

IMPACT AFTER SCHOOL CONFERENCE

April 27-28, 2017

Ramada Tropics Resort and Conference Center

5000 Merle Hay Road
Des Moines, IA 50322



8:00 - 8:30 Registration, Vendors Available

8:40 - 8:50 Welcome!

8:50 - 10:00 Keynote Presentation • Main Ballrom

Cultivate a Creative Mind

Simon Silva

Simon Silva takes individuals along on a personal journey that embodies defiance of the odds and attainment of professional success; the battle for the arts; thought-provoking exploration of creativity; boundless curiosity and lifelong learning, and the ultimate quest to expand the potential of individuals by reawakening dormant skills that help them capture imagination, innovation, and the power of change.

10:00 - 10:15 Visit Exhibitors

10:15 - 11:30.....

Engaging Youth in College and Career Readiness Activities with Y4Y • Salon A/B

Tania Lazar and Monique McDowell Russell, You for Youth

What does it look like to engage youth grades K-12 in college and career-relevant learning? Whether you serve elementary, middle or high school students, you can start building college and career readiness through hands-on activities. Learn how You for Youth (Y4Y) can support you in applying this inquiry-based approach to developing postsecondary awareness, exploration, and preparatory learning opportunities that match your students' interests and goals.

**Session focus: all grade levels*

Nurturing 21st Century Skills • Ballroom SE

Simon Silva

This session is designed to help individuals understand the importance of the arts/creativity as a means of emotional and social learning by discovering who we are through the arts and our creative abilities. Nurturing their individuality and their creativity will become critical components that are required to differentiate themselves, thrive amidst challenges, and advance in their careers.

**Session focus: Front line staff, all grade levels*

Compassion Fatigue: Caring for Yourself While Caring for Others • Ballroom NE

Bobbie Jo Sheridan, Des Moines Schools

Fatigue, burnout, and stress block us from providing the best care and love to those who need it most. In this session we will learn about compassion fatigue and how to get our passion and purpose back! Participants will rediscover why they started in the first place and what motivates them to continue. During this sessions participants will engage in numerous activities that can be replicated in almost any setting. By the end of the session, participants will leave with concrete tools and resources to prevent and relieve compassion fatigue and stress.

**Session focus: front line staff, all grade levels*

Positive Behavioral Supports in an Afterschool Setting • Ballroom W

Alex Shrewsberry, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa implemented a positive behavior support system, known as the Think Tank, which reduced school office referrals by 86% for those students. This system reduced instances of physical aggression and increased feelings of belonging among the students. BGCCI found the necessity to provide the resources that were needed the most by students to succeed. By the end of this workshop, participants will have the necessary information and understanding to implement a similar system in their afterschool program.

**Session focus: front line staff, all grade levels*



How to Use Guidebook, Our Impact After School Conference Guide

1

Download the App

Visit the AppStore or Google Play Store to download the free app Guidebook. The guide may also be accessed at guidebook.com/browse.

2

Access Our Guide

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3

Explore Our Guide

You have downloaded the guide, now explore! Learn about the speakers, what sessions are available, who is exhibiting and more!

Tap  in the upper left-hand corner to access all features.

11:30 - 12:30 Working Lunch

Afterschool Awards Presentations and Half Pint Poets

12:30 - 1:45

Exploring STEM With Y4Y • *Salon A/B*

Tania Lazar and Monique McDowell Russell, You for Youth

STEM — science, technology, engineering, and mathematics — skills are essential for all paths of education and for success in the 21st century. This session will introduce examples of Y4Y activities that aim to spark curiosity about STEM topics through inquiry and investigation. Participants will collaborate around integrating STEM skill-building into out-of-school time programs, sharing STEM learning opportunities from their programs, and exploring strategies for connecting to school-day partners and community resources around STEM. Please bring a laptop, tablet, or Internet-accessible device to explore Y4Y during the session.

**Session focus: STEM, all grade levels*

I Took on This Responsibility to Change Kids' Lives, and They Changed Mine • *Ballroom SE*

Brooke Findley and students, Chrysalis Foundation

Chrysalis is in its fifth year of GirlPower, a specialized program intervention that builds a cohort of high school mentors to present topics related to social-emotional health and violence prevention to girls in 5th-8th grade that participate in Chrysalis After-School programs (a once-weekly gender-specific program). Hear from high school students from the Des Moines Metro area talk about what it takes to effectively engage, train, and support older youth to build confidence, workforce readiness skills, and content expertise necessary to create an effective teaching and mentoring experience.

**Session focus: General Afterschool Best Practices or Special Focus, middle school and high school*

Creating Safe and Brave Learning Spaces • *Ballroom NE*

Kristopher Rollins and Emily Lang, Des Moines Schools

Workshop participants will engage in discussions surrounding relationship building with students and the construction of safe and brave spaces that allow young people to maximize their artistic expression and potential.

**Session focus: front-line staff and program directors, all levels*

High Quality STEM Using Snap Circuits • *Ballroom W*

Michelle Rich, Iowa Afterschool Alliance, and Jacalyn Swink, Burlington School District

Through the use of a product called "Snap Circuits" (available online at <http://bit.ly/amazonsnapcircuits>), participants will learn how to develop a high quality afterschool STEM active learning activity utilizing the Dimensions of Success (DOS) framework of 1) learning environment, 2) activity engagement, 3) STEM knowledge and practices, and 4) youth development.

**Session focus: front-line staff, K-5 and middle school*

1:45 - 2:00 Visit Exhibitors (mark your bingo card!)

2:00 - 3:15

Making Literacy an Integral Part of Your Program With Y4Y (K-3) • *Salon A/B*

Tania Lazar and Monique McDowell Russell, You for Youth

Literacy plays a critical role in gaining academic and 21st century skills. Using Y4Y resources, participants will improve their understanding of phonemic awareness, phonics, and vocabulary, and learn to implement literacy into program activities. Participants will take away research-based literacy strategies, activities, and resources geared toward building collaboration and critical thinking skills in literacy.

**Session focus: all grade levels*

Advocacy in the Real World • *Ballroom SE*

Gracie Brandsgard, Iowa Afterschool Alliance

Looking to get more involved in advocacy but not sure where to start? Join the Iowa Afterschool Alliance to learn more about the legislative process, issues affecting afterschool, and how to be a champion for youth. Participants will leave with concrete actions they can take to advocate for the issues they care about and plenty of resources to help along the way.

**Session focus: Frontline staff and program directors, all grade levels*

The Bridge – Creating Citizen Scientists • *Ballroom NE*

Sandra Day, Council Bluffs Community School District

Citizen Science Projects are real scientific research projects that involve community members in collecting data for their projects. Many of these provide free online or cellphone apps to collect and upload the desired data and websites for participants to view their own and others' data across the world.

Council Bluffs students have opportunities to participate in Citizen Science Projects through after-school/summer projects supported by 21CCLC. A pilot program affectionately known as "The Bridge" began in the summer of 2016 with opportunities for middle school (grades 7-8) and high school (grades 9-10) students. "The Bridge" is a collaborative effort by Omaha and Council Bluffs community and school leaders to offer students a program that combines health/life skills, career connections, academic enrichment, civic connections, and family engagement. Citizen Science Project opportunities will be one component of "The Bridge".

**Session focus: General Afterschool Best Practices or Special Focus, grades 6-12*

21st Century Community Learning Centers Committees Session – Part I • *Ballroom W*

Vic Jaras, Iowa Department of Education

This is a closed session for 21CCLC Committees. In this session, the Family Engagement and Evaluation Committees will share their work and provide time for audience interaction.

**Session focus: 21CCLC*

3:15 - 3:30 Visit Exhibitors (mark your bingo card!)

3:30 - 4:45

Making Literacy an Integral Part of Your Program With Y4Y (3-5) • *Salon A/B*

Tania Lazar and Monique McDowell Russel, You for Youth

Literacy plays a critical role in gaining academic and 21st century skills. Using Y4Y resources, participants will improve their understanding of vocabulary, fluency, and reading comprehension and learn to implement literacy into program activities. Participants will take away research-based literacy strategies, activities and resources geared toward building collaboration and critical thinking skills in literacy.

**Session focus: all grade levels*

Iowa Afterschool Alliance's Experts Network • *Ballroom SE*

Dave Welter, Iowa Afterschool Alliance

Looking for a quick, reliable and affordable way to connect with assistance to help enable your program to develop and address its critical needs? Come and join the Iowa Afterschool Alliance Practice/Support Team as a variety of quality programs and community partners share their knowledge, skills and roles. Our goal is to gather input and discuss ways to assist your program in becoming the best it can be in the growing field of afterschool and expanded learning opportunities.

**Session focus: General Afterschool Best Practices or Special Focus, all grade levels*

Incorporating Alternative Learning Time (ALT) into Afterschool Programming • *Ballroom NE*

Dan Bower and Josh Green, Cedar Falls Community School District

Traditionally, when students failed to complete assigned work educators and schools responded by placing zeroes in the gradebook for those missing assignments. Cedar Falls Community Schools is now implementing a policy to hold students accountable for completing all assigned work. The basic premise of this policy is that students will be held accountable for not doing the work by DOING THE WORK. This approach has helped Cedar Falls achieve their mission in the following manner: 1) students will learn the essential academic skills that the work is designed to teach, 2) students will learn that they are responsible for completing the work on time, and 3) students will learn that they will be held accountable if the work is not completed on time. This workshop will cover the implementation and management of this policy in Cedar Falls and some results.

**Session focus: front line staff, middle school*

21st Century Community Learning Centers Committees Session – Part II • *Ballroom W*

Vic Jaras, Iowa Department of Education

This is a closed session for 21CCLC Committees. In this session, the Support, Communications, and Conference Committees will share their work and provide time for audience interaction.

**Session focus: 21CCLC*



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance is dedicated to developing strong statewide systems of support for high quality, affordable, and accessible before school, afterschool, and summer programs in Iowa.

We do this through:

Policy • Outreach • Practice Support

Check out our website at www.iowafterschoolalliance.org

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/iowafterschoolalliance

8:00 - 8:30 Welcome to day two! Registration, Breakfast, and Networking

8:30 - 9:45

Supporting Youth from Low-Income Households Through Strategic Community Collaborations • *Salon A/B*

Malai Amfahr and Shara Bradley, Community Housing Initiatives

Youth from low-income households face several unique challenges to academic success. Learn how a local non-profit community development organization is addressing these challenges among residents through creative collaborations with partners to provide afterschool enrichment activities on site and within the school. Youth engagement is one of the most vital ways to reach residents beyond providing housing through bricks and mortar. The Resident Services team at Community Housing Initiatives has established two strong youth programs in Ames and Des Moines. "Enrichment at Eastwood" supports youth in grades K-5 living in subsidized housing with academic enrichment onsite at their housing community. "East High Cares" program engages students at East High School in Des Moines with community service learning projects that benefit both the youth and the surrounding neighborhood. Learn through small group, interactive discussion, and activities how to analyze your own local community assets, establish community connections, and develop your own dream youth program.

**Session focus: General Afterschool Best Practices or Special Focus, all grade levels*

Starting a Poetry Program • *Ballroom SE*

Words Taylor, Run DSM

This workshop will focus on the key ingredients to starting up an afterschool poetry program. Participants will analyze what to look for in a mentor to oversee the program and review important basics for creating curriculum and outcomes that should be expected from the youth that participate.

**Session focus: Front-line staff and program directors, K-5*

It's About the Little Things: Increasing Youth Engagement • *Ballroom NE*

Nicole Rottinghaus, Polk County Agricultural Extension District

Join this session to discuss ways to engage youth in fun (and educational) ways. Through the interactive use of squeaking chickens and origami tetrahedrons, participants will explore the delicate balance between having fun and engaged learning. It's all about the little things; come join the hands-on experience!

**Session focus: front-line staff, all levels*

The Importance of a Healthy School • *Ballroom W*

Kathleen Fenton, US Environmental Protection Agency

The US EPA offers various information to help schools better understand what it takes to deliver a Healthy School. Ms. Fenton will deliver core principles of a Healthy School and where to find key information for those interested in Healthy School Planning.

**Session focus: Program directors, all grade levels*

9:45 - 10:00 Visit Exhibitors

10:00 - 11:15

Rural Schools Programming • *Salon A/B*

Julia Shull, Mike Wells, and students, Hamburg Community Schools

Join this workshop to learn about best practices for rural school programming. Participants will hear about Hamburg's most popular afterschool programs and lessons learned in developing community partners. The workshop will highlight their farm school program, an innovative afterschool program that includes a greenhouse and farm animals.

**Session focus: General Afterschool Best Practices or Special Focus, K-5 and middle school*

Partnering with Police • *Ballroom SE*

Major Darren Grimshaw, Burlington Police Department

Law enforcement leaders in a number of communities across the nation have turned to afterschool programs as a vehicle to help support children and youth build strong relationships with the community. Learn about the landscapes of law enforcement, strategies for engaging with law enforcement agencies, and how partnerships can help support your program.

**Session focus: General Afterschool Best Practices or Special Focus, all grade levels*

21CCLC Stars Awards Panel • *Ballroom NE*

This session will feature a panel of 21CCLC Star Awardees. Four 21CCLC sites received Stars awards this year, for Literacy Improvement, STEM Achievement, Youth Community Contribution, and All-Around. Hear from panelists on best practices they have learned through their afterschool programs.

**Session focus: General Afterschool Best Practices or Special Focus, all grade levels*

Youth in Culture: "Don't Just Give Them a Car" • *Ballroom W*

Jeff Jackson, ISU Extension and Outreach

Why are our efforts with youth falling short? Why can't we seem to help them reach their full potential? These are common questions that we all ask as we strive to develop student leaders through Positive Youth Development. The answers to these questions are found in understanding their generations, their culture, and their true motivation. Come explore with us, brainstorm, and seek those answers together in the Youth in Culture workshop.

**Session focus: front-line staff, all grade levels*

11:15 - 12:30 Working Lunch and Closing Plenary • *Main Ballrom*

We're Making a Difference

Major Darren Grimshaw, Burlington (Iowa) Police Department

Educational apps and resources can be found here:
www.iowa21cclc.wikispaces.com/Educational+Apps

Keynote and Feature Speakers

Malai Amfahr, Community Housing Initiatives

Malai has more than 15 years of experience working with youth living in low-income households. CHI is a non-profit community development organization that operates in communities across Iowa. During her tenure with CHI, Malai has successfully developed and operated two separate departments that address the needs of residents within CHI housing and urban core neighborhoods in Des Moines. She has established two youth driven programs that provide support for the social, psychological, and academic enrichment needs of participants. Ages of youth involved with these programs range from pre-school age to high school. Malai's passion is connecting youth to communities through service-enriched programs that provide youth opportunities to grow and thrive.

Dan Bower, Cedar Falls Community School District

Since 2001, the ECHOES program at Holmes Junior High School offers a wide variety of programs and builds many positive adult-child relationships. The Cedar Falls Schools district is now in its 12th year of the ECHOES program. The ECHOES program offers a wide variety of programs and builds many positive adult-child relationships. Many students need positive adult role models and a safe environment after school. The ECHOES program helps make connections with the students and influences students' academic performance by offering additional support. Students are exposed and encouraged to participate in programs that are designed to help them improve academically or to enrich a student's passion for a given subject. Some of the programs offered are homework assistance, math tutoring, science club, family consumer science and math counts. Teachers, administrators, and counselors often refer students to our program and we have added an ALT component to the program.

Dan Bower graduated from University of Northern Iowa in 1996 with Elementary Education/Early Childhood Education. Dan has worked as the Site Coordinator at Holmes junior High School from 2001-present. Before working at Holmes, he was the Child Care/Youth & Teen Direction at the YMCA of Black Hawk from 1997-2001. Mr. Bower currently works as After School Coordinator & Juvenile Court Liaison. In his position he is on Building Leadership Team, CHAT Team, Holmes Safety Committee, AEA 267 Team and one of Holmes Instructional Technology Leaders.

Shara Bradley, Community Housing Initiatives

Shara has been with CHI for over 5 years providing services for residents in several communities. Her expertise in youth enrichment has led her to managing and implementing the youth afterschool program called "Enrichment at Eastwood" in a subsidized housing community in Ames. As primary program manager, Shara develops curriculum for the youth participants, directs and implements activities, coordinates volunteers through local partnerships, and markets the program. Shara's successful implementation of the program model utilizing partnerships is now being expanded and applied in other CHI multi-family housing communities.

Gracie Brandsgard, Iowa Afterschool Alliance

Gracie Brandsgard is a Program Manager at State Public Policy Group. Through this work she leads the STEM and policy work for the Iowa Afterschool Alliance, a network of individuals and organizations committed to expanding access to high quality before school, after school, and summer programming for all Iowa children and youth. Prior to working at SPPG, Gracie worked on several candidate and issue-based political campaigns.

Sandra Day, Council Bluffs Community Schools

Sandra earned her B.A from the University of Iowa. She has been a classroom educator and K-12 administrator for over three decades. Sandra earned her M.A. and Ed.D. from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Currently, she serves families in the Council Bluffs Community Schools as its 21st CCLC Program Director. Council Bluffs Community Schools has seven schools K-12 that are 21st CCLC Sites.

Kathleen Fenton, US EPA

Kathleen has enjoyed her work as a public servant working for the US EPA since 1989. She has written chemical regulations, has worked as an enforcement caseworker, worked for the Ag Compliance and Assistance Center and on various agricultural issues, has managed a number of community-based programs and grants, facilitated scores of strategic planning meetings re: environmental concerns, and has created environmental educational materials, tutorials, and toolkits for grant writers, grant managers and the general public. Fenton is the Lead Strategic Planner for the Office of Public Affairs, EPA Region 7, manages the Healthy Schools Initiative under the Children's Health Program and the Environmental Education Grant Program, and has served as a Public Information Officer for EPA during the Columbia Shuttle and Katrina emergencies.

Brooke Findley, Chrysalis Foundation

Brooke Findley is the Director of Policy and Programs at Chrysalis Foundation. Findley oversees the investments that Chrysalis makes in Greater Des Moines to ensure the safety, security, education, and economic empowerment of girls and women through Community Partner Grants and the Chrysalis After-School program.

Josh Green, Cedar Falls Community School District

Josh Green is a teacher at Peet Junior High School and helps staff the ECHOES afterschool program.

Major Darren Grimshaw, Burlington Police Department

Major Darren Grimshaw began his career with the Burlington Police Department in 1988. As a Police Officer Grimshaw worked in the patrol division and served as a Detective before being promoted to Lieutenant. Major Grimshaw graduated from Burlington High School in 1983 and went on to earn a degree in Criminal Justice. Major Grimshaw is a graduate of the 186th Session of the FBI National Academy and served as the Iowa FBINA Chapter President from 2005-2007.

In 2015 Major Grimshaw was selected to participate in a 10-month learning experience focusing on afterschool and expanded learning policy development with the White-Riley-Peterson Policy Fellowship at Furman University's Riley Institute. Major Grimshaw currently sits on the advisory board for the 21st Century "P.I.E.C.E.S" Afterschool Program for the Burlington Community School District, is an Advisory member of the Iowa Afterschool Alliance, and most recently was appointed to the FBI National Academy Association's Police/Youth Engagement Committee.

Vic Jaras, Iowa Department of Education

Jaras is a Community Education and Service-Learning Consultant at the Iowa Department of Education. He heads the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC) federal grant program in the state for before and after school programming that targets students in need. 21CCLC funding provides about six million dollars in funding for afterschool in Iowa. These centers provide a safe environment for children to overcome achievement gaps and become engaged in learning.

Emily Lang, Des Moines Schools

Emily Lang is a teacher and Urban Arts Coordinator in Des Moines Public Schools, and co-founder of RunDSM, a for-youth, by-youth organization focused on urban arts and youth activism. She grew up performing on the stages of the Oskaloosa Community Theater, and entered the field of education with a strong desire to work with young women and help them develop their worth. "I believe in leading with love and providing youth safe and brave spaces to share their truth."

Jeff Jackson, ISU Extension and Outreach

Jeff is the County Youth Coordinator for ISU Extension and Outreach.

Tania Lazar, You for Youth

Tania provides customized support and technical assistance to a wide variety of afterschool programs across the country. She is also responsible for developing and presenting Foundations' face-to-face and online professional development sessions for educators. Her many interactions with real-world leaders and practitioners help shape the direction of the training offerings to the education field. Tania's background in afterschool education began in direct service, where she managed an elementary afterschool program. She then spent six years with New Jersey After 3 as a Program Officer, overseeing more than 33 afterschool programs. Tania's experience spans a variety of roles, including project management and administration, program evaluation, and curriculum development. Tania holds a Bachelor's from Rutgers University and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Monmouth University.

Michelle Rich, Iowa Afterschool Alliance

Michelle Rich is a Senior Program Manager at State Public Policy Group and has been with the company since 2007. In this role she serves as the Network Coordinator of the Iowa Afterschool Alliance, a network of individuals and organizations committed to expanding access to high quality before school, after school, and summer programming for all Iowa children and youth. She received her bachelors in American Policy and Politics and Communications from Tulane University and her Masters of Public Administration from Drake University. She is a White-Riley-Peterson Fellow in afterschool policy through Furman University. In her free time Michelle enjoys biking around Des Moines' many trails.

Monique McDowell Russell, You for Youth

Monique serves as Lead Education Specialist for Foundations' subcontractor role with the U.S. Department of Education's You for Youth (Y4Y) online professional development web portal for the 21st CCLC programs. She conducts trainings nationwide to help OST practitioners better understand and utilize the support that the site offers. In addition to her work at Foundations, Inc., Monique is an Educational Consultant, was an Adjunct Professor, and served on several National Advisory Committees. She has extensive experience in managing, directing, and providing oversight for elementary and secondary education programs, as well as adult education programs. Her experiences include working with Federal, State, and Local officials to address student outcomes and to design educational programs that directly impact what happens before, during, and after school. She has led major functional areas, including innovative strategic planning, conceptualizations, designs, program development, and grant implementation. Monique earned a Certificate from the Emerging Leader Development Program at the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University, a Master of Science degree from Audrey Cohen College, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of New Rochelle.

Kristopher Rollins, Des Moines Schools

Kristopher Rollins is the Des Moines Public School's Urban Arts Coordinator, co-founder of RunDSM, and co-facilitator of the Urban Leadership program at Central Campus. He is passionate about the power of literacy with regards to helping marginalized youth reclaim their voices and futures by providing them safe and brave spaces to be heard. Furthermore, his goal is to continue establishing a feeder pattern for hip-hop arts within the public school system in order to engage populations previously underserved.

Nicole Rottinghaus, Polk County Agricultural Extension District

Nicole has a BA in Leisure, Youth, and Human Services as well as a MA in Philanthropy and Non Profit Development from the University of Northern Iowa. She has been facilitating experiential education programs for youth and adults for well over 10 years throughout Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa. As an Educator for the Adventure Learning Center, she enjoys the opportunity to challenge participants to stretch outside their physical and mental comfort zones to learn new things about themselves and their peers.

Alex Shrewsberry, Boys & Girls Club

Alex has presented at over 30 schools and conferences across the country regarding school mental health. Through this process, Alex has assisted schools in developing a more supportive mental health conference. As a Programs Specialist at Boys & Girls Club, Alex was able to implement many of these best practices in an afterschool setting.

Bobbie Jo Sheridan, Des Moines Schools

Bobbie Jo Sheridan is a Licensed Social Worker and Certified Health Education Specialist with a passion for serving her community. Miss Sheridan has spent many years working with youth and families to help build positive assets and make healthy choices. In addition, she volunteers with many youth-serving organizations. Miss Sheridan has been a presenter at many local and national conferences. She currently serves as a Community School Coordinator with Des Moines Public Schools. Miss Sheridan holds her Bachelors in Social Work from the University of Northern Iowa and Masters in Health Education & Promotion from Walden University.

Simon Silva

Simon Silva was born in Mexicali, Mexico, and grew up in the Imperial Valley near the Mexico/California border. Silva started helping his family work the fields from the time he was in elementary school. He spent his summers picking seasonal fruits and vegetables until he was 23. The Silva family lived on a limited income and since there was no extra money for entertainment, Simon took to drawing. He was a quiet youth; instead of talking he would draw; it was his release, which later became a means of communication for him. It was the harsh working conditions of the fields that inspired him to pursue an education and his love of artistic expression, and Simon Silva's renowned artwork has appeared in many distinguished venues around the world. He is indeed tri-lingual, because he grew up communicating in English, Spanish, and through art. This last language has been his passion and lifelong motivation, and explains why he is now working tirelessly to educate people around the world on how to communicate through art. His celebrated keynote and "Cultivating a Creative Mind" programs encourage educators, professionals, parents, and students of all ages to communicate using the artistic talent that resides within them. Silva believes honing individual artistic talent provides society with an opportunity to move forward in the right direction by having better communication and better problem solving capabilities.

Julia Shull, Hamburg Community Schools

Julia is the 21CCLC Program Director for Hamburg Community Schools.

Jacalyn Swink, Burlington Community Schools

Jacalyn Swink began her teaching career in 1991 in Burlington, Iowa, and has been involved with out-of-school time for over 10 years. She, along with many community members, help create PIECES (Partners in Education, Community Enriching Students) Before/Afterschool Program.

Jacalyn currently assists as a lead teacher for the PIECES program, is a member of the Iowa Afterschool Alliance State Advisory Board, an IAA Executive board member, PIECES Advisory Council member, and shared her expertise in out-of-school-time across the United States, presenting at various conferences.

Words Taylor, Run DSM

Words Taylor is a bestselling author, leader of the Dream Builder Nation, a spoken word poet, and Poetry Consultant for Des Moines Public School District. Words was born and raised in Chicago where his love for poetry and speaking came out of need for an outlet to release anger and hurt from some childhood experiences. He has always admired the power of voice and how it can be used as a weapon of hope in our lives. He has now made it his personal mission to equip every young person and adult with this weapon. He believes there is freedom in knowing the power of our words.

If you were to ask Words Taylor what he is most proud of, he would say being a "Believer", a husband to a great woman, and a father to phenomenal children; everything else comes after that. He has a passion for serving people and seeing them live their out their dreams, passions, and talents. You can learn more about Words Taylor and the Dream Builder Nation at Wordstaylor.com.

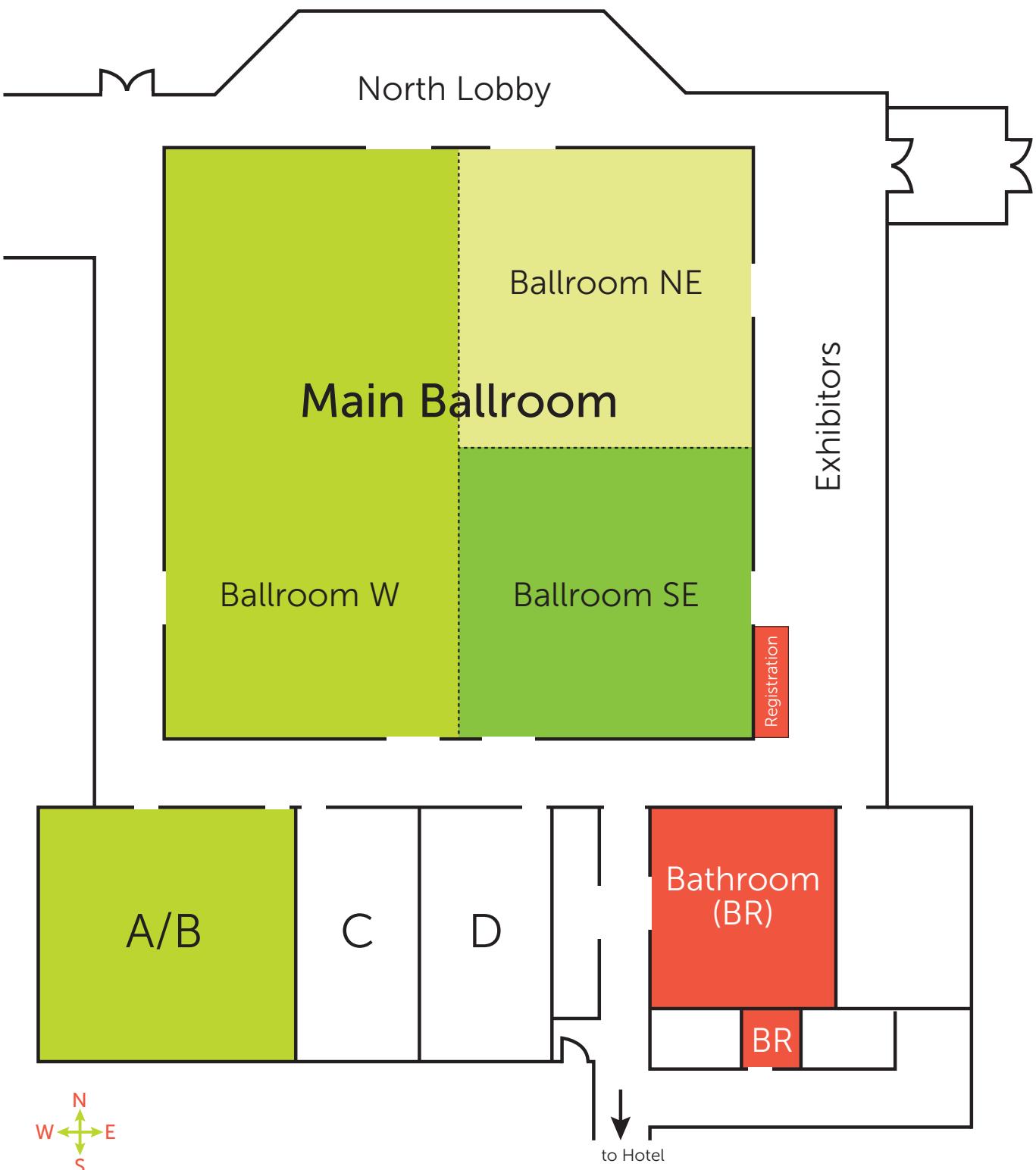
Mike Wells, Hamburg Community Schools

Mike serves as the Superintendent for Hamburg Community Schools.

Dave Welter, Iowa Afterschool Alliance

Dave Welter served as the principal of Holmes Junior High School in Cedar Falls for 15 years, and was named the 2012 Iowa Middle Level Principal of the Year by the School Administrators of Iowa. He previously served as associate principal and activities director of the district's Peet Junior High. He received his bachelor's degree in history, health and physical education from Cornell College in Mount Vernon; his master's degree in education from Iowa State University; and his certification in secondary administration from the University of Northern Iowa. He currently serves on the Iowa Afterschool Alliance's Strategic Leadership Team.

Ramada Inn Conference Map



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Thank you to this year's conference exhibitors!

