

2019 YES of Michigan Conference

Round 1 Sessions

9:50 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.



A1 – Room 222: The Playbook: Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in This Game Called Life. Students will create their own Playbook in a writing workshop based on the writings of Kwame Alexander and discover words of wisdom from not so hidden treasures.

Presenter: William McDonald – Elementary Teacher at Francis Reh Academy, Saginaw, Michigan.



B1 – Room 223: Hands-On Edutainment: A Discussion Across Grade-Levels and Concepts. Education and entertainment frequently intersect, and when they do, we can enjoy the best of both worlds. Students will participate in lesson activities that energize content areas and engage the mind and the body.

Presenter: Dr. Jonathan Gould – Educational Leadership (EDL) and Teacher Education: Middle & Secondary (TEMS) Programs at Saginaw Valley State University.



C1 – Seminar E: Transitioning to College: Ready, Set, Go! Students will receive tips and advice from college students, faculty, and staff on how to succeed in high school and college. They will also meet with representatives from the Financial Aid office, Scholarships, and Career Services.

Facilitator: Mr. George Copeland – Public School Academy Transitions Coordinator at Saginaw Valley State University.



D1 – Seminar G: Relationship Building: The Foundation of the Classroom and Beyond. Students will explore the dynamics of healthy relationships with their teachers, classmates, and future students.

Presenter: Dr. Gina Wilson – Educational Leadership Consultant, Adjunct Professor at Saginaw Valley State University.



E1 – Seminar D: Got problems? Find solutions. Students will participate in hands-on math and science activities and see what it would be like to host a math and science night at their school. Excellent for YES club members searching for an activity to co-sponsor with neighboring elementary schools.

Facilitator: Dr. Tamara Barrientos – Director of the Regional Math and Science Center at Saginaw Valley State University.

***STEM bus visit**



F1 – C100: Awakening in Failure. Students will see the power of persistence and how to develop leadership characteristics by learning from failure and living with resiliency. They will also hear the journey of a first-generation college student and how he handled the pressure to succeed in school while maintaining time and care for his family and community.

Presenter: Jose Alexis Mejia – Coordinator of Outreach/Recruitment for the College Assistance Migrant Program at Western Michigan University.



G1 – Seminar F: Winning Colors! The foundation of Winning Colors is a fun and insightful personality-identification system. Students will uncover key social information about themselves and others. True Colors is a tool that fosters an environment of understanding and collaboration.

Presenter: Chantra Williams – School Improvement Specialist for the School/University Partnership Office at Saginaw Valley State University.



H1 – Emeriti Room – If You Don’t See It, Before You See It, You May Never See It! A powerful presentation for educators who are passionate about becoming change agents for this and the next generation of educators.

Presenter: Dr. Desmon Daniel – Superintendent of the Pontiac Academy for Excellence, and CEO of MOTIVATING FACTOR, an organization focused on motivating individuals to excel.

Round 2 Sessions

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

A2 – Room 222: The Playbook: Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in This Game Called Life

B2 – Room 223: Hands-On Edutainment: A Discussion Across Grade-Levels and Concepts

C2 – Seminar E: Transitioning to College: Ready, Set, Go!

D2 – Seminar G: Relationship Building: The Foundation of the Classroom and Beyond

E2 – Seminar D: Got problems? Find solutions. *STEM bus visit

F2 – C100: Awakening in Failure

G2 – Seminar F: Winning Colors!

H2 – Emeriti Room: How to Start a YES club! Receive the foundations for becoming a YES of Michigan Club Advisor and meet other educators that are preparing to launch YES clubs for the fall of 2019.