



## Conference Update

### Attendance

A total of 2,950 attendees registered for this year's conference as of January 26, almost exactly the same as last year. These numbers do not include exhibitors. Participants include:

- 283 Distinguished School Attendees
- 185 Presenters
- 35 U.S. Education Department Staff
- 2,447 General Attendees

### Exhibitors

137 companies purchased 180 exhibit booths this year, representing a 12% decline from last year. Many education conferences are experiencing a similar decline in the number of booths sold this year, but we are conducting an exhibitor evaluation to learn as much as possible about the decline and how to reverse it. All NASTID members should visit exhibitors and thank them for their participation; these personal connections do make a difference for retaining exhibit participation.

### Food

Once again, food service is included in the Exhibit Hall to help drive traffic and provide attendees with onsite breakfast, lunch and snack choices. The conference heavily subsidizes the cost of healthy food options to allow attendees to stay within their travel budgets.

### Sessions

Attendees may choose from 115 presentations from invited speakers, Department staff and competitive proposal speakers. Five keynote presentations are scheduled in the Grand Ballroom:

Thurs 10:00 AM	<u>Distinguished School Celebration</u> , followed by <u>A Reflection on the Past, Present &amp; Future of Title I</u> – panel discussion moderated by Assistant Secretary Deb Delisle. Panelists include Monique Chism, OSS Director; Zollie Stevenson & Jackie Jackson Fleming, former SASA Directors; and Mark Updegrave, Director of the LBJ Library
Thurs 3:45 PM	<u>How We Learn</u> – Ben Carey is an award-winning New York Times science reporter. He'll share surprising findings from his recent book about the "how" of learning.
Fri 10:00 AM	<u>Lessons from the School with No Name</u> – Stacey Bess shares her story about teaching homeless children in a small shed, known as the "School With No Name."
Sat 3:30 PM	<u>Disruptive Demographics: Implications for K-12 Education</u> – University of North Carolina professor, and economics expert, James Johnson, talks about the challenges and opportunities for U.S. education based on our changing demographics.
Sun 8:30 AM	<u>The Teacher Wars: Lessons from History for Improving Teaching Today</u> – Journalist Dana Goldstein shares the findings of her recent book, The Teacher Wars. This keynote is followed by four sessions focused on improving the teaching profession.

## **Session Hosts**

Session hosts serve a vital role at the conference. They introduce all sessions, providing enhanced exposure for the Association with the attendees, as well as ensuring that the contributions of all our speakers are appropriately recognized. ***See Bob Harmon to volunteer to fill the remaining sessions.***

### **Session Host Instructions:**

- Pick up the session packet from the Registration Desk 15-20 minutes prior to the session.
- Go to the session room and welcome the presenter when they arrive
- Follow the instructions in the session packet, including presentation of the speaker gift
- Return the evaluation portion to the Registration Desk at the conclusion

## **Special Events**

### **Wednesday, February 4**

#### ***Distinguished School Self Guided Rehearsal***

5:00 – 9:00 PM – Salt Palace Convention Center – Grand Ballroom

State Directors and Distinguished School participants may take a self-guided walk to view the important details for the following day opening ceremony. A+ Staff available to answer questions.

### **Thursday, February 5**

#### ***Distinguished School Group Photos***

7:30 - 9:30 AM – Salt Palace Convention Center – Hall E

State Directors are encouraged to join their schools for photos. See attached list for specific times.

#### ***Distinguished School Parade***

9:45 AM – Salt Palace Convention Center – Hall E

Honored schools start the session with a parade and State Directors are encouraged to be part of the contingent. Each school will be recognized on stage with their state and make very brief.

#### ***Welcome Networking Event***

5:00 – 6:30 PM – Salt Palace Convention Center – Exhibit Hall

Social event for all attendees with entertainment, food & beverages (cash bar) and an opportunity to meet and thank the exhibiting companies for their participation and support of Title I.

### **Friday, February 6**

#### ***President's Reception***

7:00 – 8:30 PM – Leonardo Museum (busing provided from the following conference hotels: Radisson, Marriott City Creek, Hilton City Center, Monaco, Marriott City Center, Little America)

All Association members, U.S. Department of Education staff, and Distinguished School attendees are invited and receive a ticket with registration materials. Dessert, beverages, student entertainment, and camaraderie.