BEST PRACTICES FOR STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS IN CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENTS

The Consortium of State School Boards Associations
Urban Boards Alliance Inaugural Symposium
September 8 - 9, 2022 | Omni Hotel on Centennial Park | Atlanta, Georgia

Limited to the first 300 registrants
$425.00
THE URBAN BOARDS ALLIANCE

The Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) offers, at no additional cost, the Urban Boards Alliance (UBA) resources to support school board directors in creating educational strategies and sharing best practices that address and improve the educational outcomes of students within challenging environments. UBA recognizes that these challenging environments and issues are not unique to urban school districts and encourages participation from rural and suburban school districts as well. UBA provides resources to address equity, literacy, student achievement barriers, broadband access, drug and alcohol abuse, and school violence through its annual symposium, special events, webinars, podcasts and online information.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Michael L. Thurmond
Thurmond is CEO of DeKalb County, GA, one of the largest and most diverse counties in the southeastern United States. As CEO, Thurmond ushered in a “new day” of trust, accountability and integrity in the county government. He is also an attorney, author and motivational speaker.

He earned the reputation of being a turnaround expert after transforming the culture and operations of the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, the Georgia Department of Labor and the DeKalb County School District.

Thurmond, a sharecropper’s son, holds a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and religion from Paine College and a Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina’s School of Law. Thurmond also completed the Political Executives program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is currently serving as chair of the Paine College Board of Trustees.

Dr. George E. Koonce Jr.
Dr. Koonce played professional football for a decade, most of those years with the Green Bay Packers, winning the Super Bowl XXXI title. Since his retirement from the NFL, he has served as director of player development for the Green Bay Packers, senior associate athletic director for Marquette University, director of development at Marquette University and athletic director at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Dr. Koonce received his doctorate from Marquette University, with his doctoral dissertation focusing on “Role Transition of National Football League Players: Using the Grounded Theory.” His dissertation inspired his book titled, Is There Life After Football: Surviving the NFL. The book has earned the 2016 Best Book Award from the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport.

Currently Dr. Koonce serves as the senior vice president of university relations at Marian University, where he provides leadership and strategic direction and is responsible for growing awareness and increasing philanthropic support for Marian University through community and alumni engagement. Dr. Koonce serves on the boards of the Green Bay Packers, The Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin, Ascension Healthcare and CM Regent Insurance Company.
THOMAS BERTRAND, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Illinois Association of School Boards
IASA 2015 Superintendent of the Year

GINA PATTERSON
Chair, COSSBA Urban Boards Alliance Advisors
Executive Director of the Virginia School Boards Association

JAMIE L. DEVINE
COSSBA Urban Boards Alliance Advisor
Richland School District One Board of School Commissioners

CECIL LIZANA
COSSBA Urban Boards Alliance Advisor
V. P. Pass Christian Public School Board

RAY A. FREEMAN
COSSBA Urban Boards Alliance Advisor
Ohio National School Board Leader
Warrensville Heights City School District

MICHELLE ROBINSON McKISSACK
COSSBA Urban Boards Alliance Advisor
Chair, Shelby County School Board

DR. STEVE GALLON III
COSSBA Urban Boards Alliance Advisor
Vice Chair, Miami-Dade County Schools Professional Educator

ERIKAY. MITCHELL
COSSBA Urban Boards Alliance Advisor
Atlanta Board of Education

DR. TAMMY GRISSOM
COSSBA Urban Boards Alliance Advisor
Executive Director of the Tennessee School Boards Association

SHEILA NELSON
COSSBA Urban Boards Alliance Advisor
Board of Directors of Illinois Association of School Boards
Cairo School District 1

RODNEY JORDAN
COSSBA Urban Boards Alliance Advisor
Co-Chair, Virginia School Boards Association

VALARIE WILSON
COSSBA Urban Boards Alliance Advisor
Executive Director of the Georgia School Boards Association
Thursday, September 8, 2022

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. UBA Symposium Registration

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Opening General Session and Keynote Speaker

2:45 - 3:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions on Best Practices

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions on Best Practices

- **Effective Governing with Honesty, Humor, Humility and Sometimes Hostility**
  Speakers: Clayton County Governance Team

- **Empowering Your School Board to Bridge the Health, Nutrition and Food Insecurity Disparity Gap**
  Speakers: SodexoMagic

- **Expanded Mental Health Services for Both Students and Staff with the Creation of Wellness Programs**
  Speakers: Newport News City Public Schools

- **Governance Team Actions That Lead to Student Achievement**
  Speakers: Henry County Governance Team

- **Building Strong Partnerships Between Your School Board and Administration**
  Speakers: Portsmouth Public Schools

5:15 - 7:00 p.m. Welcome Networking Reception
7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. UBA Symposium Registration

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. General Session: Breakfast and Keynote Speaker

10:15 - 11:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions on Best Practices

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions on Best Practices

**The Board’s Role in Shattering Inequities**
Speakers: Baldwin County Governance Team

**Using State Data to Identify Schools in Challenging Environments and Using Student Data to Identify Students Who Need Additional Support**
Speakers:
» Jeff Carew, Frontline Education
» Rodney Jordan, Board Member Norfolk, Co-Chair VSBA Students and Schools in Challenging Environments Taskforce

**In Pursuit of Educational and Economic Equity: Paradigms, Policies and Practices in the Nation’s 4th Largest School District**
Speakers:
» Jennifer Andreu, Office of Economic Opportunity Miami-Dade County Public Schools

**Key Strategies for Developing and Implementing a Strong Engagement Process for Parents, Families Businesses and Other Stakeholders for Student Success**
Speakers: Douglas County Governance Team

**Hope and Joy Through Collaborative Design**
Speakers: Pike County Governance Team

12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Lunch and Panel Discussion
» Moderator: Michelle Robinson McKissack
» Dr. Steve Gallon III
» Ray Freeman
» Jamie Devine

2:45 - 4:00 p.m. Closing Session and Keynote

*Please note: Name badges should be worn at all events and are not transferable.*
REGISTRATION

What is included?
» Participation in the symposium on model programs and reforms that work in school districts with students and schools in challenging environments
» Keynote speakers
» Breakout sessions on school achievement, social and emotional learning, parent and community engagement, student discipline, school safety and professional development, governance, and others
» Breakfast on Friday, lunch on Friday, and a reception on Thursday evening
» Networking with the school board directors, school superintendents, administrators and others

Click here to register today!

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
Omni Hotel on Centennial Park
100 CNN Center | Atlanta, GA 30303
p: (404) 659-0000

Conference rate: $199/night
Click here to make your overnight accommodations for the conference. Reservations must be secured by August 17, 2022.

Click here for a list of local Atlanta-area attractions.

For more information or questions regarding the COSSBA Urban Boards Alliance Symposium, please contact Kathy Swope, COSSBA transition manager at Kathy.Swope@COSSBA.org.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
With COSSBA, you can reach a broad audience of public education leaders representing more than 6,000 school districts across the country and over 38,000 school board directors. Click here for more information about sponsorship opportunities specific to the Urban Boards Alliance Symposium.