

Conference Information Packet

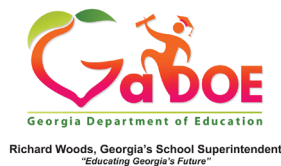
2016 Georgia Family Engagement Conference

February 4-6, 2016 | The Classic Center | Athens, Georgia

Strengthening PARTNERSHIPS.
Creating POSSIBILITIES.
Maximizing POTENTIAL.



Families | Educators | Communities | Students



Dear District and School Administrators:

We all share a common belief that parents are key partners in our on-going work to ensure overall student success in Georgia. We also recognize that new opportunities for building stronger, equal partnerships with shared responsibilities between your parents, your schools, and your communities are continually needed. With this in mind, I am very excited to announce a collaborative partnership between the Georgia Department of Education, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Communities In Schools of Georgia, and United Way of Greater Atlanta for parents and educators, particularly those in Title I schools.

WHAT: Georgia Family Engagement Conference

WHEN: February 4-6, 2016

WHERE: The Classic Center - Athens, Georgia

WHO: Parent Leaders, District and School Level Administrators, School Based Title I Educators, Parent Involvement Coordinators, Community Partners, and Other Educators

While still somewhat early, I urge you to make your district and local Title I schools aware of this opportunity, encouraging them not only to send educators who will benefit from this conference, but to also permit parents of eligible Title I students to participate. For those of you who attended the 2012 and 2014 Georgia Family Engagement Conferences you know it is one not to be missed! Districts and schools are encouraged to:

- Use their Title I funds to support appropriate parent attendance and involvement in this event, inclusive of travel and other associated costs;
- Send appropriate staff members whose duties and responsibilities include Title I parent engagement;
- Have parents and educators who attend the conference share information learned with other parents of children enrolled in Title I programs, as well as school staff and other community partners; and
- Plan ahead by budgeting funds for both Title I educators and parents to attend.

More information is available on the 2016 Georgia Family Engagement Conference Webpage for you to share with your colleagues. If you have questions please contact Amy Park, Parent Engagement Program Manager, at (404) 463-1956 or apark@doe.k12.ga.us. We look forward to continuing to work closely with you to support strong family and community engagement in our schools. Together, and through initiatives such as this, we will continue to build on our goal of educating Georgia's future.

Sincerely,



Avis King
Deputy State Superintendent
Office of School Improvement

Keynote Speakers



Amanda Morgan

Opening General Session Keynote Speaker – February 4, 2016

Amanda Morgan holds a B.A. in both elementary and early childhood education and an M.S. in family and human development. Her past experience includes teaching in public, private, and migrant schools as well as teaching preschoolers, grade-schoolers, college students, teachers, and parents.

She writes, speaks, and consults on the topic of intentional, whole child development and is the creator of the blog, Not Just Cute. Amanda teaches an ecourse from her site entitled, Parenting with Positive Guidance: Building Discipline from the Inside Out, and has written several ebooks on the same topic.

In her free time, she can usually be found exploring the Pacific Northwest with her husband and four boys, or snitching copious amounts of chocolate from her pantry.



Dr. Francisco Guajardo

Morning General Session Keynote Speaker – February 5, 2016

Francisco Guajardo is Professor and C. Bascom Slemph Endowed Chair in Education at the University of Texas (U.T.) Rio Grande Valley in South Texas. He is a native of the borderland, having been born in Tamaulipas, Mexico, and raised in rural community of Elsa, Texas. He is a graduate of Edcouch-Elsa High School, has a degree in English from U.T. at Austin, a Master's degree in History from U.T. Austin, and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from U.T. Austin. He has an honorary doctorate from the Lewis and Clark University in Portland, Oregon.

Dr. Guajardo is a founding member of the Llano Grande Center for Research and Development, an education nonprofit organization he founded in the mid 1990s when he was a classroom teacher at Edcouch-Elsa High School. Through Llano Grande he led an effort to place dozens of Edcouch-Elsa graduates in the most prestigious colleges in the country, many of them in Ivy League universities. He is a founding member of the Center

for Bilingual Studies at U.T. Pan American; through that Center he is involved in shaping the new U.T. Rio Grande Valley into a bilingual university. And he is a founding member of the Community Learning Exchange, a national movement that taps the wisdom of people and the power of place.

Dr. Guajardo is an advocate for rural education. He is board member of the Rural School and Community Trust, the Center for Rural Strategies, and the Institute for Educational Leadership. He has shared his story as a rural education practitioner to audiences at the National Rural Assembly, twice through the Askwith Lecture Series at Harvard, has given several high school and college commencement addresses, gave a talk at the White House, received a People Magazine Award at the New York Public Library, and has presented in countries such as Canada, Sweden, Italy, Austria, New Zealand, and Peru.

Dr. Guajardo is married to Yvonne Cardenas of Edinburg. They thoroughly enjoy their three grown children and their first grandchild.

Keynote Speakers



Manny Scott

Closing General Session Keynote Speaker – February 6, 2016

An original Freedom Writer whose story is told in part in the 2007 hit movie, *Freedom Writers*, Manny Scott has energized over a million leaders, educators, volunteers, and students worldwide with his authentic, inspiring messages of hope.

By age 16, Manny's story was almost over: His father was incarcerated, he missed 60-90 days of school annually from 4th to 9th grade, he dropped out of school at age 14, he lived in 26 places by age 16, and his best friend was brutally murdered. Sensing that the end of his life was near, Manny sat down on a park bench, and considered how he would make others feel the depth of despair and anger roiling in his soul. He says, "When I look back, I now see that I was heading down a path that would have destroyed me."

Then, a man—a complete stranger—took a risk, and sat down beside Manny. That man connected with him, encouraged him, and inspired him to write a different story—to create a new life. That day, on a park bench, Manny Scott turned the page. He returned to school with a new attitude and purpose, and ended up in the back of Erin Gruwell's English class—a group now known worldwide as the Freedom Writers, portrayed in the 2007 hit MTV movie.

In his journal, Manny began writing—and dreaming about—new, more fulfilling chapters in his life—chapters filled with healing, hope, perseverance, and possibility. Through very hard work, and with the help of others, Manny has achieved many of those journaled dreams.

In 2007, he founded Ink International, Inc, an educational consulting team that is preventing thousands of suicides, raising student achievement, and improving teacher effectiveness. He is the author of two books: *Your Next Chapter*, a book that shows people, step-by-step, how to create the life of their dreams; and, *How to R.E.A.C.H. Youth Today*, a book that shares several proven practices and principles that engage, equip, and empower people everywhere to reach people who seem unreachable.

Featured Speakers



Arianne B. Weldon

Featured Speaker | Parent Leadership Session – February 4, 2016

Since December 2012, Arianne Weldon has served as the director of the Get Georgia Reading Campaign, Georgia's platform for connecting people, agencies, organizations, sectors, and communities to ensure that all children in Georgia become proficient readers by the end of 3rd grade. In that role, Arianne uses her background in public health to encourage Campaign partners to apply an epidemiological approach to promoting reading proficiency for young children.

Her work includes connecting and convening decision-makers from across the state to focus on families with children under the age of 8. She also seeks to inspire partners' collective action and innovation in creating the conditions that are necessary for young children to succeed—including language-rich adult-child interactions beginning at birth, access to high quality educational and supportive services, and productive learning climates and well-prepared and effective teachers in early learning centers and the early grades.

Before taking leadership of the Get Georgia Reading Campaign, Arianne served as the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Title V Administrator for the Georgia Department of Public Health. Prior to joining the Georgia MCH Program in 2010, she was the Director of State Partnership Strategies for Georgia Family Connection Partnership (GaFCP) where she served as liaison to state-level population-based initiatives across multiple state agencies, private sector organizations, and communities to assure coordination and collaboration in efforts to improve child and family well-being. Arianne also spent five years with GaFCP as a Community Facilitator and two years as liaison to the state Medicaid agency.

Arianne holds a Master's Degree of Public Health from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Georgia State University.



Dr. Grant Rivera

Featured Speaker | Educator Session – February 4, 2016

Dr. Grant Rivera currently serves as the Chief Leadership and Learning Officer for the Cobb County School District. Cobb County School District has 114 schools that serve over 110,000 students in the metro-Atlanta county. He served as principal for nine years, which includes South Cobb High School in Austell, Georgia (2005-2009), Campbell High School in Smyrna, Georgia (2009-2011), and Westlake High School (2011-2014). Prior to being appointed principal, Grant held positions as a high school assistant principal, special education teacher, and coach in Cobb County, Georgia. Grant received a B.S. in Education and Social Policy from Northwestern University and an M.A. in Learning Disabilities from the University of Alabama. He holds a Doctorate of Education from the University of Alabama, with an emphasis in School Law. Grant has been associated with numerous professional development activities in the area of school law, school law enforcement

officer research, and special education law. He also served as adjunct professor of Educational Law at the State University of West Georgia. Grant has worked with several school districts around the country as a consultant and practitioner for school improvement and family engagement. Grant and his wife, Jennifer, live in Atlanta.

At-A-Glance Conference Overview

Strengthening PARTNERSHIPS.
Creating POSSIBILITIES.
Maximizing POTENTIAL.

THURSDAY – FEBRUARY 4, 2016

8:00 am–3:00 pm	Exhibitors and Sponsors Move In, <i>Grand Hall 6-7</i>
11:00 am–6:00 pm	Conference Registration, <i>Atrium</i>
1:30 pm–3:00 pm	Featured Conference Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Educators/Administrators Session, <i>Grand Hall 1-2</i> Principals Panel, facilitated by Dr. Grant Rivera, Chief Leadership & Learning Officer, Cobb County School District◆ Parent Leadership Session, <i>Grand Hall 4-5</i> Facilitated by Arianne B. Weldon, Director of Get Georgia Reading
3:00 pm–4:00 pm	Afternoon Break, Exhibits Open, <i>Grand Hall 6-7</i>
4:00 pm–6:00 pm	OPENING GENERAL SESSION - Keynote Speaker: Amanda Morgan, Not Just Cute, Intentional Whole Child Development, <i>Theatre</i>
6:00 pm–8:00 pm	Exhibitors Reception hosted by Communities In Schools of Georgia and United Way of Greater Atlanta, <i>Grand Hall 6 & 7</i>

FRIDAY – FEBRUARY 5, 2016

8:00 am–12:00 pm	Conference Registration, <i>Atrium</i>
8:00 am– 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast, <i>Atrium</i> / Exhibits Open, <i>Grand Hall 6-7</i>
9:00 am–10:30 am	MORNING GENERAL SESSION - Keynote Speaker: Dr. Francisco Guajardo, Professor & C. Bascom Stemp Endowed Chair, Department of Educational Leadership, University of Texas Pan American, <i>Theatre</i>
10:45 am–12:00 pm	Workshop Session I (14 workshops and 1 Exhibitor/Sponsor workshop)
12:00 pm–1:30 pm	TICKETED LUNCH - Hosted by Georgia Department of Education for Conference attendees; and Hosted by Communities In Schools of Georgia and United Way of Greater Atlanta for Exhibitors and Sponsors
1:30 pm–2:45 pm	Workshop Session II (14 workshops and 1 Exhibitor/Sponsor workshop)
2:45 pm–3:30 pm	Afternoon Break, Exhibits Finale, <i>Grand Hall 6-7</i>
3:30 pm–4:45 pm	Workshop Session III (14 workshops and 1 Exhibitor/Sponsor workshop)
4:45 pm	Night on the Town (on your own)

SATURDAY – FEBRUARY 6, 2016

7:30 am–8:30 am	Continental Breakfast, <i>Stations at Various Locations</i>
8:30 am–9:45 am	Workshop Session IV (12 workshops and 1 Exhibitor/Sponsor workshop)
9:45 am–10:00 am	Mid-morning Break
10:00 am–12:00 pm	CLOSING GENERAL SESSION - Keynote Speaker: Manny Scott, Original Freedom Writer, INK, <i>Theatre</i>
12:00 pm	Conference Concludes

This conference schedule is subject to change.

Conference Strands

- Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement
- Parent Leadership and Skills Building
- Student Support and Achievement Resources for Parents
- Engaging Families of Young Children (Ages Birth to 8 years)
- Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Parental Involvement Compliance Requirements

February 4-6, 2016

The Classic Center | Athens, GA

Athens Points of Interest:

- Georgia Museum of Art
- Georgia Museum of Natural History
- Georgia State Botanical Gardens
- Taylor-Grady House
- University of Georgia
- U.S. Navy Supply Corps Museum

Discover Athens, GA:

Athens, home to the University of Georgia, is more than just the ultimate college town. This vibrant, restored Victorian-era town is rich with a combination of traditional heritage and trend-setting southern culture. Guests are offered the exciting opportunity to experience art galleries, trendy shops, world-renowned music, entertaining nightlife, and distinctive dining all within walking distance of hotels.



Conference Distinguished Guests

Georgia State School Superintendent,
Mr. Richard Woods

Georgia State School Superintendent's
Parent Advisory Council

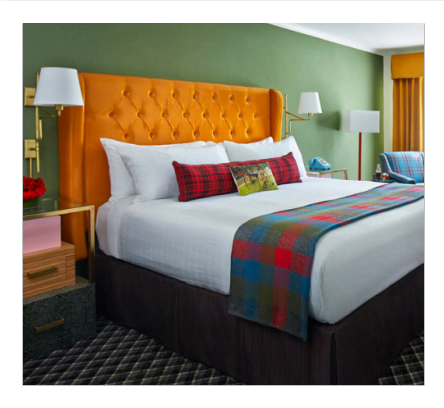
Georgia PTA President,
Lisa-Marie Haygood

United Way of Greater Atlanta,
Vice President of Education

And Notable State, Local and United
Way Officials

Conference Hotels

Graduate Athens ***Conference Host Hotel***



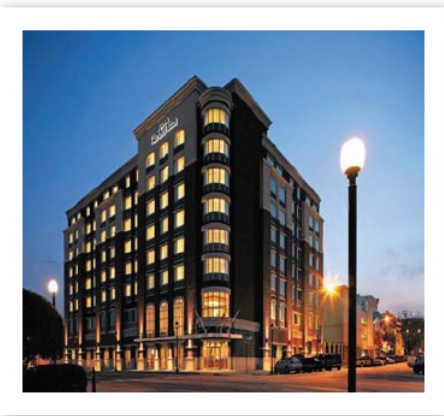
graduateathens.com | 706-549-7020 or 866-928-4367

Room Type – King/Double, Conference Rate \$112.00 plus tax

- Business Center
- On-site convenience store and lounge
- Complimentary Parking
- Must cancel reservation 24 hours prior to arrival
- Booking Link: <http://bit.ly/1L4vX32>

***Rate valid until
January 15, 2016***

Hilton Garden Inn at the Classic Center



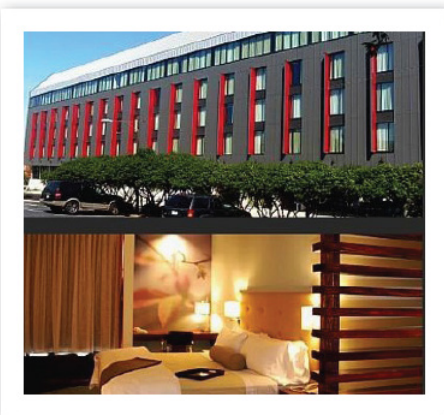
www.hi-athens.com | 706-353-6800

Room Type – King/Double, Conference Rate \$129.00 plus tax

- Business Center
- Great American Grill (cook to order breakfast)
- On-site convenience store and lounge
- Parking fee \$9.95 per day
- Must cancel reservation 24 hours prior to arrival
- Booking Link: <http://bit.ly/1ifNvOA> (use a capital letter 'O', not a zero)

***Rate valid until
January 13, 2016***

Hotel Indigo



www.indigoathens.com | 866-808-1483

Room Type – King/Two Queen, Conference Rate \$119.00 plus tax

- Phi Bar and Bistro
- Fitness Center
- Art Gallery
- Parking fee \$10.00 per day
- Must cancel reservation 48 hours prior to arrival
- Group Code: FEC or Family Engagement Conference 2016
- Booking Link: <http://bit.ly/1QqqRye>

***Rate valid until
January 4, 2016***

Conference Hotels

Holiday Inn



www.hi-athens.com | 706-549-4433

Room Type – King/Double, Conference Rates \$104.00/\$118.00 plus tax

- Complimentary Parking
- Free High Speed Internet
- Refrigerator/Microwave
- Indoor Pool
- Must cancel reservation by 6:00 p.m. on day of scheduled arrival
- Booking Link: <http://bit.ly/1UDN2qt>

***Rate valid until
January 13, 2016***

Georgia Gameday Center



www.stayatgameday.com | 706-583-4500 | Call to make reservations

Room Type – 1br/2br/3br, Conference Rates \$129.00/\$159.00/\$209.00 plus tax

- Private Bedrooms with separate living area
- Full Kitchens with washer/dryer
- Shuttle Bus
- Private Complimentary Parking-One car per room
- Must cancel reservation 24 hours prior to arrival
- Group Code: GFEC
- Must call and reference Family Engagement Conference at reservation

***Rate valid until
January 13, 2016***

Courtyard by Marriott



www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ahncy-courtyard-athensdowntown/
706-369-7000

Room Type – Single/Double, Conference Rate \$129.00 plus tax

- Business Center/High-Speed Internet
- Outdoor Pool
- Complimentary Parking
- Must cancel reservation 24 hours prior to arrival
- Booking Link: <http://bit.ly/1i0orKO>

***Rate valid until
January 13, 2016***

Conference Hotels

Holiday Inn Express



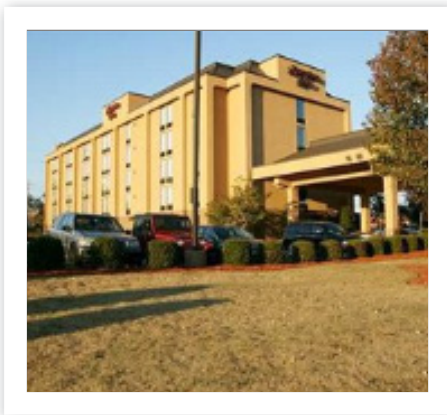
www.hiexpressathensga.com | 706-546-8122

Room Type – King/Double, Conference Rate \$94.00 plus tax

- Free high-speed internet
- Complimentary Express Smart Start Breakfast Bar
- State of the art exercise facility
- Complimentary Parking
- Must cancel reservation 24 hours prior to arrival
- Booking Link: <http://bit.ly/1OfawgG>

***Rate valid until
January 13, 2016***

Hampton Inn



hamptoninn.reservationcounter.com | 706 548-9600

Room Type – Double, Rate available February 4 & 5: \$120.00 plus tax

- Complimentary Breakfast
- Complimentary Parking
- Complimentary High Speed Internet;
- HiltonHHonors Points Awarded
- Booking Link: <http://bit.ly/1Q3glvY>

***Rate valid until
January 20, 2016***

Country Inn & Suites



www.countryinns.com | 706-612-9100

Room Type – King/Double, Rate available February 4 & 5: \$120.00 plus tax

- Complimentary Parking
- Complimentary Wireless Internet
- Complimentary Full Hot Breakfast
- Club Carlson points awarded
- Booking Link: <http://www.countryinns.com/gafamily>

***Rate valid until
January 10, 2016***