

Keynote Presenter: Sandra Stein

Interruptions and Disruptions



Sandra Stein, former CEO of the New York City Leadership Academy, impressed Time Change Coaches last January at the 8th Annual National SAM Conference in Fort Lauderdale with improv activities designed to improve coaching impact. At Stone Mountain her keynote will focus on protecting work time from interruptions, organizing to minimize their intrusion on time, putting systems in place while addressing how interruptions can make us feel both scattered and overwhelmed—but also important and in high demand. She will discuss how disruptions force SAM teams to figure out which tasks are the most important leadership work and how leaders must move to the broader work of disruption: disrupting illiteracy, disrupting low expectations, disrupting systems that do not serve our students well. She posits that there is a relationship between managing the interruptions on behalf of creating the disruption to the forces that work against our work, purpose and mission.

Keynote Presenter: Ken Williams

***Shift Happens: Learning For All
Instead of Learning for Some***



Ken Williams, author, speaker and former principal, impressed SAM teams and others attending a Kentucky leadership training session early this year. His keynote at Stone Mountain will address why some schools seem to show steady progress improving learning while others seem to stall. Some believe successful schools are lucky, located in the ‘right area’, or have access to better teachers, better leaders, or great funding. While a variety of factors can influence the creation of a Learning For ALL culture, by far one of the biggest differences between schools that thrive and those that barely survive is recognizing the subtle shifts in practice that make seismic differences; the paradigm shifts that determine whether schools have a culture of learning for some or a culture of learning for all. The SAM process provides a framework and method to help leaders prioritize areas of focus and maximize their impact on student learning. In this session, Ken Williams will take participants on a powerful and practical exploration of the ‘space between the words’ of high impact best practices. He will shed light on the paradigm shifts required to re-culture your school from learning for some, to learning for all. Participants will walk away with applicable practices that will move their school toward truly ‘living their posters’.

Keynote Presenter: Ted DesMaisons
Mindfulness in Schools



Ted DesMaisons is the US Coordinator of the United Kingdom’s Mindfulness in the Schools and the founder of Anima Learning. He comes to the SAM Summer Conference as NSIP begins an exploration of how SAM teams can benefit from mindfulness activities and training. Leading educators, business leaders and medical experts espouse the benefits of mindfulness practice:

- better results through deeper presence
- success through non-striving
- a practical panacea for mental health and discipline issues in schools
- what does research show and what does it not show
- what variables make for the most effective mindfulness instruction
- who teaches—and embodies—the practice with integrity and humor

This workshop will dive first-hand into such questions, giving attendees a direct taste of mindfulness practice and an inkling of its promise for their classrooms and workplaces—and for their own personal lives. Topics will include: What mindfulness is and what mindfulness isn’t; the explosion of mindfulness-related scientific research; how to train the “puppy mind” for greater attention and focus; simple, portable mindfulness exercises to ease anxiety, promote resilience, and develop connection; practical steps for bringing mindfulness to administrators and school communities.

Keynote Presenter: Avish Parashar
Ding Happens: How to Improvise, Adapt and Innovate in an Ever Changing World



Avish Parashar is an energetic and humorous speaker who uses his 20+ years of experience performing, teaching and studying improvisational comedy to show organizations and individuals how to deal with the unexpected quickly, effectively, and with a sense of humor. Avish is the author of Improvise to Success! and has created dozens of other products applying improv skills to business and life. In his keynote session he will show how to stop fearing and hating change and how to use the power of improv comedy to improvise, adapt, and innovate - no matter what happens! Anyone can perform well when everything goes right. The real test is how you respond when things go wrong - and they will! These make-or-break moments are the "Dings!" of life. Handle them well and you, your teachers, and your students will thrive. Handle them poorly and you can end up adding unnecessary stress, difficulty, and complication to your life.



Breakout Presenter: Debra Sykes

Using TimeTrack to Leverage Leadership

Debra Sykes is a SAM Implementation Specialist and Time Change Coach. She was also a SAM district level leader in Buffalo, New York. Both the National SAM Innovation Project (NSIP) and the book, Leverage Leadership, are meant to change the focus of principals and principal managers from management tasks to instructional leadership. The main idea of both is: “*The most exceptional school leaders succeed because of how they use their time – by spending it on what matters most: instructional leadership.*” NSIP created an innovative process and set of tools that change the fundamental role of principals and principal supervisors from managers to instructional leaders. Leverage Leadership identifies seven areas of school leadership that dramatically improve student learning. This session will explore the unique set of tools contained within TimeTrack to help implement two of the seven levers defined in the book Leverage Leadership: using NoteTrack for *Observation and Feedback* and using TimeTrack for scheduling.

Breakout Presenter: Paul Willis

Stronger Together: Making Meaning out of Merged TimeTrack Data



Paul Willis is a successful SAM principal who describes himself as a reformed time waster. In this session SAM teams will become experts in analyzing merged data to make meaningful instructional decisions to increase their instructional impact. During this workshop, SAM teams will get a quick refresher on how to merge their TimeTrack data and will then review samples of data to uncover meaning and determine the impact the work has had on instruction. After reviewing the data, participants will draft focus questions to extract additional information and develop a plan to support their own SAM team. Participants will leave with a set of probing questions they can use to make meaning out of their merged TimeTrack data. Joining Paul as presenters in this workshop are assistant principals Dale Pugh and Ashley Holmes and SAM Janice Medlin.

Breakout Presenter: Kendra Washington Bass

Instructional SAMs



Kendra Washington Bass is an NSIP Board member and GCPS’ Director of Leadership Development. Her breakout session will focus on the SAM’s ability to have instructional discussions with the principal so that he or she meets her instructional goal and sees improved outcomes in teacher practice and/or student/community engagement. Using the “Big Rock protocol”, participants will practice 15-20 minute instructional conversations that will enhance the effectiveness and quality of the SAM daily meeting.