

keynote presentations

BEYOND STRATEGIC PLANNING: A FAILURE TOLERANT APPROACH

— Kevin Murnane & Brooke Vuckovic

Kevin Murnane, Adjunct Professor and Lecturer, Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management, is an executive coach, strategic facilitator and consultant helping people and organizations diagnose, create, and implement practical strategic change and development plans. Global marketing and leadership development are also specialties. Kevin will present with Brooke Vuckovic as our Thursday morning keynote.

Brooke Vuckovic, MA and PhD from the University of Chicago, specializes in leadership and career development. She coaches in the Women's Senior Leadership Program at Kellogg and teaches "Leadership Coaching" to MBA students.

In this workshop you will learn a new approach to strategic planning—Failure Tolerant Strategy (FTS)—which streamlines the development of strategy and stresses the ability to change course in the implementation phase.

THE VALUE PROPOSITION: HOW TO MEASURE AND COMMUNICATE YOUR SCHOOL'S WORTH

— James P. Honan

James P. Honan is Senior Lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Educational Co-chair of the Institute for Educational Management (IEM) at Harvard. Jim's teaching and research interests include financial management of nonprofit organizations, organizational performance measurement and management, and higher-education administration. This workshop will examine the ways by which independent schools measure and communicate their value proposition and impact to internal and external stakeholders. Tools and frameworks for assessing independent school outcomes and impact will be offered for discussion.

featured workshops

Back to School: Re-Considering Whitehead's "Rhythm of Education"

Ward Ghory, former head (until last year) University School of Milwaukee

In his classic essay from 1929, "The Rhythm of Education," Alfred North Whitehead questions the sequence and focus of the subjects children study in the college preparatory curriculum. He urges educators to consider a rhythm fundamental to lasting learning, suggesting that mental processing moves cyclically through three stages—romance, precision, and generalization. In seminar format, we will respond to Whitehead's 13-page essay, which will be distributed to registrants prior to the conference. Together we will consider Whitehead's argument that "lack of attention to the rhythm and character of mental growth is a main source of wooden futility in education."

Bench Strength: Building Your Team

Kevin Murnane, Kellogg School of Management

In this session you will learn a new strategy for leading and building your administrative team. To build a great team, you need to identify the skills, motivations, and tasks needed by current and future team members to achieve future goals. Leaders are developed via actual projects that drive outcomes (e.g., Action Learning). Based in part on the research by Dr. David McClelland and Daniel Pink, Kevin will demonstrate how leading with motivation fits into the history of leadership.

What Does Environmental Sustainability Look Like at Independent Schools Today?

Wynn Calder, Director, Sustainable Schools, LLC & Director, Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future

Independent schools throughout the U.S. are addressing sustainability in creative ways through administration, policy and planning; operations; curriculum; student life; and community outreach. What are some of the most innovative trends, initiatives and programs? Given funding restraints, what are the most cost effective and rewarding projects? This session will focus on challenges as well as successes. What are the strategies for success, and what are the lessons learned from less successful efforts?

As You Know, Good Thinking Matters! Improving Decision-Making Using Good Thinking Teams

Steve Helmich, President and Principal of Cathedral High School, and Richard Smith, educational consultant and the school's "thought partner." Richard Smith has worked in seven countries, including Singapore where he designed and co-developed a year-long teacher renewal process.

Learn how "Good Thinking Teams" of faculty and staff improved decision-making and thus affected school climate in this large Catholic high school in Indianapolis. Participants will leave with some seeds to take back home to plant and nurture into their own version of a good thinking team.

preliminary schedule

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

5:00 – 9:00 pm **New Heads/Mentors dinner**
(Invitation sent separately)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

9:30 am – 12:15 pm **Kellogg Keynote Presentation: Beyond Strategic Planning, A Failure Tolerant Approach with Kevin Murnane & Brooke Vuckovic**

12:15 – 1:00 pm **Banquet Lunch**

1:15 – 2:30 pm **Workshop Session I: Select from Back to School Discussion, Bench Strength, Sustainable Schools, & Good Thinking Matters**

2:45 – 4:00 pm **Workshop Session II: Select from same choices as Session I**

4:15 – 5:15 pm **Special Sessions: Progressive Schools Meeting and AIMS Meeting**

6:15 pm **Reception & Dinner (7:00 pm) at Quartino**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

8:00 – 9:30 am **Visiting Team Leaders I (beginners) and II (experienced) Workshops**

9:30 am – 12:15 pm **Harvard Keynote Presentation: The Value Proposition with James P. Honan**

12:15 – 1:00 pm **Banquet Lunch**

1:15 – 2:30 pm **Conclaves**

2:30 pm **Adjourn**

Reception and Dinner: Thursday, January 26, 2012

All registrants and spouses/partners are invited to attend the official conference dinner at Quartino, 626 N. State Street, Chicago. The reception and dinner will be an opportunity to enjoy Chicago while mingling with your peers in a social setting. The reception begins at 6:15 pm with dinner following at 7:00 pm. Round trip transportation will be provided. Pre-registration is required for this dinner event for yourself and your guest. Dinner is included in your registration fee; pre-registration is required during online registration. If you are bringing a guest, an additional fee of \$75 is required. Please call the ISACS office to register your guest for the dinner. There is no onsite registration for the dinner.

conclaves

We will offer the conclave format for one session, where heads of similar schools can learn from each other about topics of interest generated from the group. Heads can select from any group among these seven possibilities:

- Schools over 500 with seniors
- Schools under 500 with seniors
- Schools over 300 with first graders
- Schools under 300 with first graders
- Boarding Schools
- Special Needs Schools
- Montessori Schools

registration

Register online at www.isacs.org

Date & Time

The conference begins at 9:30 am (registration begins at 8:30 am) on Thursday, January 26 and concludes at 2:30 pm on Friday, January 27.

Fee

- \$600 Member
- \$700 Non-Member
- 50% discount for those new heads registered for the New Heads Network (Please call the ISACS office for the discount code.)

Registration fee includes Thursday evening dinner at Quartino, two lunches and two continental breakfasts.

Register online at www.isacs.org. Registration deadline is Friday, January 13, 2012.

Conference Location

The Swissôtel Chicago
323 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL • 312-565-0565

The Swissôtel is located within walking distance of the best attractions in Chicago including Millennium Park, Grant Park, the Art Institute of Chicago, the theater district, and the Magnificent Mile.

Visit www.isacs.org for directions and parking information for the Swissôtel.

Hotel Accommodations

ISACS has secured special discounted rates at the Swissôtel:

- \$139/night plus tax for standard king (single or double occupancy)
- \$169/night plus tax for standard king (single or double occupancy) plus access to executive lounge which serves breakfast and evening hors d'oeuvres daily

Please call the hotel directly at 1-312-565-0565 to reserve your room and indicate that you are with the "ISACS 2012 Heads of School Conference" or "ISAC0112" to receive the discounted rate, available until Friday, January 6, 2012.

Spouses/Partners

We invite heads of school to bring their spouse/partner to Chicago. Spouses/partners are welcome to attend any session and lunch at no charge. There is a \$75 charge for a spouse/partner to attend the Thursday evening dinner. If your spouse/partner plans to join ISACS at any of the meal functions, please call the ISACS office at 312-255-1244.

Cancellation policy available at www.isacs.org
Questions? Call the ISACS office at 312-255-1244.



Independent Schools Association
of the Central States FOUNDED 1908

1165 North Clark Street, Suite 311
Chicago, Illinois 60610

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Annual Heads of
School Conference

ISACS



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Rethinking Strategy
for the 21st Century

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Friday, January 27

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