



KANSAS • MISSOURI  
Superintendents  
Leadership Forum

**APRIL 3 - 4, 2024**

Intercontinental Hotel  
Kansas City, MO

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 13851 W. 63RD ST. SUITE #265  
SHAWNEE, KS 66216

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SPRING FORUM  
2024



# Leadership

(n) the act of guiding and directing people or organization

## KMSLF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT:** Dr. Renee Nugent, USD 409 Atchison

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Dr. Yolanda Cargile, Center School District

**SECRETARY-TREASURER:** Adrian Howie, USD 210 Hugoton

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Dr. Kenny Rodriquez, Grandview C-4

Dr. Susan Wally, PREP-KC, Ex-officio

Dr. Bob Watkins, Ex-officio

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Kansas/Missouri Superintendents Leadership Forum is to provide members with learning opportunities that can expand the impact of their leadership in their communities and schools.

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,** Suzan Patton

**BUSINESS DIRECTOR,** Teresa Redlingshafer



# SPEAKER PROFILES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3



## DR. MICHAEL MCDOWELL:

Michael was a public school educator for eighteen years serving in the roles of classroom teacher, academic and athletic coach, school principal, assistant superintendent of personnel and instruction, and superintendent.

During his tenure as a superintendent, his school district received state and national accolades including the National Blue Ribbon Award which recognized their work for student performance and mental health and well-being in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic by the U.S. Department of Education.

A prolific author and consultant, Dr. McDowell is recognized as one of the leading authorities on integrating innovative and impactful practices into schools. Offering keynotes and executive coaching to heads of school around the world, he partners with educational leaders to implement high leverage strategies that will enhance teaching and learning in classrooms, schools, and systems.

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## DR. MICHAEL DESOUSA

Michael is the son of Azorean immigrants, Gisela Paz and Jose Antonio. He was the first in his family to attend and graduate college. Since then, Michael has remained committed to building equitable schools and communities. Michael has spent the past 22 years as a teacher, school leader, leadership coach, community organizer, executive leader, and researcher.

Michael loves music, cooking, and hiking with his wife and three children in the Oakland hills.



# MEET THE BUSINESS PARTNERS



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## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3 AGENDA

**9:00 - 10:30 AM -- PAVILLION III**

KMSLF Board of Directors Meeting

**10:30 AM - 12:00 PM -- SALON FOYER**

Registration

**11:30 - 12:30 PM -- SALON II**

Lunch

### SESSION 1

**12:30 - 12:50 PM -- SALON III**

Call to Order & Welcome

- Dr. Renee Nugent, USD 409 Atchison,  
President KMSLF Board of Directors

Meet the KMSLF Business Partners &  
Membership Recognition

- Suzan Patton, KMSLF Director

**12:50 - 2:30 PM -- SALON III**

*Introduction, Dr. Renee Nugent, KMSLF Board  
President*

**Leading Rigorous Teaching and Learning:  
Moving from Motion to Action to Ensure  
Educational Excellence**

- Dr. Michael McDowell

Join us for an engaging and insightful two-hour session designed to explore and develop 10 key habits essential for ensuring rigorous teaching and learning across schools and systems. This session aims to equip participants with practical strategies to move educators from motion to action and substantially impact student learning.



# WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3 AGENDA

**2:30 - 2:45 PM**

Break & Meet the Partners

**2:45 - 3:00 PM**

Meet the KMSLF Business Partners

- Suzan Patton, KMSLF Director

**3:00 - 4:30 PM**

*Introduction, Dr. Yolanda Cargile, KMSLF Vice President*

## **Going Beyond Family Engagment to Family Leadership**

- Dr. Michael DeSousa

All families have assets to share with their students and our schools. We can transform our classrooms and schools when families are positioned as partners, experts, and leaders. Examine a case study from one district that transformed their engagement with families to increase literacy. In this session, participants will develop their own plans to build more intentional relationships and powerful partnerships with families.

**4:30 PM**

## **Closing Remarks**

- Suzan Patton, KMSLF Director

**5:00 - 8:30 PM -- ROOFTOP BALLROOM**

## **Eat.Drink.Relax.Connect**

- **KMSLF Business Partners**

Please join us for an evening right here in the stunning Rooftop Ballroom with spectacular views of the Country Club Plaza! Happy Hour starts at 5:00 followed by dinner and live entertainment by Jeremy Nunes.

## MEET THE BUSINESS PARTNERS



**DLRGROUP**  
[www.dlrgroup.com](http://www.dlrgroup.com)



**Guin Mundorf**  
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**Instructure**  
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### **ABOUT JEREMY NUNES:**

Often referred to as "Comedy's next great storyteller". Jeremy's unique show has been in demand for over 22 years. Jeremy's Dry Bar Comedy Special, *Neighborhood Sasq-Watch*, is one of the highest rated episodes on the platform. Nunes also released an Amazon Prime special titled, *Who's With Me?!*



# SPEAKER PROFILES

THURSDAY, APRIL 4



## DR. SHELDON BERMAN

Dr. Sheldon Berman is currently AASA's Lead Superintendent for Social-Emotional Learning after serving as a superintendent across 28 school years in four districts—Hudson, MA; Jefferson County (Louisville), KY; Eugene, OR; and Andover, MA.

He is the author of four books—*Implementing Social-Emotional Learning: Insights from Districts' Successes and Setbacks*; *The Ethical Educator: Pointers and Pitfalls for School Administrators*; *Children's Social Consciousness*; and *the Development of Social Responsibility, and Promising Practices in Teaching Social Responsibility*. He has been a contributor to the monthly "Ethical Educator" column in the *School Administrator* since January 2012.

Dr. Berman served as the President of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents and has been a policy leader in three states.

He received the 2003 Massachusetts Superintendent of the Year Award, the 2011 Sanford McDonnell Award for Lifetime Achievement in Character Education, recognition in 2011 by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) as one of ten courageous superintendents for providing leadership for school desegregation, the Mary Utne O'Brien Award from the Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) for lifetime achievement in implementing social-emotional learning in 2020, and AASA's Distinguished Service Award for lifetime contribution to the field in 2022.



# SPEAKER PROFILES

THURSDAY, APRIL 4



## AMANDA BICKERSTAFF

Amanda is the Co-Founder and CEO of AI for Education. A former high school biology teacher and EdTech executive with over 20 years of experience in the education sector. She has a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities that AI can offer.

She is a frequent consultant, speaker, and writer on the topic of AI in education, leading workshops and professional learning across both K12 and Higher Ed. Amanda is committed to helping schools and teachers maximize their potential through the ethical and equitable adoption of AI.

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## CAM AWESOME

Former U.S. Olympic Heavyweight Champion. In order to become the Winningest Boxer in USA Boxing history, holding four Golden Glove Championships, six U.S. Championships, three PAL National Championships, six Ringside Championships, and three Olympic trials, Cam provides an insightful look at how he took fate into his own hands and made an almost impossible decision that would affect and change the rest of his life.

What makes Cam's message so rejuvenating and relatable is that he reminds you that boxing is the greatest metaphor because everyone is fighting their own battles, and that there is a way to win.



# MEET THE BUSINESS PARTNERS



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# THURSDAY, APRIL 4 AGENDA

**7:00 - 8:00 AM -- SALON II**

Breakfast

**8:00 - 9:30 AM -- SALON III**

*Introduction, Adrian Howie, KMSLF Treasurer*

## **Making Clear Decisions about Ethical and Administrative Dilemmas**

- Dr. Sheldon Berman

Drawing from real-life case studies, this session will delve into both the legal and ethical nuances surrounding dilemmas often faced by district leaders. Applying a set of principles that help guide decision making, participants will engage in dialogue about actual school and district situations. Dr. Berman, author of *The Ethical Educator: Pointers and Pitfalls for School Administrators* and monthly contributor to the "Ethical Educator" column in *School Administrator* magazine, will offer practical input from his own experience in the field about some of the most vexing problems administrators confront.

**9:30 - 9:40 AM**

Break

**9:45 - 11 AM**

*Introduction, Dr. Renee Nugent, KMSLF President*

## **Developing AI Policies and Guidelines**

- Amanda Bickerstaff

This hands-on workshop walks participants through the major ethical concerns attached to using GenAI in educational settings, including data security and privacy, academic integrity, and combating misinformation. The session explores strategies for addressing these concerns, as well as practical tips for developing an AI policy and/or guidance for your organization.



# THURSDAY, APRIL 4 AGENDA

**11:00 - 11:45 AM**

*Introduction, Dr. Yolanda Cargile, KMSLF Vice President*

## **Gratitude and Grind Can Knock Out Adversity Every Time**

- Cam Awesome

In our fast-paced corporate world, enhancing employee retention and nurturing happiness are top priorities for forward-thinking companies. Wellness programs abound, but one key ingredient often overlooked is the practice of gratitude. Despite its proven link to emotional fulfillment, resilience, and stronger relationships, it remains underutilized.

Discover how embracing gratitude can be a game-changer. Gain strength and chart a course towards a more fulfilling life. Plus, Cam shares riveting true stories from his path to the Olympics, illuminating the resilience and determination born from a gratitude mindset.

**11:45 AM**

Closing Remarks

- **Dr. Renee Nugent, KMSLF President**
- **Suzan Patton, KMSLF Director**

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## **SAVE THE DATE: October 3rd-4th, 2024**

Intercontinental Hotel  
Kansas City, MO

## MEET THE BUSINESS PARTNERS



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