

2018 TAEA Annual Conference

Keynote Speakers



Dr. Robert L. Kirton

Dr. Robert L. Kirton has more than 3 decades of dedicated community, military and public education service. He served as a Chief Educational Officer, Executive Director of Schools, Principal, Coach and Teacher.

Dr. Kirton now serves as a Professor of Educational Leadership, School Climate Specialist, Author and Motivational Speaker. Dr. Kirton's documented success includes a cumulative graduation rate above 95%. He has been awarded and implemented more than \$100 Million Dollars in Grants and Resources. The public charter school he established and facilitated with his research graduated 100% of their Black Male Students. He also received the National FBI Directors Award for Community Leadership and Development.

Dr. Kirton is results driven and passionate about student achievement and success and is committed to supporting educational and community leaders.



Todd Scott Parker

As a veteran educator, coach, and CEO of Parker Education & Development, LLC, Todd Scott Parker distinguishes himself through his ability to deliver dynamic educational coaching and professional development training.

He is driven to inspire educators to invest in the cultural capital within their schools and organizations, as a part of their larger professional capital. As an author, poet, and energetic-inspirational speaker, he believes in the power one's personality can have on influencing others toward success.

Mr. Parker is the co-author of, *Success Favors Well-Prepared Teachers: Developing Relationships and Routines to Improve School Culture*. He created Kuu-Bro, an initiative for young men and boys to find their natural leadership abilities. He also developed a peer-to-peer mentoring program— A Better Citizen (ABC) which has received local and national attention. His Personality Package™- a process to identify one's characteristics and traits to determine how to interact genuinely with others, has been used with countless educators to assist them to build authentic relationships with students and others.



Dr. Craig Boykin

Every now and then you come across an individual who lives a humble life. Yet, his very presence strikes a chord within you. Craig's story is one that moves, touches and inspires audiences. It's a story about determination and personal accountability. It's a story about a young man who refused to accept his current situation. Although Craig has risen to high levels of success as an acclaimed author and professional speaker, it's his down-to-earth personality that endears him to those that come across his path. His message is very simple... Change Is Possible!

When Craig speaks, he reaches the hearts of his audience to motivate change in themselves and their community. Craig has devoted his life to creating lasting change for those who desire it; Craig has risen to the national stage by delivering an inspirational message which tells people how to shake off mediocrity and live up to their greatness. It is a message that Craig has learned from his own life challenges and one he is helping others apply to their lives.

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Burns Phillips III

Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development

Governor Bill Haslam appointed Burns Phillips commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development in June 2013. Phillips had been named acting commissioner in March 2013.

A primary responsibility of the department is the administration and oversight of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (W.I.O.A.) distributing \$50-80 million annually for training and employment services to Tennesseans needing retraining or upskilling to obtain or retain employment.

Previously, Phillips had worked in state government in the Budget Office of the Department of Finance and Administration for seven years before entering the private sector in 1981 where he engaged in the sale and marketing of surgical and general medical products. In 1991 he founded a surgical instrument company that conducted business in the United States, Canada, Mexico and 28 countries throughout Europe, South America and the Pacific Rim.

Prior to coming to Labor and Workforce Development, he had returned to state government in 2009 to serve as Administrative Director of the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Central Services Division, and in 2012 served as managing director in the Department of Finance and Administration (F&A), overseeing customer-focused government initiatives administration-wide.

Commissioner Phillips received his bachelor's Degree from Middle Tennessee State University. After returning from military service he earned a master's degree in public administration from Middle Tennessee State University and later earned a law degree from Nashville Night Law School.