently serves as a Program Specialist in the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program at the Georgia Department of Education. He has over 18 years of experience in the areas of school safety, bullying prevention and intervention, student discipline, school climate improvement and drug, alcohol and violence prevention. Mr. Hodges has a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Georgia. He lives in Cherokee County, Georgia, with his wife and twin boys.
• **JUSTIN HOPSON**, a New Jersey State Trooper, dutifully exposed corruption and sparked the largest internal investigation in state police history and a high profile federal case. His efforts to reform government have been supported by the likes of Senator John Adler, Dr. Susan Lipkens, Frank Serpico, and the National Whistleblower Center. Hopson has been interviewed by ABC News, the New York Times, 20/20, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Star Ledger, and Bloomberg about hazing and police corruption.

• **ERIC JOHNSON** is the Vice President of Youth Development of STARS Nashville. He has spoken to educators, mental health professionals, administrators, communities, and young people nationwide about kindness, cultural competence, bullying, and youth voice. He is a certified Olweus and Restorative Practices trainer and one of the developers of the MOVE2STAND bullying prevention program. He has served as a trainer, consultant, and program developer for the Tennessee Youth Engagement Summit in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Education.

• **DR. JOSEPH JONES** is known nationally for his academic work that addresses bullying in educational environments. He proposes that bullying exists because of social normalization and that schools must begin unnormalizing education to dismantle the binary oppositions that exist within society. He is the recipient of the 2017 Stonewall Service Award from CCCC/NCTE and a 2014 Award from the Anti-Bullying Summit/Auburn University, both recognizing his research and scholarship.

• **MELISSA LICALI** has been a Bully Prevention Specialist for the past 8 years in New Orleans, LA. She is currently working with schools across the U.S., helping them put “feet to their policy.” Melissa has worked in both the private and public school sectors, and has served as director of Home-School Support for 10 years. Mrs. Licali is a wife, mother, and grandmother who has a passion for helping children succeed everywhere.

• **DR. SAOUSSAN MAAROUF** is assistant professor of Early Childhood at the College of Education and Health Professionals at Columbus State University (CSU). Her educational background and certification include a doctorate of education in Curriculum and Leadership from CSU, a master of education in Early Childhood from CSU, and a bachelor’s degree in Communication with a specialty in Journalism from the Lebanese University, Beirut, Lebanon.

• **TARA MASON** received her Bachelor of Science in Early Education from West Virginia University and continued graduate studies through the University of San Diego. Tara has over 10 years’ experience teaching in the classroom and 10 years as the Behavior Interventionist/Strategist at Belle Chasse Academy. A military wife and mother of three successful young men, Tara has been selected to executive positions of two school boards in multiple states and has served as Navy Ombudsman in Washington, D.C.
• JASMINE MILLER-KLEINHENZ has been working with the Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program for over 10 years, serving as both a facilitator and as a coordinator for the program at both the local and regional level. She also worked to develop the program in the Caribbean and lived in Trinidad and Tobago for a year with this aim. She is receiving her Ph.D. in Cancer Biology at Emory University.

• MOLLY MOORE, M.ED. has an extensive background within higher education where she has provided prevention, intervention, and support services to college students in a variety of roles. Currently, she serves as the Alcohol and Drug Prevention Coordinator in the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness Services at Auburn University where she oversees a variety of alcohol and drug prevention programs. In addition to her current role, Molly supports and advocates for survivors of interpersonal violence by serving as a Safe Harbor Advocate. Additionally, she is a certified Green Dot facilitator and provides WE.auburn overviews and training sessions to the Auburn campus community. She is currently a doctoral candidate in Counseling Psychology.

• MARGARET ODOM is a regional extension agent in Family and Child Development with Alabama Cooperative Extension System. She earned an M.S. in Management from Troy University and an Ed.S. from Auburn University where she is a doctoral candidate in Adult Education. She has taught bullying awareness in middle schools for 3 years and is participating in a state-wide bullying prevention initiative in southwest Alabama, teaching pro-social behaviors and strategies that help youth become allies.

• SIR ROD PATTERSON, an exciting youth motivational speakers and “edu-tainer,” has spoken/perform for 200 + schools, Boys and Girl Clubs, YMCAs, and park & recreation centers. He uses his 25+ years of performance experience to engage kids through music, dance, and comedy at school, festival and youth events, building rapport and creating “real talk” about the power of choice, developing moral character and stopping bullying.

• HANNAH PICKWORTH is one of the founders of the Peace Studies Center (Baltimore, MD), a resource center with materials to promote peaceful behavior, inclusion, and diversity and stewardship at a level that young children can appreciate. Hannah is a retired school librarian/college teacher with over 30 years of experience in public, school, and university libraries. She has presented peace books for numerous conferences, classrooms, and workshops, and reviewed materials for professional journals.

• BELINDA RAMSEY, the former Ms. Texas, used her public platform, passion for protecting children, and entrepreneurial savvy to found the Mothers Opposing Bullying (MOB) Foundation. MOB is dedicated to the eradication of bullying, promoting awareness that bullying is not a rite of passage but an act of violence with life-long effects for both the victim and the bully. MOB works for the eradication of student-on-student violence and bullying in public schools through a multi-
disciplinary, educational and reform approach, including: the implementation of our national toll-free “hot line” offering referrals for crisis/suicide-prevention and counseling for victims; counseling referrals for perpetrators and their parents; coordination with school authorities, law enforcement, and the juvenile legal system; adoption of uniform model codes of juvenile justice; development and implementation of codes of student conduct; and student and parent education.

- **SANDY RESA**, a retired Alabama middle school principal and teacher, is a consultant currently working with the Truman Pierce Institute at Auburn University. Utilizing 29 years of experience in the elementary and middle school setting, she strongly believes a positive culture creates an environment to allow success.

- **DR. STEPHANIE RICHARDS** studied student perceptions of violence at school as a Ph.D. student before becoming a junior/senior high school principal in Colorado and a superintendent in Alaska. Later, she went on to teach methods courses and supervise upperclassmen in the field at Tennessee Tech University, where she also began to study and present on the topic of using Readers’ theatre to develop empathy as related to bullying.

- **KELLY ROBBINS** is trying not to lose her mind while raising three teenagers. She has worked as a professional life coach for over 20 years and recently became a Cognitive Behavioral Group Facilitator in order to help kids who have been victims of bullying. Kelly’s new program, “The Bully-Proof Vest,” has been taught to teenagers in Canada, the United States, and South America and equips kids of all ages with the tools to reframe their thinking and thus their lives.

- **MATTHEW ROBINSON** is the Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Chattahoochee Hills Charter School in Fairburn, GA, where he serves 460 students (grades K-7), grades Kindergarten to 7th Grade. The school's motto is, "Learning is in our nature," and Matthew is responsible for building a team and experience that inspires all children to reach the highest levels of academic achievement through a rigorous curriculum that integrates the wonders of the natural world. His expertise within his current position is in whole-school curriculum design and planning, teacher training and professional development, and instructional integration of arts, agriculture, and the environment with all content areas. He has worked in and with several educational institutions and systems which include Atlanta Public Schools, Fulton County Schools, Emory University, Morehouse College, Georgia Tech - AmeriCorps, the National Science Foundation, American College Testing (ACT), and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Before entering educational administration, he taught mathematics, science and reading to grades 5, 6, and 12. During the 2015 - 2016 school year, he earned the Teacher of the Year Award and is known for his student growth in mathematics, engaging kinesthetic lessons, and high-impact mentoring of youth. He will earn a M.S in Educational Policy Studies/Social Foundations of Education from Georgia State University in the summer of 2017. He has a B.A in International Studies with a focus in Social Sciences from Morehouse College.

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• **DR. FRANKLIN SCHARGEL** is a former classroom teacher, school counselor, and school administrator who successfully spearheaded a turnaround of an all-minority Career and Technical High School. He is the author of twelve books dealing with dropout prevention and at-risk learners. He received Auburn University’s “Hero Award” in 2016 for his work addressing bullying in schools, and the “Crystal Star Award” from the National Dropout Prevention Network.

• **DR. AMY SMITH** is the Director of Educational Programs at Project HEAR, located in Atlanta, GA. Amy has over 20 years of experience in the field of education, working as a classroom teacher, consultant, college instructor, and researcher. Her particular interest involves children’s social and emotional development as they relate to learning. Amy helps create and improve content and promotes HEAR, a research-based resource for engaging educators and students in combatting the problem of bullying.

• **BRANCE TAYLOR** is a career educator who teaches at Randolph County High School in Wedowee, Alabama. He has twenty-four years’ experience in the classroom and has taught every grade in grades 2-12 in virtually every public school setting-- from inner city to the rural South. Mr. Taylor holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Jacksonville State University and a Master of Arts from the University of Alabama. He has twice been named to Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers, an honor bestowed on less than 10% of teachers in the United States. In addition to teaching 7th and 8th grade English Language Arts, he is currently a team leader, chairman of the School Improvement Team, and is the former Federal Programs Planning Specialist for Randolph County High School. Mr. Taylor is the faculty sponsor for the extra-curricular Entertainers of Tomorrow, a small high school drama club made up of students in grades 8-12.

• **BARBARA ANN TEMPLE, PH.D.,** Vice President of Education with the Arts & Science Council (ASC) in Charlotte, North Carolina, has spent over three decades advocating for high-quality education through arts infusion, experiential learning, and social justice in PreK-12 classrooms. Her passion for equity in education drives her passion for creating collaborative advocacy documentaries centered on children and youth. Nature Matters (2016) advocates for the importance of ensuring children and youth engage with the natural world and develop empathy for nature and human beings. Spiral Bound (2014) advocates for ensuring arts in education for all students. Barbara Ann’s qualitative research interests include arts-based educational research, social justice, environmental education, literacy, and notions of social, cultural, and linguistic capital. Barbara Ann’s personal interests include marathon training, plant-based nutrition, photography, documentary filmmaking, poetry, community-based projects through the arts, and naturalistic-based experiences. Barbara Ann earned a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte in Urban Education Curriculum & Instruction with a specialization in Literacy: Writing. She holds a Master’s Degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in Special Workshop and Concurrent Session Listing
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Education with a specialization in Gifted & Talented. She earned her BA from Lynchburg College as an English major.

- JONATHAN TODRES is a Professor of Law at Georgia State University College of Law. His research focuses on children’s rights and child well-being. He has authored numerous publications on child trafficking and other forms of violence against children, the implementation of children’s rights law, and legal and cultural constructs of childhood. He is co-author of Human Rights in Children’s Literature: Imagination and the Narrative of Law (Oxford University Press, 2016). Prof. Todres also serves as a regular advisor to nongovernmental organizations working on legislative and policy initiatives to address children’s rights issues. Since 2012, Todres has served on three committees of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine—addressing bullying prevention and sex trafficking of minors. In 2015-2016, he served on the National Academies’ Committee on the Biological and Psychosocial Effects of Peer Victimization: Lessons for Bullying Prevention. Prof. Todres is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He holds a J.D. from Columbia Law School and a B.A. (International Development) from Clark University.

- DR. KRISTEN PENNYCUFF Trent is a literacy expert who has been presenting on the topic of using Readers’ Theatre to develop empathy for the past five years to audiences, both locally and nationally. She has served as the president of the Tennessee Reading Association, was named Distinguished Professor in 2005, and has served two terms as the co-editor of the Tennessee Reading teacher. She is responsible for over $1.5 million in grant funding for literacy projects at Tennessee Tech University.

- HAROLD WASHINGTON is an educator that has served the children of the State of Georgia for 16 years. He has served as a Business Education Teacher (grades 6-12), a district level employee as School Improvement Specialist, and as a regional employee with Metro RESA. Harold currently is Assistant Principal at Columbia High School in the DeKalb county School District. He is a 4th generation educator and has a heart for students’ success.

- MARILYN WATSON currently serves as a Program Manager in the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program at the Georgia Department of Education. She graduated from North Georgia College with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry. She also attended Georgia State University and Grady Memorial Hospital to obtain a degree in Medical Technology and worked in the medical field for 9 years. She went back to school and obtained her teaching degree from the University of Georgia and she earned her master’s degree in Educational Leadership at Valdosta State University. She has worked in education for 26 years with over 20 years of experience in drug and violence prevention, school safety, student discipline and HIV/AIDS education.

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• **TERESA WHITAKER** has over 30 years of human resources experience in both the corporate and nonprofit sectors. In her current role as Chief Operations Officer of STARS Nashville, she oversees all programmatic components and human resources. Teresa has a BS in Human Relations, a MA in Business, and a Ph.D. in Education. She is certified as a Professional in Human Resources.

• **STEPHEN WHITE**, principal at Belle Chasse Academy (Louisiana) is an accomplished educational leader, consultant and strategist with extensive experience working on the development and management of school reform. Currently in defense of his Ph.D. Mr. White works to support students and school staff in articulating social and emotional learning action plans. Stephen married his high school sweetheart. Together they have two super cool daughters, two dogs, and one blue fish.

• **MARK WINNE** was still a student at Auburn University and working part-time at the Birmingham News when he and a photographer spotted a hand sticking out of the trunk of a car and chased it across the city, ultimately leading to the rescue of a kidnap victim. Thus began a career of crime and corruption coverage. After three and a half years working full-time for the News, Mark was hired by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Later switching to television, he went on the air for WSB-TV in 1986 and has helped Channel 2 Action News break many of Georgia’s biggest stories. His print and broadcast work have been honored with numerous professional and civic awards, including a number of Southern Regional Emmys. Mark's coverage of a series of mail bombings which killed a federal judge and a civil rights attorney led to the publication of his book on the case, "Priority Mail" (Scribner, 1995.) Mark has been active with a number of charities and especially at church. For several seasons he coached youth basketball and baseball. Married to the former Kate Sievert, he is an avid golfer. You can follow Mark on Twitter at @MarkWinneWSB.