

BCPS SEL Summit 2021

Keynote Speaker Information

Kirklyn Barry



Bio: Kirklyn “Kirk” Berry is a dynamic speaker and the celebrated author of “5 Powerful Tips For Motivating Youth” and “90 Min[utes] For 90 Days.” Kirk is recognized as a leading expert in the field of Fatherhood around the country. Kirk founded KB Enterprise LLC (www.kirkberry.com) in 2009, a youth advocacy firm dedicated to forging academic and recreational campaigns that engage, inspire, and motivate youth. Kirk has been invited to speak at service organizations and academic institutions on how to effectively engage youth. Through his captivating speaking engagements, Kirk urges communities to uplift this generations youth by expanding their limits and placing the utmost importance on academic performance. His life’s goal is to teach youth that difficult experiences can be overcome and are the foundation for building a stronger, better, and more satisfying future. Kirk founded KB Foundation Inc. (www.kb.foundation) in 2011, a non-profit organization committed to mentoring youth. Kirk, along with the KB Foundation Inc. designed and deployed the KB P.O.W.E.R Mentoring Camp. The camp is the first program developed by the foundation and has already generated tremendous buzz. It is a weekend-long camp experience designed for young men ages 11-13. The message Kirk shares through the KB P.O.W.E.R Mentoring Camp is full of P.O.W.E.R (Positivity. Opportunity. Wisdom. Encouragement. Responsibility.) and it is for anyone who may find themselves in difficult and often overwhelming circumstances. Kirk has his degree in Business Management from The State University Of New York at Buffalo and resides in the Philadelphia area with his wife and two children.

Keynote Date: Monday, February 8, 2021, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Keynote Audience Focus: BCPS Students grades 6-12

Keynote Title: Who You Are, Is Enough!

Keynote Description: Get ready to be inspired! Get ready to learn something new! Get ready to feel empowered!

This presentation will focus on the importance of believing in ourselves, even when experiencing difficult times either socially, emotionally and/or academically.

When a person believes in themselves, the ability to think more positively can and will empower them to fulfill their dreams. In this presentation you will not only hear the words

"Who You Are, Is Enough", but you will learn by being confident in yourself it is ok to ask and accept help from others that want to see you succeed.

Shantay McKinily



Bio: Shantay McKinily is the founder of Inspire Education trust and the Director of the Positive Schools Center (PSC) at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English from Morgan State University in 1998, a Master's of Science in Adult Education from Coppin State University in 2007, and is currently pursuing her doctorate in Urban Education Leadership from Morgan State University. Ms. McKinily worked for Baltimore City Public Schools for the last 19

years, 8 of those years were spent serving as the principal of the “Wonderful” Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School. At the PSC, she now works to train and support principals, leadership teams, and district office staff to create nurturing, holistic racially equitable learning environments. In addition to providing leadership coaching, she provides training in Restorative Practices, Trauma informed Care and Healing approaches and implementing successful alternatives to punitive discipline methods in schools. Most recently she has been supporting teachers, leaders, parents, and communities on how to become “Competent Adults” on their path to wholeness.

Keynote Date: Saturday, February 6, 2021, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Keynote Audience Focus: BCPS Staff and Parents/Caregivers

Keynote Title: Stop Filling People’s Cups Up with Dirty Water: Remembering the SEL Competencies when Creating Community

Keynote Description: How do we show up authentically in communities? During this session, we will take a reflective journey of how we support communities. We will discuss how SEL, restorative practices and trauma-responsive strategies can support practitioners as they begin to create, sustain, and nurture communities.

Session Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Session Audience Focus: BCPS Staff

Session Title: Building Wholistic Learning Communities: Creating Healing Spaces

Session Description: During this session, we will take you on a journey to utilize Restorative Practice, Healing Center Engagement, and Virtues Language as a tool to create nurturing communities for students, staff and community.

Dr. Scott Poland



Bio: Dr. Scott Poland is a Professor at the College of Psychology and is Co-Director of the Suicide and Violence Prevention Office at Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Poland is a licensed psychologist internationally recognized as an expert on youth suicide, self-injury, school violence, school safety, threat assessment and school crisis. He has authored or co-authored five books—including *Suicide in Schools*, published in 2015—along with many chapters and articles on these subjects. He co-authored the *Suicide Safer Schools Plan* for the state of Texas, and directed psychological services for a large Texas school system for 24 years.

Dr. Poland is a past President of the National Association of School Psychologists, and past Prevention Division Director of the American Association of Suicidology. He has been an expert witness in numerous legal cases concerning suicide in schools and their communities. Dr. Poland is dedicated to prevention and has testified about the mental health needs of children before the U.S. Congress on four occasions. He is a founding member of the National Emergency Assistance Team and has personally assisted school communities following school shootings, acts of terrorism, natural disasters and numerous suicide clusters. Dr. Poland is known for his dynamic and practical presentations, which include many real life experiences on the front line of crisis prevention, intervention, and postvention.

Keynote Date: Saturday, February 6, 2021, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Keynote Audience Focus: BCPS Staff and Parents/Caregivers

Keynote Title: Bullying and Suicide: Keys to Prevention and Resiliency

Keynote Description: Bullying in schools is a national issue and a number of media reports have attributed youth suicide to victimization. This presentation will help school personnel and community agencies develop comprehensive suicide and bullying prevention programs. Participants will learn effective strategies to build resiliency for children in today's world. Participants will learn to identify protective and resiliency factors for school age youth; develop a comprehensive best practices model for suicide prevention, plan for intervention and postvention in the school and community, explore best practices for bullying prevention and the complex relationship between bullying and suicide.

Dr. Allison Posey



Bio: Allison Posey is an international leader for professional learning and implementation of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). She works at CAST, where she collaborates with researchers and educators to integrate and apply current understandings from brain research into instructional practices so that all students are able to access, integrate and become expert learners. Prior to coming to CAST, Allison was a life science teacher in high school and community college settings. She still teaches at Lasell University. She received a degree in Mind, Brain, and Education from Harvard Graduate School of

Education and is author of *Engage the Brain: How to design for learning that taps into the power of emotions* (ASCD, 2018) and *Unlearning: Change your beliefs and practice with UDL* (CAST Publishing, February 2020). She lives in Boston with her two kids and loves to hike, paint, and cook chocolate desserts.

Keynote Date: Saturday, February 6, 2021, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Keynote Audience Focus: BCPS Staff and Parents/Caregivers

Keynote Title: Emotions, The Brain, and Learning

Keynote Description: Research on the brain shows that emotion plays an essential role in learning, but how can we apply that research in our day-to-day learning experiences - whether we are learning online at home or at school? In this session, we will discuss how the brain's emotion networks are critical to learning and cognition. We will discuss strategies, including Universal Design for Learning (UDL), that can make a real difference for learning. These strategies can be integrated by parents, teachers, or students themselves into daily routines and practices to support rigorous, meaningful learning opportunities.

Dr. Dena Simmons



Bio: Dena Simmons, Ed.D., is the founder of LiberatED, an antiracist approach to social and emotional learning and healing. She is the former Assistant Director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, where she supported schools to use the power of emotions to create a more compassionate and just society. Prior to her work at the Center, Dena served as an educator, teacher educator, diversity facilitator, and curriculum developer. She has been a leading voice

on teacher education and has written and spoken across the country about social justice pedagogy, diversity, emotional intelligence, and bullying in K-12 school settings, including the White House, the inaugural Obama Foundation Summit, the United Nations, two TEDx talks, and a TED talk on Broadway. Dena has been profiled in Education Week, the Huffington Post, NPR, the AOL/PBS project, MAKERS: Women Who Make America, and a Beacon Press Book, *Do It Anyway: The New Generation of Activists*. Dena is a recipient of a Harry S. Truman Scholarship, a J. William Fulbright Fellowship, an Education Pioneers Fellowship, a Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship, a Phillips Exeter Academy Dissertation Fellowship, a Hedgebrook Writing Residency, and an Arthur Vining Davis Aspen Fellowship among others. She earned her doctorate degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, where she recently served as faculty in the Summer Principals Academy. Dena’s research interests include teacher preparedness to address bullying in the K-12 school setting, culturally responsive pedagogy, and the intersection of equity and social and emotional learning (SEL) interventions—all in an effort to ensure and foster justice and safe spaces for all. She is the author of the forthcoming book, *White Rules for Black People* (St. Martin’s Press, 2022).

Keynote Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Keynote Audience Focus: BCPS Staff

Keynote Title: From Surviving to Thriving: Creating Equitable Environments Through Emotional Intelligence and Culturally Relevant Practices

Keynote Description: For community members to thrive, they must feel safe to be who they are; they must love themselves. As a result, our leadership, instruction, and assessment must foster psychological and emotional safety through emotional intelligence, culturally responsiveness, and anti-racist practices. During this interactive session, participants will explore impostor syndrome, emotional intelligence, and culturally relevant pedagogy, and anti-racist practices. Through narrative, Dr. Simmons will discuss how the intersection of emotionally intelligent and culturally relevant practices can create equitable and welcoming communities, where everyone can learn in the comfort of their skin.