The Hormel Foundation Gifted and Talented Education Symposium

2012 Keynote Presentations

The Future of Intelligence on the Network

Technology, and the Internet in particular, continue to change how we think about work, shopping, socializing, entertainment, and, increasingly, learning. However, the dominant working definitions of "intelligence" and "achievement" that guide gifted education today have barely changed since the dawn of the information age. Could the growing ubiquity of networks, increasing capabilities and falling costs of computers, and the rapidly proliferating ecosystem of sensors and "smart" devices in our environments soon disrupt a concept as fundamental as human intelligence itself? This deliberately provocative session will explore and extrapolate technology trends to raise important questions the field of gifted education may soon have to address about how we identify, measure, and nurture ability and potential.
Growing Up Gifted: Issues, Concerns, and the Importance of Self-Esteem

Achievement, competence and confidence are words often associated with the gifted and talented. Yet, ironically, some possess sagging self-esteem and have unanswered social and emotional needs. These issues may strain relationships with teachers, parents, siblings and peers. They also prevent students from achieving their potential.

This presentation offers a unique opportunity to explore the nature of growing up gifted today. Author/educator Judy Galbraith will address how to recognize and meet the social, emotional and educational needs of the gifted. She will also present current responses from student surveys to share what talented youth themselves have to say about their lives.

Ms. Galbraith’s presentation offers creative, practical, and effective suggestions for helping these young people to survive and thrive.
Bullet-Proofing Your Gifted Program

Bright children are caught in a cultural tug-of-war. Society in general seems to undervalue, even ridicule, intellectual ability. Just think of the image of gifted students in popular media! Yet, as a society, we love the products and performances of individuals with gifts and talents. American Idol and Super Bowl fever come to mind.

Educators who advocate for the needs of gifted learners face similar ambivalence. Our world is an increasingly complex place. We face enormous challenges – social, economic, environmental and political. As a society we cannot afford to fail in developing the brainpower of our most able students. Yet, in today’s economy, when needs are great and schools must demonstrate that every dollar spent is related to improvement of student learning, gifted programs are increasingly at risk. Whether the threat to services for gifted students is based on philosophy or economy, there are strategies that advocates can use to strengthen and protect the programs that provide gifted learners with the challenging, creative preparation they need to lead us in the 21st century.

Dr. Krisel will share proven ways to make your programs for gifted students indispensable in today’s accountability climate. She will describe proactive strategies for boosting programs for gifted students in the ways that matter most – ensuring excellence, equity and visibility.
F. Richard Olenchak, Ph.D.
Professor, Psychologist, and Co-director
Urban Talent Research Institute
University of Houston, Texas

Thursday: Extended Keynote
Bridges Auditorium
8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

The Power of Passion...Maximizing Individual Talent:
Applying Talent Development Research and Practice to All of Education

A sizable and increasingly respectable body of research exists that is associated with the
development of human talent, and most of those studies have found their way into practice
through school provisions for gifted, talented, and other high-ability students. While this is
not only appropriate as well as necessary, it also prompts one to wonder if and how the
theories and resultant strategies found to be important and useful for identifying and
nurturing abilities among gifted students might also have applicability to the majority of
school-aged youth.

This extended keynote will explore the landscape of talent development research and
practice with an eye toward extending and adapting them to the entirety of PK-adult
education. Cast against the backdrop provided by some new and as yet unpublished
research, particular emphasis will be placed on ways schools can adjust their focus away
from basic skill training and steer toward the optimal development of each individual. Extant
talent development techniques and strategies will be reframed as initiatives for entire
schools; descriptions will be provided of the ingredients that must be in place before schools can engage all students in talent development; and details will be offered of the approaches schools can employ to redesign curriculum and instruction utilizing talent development as the centerpiece. Finally, ample opportunities will be provided for participants to interact with the topics and the presenter.