



# 49<sup>th</sup> Annual **IASA** Conference

October 9-11 Crowne Plaza • 3000 South Dirksen Pkwy • Springfield, IL 62703

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*Barrington Superintendent Tom Leonard discusses Vision 20/20*

## **IASA Conference Day 2:** ***Vision 20/20 panel lays out plan to develop education blueprint***

The second day of the IASA Annual Conference included topics of great importance to the future of public education in Illinois, none more important than IASA's Vision 20/20 initiative, which was the topic of a panel presentation designed to update attendees on the project to develop a blueprint for educating the state's children in the future.

"This is by far the most ambitious project we've ever taken on with this challenge," said IASA Executive

Director Dr. Brent Clark, who headed up the Vision 20/20 panel along with ECRA President and CEO Dr. John Gatta, and Barrington Superintendent Dr. Tom Leonard. Also on the panel were Vision 20/20 work group representatives Unity Point Superintendent Dr. Lori-James Gross (Leadership & Organizational Transformation), Columbia Superintendent Dr. Gina Segobiano (Governance & Finances), and Skokie Superintendent Dr. Quintin Shepherd (Digital Learning & Assessment/Accountability).

Depicting IASA member superintendents as a fleet of ships that could be mustered into a powerful armada, Dr. Clark encouraged members in every part of the state to help spread the vision for public education that is being developed for Illinois children by Illinois educators.

"We understand that what works for schools in Harrisburg may be different than what works for schools in Barrington, but if legislators from polar ends of the state are hearing the same message about our plan for public education, that's how we make it connect," Clark said. He urged superintendents to help spread the message by sharing information on their school websites and Twitter, including stories in their newsletters and presenting details at public meetings in their communities.

Dr. Steven Baule, superintendent of North Boone District 200 in Poplar Grove, was named the winner of the 2013 Van Miller Distinguished Practitioner Scholar Award, which was presented by Dr. Donald G. Hackmann, Professor of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership at the University of Illinois. Baule, who serves on the IASA Professional Development Committee, was cited for his leadership and work in the area of social networks for schools.



***Susan Relland talks about the Affordable Care Act***

The keynote speaker for the afternoon General Session was Susan Relland, Vice President of the American Fidelity Assurance Company, and an attorney who had what she described as a "front-row seat" for the congressional debate that resulted in passage of the Affordable Care Act when she was an attorney working in Washington, D.C.

Relland took the audience through the controversial and complex legislation known as "Obamacare" that is at the center of the political tug-of-war that has resulted in the federal government shutdown. She focused much of her attention on the Free Rider Penalty, the main section that deals with employer responsibilities. She explained many of nuances as they apply to school districts and answered many questions from the audience.

"There are lots of different levers that school districts can pull," Relland said as she covered topics such as how eligibility for health insurance coverage is determined, various strategies school districts might

consider and the potential fines that districts may be subject to depending on the path they choose to follow.

Management-level personnel from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) conducted a one-hour session covering topics such as finance, licensure, assessments and learning standards to close Day Two, which literally began at dawn when more than 40 attendees ran and walked in the first 'Super' 5K Fun Run/Walk on Lost Bridge Trail down the road from the Crowne Plaza.

Runners and walkers took off on the 3.1-mile trail at 6:45 a.m. and were back in time for the day's first sessions. We will run the complete list of runners and walkers in the November issue of *Leadership Matters*, but the top three men finishers were St. Joseph Ogden Superintendent James Acklin, Pennoyer Superintendent Brad Voehringer, and Bartonville Elementary Superintendent Lan Eberle. The first three women to finish were Michelle Young, wife of Nauvoo-Colusa Superintendent Dr. Kent Young, Carrollton Superintendent Dr. Kerry Cox, and Lisa Fetcho, wife of Hamilton County Superintendent Jeff Fetcho.

The final day of the conference will be Friday and will include a brunch buffet and the Closing General Session from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Sapphire/Diamond/Emerald Ballroom. The closing session will include, among other items:

- Opening remarks by IASA President Dr. Steve Webb
- Recognition of immediate IASA Past President Dr. Kathryn J. Robbins
- The Annual IASA Business Meeting
- The IASA State of the Association address by Dr. Clark

The conference will end with a presentation by keynote speaker Jim Burgett, a veteran educator and former IASA Superintendent of the Year who is a nationally known speaker. Burgett's presentation is titled "Leadership in Challenging Times: back to the Basics."



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