



EMPOWER Educators Conference

Speaker Bios

Host Genius Power Productions, alongside amazing supporters and sponsors, is thrilled to announce the speaker lineup for the 2019 EMPOWER Educators Conference in Houston, TX on August 5th-6th, 2019. To support educators nationwide and promote student success, we have an exemplary lineup ready to kick-off the school year with inspiration, tools, and resources. Join us for a powerful two-day conference where you see every keynote, are inspired, celebrated and supported in a way you have never felt before!

Ron Clark

Known to many as "America's Educator," Ron Clark is the 2000 Disney American Teacher of the Year, a two-time New York Times Bestselling author, the subject of a television movie and the founder of The Ron Clark Academy. Ron is regularly featured on network and cable television (The Today Show, CNN and Oprah,) and was dubbed by Ms. Winfrey as her first "Phenomenal Man."

Ron Clark brings charisma, energy and devotion to the education profession. Ron pioneered innovative projects in rural North Carolina working with minority students in a low wealth area. His highly effective programs garnered national attention and led to a White House invitation to be honored by the President of the United States.

Ron Clark's personality is marked by a sense of challenge and adventure. Upon watching a television piece chronicling low test scores and the lack of teachers in inner-city New York, Ron packed his car and moved to Harlem. After being warned by the principal that his class was the least disciplined group she had seen in years, Ron prepared himself by visiting the home of each student before the first day of school. Ron Clark involved his students in projects in the city and state, and his "low achievers" soon began to excel; and by the end of the year, their scores were higher than the "gifted" classes in his district.

In 2003, Ron Clark released the New York Times Bestselling book "The Essential 55" which includes his 55 expectations of students - as well as all individuals - young and old. Ron's second book, "The Excellent 11," was released in August 2004 and further captured the attention of parents, educators and students alike.

Obviously Ron Clark did not stop there. In 2006, Ron Clark founded The Ron Clark Academy, an inner-city school serving students from across metro Atlanta. The privately-funded institution is unique for its innovative teaching methods and curriculum based on worldwide travel. Each year the students, grades 5 through 8, apply their in-class lessons to international adventures. And, by the time of graduation, each child will have visited six of the seven continents. Almost 50,000 educators, teachers and administrators from



around the world visit the Academy to observe the innovative and "out-of-the-box" methods for achieving student success from all 50 states and 26 countries.

In 2011, Ron Clark released "The End of Molasses Classes: Getting Our Kids Unstuck--101 Extraordinary Solutions for Parents and Teachers." This New York Times Best Seller brought to light 101 innovative and classroom-tested ways for improving America's schools and leading our children to greatness. A must read for every teacher and parent.

In his most recent release, "Move Your Bus: An Extraordinary New Approach to Accelerating Success in Work and Life." This versatile bestseller is attracting attention from both the world of business and education. Ron Clark applies his successful leadership principles to both worlds in this effective and accessible guidebook, perfect for anyone looking to inspire and motivate his or her team.

In addition to his many duties as an educator, Ron Clark is a much sought after keynote speaker. He shares the uncanny adventures he has had in the classroom and speaks of his experiences teaching in Harlem. Within his humorous and heartwarming stories, he delivers a message relevant to each of us. It is a message of hope, dedication and the never-say-never attitude required to achieve goals and dreams.

Todd Nesloney

Todd Nesloney (often referred to as @TechNinjaTodd) is the Principal/Lead Learner at a PreK-5 school in Texas. He is an award winning author for his work in authoring Stories from Webb, co-authoring Kids Deserve It! and Flipping 2.0: Practical Strategies for Flipping Your Class, as well as his children's book Spruce & Lucy. He also has another book, Sparks in the Dark, that he co-authored coming out in June 2018. Todd has been recognized by the White House as a Connected Educator "Champion of Change", the National School Board Association as one of the "20 to Watch" in Education, by the Center for Digital Education as one of their "Top 40 Innovators in Education", by the BAMMYs as the "National Elementary Principal of the Year" and the "National Elementary Teacher of the Year", and by the Texas Computer Education Association as their "Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year".

Todd is passionate about education and innovation. Todd was a classroom teacher for 7 years before taking the leap straight from classroom teacher to campus principal in Navasota, Texas. Todd took over a struggling campus, brought in a brand new staff, and used his creative ideas to transform a campus.

The one thing that is clear about Todd when you hear him speak or talk is his immense love for doing what's best for kids despite limitations. Todd works in an environment where almost 90% of his students are on a free-and-reduced lunch. His campus and district are 85% minority and face many challenges.

But that's exactly what Todd thrives off of. Todd loves a challenge. Todd also travels and speaks about his innovative practices and how we have to stop making excuses on why we can't do the best things for our students. Todd also speaks about his use of technology in the classroom and with his school and gives all educators ideas on how to continually utilize the tools at our disposal to create the best possible learning environment for children.



Todd was a "Classroom Champions" teacher and worked with Olympic and Paralympic athletes in his classroom. Todd also serves as a member of the Scholastic Principal Advisory Board and the Remind Advisory Board. Todd also co-hosts two iTunes Top Rated podcast series called "Sparks in the Dark" with Travis Crowder and "Kids Deserve It" with Adam Welcome.

Todd actively blogs and share his stories through many different social media avenues, especially Twitter. Todd has a wife named Lisette. They live in a small community in Brenham, Texas.

Hamish Brewer

When the name Hamish Brewer is mentioned, a number of words come mind; relentless, innovative, maverick and loyal. Hamish Brewer is a visionary unfazed by conventional leadership and educational practices and theories, which leads him to push boundaries and challenge archaic process and practices. As a leader and speaker, Brewer is considered an inspiration, innovator and motivational by those who have met, watched or listened to him.

Hamish Brewer is an award winning Title 1 Principal. Mr. Brewer is a Nationally Distinguished Principal and has seen his school award the Nationally Distinguished Title One School designation.

He has over 20 years' experience serving as a classroom teacher, administrator, international education Director and an educational consultant in the United States and abroad. Mr. Brewer is a highly regarded and sought after keynote and conference speaker on key educational topics from school improvements to engaging practices, motivation and best performance practices.

Brewer is high octane in his approach to children, teachers and his community. Hamish Brewer has been nominated for numerous leadership awards for his visionary approach and results in education. Mr. Brewer is currently a principal in Prince William County, one of the largest divisions in the country, helping in best practices and advances in the implementation and use of technology.

Jimmy Casas

Jimmy Casas served twenty-two years as a school leader, including fourteen years as Principal at Bettendorf High School. Under his leadership, Bettendorf was named one of the Best High Schools in the country three times by Newsweek and US News & World Report.

Jimmy was named the 2012 Iowa Secondary Principal of the Year and was selected as one of three finalists for NASSP 2013 National Secondary Principal of the Year. In 2014, Jimmy was invited to the White House to speak on the Future Ready Schools pledge. In 2015, he received the Bammy Award as the National Secondary Principal of the year. Jimmy is the Co-Founder of EdCamp Iowa and #IAedchat, Finally, Jimmy is also the author of three books, "What Connected Educators Do Differently," "START.RIGHT.NOW.," and his latest release, "Culturize - Every Student. Every Day. Whatever it Takes."



Jimmy is currently a Senior Fellow for the International Center for Leadership in Education, serves as an adjunct professor for Drake University, teaching courses in educational leadership, and is a member of the Professional Development Faculty for NASSP; the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Finally, he is the co-founder and CEO of ConnectEDD, an educational leadership company aimed at organizing world class professional learning conferences (What Great Educators Do Differently) and professional development services for educators across the country.

Kayla Delzer

Kayla Delzer is a globally awarded 3rd grade teacher and technology champion in North Dakota. In fact, The New York Times named her "one of the tech-savviest teachers in the United States".

She has ten years of teaching experience in second and third grade. Kayla holds her master's degree in Elementary Education from the University of North Dakota. In September 2018, she will be receiving the University of North Dakota Sioux Award, the highest honor of achievement offered by her University. Governor Doug Burgum has recognized Kayla for her contributions to education in North Dakota, and assigned her a chair on North Dakota's Innovative Education Task Force.

She has been recognized as both an "ISTE Influencer" and "HarperCollins Publishing Influencer".

Additionally, in March 2018, she was named 1 of just 30 "All-Star Digital Innovators" in the United States by PBS.

Kayla frequently travels around the United States and other countries as a featured and keynote speaker. She has delivered well over 100 keynotes, one of note being at Twitter Headquarters. On July 23, 2015 she delivered her first TEDx Talk, Reimagining Classrooms: Students as Leaders and Teachers as Learners. Her work with classroom redesign and flexible seating has become the standard worldwide, and she was recently selected as a recipient of the Global Hundred Award, designating her as one of the top 100 innovative educators in the world. She is currently writing a book about classroom learning spaces and flexible seating, titled FlexED: Flexible Seating for Flexible Learners, set to release during the summer of 2018. She is also a co-author of the best-selling book Education Write Now, published in December 2017.

Joe Dombrowski

An educator giving a spelling test with imaginary words may not seem like the most traditional method of promoting learning, but then again, there isn't much that can be considered conventional in Joe Dombrowski's - or as many know him, Mr. D - classroom.



While Dombrowski had been routinely posting creative, innovative and most importantly, fun ideas to his social media channels he executed in his fourth grade classroom since he began his teaching career, it was one in particular that captured the hearts of 20 million people: the April Fool's Prank seen around the world. The video he shared connecting to his students through a lighthearted fake quiz with hilariously inventive words (complete with silent letters) left an impact on so many due to the obvious investment of the students, the sheer creativity, humor, and of course, the clear passion of Dombrowski for what he does. In a matter of days the viral video made its way to Good Morning America, had its own "Twitter Moment" and finally, to The Ellen DeGeneres Show.

Ellen DeGeneres promoted Dombrowski's appearance on her show's social media channels by stating, "He may be one of my favorite teachers ever." Once on the show, DeGeneres praised Dombrowski when she said his lessons filled with laughter would make his students not only remember him, but what they were learning. Dombrowski also used his platform to speak about selfless teachers across the country using their own money to create a topnotch education experience.

Dombrowski's dedication to leadership, youth education and mentorship started early. As a high school student and throughout his college career he was involved in the Michigan Association of Student Leadership as both a camp counselor and advisor. Dombrowski also held a volunteer counselor position for the SeriousFun Network for four years, an organization founded by Paul Newman which sends children with various medical conditions and disorders to summer camp free of charge.

Upon graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Central Michigan University, where he was a Featured Student Teacher Spotlight Spring 2012, Dombrowski took up a residency as an improv comedy artist at Go Comedy Improv Theater. His comedic timing and improv studies have translated into the classroom. His teaching approach with humor lends itself to make the curriculum material relatable and less intimidating. He continued this residency through graduation from Oakland University with a Masters in Educational Leadership, High Honors.

Overall, Dombrowski's goal is inspiring educators to be engaging, passionate and to never lose the spark that brought them to teaching in the first place to ensure their students are viewing school as place they want to be versus have to be.

Dombrowski has been highlighted on the Kelli Pickler & Ben Aarons Show where he discussed his love for education and humorous teaching style. Dombrowski speaks internationally and enjoys speaking to crowds of all walks of life, helping them reconnect to the joy of life through laughter. Joe also hosts his own podcast called Study Hall with Mr.D covering a range of topics. He can be found on Facebook, Twitter Instagram as @mrdtimes3 and on YouTube as Joe Dombrowski.