

## An Immersive Learning Experience To Prepare You For The Superintendency

### June 26–June 30, 2023



“ They prepare you for the unexpected and demystify the superintendency. I came in with imposter syndrome and a little intimidated, but this program made me realize I could do it. The person I came in as is different from the person that is leaving. ”

—Matt Condon, Principal, Morton Grove SD #70

### What Is The IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy And Who Should Participate?

IASA's Aspiring Superintendent Academy is an immersive learning experience like no other in the state for educators considering the superintendency.

Participants engage in active learning experiences and gain insights from respected practitioners about how to be an effective leader and leverage the position to change the lives of students. The fast-paced program features numerous simulations, reflection time and the creation of meaningful artifacts that reflect the current expectations of the job of superintendent. Mock interviews with professional search firms also help prepare you to land that first job.

If you want a modern view of the superintendency beyond what is taught in graduate school, register today for IASA's Aspiring Superintendent Academy!

**Target Audience:** Central office staff, directors, principals, assistant principal and deans.

**Watch:** Click [here](#) to watch a video of past participants discussing their experience.

### What Can I Expect Each Day?

Each day of the Aspiring Superintendent Academy will feature a different accomplished superintendent from across the state of Illinois. They will bring expertise regarding different aspects of the superintendency. In addition to learning from them, you will also be able to add them to your own professional network for future support and collaboration.

### Why Should I Participate In The IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy?

- Grow your professional learning network
- Gain immersive learning experience four days/nights
- Attend working/networking dinners
- Conduct mock interviews with a professional search firm
- Earn Illinois Administrators' Academy Credit
- Build relationships that will last your career and your lifetime



### Participants Will Produce Usable Artifacts Every Day

Examples include but are not limited to: video creation, crisis planning, legal issues, principal evaluation, meeting simulation, state of district address, welcome back speech, budget presentations, PTA meeting, resolution of an ethical dilemma, and much more.

# FAST FACTS:

## ✓ COST?

\$1,750 per participant  
(program costs, resource materials, meals, and lodging)

## ✓ WHERE?

Classes will be held at the IASA Headquarters  
2648 Beechler Court,  
Springfield, IL 62703  
217-753-2213

## ✓ WHEN?

June 26–June 30, 2023  
(First day is an evening networking welcome reception. Remaining days will be 8am to 4:30pm)

## ✓ VALUE?

Nearly 1/3 of participants have been hired as superintendent within five years of attending this academy

“ Going through this week-long experience has instilled in me I can do the job. I really enjoyed Mike, Nick and Courtney. I appreciate their realness. They have made it very enjoyable and made us realize we can do the job. ”  
—Dr. Gloria Trejo, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, West Chicago ESD #33

“ I have been in countless PD workshops and leadership academies and this is, by far, the most beneficial and useful. Anyone really thinking about taking their leadership skills to the next level should apply. ”  
—Dr. Tiffany Brunson, Superintendent, ESD #159

## Presented By:



**Michael Lubelfeld, Ed.D.** has served as a public school superintendent in Illinois since 2010. He currently serves as the superintendent of schools in the North Shore School District 112 in Highland Park, and Highwood, IL north of Chicago. Lubelfeld has presented on leadership topics around the state, nation, and world, and he is active in leadership development with state and national associations. He co-authored the 2017 book, *The Unlearning Leader: Leading for Tomorrow's Schools*, and the 2018 book, *Student Voice: From Invisible to Invaluable*. His latest book, *The Unfinished Leader: A School Leadership Framework for Growth & Development*, was released in May. Mike was awarded the 2021 Administration and Supervision Distinguished Alumni Award from Loyola University of Chicago School of Education.



**Courtney Orzel, Ed.D.** serves as IASA's Associate Director of Professional Development. She has over 20 years of experience in public education, while spending six years as superintendent in Lemont-Bromberek CSD #113A and formerly serving as a middle school principal, assistant principal and middle school and high school teacher. In 2019, Dr. Orzel was a finalist for AASA's Women in School Leadership Award and was named Superintendent of Distinction for IASA Cook South in 2020. She is a graduate of IASA's School for Advanced Leadership and has been instrumental in the launch and growth of IASA's Women in Leadership initiative. Dr. Orzel earned her doctorate in educational administration from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and currently serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

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## Presented By: ...continued



**Nick Polyak, Ed.D.** is the proud superintendent of the award-winning Leyden Community High School District #212. He earned his undergraduate degree from Augustana College in Rock Island, IL, his Masters from Governors State University, and his Ed.D. from Loyola University Chicago. Nick has been a classroom teacher and coach, a building and district level administrator, a School Board member, and a superintendent for the past 14 years in both central Illinois and suburban Chicago. Nick is a graduate of the IASA School for Advanced Leadership program and the AASA National Superintendent Certification program.

He is the co-moderator of the monthly Twitter chat #suptchat with Mike Lubelfeld, and he and Lubelfeld co-authored the book *The Unlearning Leader: Leading for Tomorrow's Schools Today* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers). He, Lubelfeld and PJ Caposey wrote *Student Voice: From Invisible to Invaluable* (2018 Rowman & Littlefield) and *The Unfinished Leader: A School Leadership Framework for Growth & Development* (2021 Rowman & Littlefield).

## A Special Thank You To Our Sponsors And Partners:

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## Career Planning And Support From:

- Executive Searches, Illinois Association of School Boards/Member of the National Affiliation of Superintendent Searches
- HUMANeX Ventures
- Illinois State Board of Education

## Registration Information And How To Apply

The registration fee for the four-day Learning Academy is \$1,750. Tuition includes a daily continental breakfast and lunch, resource materials and lodging for the entire week, Monday–Thursday (check-out Friday). The Academy will run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. IASA will make lodging arrangements for participants at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield.

Limited seats are available. Applicants must complete an online form by clicking [here](#). Applicant agrees to pay \$1,750 for the four-day experience. (Note: Payment can be split over two payments but the applicant agrees to pay the full \$1,750. Due to the nature of this program, no refunds will be given and all applicants must pay the program tuition regardless of successful completion.) Lodging will be secured by IASA once the participant list is finalized.

By completing the online application form, you are reserving a space in the IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy. Completed applications must be submitted by **Friday**,

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## Application Deadline Fri., March 17, 2023

“Everyone in my cohort will be connected for life. This has been a life changing experience.”

—Dr. Chala Holland, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, Naperville CUSD #203

“I would say to anyone considering applying that this is well worth your time. Mike, Nick and Courtney are amazing. They make you feel very welcome and appreciated in the job you are doing. They also inspire and are real with you.”

—Travis Titsworth, Assistant Superintendent  
Hutsonville CUSD #1



## How To Apply...continued

**March 17, 2023.** Participation in the IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy will be finalized in early April 2023 and all applicants will be notified via email.

In addition to the online application, please send a letter of support from your District Superintendent via email to Kristy Ponsler at [kponsler@iasaedu.org](mailto:kponsler@iasaedu.org).

## Admission Requirements

IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy admission requirements are set forth as follows:

1. Applicant must be able to attend the entire week. All meetings will be held at the IASA headquarters.
2. Applicant must provide a letter from the District Superintendent indicating support for and understanding of the commitment involved.
3. Applicant must provide a personal narrative indicating
  - 1) the reason you are making application to the IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy,
  - 2) what you hope to gain from the program, and
  - 3) what you can contribute to the other cohort members.
4. Applicant understands the commitment to the time schedule away from the current School District to effectively participate in this program.
5. Applicant agrees to cooperate and fully participate.

## Scholarships

In partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education, IASA is pleased to offer five scholarships for aspiring superintendents of color. IASA also offers a limited number of scholarships for aspiring superintendents who may need financial assistance. If you are interested in receiving a scholarship, please complete the "Scholarship" question on the application.

## Questions?

Contact Kristy Ponsler  
Illinois Association of School  
Administrators  
217-753-2213 or  
[kponsler@iasaedu.org](mailto:kponsler@iasaedu.org)

“ The IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy will be the most effective and inspiring professional development you will ever attend. Whether you decide to be a superintendent or not, this program will give you a better perspective of educational leadership and make you a better leader than you were before you attended. ”

—Jeff Baughman, Principal, LeRoy #12



“ Initially, I thought the four days would be too many, but now I want four more. The days flew by and everything was just so impactful and helped me grow as a leader. I feel so much more prepared. ”

—DiMitri Almasi, Principal  
Illini Bluffs CUSD #327