

***The Fourth Annual University of Delaware Knowledge-Based Partnerships
Conference on Public Education
Sponsored by Vision 2015***

Delaware's Race to Deliver: Getting it Done...and Done Right

October 18, 2011

Clayton Hall, University of Delaware, Newark Campus

True to its official state nickname, Delaware ranked first in the federal Race to the Top competition due to Governor Markell and his administration's exemplary leadership, as well as the collaborative foundation laid by Vision 2015. Delaware has a plan and has the funds and, collectively, we have the responsibility to our students to create a system of world-class public schools. And, while we have all the critical stakeholders at the table, there's a lot of work to be done to elevate the first state's performance from 27th in the nation and deliver on our promise to the next generation.

Vision 2015's fourth annual knowledge-based partnership conference will report on Delaware's progress in implementing Vision 2015 and what's being done to accelerate that work through Race to the Top. Together we will examine the successes we are achieving, the challenges we are facing, and the power and politics of public education reform. We will explore where Delaware sits on the path to first-class schools—reviewing progress and obstacles alike—and what we need to do to ensure an excellent education for each and every public school student in Delaware. The day is designed for educators, policy-makers, and business and community leaders.

7:45 AM Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:15 AM Conference Begins

8:30 AM *Welcome*
Patrick T. Harker, President, University of Delaware

8:40 AM *Opening Remarks, Getting it Done Right*
Marvin N. "Skip" Schoenhals, Chair, Vision 2015

Premiere: IMAGINE the World Awaiting Today's 1st Grader

9:00 AM *Race to the Top in Action: Delivering at the State, District & School Level*
Lillian A. Lowery, Delaware Secretary of Education

Half of Delaware's \$119M is directed to the state to transform the systems shared by all our districts, charters, and educators, such as a new data system, new student test, and new evaluation system. And half of the funds will go directly to local education agencies to implement district- and school-level Race to the Top plans. Dr. Lowery will illustrate where the money is going and how Delaware is meeting the bold goals it set.

9:30 AM **Plenary Session A: *What's Happening at the District and School Level?***
This session will focus on how Race to the Top is rolling out at the district and school level through each district's and school's plans, which are designed to implement bold and sustainable changes. The presenters will represent a range of voices and will engage in a discussion of what's happening, exciting, and challenging.

Panel Moderator: Susan Bunting, Superintendent, Indian River School District

Presenters:

- Rebecca Taber, Deputy Chief of Staff, Delaware Department of Education
- Darren Guido, Principal, Central Middle School, and Vision Network participant
- Mark Murphy, Executive Director, Vision Network
- Claudia Bock, President, Christina Education Association

10:15 AM **Audience Q&A**

10:30 AM **Networking Break**

Please take this opportunity to greet colleagues and meet new faces. We ask that you return to the auditorium promptly by 11:00 AM.

11:00 AM **Plenary Session B: *How Can Delaware Effectively and Fairly Evaluate Teachers?***

This session will provide the opportunity for a discussion about where the state is in the design and roll-out of DPAS II, Delaware's new educator evaluation system. DPAS II is a critically important lever in Vision 2015 and Race to the Top, and an example of a tough implementation challenge. The session will discuss the obstacles, the course corrections, and the solutions. With both Delaware-based and outside speakers, the session is intended to explore how we can best navigate the path and get it done.

Introduction/Moderator: Ben Jackson, Project Director, The New Teacher Project

Presenters:

- Daniel Cruce, Deputy Secretary, Delaware Department of Education
- Elizabeth Farley-Ripple, Assistant Professor, University of Delaware
- Scott Thompson, Director of Teacher Effectiveness Strategy, Office of Human Capital, Washington, DC Public Schools
- Deborah Stevens, Director of Instructional Advocacy, Delaware State Education Association

12:00 Noon **Audience Q&A**

12:15 PM **Move to Luncheon**

12:30 PM **Luncheon**

Sponsored by the Rodel Foundation

Welcome

Paul Herdman, President and CEO, Rodel Foundation of Delaware

12:50 PM **Introduction of Keynote Presentation**
William D. Budinger, Founder, The Rodel Foundations

1:00 PM **Keynote Presentation: *Conversation with Governor Jack Markell***
Facilitated by Richard Lee Colvin, Executive Director, Education Sector

1:45 PM **Facilitated Audience Q&A**

2:00 PM **Break**

2:00 PM **Concurrent Sessions:**

A. *The Role of Local School Boards in Education Reform*

The support of local boards is critical to the success of Race to the Top and related school improvement efforts. This session will explore the issues that boards are facing.

Moderator: Steven H. Godowsky, Former Superintendent, New Castle County Vocational Technical School District, Policy Associate, Delaware Academy of School Leadership

Resource Persons:

- Faith Newton, Board Member, Red Clay Consolidated School District
- Gina Backus, Board Member, Christina School District
- Sara Wilkinson, Board President, Cape Henlopen School District
- Harri Ellen Minnahan, Board President, Pencader Charter High School

B. *How Do We Get a Great Educator in Every Classroom?*

How do you recognize high-quality teaching? How can you distinguish ineffective teaching from effective, and support all teachers to become high-performers?

Moderator: Lynn Okagaki, Dean, College of Education and Human Development, University of Delaware

Resource Persons:

- Ben Jackson, Project Director, The New Teacher Project
- Frederika Jenner, President, Delaware State Education Association
- Peter Shulman, Chief Officer, Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Unit, Delaware Department of Education
- Mark Holodick, Superintendent, Brandywine School District

C. *Supporting World-Class School Leadership in Delaware*

Principals are responsible for everything from instructional leadership to ordering supplies to building schools, to ensure academic success. How do we support and develop excellent leaders for every Delaware school, to balance multiple demands and build cultures of excellence?

Moderator: Jacquelyn Wilson, Interim Director, University of Delaware Academy for School Leadership

Resource Persons:

- Mark Murphy, Executive Director, Vision Network
- Shelley Rouser, New Castle County Vo-tech School District
- Chris Kohan, Assistant Principal, Dickinson High School

D. *A Look Inside Partnership Zone Schools*

Four schools became part of a Partnership Zone in 2010, and six more joined just last month. Hear from each school in the first cohort about a highlight of its Partnership Zone work, and about opportunities for the second group.

Moderator: Noreen LaSorsa, School Turnaround Unit, Delaware Department of Education

Resource Persons:

- Steve Norman, Principal, Positive Outcomes Charter School
- Tim Capone, Principal, Howard High School of Technology
- Jason Martin, Engagement Manager, Mass Insight

E. *How Delaware Schools are Preparing Kids for College and Careers*

Numerous districts and schools are expanding college and career readiness initiatives as part of their Race to the Top plans. This session will illustrate a variety of approaches underway, and underscore the importance of preparing our students to compete in the global economy.

Resource Persons:

- J.B. Schramm, College Summit
- Lori Duerr, Manager of School Improvement, Colonial School District
- Sandra Alberti, Director, Student Achievement Partners, LLC

3:45PM

Reception

Recognizing the Achievements of Vision 2015 Partners

Sponsored by Vision 2015 and the Delaware Business Roundtable