

Biographies

Keynote Speakers:



Courtney Bauder serves as the Director of the Social Justice Minor Program at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. As a lifelong learner he continues to educate himself and others about issues of diversity on a national and global scale, having traveled to over 25 countries. For over 10 years he has helped educators navigate through challenging conversations about self-identity, intersectionality, equity, and justice and has provided numerous courses, workshops, and trainings across the Midwest to help educators consider their role as culturally responsive practitioners and social justice advocates. He lives in Appleton, Wisconsin with his wife and two children.



Dr. Peter Miller is a Professor in the School of Education and the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He studies leadership, homelessness, and inter-organizational collaboration and works closely with schools and communities throughout the U.S.

Sectional Speakers:

Katelyn De Bruin was born and raised in Kenosha, WI. She graduated from University of Wisconsin Parkside with a degree in Psychology. With a passion for helping children who have experienced early trauma, Katelyn decided to pursue a Master's degree in School Counseling. She graduated from Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia with her Master's degree in 2011. For the past five years, Katelyn has worked as a school counselor at the elementary level. Her biggest goal and motivation is to help students build resiliency skills that will last them a lifetime.

Nic Dibble is the DPI Consultant for School Social Work. His areas of responsibility include school mental health and trauma-sensitive schools, confidentiality and student records, child welfare and maltreatment, school discipline, attendance and truancy, and teen parents. Nic worked 12 years as a school social worker before joining DPI. His work involves professional and resource development, technical assistance, and networking with a variety of state level organizations. Other experiences include serving as President of his local school board and Chair of the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board.

Marci Glaus is the English Language Arts Education consultant for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. She is a former high school English teacher and middle school reading teacher. She completed her PhD at the University of Wisconsin- Madison in Curriculum and Instruction focusing on literacy studies, composition and rhetoric, and education policy analysis. Her work has been published in education journals including *The Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, *The English Journal*, *Wisconsin State Reading Association Journal* and *Wisconsin English Journal*. She serves as the DPI liaison to the Wisconsin Council for Teachers of English and the Wisconsin High School Forensics Association.

Beth Herman is an Educational Consultant working on the Student Services/Prevention and Wellness Team at the WI DPI. She is currently the co-coordinator of the Safe Schools Healthy Students grant which addresses student safety, mental health and wellness.

Dr. Decoteau Irby is an assistant professor in the University of Illinois at Chicago's Department of Educational Policy Studies. He teaches and advises in the Urban Education Leadership Ed.D. and Educational Organization and Leadership Ph.D. program areas. He uses participatory and design-based research methods to study how equity-focused leadership can be leveraged to improve Black children's academic and socio-emotional experiences and outcomes across a range of K-12 education settings.

Kathy Myles is an educator who has served children in the state of Wisconsin since 1987. She currently serves as a technical assistance coordinator at the Wisconsin RtI Center with responsibility for assisting Wisconsin schools by providing training and coaching support for all or any aspects of the schools RtI framework. Prior to joining the center, Kathy worked as a building and district level administrator in the Menomonee Falls and Fox Point-Bayside school districts. Kathy obtained her undergraduate degree from UW- Madison and her Master's degree from Marian College in Fond du Lac, WI.

Regina Navejar works for Milwaukee Public Schools as a School Improvement Implementer at Hamilton High School. Regina, a former English teacher, received her Master's in Educational Psychology at UW-Madison and is an Educational Psychology dissertator at UW-Milwaukee. Regina creates effective data collection tools and summaries so staff can determine if they are implementing strategies with fidelity. This data about adult practices is paired with student outcomes to help school team judge whether they are likely to succeed. Her co-authored research, *Effects of Ambient Noise on the Measurement of Mathematics Achievement for Urban High School Students*, was published in the *Journal of Urban Education*.

April Nelson has been the principal at Stocker Elementary for 12 years. Stocker has received Merit and Distinguished awards for their implementation of PBIS. April is a member of the Board of Directors for the Cardinal Stritch Principals' Center as well as a part of the Advisory Committee for the Personalized Learning Network.

Kathy Ryder is the director of the Wisconsin Response to Intervention (RtI) Center. The Center is the driving force in the guidance; support and professional develop for the implementation of a culturally responsive multi-level system of support in school systems across Wisconsin. The Center has provided support to over 80 schools within the state. Kathy holds licenses as a director of special education and pupil services, and as a teacher of specific learning disabilities, emotional behavioral disabilities, and cognitive disabilities. She has a master's in specific learning disabilities. She has served as a REACH statewide coordinator, a regional specific learning disabilities program support consultant, and an educator supervisor for UWEC.

Dr. Judy Sargent is the coordinator of WISExplore, a project with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. In her current position at CESA 7, she coordinates data inquiry capacity-building among CESAs and other agencies in Wisconsin. Dr. Sargent has a wealth of experience leading data-driven decision-making and school reform, and has worked extensively in public schools, educational publishing and consulting. She is author of several publications, including developing the Data Retreat process, *Targets for Teachers* (Peguis, 2000), and the *Self-Assessment for School Leaders (SASL)* (Reflection Tools, 2003), among others and continues to develop new processes to assist in leadership toward improving student learning.

Mike Thompson was appointed Deputy State Superintendent when State Superintendent Tony Evers took office in July 2009. Prior to his current position, Mike served as the Executive Assistant to then State Superintendent Libby Burmaster. Previous to these positions, he served as the Department's Federal Policy Advisor. Mike has a doctorate in Education Administration and has taught for ten years in Wisconsin public schools. Mike's previous positions at DPI include education consultant, director of student services, and assistant state superintendent.

Heidi Walter has worked in education for 15 years serving students and educators in order to increase student achievement. Most of her experience has been around literacy, RtI, and school improvement practices. Her various roles include classroom teacher, interventionist, reading specialist, and curriculum specialist. She currently works at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as an education consultant focusing on applying implementation science and strategic action planning to Title I programs and support.

Dr. Chrishirella F. Warthen-Sutton is a Title I and School Support Team education consultant at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Currently, she fulfills responsibilities as a Title I ESEA grant manager, advances statewide work for Family & Community Engagement, Promoting Excellence for All, cultural responsiveness and school improvement. Dr. Warthen-Sutton's record of service entails over 23 years in roles as a DPI Special Education disproportionality school administration consultant, an assistant professor, teacher certification director, early childhood program developer, student teacher field supervisor, university pre-college program director, K12 regular education and early intervention program teacher in Wisconsin and Georgia public schools.

Jonas Zuckerman is the Title I Director at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). He has worked at DPI since 2009, also serving as an Education Consultant and Assistant Director of the Title I team. Jonas has worked in education for 24 years. Prior to joining DPI, he worked as an educator in the Oakland (California) Unified School District. Jonas has a wide range of educational experience, including designing history standards and assessments, coaching beginning teachers, and designing developmentally appropriate elementary report cards. At DPI, he has led projects such as School Turnaround, Milwaukee Public Schools District Improvement Planning, and Promoting Excellence for All.