2015 PromiseNet Conference Session Descriptions

Tuesday, November 10

12:30 - 2:15 p.m. - PromiseNet 2015 Conference Opening Luncheon / Council of Michigan Foundations Closing Luncheon

Veteran, Rhodes Scholar, best-selling author and social entrepreneur Wes Moore will close out the 43rd Annual Conference and will help kick off the 2015 PromiseNet Conference.

Michigan is working hard to improve outcomes for its young people: Hundreds of programs are happening throughout the state, and innovations like the Kalamazoo Promise have the potential to be game-changers. But social innovation alone is insufficient, and young people continue to fall off track when they confront systemic barriers or lose their way on the pathway to success. How do we support the full spectrum of conditions needed to help every young person reach their full potential?

Wes Moore will address the disparities, realities and incredible opportunities in ensuring young people reach their full potential - and see the pathway to get there.

2:30 - 4:15 p.m. - Research Plenary Session: "The Impact of Promise Programs: What Do We Know?"

Join researchers from around the nation as they share key findings about the impact of Promise programs. The presentation, designed for a non-technical audience, will cover how place-based scholarships are affecting K-12 educational outcomes, post-secondary access and attainment, and community/economic development in multiple communities. Come hear the latest about test scores, college completion, and economic transformation. The presentation will also cover a new tool that Promise stakeholders can use to track progress in their own communities.

4:20 - 5:20 p.m. - Getting Started

Janice Brown, Kalamazoo Promise; Sylvia Thompson, El Dorado Promise
This roundtable discussion is for stakeholders in new Promise communities or those considering the creation of a Promise program. Leaders of established Promise programs will share their thoughts and answer your questions about how to develop a leadership group, design a

program that fits your community's critical need, and pursue the partnerships necessary for a successful program. Additional time to meet with established Promise program stakeholders will be available on Thursday morning.

5:30-7:30pm - Welcome Reception- LOCATION TBA

More information coming soon.

Meet in Hotel lobby by 5:25 p.m.

Wednesday, November 11

7 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Registration

7 - 8:30 a.m. - Continental Breakfast

8:30 - 10 a.m. - 2015 PromiseNet Presents; Promise Talks
Join us as we officially kick off our 2015 conference with "Ted Talk" style speakers. We will hear from Kalamazoo Promise students, parents, community members and many others! Get ready to feel motivated!

10 - 10:30 a.m. - Networking Break

10:30 a.m – Noon - Breakout Session I

Supporting our Children from Birth to Career
Von Washington, Kalamazoo Promise; Jim Tucker, El Dorado Schools; David Rust, Say Yes Buffalo
How can Promise communities leverage their scholarship programs to create effective interventions at various stages of a child's development? Building on the previous day's keynote address, join experts in collective impact to examine the system-wide approaches that are needed, from early childhood to workforce development, to ensure that young people are on their way to successful lives.

Charting the Course: College Access and Beyond
Bridget Timmeney, Upjohn Institute; Chad Nash, Denver Scholarship Foundation; Ryan Fewins-Bliss, Michigan College Access Network
What are some of the alternative ways that Promise communities can organize their college access efforts? Learn about Michigan's success in creating more than 40 local college access networks and hear the latest results from Denver's long experience with high school-based Future Centers.

Fund Development and Marketing
Saleem Ghubril, Pittsburgh Promise; Gina Bovee, Grand Rapids Community Foundation
An effective fund Development plan is essential for communities that rely on donors for sustainable programs. What are the philanthropic, private, and public sources of funding for Promise programs, and how can each be cultivated and sustained?

Research Roundtable
Randy Eberts, Upjohn Institute, with the participation of researchers from multiple communities
Sit down with researchers for a more in-depth discussion of the previous day's presentation. Follow up on areas of particular interest, learn about the methods behind the findings, and examine whether the results to date can be generalized across communities.

Noon - 1:30 p.m. - Lunch

1:45 - 3:15 p.m. - Breakout Sessions II

To College, Through College
Michelle Miller-Adams, Upjohn Institute; Bob Harrison, Lake Michigan College; Margaret Partlo, Western Michigan University
It is not enough for Promise programs to steer more students to post-secondary education. Strategic and effective collaborations are needed to ensure that students' progress through college and complete their certificates or degrees on time. Come to discuss best practice and research driven strategies to promote college completion. This session will highlight innovative partnerships and practices in place to promote college completion.

The Urban Promise
Patricia Melton, New Haven Promise; Linda Lee Tarver, Lansing Promise Zone
Urban communities, home to many Promise programs, face a special set of challenges. These may include struggling school districts, persistent achievement gaps by race and income and limited job prospects. How can stakeholders in urban communities, from churches to youth-serving nonprofits, be enlisted in the Promise effort? How can a Promise program be leveraged

to support school improvement and create opportunity for low-income youth?

The Sustainability Challenge
Saleem Ghubril, Pittsburgh Promise
As the Promise movement matures, some communities are discovering they need to make changes to the rules governing their programs in the interest of sustainability. How can Promise stakeholders successfully manage these transitions? How can programmatic changes be considered, implemented and announced with minimal disruption to a program's goals?

The Campaign for Free College Tuition: Implications for Promise Programs
Janice Brown, Kalamazoo Promise; Morley Winograd, Campaign for Free College Tuition
The Promise movement has sparked state and national efforts to dramatically reduce the cost of college tuition. Tennessee and Oregon have led the way in making community college tuition-free for many of their residents, while the national advocacy movement around reducing college costs continues to grow. How can these initiatives support the efforts of local Promise initiative?

Managing Your Promise Program
Bob Jorth, Kalamazoo Promise; Brett Hoover, New Haven Promise; Steve Kroser, Pittsburgh Promise; Ann Balow, e-Scholarship
What systems need to be in place to operate a Promise program? How can the administrative burden of operating a place-based scholarship be minimized? Come learn about how leading Promise programs interact with scholarship recipients and post-secondary institutions, manage their database and other systems, and how what they have learned can help you.

3:30 - 5 p.m. - Breakout Sessions III

The Education Employment Connection
Patricia Melton, New Haven Promise; Gene Walker, Pittsburgh Promise; Lila Phillips, El Dorado Education Foundation
Promise programs can help tighten the connection between a community's educational system and the needs of its employers. Learn about innovative approaches to meeting workforce demands through career and technical education, including results from the first year of the Pittsburgh Promise's vocational training option for high-school students.

Are Michigan Promise Zones the Do-It-Yourself Promise?
Chuck Wilbur, Public Policy Associates; Ayana Richardson, Baldwin Promise; Linda Lee Tarver, Lansing Promise Zone
Thanks to legislation passed in 2008, Michigan became the first state to encourage the creation of universal place-based scholarship programs in high poverty communities. Today, eight of these Promise Zone communities are awarding scholarships and working to create a college going culture and the infrastructure needed to support college readiness and college success.

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This session will feature Promise Zone leaders who will reflect on their unique approach to creating college opportunity for all.

Program Evaluation: Build It from the Beginning
Jennifer Iriti, University of Pittsburgh; Lindsay Daugherty, RAND; Gabriella Gonzalez, RAND
Tracking the progress of your Promise program is essential to building and maintaining stakeholder support, as well as to continually improving outcomes. This session will address the question of which metrics should be tracked and when. We will also explore strategies for finding evaluation resources in your own community.

The Main Partner: Supporting PK-12 Systems
Alice Mahoney, El Dorado Education Foundation; Cris Kutzli, Grand Rapids Community Foundation; Stacy Boone, Detroit Scholarship Fund
Many Promise programs work with K-12 partners that are not fully equipped for the challenge of helping all their students navigate the path to post-secondary education. While Promise stakeholders can be advocates for institutional change, we also need to help kids overcome these broken systems. In this session, we'll explore this challenge with Promise leaders working in K-12 environments.

6 - 9 p.m. - The Kalamazoo Promise 10th Anniversary Celebration Gala
At the hotel*, Dress is Business Causal*

Thursday, November 12

7 - 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast Roundtable Discussions

Enjoy breakfast while talking to various established Promise Communities about topics related to your Promise program. These discussions are casual, so feel free to drop in at any time during the 90 minutes and move from topic tables as you wish.

8:30 a.m. - 11 p.m. - Field Trips