



## 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**

- Harrison Peters, Co-Founder and CEO, MCEL
- Jermaine Dawson, Ed.D., CEO-Elect, Baltimore City Public Schools

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
  - Rashida S. Ford, M.Ed., Principal, Booker T. Washington Middle School for the Arts, Baltimore City Public Schools
  - Nichole Horn, Principal, Yosemite Middle School, Fresno Unified School District
  - Dr. Shenora Plenty, Principal in Residence, District of Columbia Public Schools
- 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; Tara Owen, Executive Director of Elementary Schools, Ankeny Community School District; and Jael Samuel, Instructional Leadership Executive Director, Baltimore City Public Schools
  - **Re-Centering Principal Supervision** - Dr. Stacy Place Tosé, Chief of Schools and Kelvin Moore, Deputy Chief of Schools, Baltimore City Public Schools
  - **Who Supports 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 Greg Moffitt, Director of School Leader Preparation and Development, District of Columbia Public Schools

- **Principal Supervisor Lab: A Cross-District Approach to Supporting and Developing Principal Supervisors** - Steve Gering, Co-Founder and Board Chair, MCEL
- *University Strand: What Can We Learn from Each Other? An Examination of Promising University Practices in Support of School Leaders and School Systems* - Douglas W. Anthony, Senior Fellow at Center for Educational Innovation and Improvement, Director of the Doctorate of Education in School System Leadership and Damaris Blondonville-Ford, Senior Faculty Specialist, University of Maryland

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

**Lunch**

Optional **Lunch and Learn Sessions**

- **Superintendent Roundtable** - Facilitated by Andy Cole, Consultant, The Wallace Foundation
- **ECPI Connection** among Equity-Centered Pipeline Initiative participants
- **Readying Yourself for What's Next: A Conversation about Preparation, Transition, and Steps You Can Take Right Now** - 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

**Break**

3:15 pm - 4:30 pm

**Central Office Breakouts**

- **Building Role Clarity to Strengthen Principal Support and Supervision: Lessons in Systemwide Support for Stronger Instruction** - Laken Detchemendy, Senior Director, Custom Strategy Consulting and Eugene Pinkard, President, Instruction Partners
- **Centralized Support: Who Has the Principals' and Principal Supervisors' Backs?** - Shayla Rice and Dr. Kimberly N. Sollers, School Support Managers, Baltimore City Public Schools
- **Working Better Together: Strengthening Systemwide Supports for Schools and Student Success** - Douglas W. Anthony, Senior Fellow at Center for Educational Innovation and Improvement, Director of the Doctorate of Education in School System Leadership and Damaris Blondonville-Ford, Senior Faculty Specialist, University of Maryland
- **Strategic Partnership: Schools Office and Academics Working Together** - Rick Grayes, EdD, Chief of Schools and Shaylia McRae, Deputy Superintendent of Academics and Transformation, Hillsborough County Public Schools
- *University Strand: Research in Support of School Leaders and Systems* - Will Jordan, Ph.D., Research Officer, Education Leadership, The Wallace Foundation; Kelly Lawler, Principal, Crestwood Elementary School, Madison Metropolitan School District; and Dr. Daniella Molle, Research Director at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Education

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

**Closing and Commitments**

After 5:00 pm

Evening on Your Own

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

*University Strand: Fellowship and Educational Policy Dinner* - Facilitated by Jarvis Lundy, Director of Policy, The Hunt Institute

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

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

9:00 am - 9:15 am **Welcome and Reflection**

9:15 am - 10:00 am **Voices from the Field - Student Panel**

- Ground our work in the people we ultimately serve
- Connect to our “why” and anchor action planning in students
- Identify implications for our practice

10:00 am - 10:15 am **Break**

10:15 am - 12:15 pm **Central Office Transformation**

- Unpack 5 steps to transform central office to support principals and ultimately students
- Identify opportunities, tensions, and challenges in how central office ultimately does - or does not - have principals' backs

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm **Lunch**

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm **Application to Practice and Action Planning**

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm **Commitments and Closure**

After 3:00 pm *Optional: Post-Sessions for School Systems and Universities*