

School Leaders:



The Florida Education Channel is pleased to bring you the 2009 leadership series. Programs from the leadership series come from the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium's annual leadership conference. Staff development points are available for all broadcasts of the leadership series through the ePDC.

**Nikolai Vitti, Bureau Chief of School Improvement, Region 1 Executive Director, and Lead Director for Region Support System Offices
State of Florida Department of Education**

Mr. Vitti currently serves as Bureau Chief of School Improvement, Region 1 Executive Director, and the Lead Director for all Regional Support System offices. In these capacities, Mr. Vitti manages the implementation of Differentiated Accountability and other school improvement initiatives and provides instructional support and technical assistance to low-performing schools and districts.

Prior to joining the Department, Mr. Vitti served as an intern, Knowledge Management Officer, and principal in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). As an intern to Superintendent Crew, he served as Project Leader of the District Assistance Team (DAT), where he identified the District's 100 lowest-performing schools through data analysis and organized 50 Focus Teams to conduct instructional walk-throughs of the identified schools. As Knowledge Management Officer, he assisted in coordinating the strategies and resources of the District to better serve the needs of its lowest performing schools. More recently, Mr. Vitti served as principal at Homestead Middle School. As principal, Mr. Vitti moved the school's FCAT letter grade from a "D" to a high "B". The school experienced gains in each of the eight accountability areas and achieved its highest

2009 Differentiated Accountability Legislative Update for School Leaders

Air date: September 10, 2009

9:00-10:00 am

What are the most recent legislative initiatives regarding differentiated accountability? This enlightening update will provide the most current information in a manner, geared specifically to those charged with implementation of new legislation at the district and school levels.

<p>school grade point total of 512 points, only 13 points from an “A”.</p> <p>Before coming to M-DCPS, Mr. Vitti played an instrumental role in transforming the educational culture of a 4,000 student high school in the Bronx, New York, which was riddled with violence, low attendance, failing test scores, and a high drop out and teacher turnover rate. As the Head Dean of Students, he assisted in dividing the school into smaller learning communities, where attendance and test scores increased and violent incidents and the drop out rate decreased. Prior to that, Mr. Vitti taught social studies at the high school and middle school levels in the Bronx, New York, and in Winston-Salem, North Carolina’s two urban schools. At each of the schools in which he served as teacher, he notably raised student achievement</p> <p>Mr. Vitti completed his Masters in Education, Administration, Planning and Social Policy in 2006 at Harvard University on the way to completing all of his doctoral coursework. As an A.B.D. doctoral candidate, he is currently completing his dissertation on parent involvement in urban schools.</p> <p>Mr. Vitti also holds a Masters in Education from Wake Forest University where he was awarded a Master Teacher Fellowship, and a B.A. in History, where he was Magna Cum Laude and named Phi Beta Kappa.</p>	
<p>Marshall Johnson</p> <p>Marshall Johnson is Senior Vice President of Marsh Risk Consulting Emergency Management Specialty Practice. In this role, he consults with business owners and managers, higher education, K-12 schools, and government officials on how to reduce risk and how to increase the capacity of the organization to effectively manage unexpected events using effective emergency planning, mitigation techniques, training, and exercise procedures to safeguard their assets.</p> <p>Mr. Johnson retired from the Michigan</p>	<p><i>Best Practices for Ensuring a Safe Physical Environment</i></p> <p>Air date: September 24, 2009 10:00-11:00 am</p> <p>Over the past few years, there have been numerous incidents that have impacted school operations that merit immediate attention. The safety and security of our schools must be of prime concern, but far too often school administrators have little time to devote full attention to these critical areas. This presentation is designed to inform, motivate, and educate district and school-based</p>

<p>Department of State Police after twenty-eight years of service. During his law enforcement career, Mr. Johnson commanded the State of Michigan Emergency Management Training and Exercise section for nearly ten years, where he was instrumental in developing a statewide training program in leadership and management at Central Michigan University and developed the Professional Emergency Managers Assessment Center for emergency management professionals. He also formulated the <i>Standardized Incident Management System Field Guide</i> for the State Police and led in creating a statewide regional training system in nineteen community colleges throughout Michigan. Mr. Johnson's vast experiences have earned him recognition as a nationally known speaker and trainer, and as an expert in the field of emergency response and incident management.</p>	<p>administrators on various safety and security issues key to preventing school violence. Key concepts will be the importance of preparedness, and administrative considerations for responding to crime, and other crisis events that may occur on a school campus.</p> <p>Key considerations that will be addressed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Crisis and its Impact • Threat Management • Crisis Prevention
<p>Julie J. Weatherly</p> <p>Julie Weatherly, nationally-recognized expert, regarding law and exceptional student education, is owner of Resolutions in Special Education, Inc. in Mobile, Alabama, a consulting business designed to assist educational agencies in the avoidance of special education legal disputes. Ms. Weatherly is also a founder and attorney with The Weatherly Law Firm, based in Atlanta, Georgia and a member of the State Bars of Alabama and Georgia.</p> <p>For almost twenty-three years, Ms. Weatherly has consulted with and represented educational agencies across the country in their efforts to comply with the IDEA and Section 504. She has appeared on the CBS news program <i>60 Minutes</i>, been a member of the faculty for many national and state legal institutes, and is a frequent speaker at special education law institutes. In 1998, Ms. Weatherly was honored by Georgia's Council for Exceptional Children as Georgia's Individual who had Contributed the Most to Students with Disabilities.</p> <p>Ms. Weatherly holds a B. S. Degree in Political Science from Presbyterian College and a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law.</p>	<p><i>This Year's Top Legal Happenings in Special Education Law</i></p> <p>Air date: October 1, 2009 10:00-11:00 am</p> <p>What a year it has been in special education litigation and it does not appear to be slowing down! This presentation will highlight relevant court and agency decisions issued during the past year including important decisions relating to retaliation and disability harassment, Response to Intervention, private school/residential placement, evaluations, compensatory education, the standard for the provision of FAPE to students with disabilities and the status of NCLB. In addition, Julie will address the new IDEA regulations regarding parental revocation of consent to services, as well as the potential effect of the 2008 ADA Amendments on school district obligations under Section 504.</p>

<p>Stephen G. Peters</p> <p>Mr. Peters, is a visionary in the sense that he created <i>The Gentlemen’s Club</i>, a fast-growing program for at-risk and borderline males in public schools, and authored two books: <i>Inspired to Learn: Why We Must Give Children Hope</i> and <i>Do You Know Enough About Me to Teach Me?</i> He is currently an educational consultant with Visionary Leaders Institute, based in Columbus, Ohio and is President/CEO of The Peters Group.</p> <p>Over the course of his career in education, which spans more than twenty years, Mr. Peters has been a classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal, director of secondary education and expert education panelist with former U.S. Secretary of Education, Dr. Rod Paige. Schools, at which he has been involved, have made significant growth in short periods of time, resulting in National and State Blue-Ribbon distinction.</p> <p>His revolutionary mentoring and self-empowering program, <i>The Gentlemen’s Club</i>, has been featured on The Oprah Winfrey Show and “America, America,” which broadcasts to two million viewers in Portugal and Brazil.</p>	<p><i>Teaching to Capture and Inspire all Learners: Bringing your Best Stuff Everyday</i></p> <p>Air date: October 8, 2009 10:00-11:30 am</p> <p>The greatest contribution we can make as educators is to ensure there is a teacher in every classroom who cares that every student, every day, learns, grows, and feels like a valued human being. Stephen Peters believes that only through collaborative efforts, effective teaming, and courageous leadership, can we transform “good” schools to schools of “passion and purpose.”</p> <p>Based on his latest best-selling book, <i>Teaching to Capture and Inspire all Learners: Bringing Your Best Stuff Everyday</i>, Peters will lay the foundation for understanding the immediate need for change in schools, and the roles of those responsible for cultivating this change. In this presentation, he will provide practical strategies for turning vision into operational strategies, examine the expanded role of school leader, teacher and support staff, and provide reasons for student disengagement and strategies for engagement and motivation.</p>
<p>Evan Lefsky, Ph.D.</p> <p>Dr. Evan Lefsky is the Executive Director of Just Read, Florida! Prior to coming to the Department of Education, Evan was a reading coach and specialist at Mount Dora High School in Lake County. He was also a high school reading and English teacher, as well as department chair. Evan earned his B.S. from Florida State University in English Education, M.Ed. in English/Language Arts Education from the University of Central Florida, and Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Reading from the University of Florida. At the University of Florida, Evan taught graduate reading courses in content area reading for intermediate and secondary education majors and served as a literacy coach and consultant to low performing high schools</p>	<p><i>Literacy Leadership</i></p> <p>Air date: October 12, 2009 10:00-11:00 am</p> <p>Over the past few years, Florida’s key decision makers and strategists in the area of reading have learned a lot about practices that work best to propel struggling readers toward proficiency. In this presentation, former Executive Director of Just Read! Florida, Evan Lefsky, Ph.D., speaks candidly about lessons learned, the remarkable progress made, in the area of reading, by students in Florida’s schools, and challenges yet to be overcome.</p>

<p>in Jacksonville and Miami. While teaching at Mount Dora High School, he co-created a school-wide literacy initiative, Content Area Reading Education (CARE) that is now in its 10th year. He has also served as Assistant Director of the Central Florida Writing Project, coordinating professional development in the area of writing for Lake County Schools. Evan frequently serves on state and federal commissions and task forces focused on issues pertaining to adolescent literacy. He has presented at numerous conferences including the International Reading Association (IRA), National Reading Conference (NRC), and National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). Evan resides in Crawfordville, Florida with his wife Christy, two children Emma and Austin, and their mini-daschund Emily Elizabeth.</p>	
<p>Dale Henry, Ph.D.</p> <p>A keen knack for story telling, coupled with a lively and humorous delivery style make Dr. Dale Henry a compelling and highly sought-after speaker and trainer for government agencies, Fortune Fifty corporations, and educational institutions.</p> <p>The founder and president of Your Best Unlimited, Inc., a Tennessee-based training company, Dr. Henry is well-known as a seminar leader, educator, business man, and author of the books entitled, <i>The Proverbial Cracker Jack: How to Get Out of the Box and Become the Prize</i> and <i>Ten Cans: Are You an Opener?</i> He has been featured on numerous television and radio talk shows around the world, developed a variety of best-selling video and audio training programs, and received numerous business and educational awards.</p> <p>Dr. Henry holds both Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Adult and Technical Education from the University of Tennessee and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern Mississippi with a concentration in the area Adult and Continuing Education.</p>	<p><i>The Insight - Hindsight - Oversight and Far Sight of Service Collaboration</i></p> <p>Air date: October 22, 2009 10:00-11:15 am</p> <p>Leaders in education are overwhelmed with everything from meeting standards to carefully negotiating federal mandates. We tackle the daunting task of educating and directing the young lives who are placed in our charge and herd the worms of the day-to-day operations of our schools and classrooms. Like CEO's of many organizations, leaders in education deal with budgets and monetary shortfalls. Where is our stimulus package? As actors sometimes ask, "What is my motivation?" It has to be service!</p> <p>Education reminds me of a cat sitting under a rocking chair. He remembers everything but the location of his own tail. Collaboration and the constant communication of educators and community leaders are as important today as they have ever been! As a good friend of mine once reminded me, "You never think about how deep a hole is until you hit the sudden stop that brings you to the bottom." In this lively</p>

	<p>and entertaining presentation Dr. Henry will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The importance of Collaboration in the School Setting• Educational leadership and its role in moving schools forward• How today's schools can move toward excellence• Why service is the key to success and transition
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