



# Summit on Student Success Agenda

The Power of Belonging • Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

**8–9 a.m.**

**Registration**

**9–10:15 a.m.**

**General Session—The Power of Many**

Stephen Sroka, Keynote Speaker

**10:15–10:30 a.m.**

**Break**

**10:30–11:30 a.m.**

**Breakout Sessions**

- Creative Spaces, Connected Students—The Vital Role of Fine Arts Programming in Our Schools, Rooms 108–109
- Iowa BIG North's Authentic Classroom—The Power of Belonging & Serving Communities, Rooms 112–113
- Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Students & Staff, Rooms 114–115

**11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.**

**Lunch**

Frontline Analytics

**1–2 p.m.**

**Breakout Sessions**

- From the Board Table to the Classroom—Keeping the Focus on Student Learning, Rooms 108–109
- Capturing Kids' Hearts—Seeing, Hearing & Empowering Our Staff & Students, Rooms 112–113
- Building Belonging Through School Branding Campaigns, Rooms 114–115

**2–3:30 p.m.**

**Featured Workshop—Board Members to a "T"**

Stephen Sroka, Keynote Speaker



**Special thanks to Frontline Analytics for sponsoring this year's Summit on Student Success!**

# Breakout Sessions

## Creative Spaces, Connected Students—The Vital Role of Fine Arts Programming in Our Schools

**Leon Kuehner**, Executive Director, Iowa Alliance for Arts Education

**Jean Schilling**, Board President, Central Springs Schools & IAAE Advisory Board School Board Representative, Iowa Alliance for Arts Education

**Jennifer Gaesser**, Secondary Vocal Music Teacher, Creston Schools & Treasurer, Iowa Alliance for Arts Education

**Current High School Students**, Creston Schools

The opportunity to be involved in fine arts programs at school is essential to creating community and a sense of belonging for kids across Iowa. Board members, staff, and students at Creston Schools, Central Springs Schools, and Iowa Alliance for Arts Education will come together to share how districts across the state ensure access to high-quality fine arts programming for all students. Attendees will hear about the board's role in creating a culture where all students can thrive in fine arts programs, develop an understanding that high-quality fine arts programs for kids are always possible, and hear directly from students how access to fine arts programs helped them feel valued, engaged, and connected at school!

## Iowa BIG North's Authentic Classroom—The Power of Belonging & Serving Communities

**Mike Kuennen**, Iowa BIG North Facilitator, New Hampton Schools

**Jay Jurrens**, Superintendent, New Hampton Schools & Turkey Valley Schools

**Krissy Anderson**, Business Teacher, New Hampton School; Iowa BIG North Facilitator

**Holly O'Brien**, College & Career Coordinator, Northeast Iowa Community College; Iowa BIG North Facilitator

**Becky Babcock**, Municipal Utilities & Shared Workspace Coordinator for Iowa BIG North, New Hampton Schools

**Tammy Robinson**, Economic Development Director, New Hampton Schools

**Brianna White**, Former Iowa BIG North Student & Current Special Education Teacher, Jesup Schools

**Kaylee Baker**, Former Iowa BIG North Student & Incoming Student Teacher

**Peyton Anderson**, Former Iowa BIG North Student & Current Student at ISU

**Rich Powers**, Superintendent, Bondurant-Farrar Schools

Iowa BIG North (Business Innovation Group) is a groundbreaking initiative by the New Hampton and Turkey Valley school districts that transforms education through student-driven, community-partnered, problem-based, authentic learning experiences. As part of the high school curriculum, students collaborate with community partners, peers, and educators to identify and solve real challenges facing businesses, organizations, communities, and schools. By engaging in authentic, problem-

based learning, students gain valuable skills, develop deep learning competencies, and experience education in a meaningful, hands-on way.

Join this session to hear from former students, district leaders, and community partners about the impact of this collaborative approach. Discover how Iowa BIG North is not only helping all students develop a sense of belonging, but also strengthening local communities and driving economic development.

## Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Students & Staff

**Presenters TBA**

Session description coming soon.

## From the Board Table to the Classroom—Keeping the Focus on Student Learning

**Justin Gross**, *Superintendent, Winterset Schools*

**Jared McDonald**, *Board Member, Winterset Schools & IASB®*

How much time do you spend talking about student learning at your board meetings? In Winterset, they are changing the learning experiences for their students by keeping student learning front and center at the board table! Their commitment to engaging and empowering staff to create memorable moments and authentic learning experiences is a team effort. Don't miss this opportunity to hear how Winterset connects the work from the board table to the classroom. Guided by their community-developed strategic directions and Profile of a Graduate, they are creating powerful learning experiences for their students. With their continued focus, Winterset's board-superintendent team is finding ways to leverage resources in support of their strategic priorities.

## Capturing Kids' Hearts—Seeing, Hearing & Empowering Our Staff & Students

**Wes Golden**, *Superintendent, Clinton Schools*

**Dan Boyd**, *Elementary School Principal, Clinton Schools*

**Mindy Dunlap**, *Middle School Assistant Principal, Clinton Schools*

"If you have a child's heart, you have a child's mind." Relationships are the foundation of schools where students feel connected, safe, and supported. Join us as Clinton Community Schools share the real-world impact of Capturing Kids' Hearts, a transformational process that puts students at the heart of school culture. They'll share the unique experiences of two schools, highlighting how this program has created a space where everyone feels valued. Don't miss your chance to hear how Clinton has created and cultivated a collaborative environment where students are part of the solution and teachers are equipped to celebrate every success, big or small.

## Building Belonging Through School Branding Campaigns

**Mike Cyze**, Chief Communication Officer, Dubuque Schools

**Jessica Hartgers**, Communications Specialist, Bondurant-Farrar Schools

**Rich Powers**, Superintendent, Bondurant-Farrar Schools

A strong sense of belonging is a key factor in student success, and school boards play a vital role in fostering that connection. This panel discussion will feature two districts that have led the charge creating a welcoming environment, strengthening community pride, and boosting student engagement through the successful implementation of school branding campaigns.

Attendees will learn:

- How school branding goes beyond logos and colors to shape culture and identity.
- Strategies for launching effective campaigns that inspire students to show up and stay engaged.
- The board's role in championing these efforts and supporting district-wide implementation.

Panelists will share their challenges, strategies, and results, providing practical takeaways that board members can bring back to their own districts. Don't miss this opportunity to gain insights and inspiration to help every student feel seen, valued, and connected.