



# ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

## NOVEMBER 15 – 16

### RAMKOTA HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

#### OPENING GENERAL SESSION – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15



#### **STEVE PEMBERTON – A CHANCE IN THE WORLD**

Steve Pemberton's story is about defying seemingly insurmountable odds to become a trail-blazing corporate executive, enlightened diversity leader, visionary youth advocate and acclaimed speaker. His best-selling memoir, *A Chance in the World*, recounts his triumphant life journey and drive to become a man of resilience, determination and vision. Now a major motion picture, *A Chance in the World* further amplifies Steve's highly motivational messages: Believe in your dreams, rise above obstacles, create opportunities for others, and most of all, persevere. Steve has never forgotten the chances that bent the arc of his life. That is why he has made equality, access and opportunity pillars of both his professional and personal life. Steve remains a relentless champion for those who have often been left in the shadows. His commitment to others and his refusal to accept things as they are, have earned him national recognition, including the coveted Trumpet Award and the prestigious Horizon Award by the United States Congress.



#### **DARRELL SCOTT – RACHEL'S CHALLENGE**

Darrell is the founder of the Rachel's Challenge program. The program was created to honor his daughter, Rachel Joy Scott, the first person killed in the Columbine High School shooting on April 20, 1999. The mission of Rachel's Challenge is to make schools safer, more connected places where bullying and violence are replaced with kindness and respect; and where learning and teaching are awakened to their fullest. Scott has spoken to over five million people in live settings around the world, not counting the millions he has spoken to through programs such as Oprah, Larry King Live, CNN, and the Today Show. He has authored or co-authored five books and meets with politicians and educators regularly concerning issues of school violence.

#### CLOSING GENERAL SESSION – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16



#### **TRACY COPENHAVER & SCOTT KOLPITCKE – LEGAL UPDATE**

Tracy is the senior partner in Copenhaver, Kath, Kitchen & Kolpitzke, LLC. He graduated from the University of Wyoming Law School in 1982. Scott, a 1996 graduate of the University of Wyoming Law School, joined the firm in 1998. Both attorneys represent numerous school districts and are experts on education law. Tracy also does insurance defense work for all liability claims, giving him additional insight into school district liability issues. Tracy and Scott have presented numerous times on employment law, school law, government ethics, public records and meetings, student rights, new legislation, and school district liability. Their annual legal update is among the highlights of the annual conference, providing insight for board members and administrators alike. Understanding the legal environment in which school operate helps leaders make good decisions.