VISION & LEADERSHIP

Lipscomb Academy: Partner in Parenting, Partner in Education and Partner in Ministry
Greg Glenn, Head of School, Lipscomb Academy; and Jerold Givens, Associate Head of School for External Affairs
We will share our experiences over the last two years in developing critical partner programs with our parents, the educational community, and our local churches. This has been a journey that we are still following but have already been blessed with some key lessons learned. We will address the question, “Are you strategic with your school’s partnerships?”

A Workshop on Moving Your School from Good to Great
Gene Frost, Head of School, Wheaton Academy
Every school leader has a pretty good idea of where their school is presently and most have a vision for where they would like to see their school go. The problem is how do you get there? What are the next steps your school needs to take to experience its preferred future? This workshop will talk about steps each of us need to take as school leaders and then take time to talk about your particular school’s journey. Join us for this interactive workshop.

Conflict Management
Dr. Randy Lowry, President of Lipscomb University

Are You Delivering Buggy Whips or Teslas: The new reality of the 21st century
Gene Frost, Head of School, Wheaton Academy
The market has changed. Some schools are closing, other schools are thriving. What is the difference? Some schools have recognized the new market reality and have dived in. Find out where your school fits in the new market reality and what you need to do to thrive.

What I Wish I Would Have Known as a New Administrator: Lessons from a life of leadership
Steve Bult, Associate Head of School, Wheaton Academy
Whether you are new in your administrative position or training someone who is new in an administrative role, this session is for you. Strategic thought of how to lead or
train others is essential for success and longevity in administration. In this session Steve will share information learned from years of experience in: dealing with parents, disciplining students, hiring and firing teachers and staff members, structuring your work day, running meetings effectively, and making time for the priorities in your school.

**A Proven Model for Effective Teacher Evaluation**

*Steve Bult, Associate Head of School, Wheaton Academy*

A quality teacher evaluation program is essential to growing a strong faculty. Steve will walk you through the Living Curriculum Teacher Development Model™ (LCTDM) that he created for Wheaton Academy. This breakout will include a practical discussion of how to implement a strong evaluation model in your own school.

**Developing an Effective School Board**

*Ron Klein, Author of Journey to Excellence: What Boards and Heads of Christian Schools Need to Know to Get There*

Heads of school express widespread frustration with their school boards. The wrong people become school board members. Board members intrude into operational matters and fail in their responsibility of setting the strategic direction and aiding in the implementation of long term improvements. This breakout session offers recommendations related to board member qualifications, policies, terms of office, and practices.

**Profile of the 21st Century Head of School: Educator, Executive, Entrepreneur**

*Bruce Lockerbie, Chairman, PAIDEIA, Inc.*

Are you now—or do you aspire to become—the head of a Christian school? Were you promoted from the classroom without prior administrative responsibilities to equip you for your new office? Did you arrive from industry or some other ministry without educational leadership in your background? Or are you a long-time head of school in need of a refresher in such leadership? In whatever instance, are you aware of the multiple simultaneous roles and responsibilities challenging the 21st century head of school? Do you need help and encouragement in meeting these challenges? This session presents the call to be *educator, executive, and entrepreneur*—all three at once—as every successful head of school must be, and every progressive and thoughtful governing board expects!

**Successfully Onboarding New Faculty in the K-8 School**

*Susan Macaluso, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Wheaton Christian Grammar School*

Jim Collins says that culture will spit out those who don’t fit. Each school must answer how they will assimilate new hires into the school culture, equipping new faculty to collaborate and contribute, as well as dream big in professional growth. Learn how one
school cultivates workplace success through their new teacher orientation program, stimulates collegiate coaching through a year-long mentoring program, and empowers teachers to engage in professional development that is out of this world.

**CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

*From Faculty Meetings to Brain Breakfasts: Building a Culture of Continuing PD*

*Jonathan Sheahen, Elementary School Principal, Lipscomb Academy*

Great teachers help create great students. In fact, research shows that an inspiring and informed teacher is the most important school-related factor influencing student achievement, so it is critical to pay close attention to how we train and support both new and experienced educators. Teacher development has moved beyond simple in-service workshops and has expanded into a more robust system of continuing education. The focus of this session will be how one elementary school moved away from a traditional model to a culture of ongoing, experiential, collaborative embedded professional development.

*Creating your Academic Crew Team: How to get your school rowing in the same direction academically*

*Lisa Bruce, Middle School Principal and Associate Head of School for Academics, Lipscomb Academy*

This session centers on choosing the right people to walk out the vision for academics at your school. Elements of the crew team will be discussed and how each role is significant to a continual fresh approach to academics that pertain to best practices in a PK-12 school. Complacency is not an option - learn how to use your leaders in a way that will transform culture and energize academics at your school!

*Academic Standards, Curriculum and Assessment in 2018: How do you know your teachers are presenting the most relevant information in your school?*

*Lisa Bruce, Middle School Principal and Associate Head of School for Academics, Lipscomb Academy*

Learn about the standards review process, curriculum and grading shift that has transformed education for Lipscomb Academy students. The overall plan will be shared and how this might positively impact your school. It will answer the questions - what do you teach, why do you teach it and how relevant is this for my child?

*Beginning with the End in Mind - Understanding By Design*

*Jesse Savage, PK-12 Academic Coordinator and High School Assistant Principal, Lipscomb Academy*
How do we focus our classrooms on the things that really matter? How do we make sure that students are walking away from our courses and grade levels having met the goals we have set for them? Come learn about the process of curriculum backwards design and the impact it can have on your school’s classrooms. In the process also pick up a few easy things you can do to send a message about who you are academically as a school with tools that will constantly impress visitors that walk your halls.

Grading for Learning, Not Grading for Earning: How a standards based mindset can change the learning culture of your school

Jesse Savage, PK-12 Academic Coordinator and High School Assistant Principal, Lipscomb Academy
Come learn about the basic concepts behind standards based mindset and how it is revolutionizing Lipscomb Academy. How can we work towards the goal of our grades being an accurate reflection and communication of what a student knows and is able to do? This is the most fundamental shift in education in a long time and will impact every element of the way we educate students.

Our Journey to a Standards-Based Bible Curriculum

Amy Welch, Director of Spiritual Formation, Lipscomb Academy; and Dr. Douglas Williams, Associate Head of School for Spiritual Formation at Lipscomb Academy
Come and learn how Lipscomb Academy has adopted a standards-based approach to Bible. We'll share our journey of creating and writing standards for our middle school and high school Bible classes. You will receive our standards as a part of this session as well as information and guiding thoughts for writing your own standards in Bible.

Global Voices in Children’s and Adolescent Literature

Jeanne Gilliam Fain, Lead Faculty for English Language Learners, Lipscomb University
Come hear about books that represent the diversity of children in the United States. The presenter will book talk current K-8 picture books with a social justice lens. Participants will have the opportunity to browse the books and share golden lines from the books. Participants will leave with information about how to choose K-8 culturally and linguistically diverse books. Participants will also be provided an updated bibliography of the books discussed in the presentation.

Developing an Advisory Program to Improve Student Learning: The Wheaton Academy Journey

Kori Hockett, Principal, Wheaton Academy
Research shows that students do significantly better when they are connected to an adult at their school, and yet many high schools are not organized in such a way to
allow this type of essential relationship. In response, some cutting edge private and public schools have developed the best practice of creating a unique school advisory program. In this session, learn how to design and implement such a program for your school that reflects your specific mission, goals, and needs of your students and teachers. You will have the opportunity to see how an advisory program has been developed and implemented, and see the positive impact it has had over the past five years at Wheaton Academy, as well as having time to ask questions and discuss challenges related to implementing and executing an Advisory Program at your school.

Seven Online Success Stories
Mark Beadle, Head of School, Sevenstar Academy: The Online Christian School
Come hear the stories of seven Christian schools that have had success with launching their online programs. Come discuss what success looks like and possibly leave with a next step in your own success story. We are all on, or should be on, a journey that leads to student and school success with online courses. Hear of missteps and learnings in that journey.

The Curricular Connection to Cultivating Godliness in an Ungodly Culture in the K-8 School
Susan Macaluso, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Wheaton Christian Grammar School
Christian school teachers, parents, and students feel the squeeze of (pop) culture in their classrooms, homes, and lives. How is your Christian school using curriculum and instructional programming to address timely, sensitive topics? Learn how to focus on: what it means to be made in the image of Christ, a digital disciple, a life of purity, and wellness while addressing child abuse, anxiety, homosexuality, sexting, and other sensitive topics. Resources will be provided to equip teachers to understand how to care for and nurture students and parents in navigating their environment in a godly manner.

Drop-in Curriculum Q&A time with Sue Macaluso
Susan Macaluso, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Wheaton Christian Grammar School
Susan has been a sought after speaker and advisor to many of the schools that have attended the Best Practices Conference for the Christian School™. She will be available for a drop-in session to answer your questions and discuss best practices in building your K-8 curriculum.

SCHOOL FINANCE & PROMOTION
Do I Have to Raise Money Again? Practical steps for raising money in your school’s context
Steve Spoelhof, Consultant, Bayside Capital Management, Holland, MI
Steve’s just a regular business guy who loves the local and global church, Christian schools, and serving a generous God. Blessed to have worked for great companies, raise funds for the Willow Creek Association, and give generously; Steve enjoys discipling those with the gift of generosity and leaders pursuing funds for Kingdom work. Steve regularly coaches pastors and non-profit leaders through the challenges and joys of raising funds, casting vision, and relationship building.

Capital Campaigns: One Size Does Not Fit All
Nikki Daniels, Assistant Headmaster for Advancement, Monte Vista Christian School
This breakout will examine the how-to of multiple capital campaigns highlighting their differences and what you’ll need to take into account as you plan your next capital campaign.

Starting from Scratch: Guidance and Direction for New Development Efforts
Nikki Daniels, Assistant Headmaster for Advancement, Monte Vista Christian School
Are you new to development or are you just beginning to build out your full development capabilities? This will be an excellent resource for you as a development professional and a road map to help you get your school to where you want it to go.

Annual Fund: Ways to Reach 90% Participation
Andi Holbrook, Development Director, Brentwood Academy
We all have annual funds, but how do you maximize your efforts? Andi will show you how to get your participation to 90%!

Volunteering: Participation, Engagement, Ownership
Andi Holbrook, Development Director, Brentwood Academy
This breakout will not only help you grow your volunteer team but also show you how to build up your volunteers to where they are taking ownership of the volunteer tasks.

30 Alternative Revenue Streams
Mark Beadle, Head of School, Sevenstar Academy: The Online Christian School
Are you realizing that tuition and fundraising are not sufficient sources of income for a flourishing school? Come DISCUSS 30 ideas that Christian schools around the U.S. are using to provide new streams of income. Share your experience with them and propose additional ones.
The Charter Oak Research National Survey and Trends in Christian Education
*Paul Neal & David Urban, Founders, Charter Oak Research*
Charter Oak will report on the findings of the research commission to coincide with the Wheaton Academy Best Practices Conference and conducted this spring with Christian schools and parents across the country. Research includes importance of school attributes, satisfaction with school choices available, favorability toward private Christian education and likelihood to explore and enroll in Christian schools.

Implications for Strategy Using Research to Lead Your School
*Paul Neal & David Urban, Founders, Charter Oak Research*
The implications from the findings of the Charter Oak Research Project are significant for school leaders. David and Paul will lead a discussion on those implications and how to use the results of this research strategically in planning for the future.

**STUDENT LEADERSHIP & SPIRITUAL LIFE**

Developing a Spiritual Formation Handbook at Your School
*Dr. Douglas Williams, Associate Head of School for Spiritual Formation at Lipscomb Academy; and Amy Welch, Director of Spiritual Formation, Lipscomb Academy*
Lipscomb Academy has been on a journey the last few years to develop shared language around spiritual formation and its role in helping shape an intentionally academic Christian community. This will be more of a workshop format where we will walk you through the process of creating shared language and encourage and equip you to return to your schools to have similar conversations. The goal here is not to convince you to adopt our framework, but to give you some tools to facilitate a similar conversation in your academic community.

Student Involvement in Spiritual Formation
*Dr. Douglas Williams, Associate Head of School for Spiritual Formation at Lipscomb Academy*
What might it look like for you to create leadership opportunities for your students as a way of increasing buy-in and participation in spiritual formation? This session will explore how a Chapel Practicum class, and other student-centered initiatives, can revitalize chapel and spiritual formation cultures.

Integrity of Mind, Body, Soul
*Amy Welch, Director of Spiritual Formation, Lipscomb Academy*
Students are living in an ever-changing world, full of competing messages and difficult issues. Rather than focusing on a list of rules as their guide, we want to provide students a framework and perspective from which to wrestle with any issue or question they might face as they seek to honor God with their minds, bodies, and souls.

**Chapel in a Changing World: How themes and plans can shape your culture**
*Jeff Brooke, Vice Principal for Campus Life, Wheaton Academy*

Jeff will explain how moving to a themed chapel program allowed for a holistic curriculum to take shape with faculty, students, families, and leaders on campus. The shift has made chapel one of the highlights of the week for students and their families. This workshop will include a brief summary of the past four years of themes at Wheaton Academy as well as time for breakout participants to share their best practices from their respective programs.

**Growing Student Leaders Who Will Change Your Culture: Start a Program Today**
*Jeff Brooke, Vice Principal for Campus Life, Wheaton Academy*

Jeff will provide an inside look at the Wheaton Academy leadership platform which includes 120 senior leaders on seven distinct teams. Student culture and spiritual life have been shaped by these leaders and schools looking to start or grow their programs should come to dialogue about how leadership can engage, empower, and launch your school culture, starting with your faculty and your senior class.

**Christ-Centered Worldview**
*Matt Dominguez, Bible and English Teacher, Wheaton Academy*

In this workshop, teaching veteran Matt Dominguez introduces teachers to a revolutionary approach to understanding and making sense of the world we live in. A celebration of nearly two decades of research and classroom implementation, Matt’s groundbreaking insights into how to equip students to view the world through the lens of reality will impact the way your school thinks and talks about worldview across all disciplines forever. Making sense of the world around us does not need to be complicated. In fact, a firm understanding of the nature of reality and a personal grasp of the implications of individual trust will equip students to confidently move beyond observation to accurately perceive, translate, and influence the world we are a part of.