



## **Leaders Developing Leaders 2026 Summit** **Who Has the Principal's Back?**

### **Summit Overview**

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**Dates:** Monday, June 29 to Wednesday, July 1, 2026  
**Location:** Baltimore, Maryland  
**Venue:** Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, 700 Aliceanna Street, Baltimore, MD 21202  
**Website:** <https://mcelleaders.org/leaders-developing-leaders/>

### **Objectives**

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Delve into effective practices that empower principal supervisors and align central office for maximum impact on school leaders and students.

- ✓ Position principal supervisors to effectively support and develop principals
- ✓ Align central office practices to maximize impact on school leaders
- ✓ Create system-wide coherence and a clear line of accountability for student success
- ✓ Develop school system expectations for principal support, development, and supervision
- ✓ Align pre-service training programs to principals' needs
- ✓ Create actionable plans tailored to your school system's needs

Learn current research and effective practices, build a nationwide collaborative learning network, and leave with concrete resources, examples, tools, and action plans you can immediately implement in practice.

### **Agenda**

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Leveraging [Who Has the Principal's Back?](#) and [Principal Supervision Is Not a Solo Act](#) by Harrison Peters and Steve Gering, participants will explore how central office can better support principals, the importance of a clear line of accountability for student learning, and the pivotal role played by principal supervisors to bridge central office and schools.

#### **Day 1: Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am - 12:00 pm *Optional:* Pre-Sessions for School Systems and Universities  
10:00 am - 12:30 pm **Registration**  
11:30 am - 12:30 pm **Lunch**  
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm **Welcome and Overview**  
1:30 pm - 2:15 pm **Voices in Education - Collaborative Exchange**  
2:15 pm - 3:00 pm **Who Has the Principal's Back?**

- Clarify who is "line accountable" for student achievement
- Identify how team members support those in the line of accountability

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm **Break**

- 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm **Voices from the Field - Principal Panel**
- Identify how high-performing principals partner with - or work around - central office to drive outcomes for students
  - Clarify what principals need to lead effective practice in schools and what impactful, aligned central office support looks like in practice

4:15 pm - 4:30 pm **Closing and Commitments**

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm **Networking Reception**

## **Day 2: Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 am - 9:00 am **Breakfast and Networking**

9:00 am - 9:30 am **Welcome and Reflection**

9:30 am - 10:20 am **Fireside Chat - Creating Systems that Have the Principal's Back**

- Dr. Rotunda Floyd-Cooper, Vice President, Education Leadership, The Wallace Foundation
- Dr. Stephen Zrike, Secretary of Education, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Steve Gering, Co-Founder, MCEL

10:20 am - 11:00 am **Principal Supervisors - A Critical Role at the Nexus of Schools and Central Office**

11:00 am - 11:15 am **Break**

11:15 am - 12:30 pm **Principal Supervisor Breakouts**

- **The Principal Supervisor Role: What We Know and What Gets in the Way** - Frederick Brown, President and CEO, Learning Forward
- **Re-Centering Principal Supervision** - Dr. Stacy Place Tosé, Chief of Schools and Kelvin Moore, Deputy Chief of Schools, Baltimore City Public Schools
- **Who's Supporting the Principal Supervisors? Creating Opportunities for Learning and Alignment across the Office of Schools** - Dr. Tynika Young-Aleibar, Deputy Chief, School Leader Recruitment, Selection, and Development and Gregory Moffitt, Director of School Leader Preparation and Development, District of Columbia Public Schools
- *University Strand: Practice in Support of School Leaders and Systems* - Douglas W. Anthony, Senior Fellow at Center for Educational Innovation and Improvement, Director of the Doctorate of Education in School System Leadership and Damaries Blondonville-Ford, Senior Faculty Specialist, University of Maryland

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm **Lunch**

Optional **Lunch and Learn Sessions**

- **Superintendent Roundtable** - Collaboration among superintendents
- **ECPI Connection** among Equity-Centered Pipeline Initiative participants
- **Readying Yourself for What's Next: Preparing to Transition from the Principalship to Central Office Leadership** - Ninia Mouzone, Principal and Dwight S. Thompson, Instructional Leadership Executive Director, Baltimore City Public Schools

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm **It Takes a System - Principal Supervision is Not a Solo Act**

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	<b>Break</b>
3:15 pm - 4:30 pm	<b>Central Office Breakouts</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Building Role Clarity to Strengthen Principal Support and Supervision</b> - Laken Detchemendy, Senior Director, Custom Strategy Consulting and Eugene Pinkard, President, Instruction Partners</li> <li>● <b>Centralized Support: Who Has the Principals' and Principal Supervisors' Backs?</b> - Shayla Rice and Dr. Kimberly Sollers, School Support Managers, Baltimore City Public Schools</li> <li>● <b>Making Central Office Work for Principals</b> - Douglas W. Anthony, Senior Fellow at Center for Educational Innovation and Improvement, Director of the Doctorate of Education in School System Leadership and Damaries Blondonville-Ford, Senior Faculty Specialist, University of Maryland</li> <li>● <b>Strategic Partnership: Schools Office and Academics Working Together</b> - Rick Grayes, EdD, Chief of Schools and Shaylia McRae, Deputy Superintendent of Academics and Transformation, Hillsborough County Public Schools</li> <li>● <i>University Strand: Research in Support of School Leaders and Systems</i> - Dr. Daniella "Dani" Molle, Research Director at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Education and Will Jordan, Research Officer, Education Leadership, The Wallace Foundation</li> </ul>
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm	<b>Closing and Commitments</b>
After 5:00 pm	Evening on Your Own
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	<i>University Strand: Fellowship and Educational Policy Dinner</i> - Facilitated by Jarvis Lundy, Director of Policy, The Hunt Institute

### **Day 3: Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**

8:00 am - 9:00 am	<b>Breakfast and Networking</b>
9:00 am - 9:30 am	<b>Welcome and Reflection</b>
9:30 am - 10:15 am	<b>Voices from the Field - Student Panel</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ground our work in the people we ultimately serve</li> <li>● Connect to our "why" and anchor action planning in students</li> </ul>
10:15 am - 10:30 am	<b>Implications for Our Practice</b>
10:30 am - 10:45 am	<b>Break</b>
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	<b>Central Office Transformation</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Unpack 5 steps to transform central office to support principals and ultimately students</li> <li>● Identify opportunities, tensions, and challenges in how central office ultimately does - or does not - have principals' backs</li> </ul>
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	<b>Application to Practice and Action Planning</b>
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Commitments and Closure</b>
After 3:00 pm	<i>Optional: Post-Sessions for School Systems and Universities</i>