

# Conference Focus Areas

*Updated November 2017*

## **Learning Communities:**

What are the essential conditions for establishing collective responsibility, authentic collaboration and trust? What are critical elements of communities/networks within and across schools and systems. How do you create, sustain, and evaluate school- and district-based learning teams?

## **Leadership/Advocacy:**

How do you develop, support, and strengthen the leadership of all educators to ensure all students are learning at high levels? How do leaders establish systems and structures that support effective professional learning and ongoing continuous improvement? How do you advance and sustain teacher leadership? How do you build support for professional learning through policy development, advocacy, and implementation? How do leaders support their own learning (self)?

## **Resources/Technology:**

How can you leverage technology, time, finances, and human capital for implementation of professional learning? What tools and processes help educators become critical and strategic decisions makers? How do you ensure alignment of resources across a system in support of professional learning?

## **Data:**

How do successful schools and teams use data-informed approaches (e.g. improvement science) to make decisions about instruction, professional learning, and resource allocation? How do you demonstrate the link among professional learning, educator practice, and student achievement? How do we measure the impact of professional learning experiences to inform teacher, school, and system decisions to drive continuous improvement?

## **Learning Designs:**

How do you apply the evidence base to inform the selection of learning designs? How do you develop learning designs and strengthen skills in planning, facilitating, presenting, and advancing effective, ongoing professional learning? What models and strategies support adults in building knowledge, skills and dispositions? What norms, protocols, processes, and resources support effective professional learning? How do you accelerate new teacher and leader efficacy and develop mentors?

## **Implementation:**

How do educators working at the team, school or district/division level apply the change process to transform professional learning? How do you promote sustainable change, increase educator effectiveness, and drive student achievement through professional learning? What support systems and follow-up strategies ensure deeper learning (adults and students) and sustained implementation of new practices?

## **Outcomes - Educator and Student Learning:**

How do you integrate educator and student performance standards and research-based practices to improve student learning? What professional learning will support the changes in planning and instruction needed to effectively implement standards or models of effective practice (e.g., deeper learning, content standards, leadership standards, performance standards)?

## **Equity:**

How do you acquire the skills, knowledge, and dispositions necessary to create culturally proficient learning systems that meet the academic and social needs of all demographic groups (i.e., race, class, culture, gender identity and learning differences)? What research-based knowledge, skills, and dispositions are required to personal education for each student to achieve educational excellence and equity? How do educators apply research on social emotional learning, the dynamics of systemic change, power, entitlement, and privilege to support learning for all?

## **Global/Emerging Issues:**

What future issues need to be addressed to ensure educators are teaching future-ready skills? What innovations will shape professional learning for the future? How do you ensure educators and students are prepared for global competition?

## **Instructional Materials/Curriculum:**

How do you institutionalize a coherent and aligned instructional framework? How has new research and resources, including OER, influenced practice in your organization? How do professional learning and curriculum implementation intersect in your PLCs? How do teachers learn deeply and effectively adapt instructional materials and curriculum to their classrooms?