

# CONNECTIONS

Latest news and updates from PREPS, Inc.



## A BRAND-NEW YEAR 18-19

Ben Burnett, Executive Director

Are you looking for a speaker for your district opening convocation? I will be available on a first come- first serve basis to provide this service for PREPS member districts. As a thank you for your PREPS membership, I hope to provide a positive and inspiring message to your faculty and staff to start your year off in great direction! If you are interested in this service, please email me at [bburnett@mspreps.org](mailto:bburnett@mspreps.org).

## IN THIS ISSUE

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Know Your PREPS Benefits

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CEO Leadership Academy

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MAPE/PREPS Partnership  
Conference

- **RESEARCH UPDATES** - Superintendents will continue to receive the MARSHALL MEMO so that you can share the latest research and trends with your principals and faculty.
- **LEGAL UPDATES**—All school administrators will continue to receive SCHOOL LAW updates to keep current and knowledgeable regarding education litigation.
- **DISCOUNTS** with PREPS Partners. Partners are listed below.
- **POSITIVE PR** through social and newspaper media for your district and a bigger voice to celebrate public school successes!
- **CEO ACADEMY** - Our CEO Leadership Academy will be underway in August, and PREPS members who have been selected will receive a significant tuition discount. Also, they will receive 9-hours graduate credit from WCU. Leadership networking opportunities will be invaluable to your school leaders.
- **NEW TEACHER SUPPORT** - Beginners Blog—When you provide us with email addresses of your novice teachers, we will reach out to them to provide them encouraging words and the latest helpful research to create an expanded support system for them as they embark on their teaching journey.
- **MAPE MEMBERSHIP**- PREPS pays for your membership to the Mississippi Association of Partners in Education which allows you to benefit from all their services as well. Visit [www.mapie.org](http://www.mapie.org) to learn more about MAPE and their Governor’s Awards which you will be eligible for through your membership.
- **CEU DISCOUNT**- 50% off the WCU Master In-Service Program to provide "free" CEUs for your teachers. For more information visit [www.wmcarey.edu](http://www.wmcarey.edu).

Be familiar with the many benefits of your PREPS membership at no additional cost to you.

PREPS averages \$1500 membership. Dues range from \$588 - \$3,000. The former fee structure was \$1/student with a cap of \$5000. The current fee structure caps out at \$3,000 making it more affordable during difficult budget times. All districts receive the same benefits no matter how big or small the size of their district.



# 2018-19 CEO LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

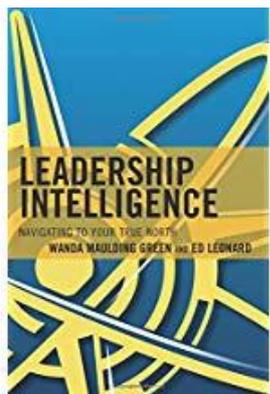
FACILITATED BY

CHUCK BENIGNO  
WANDA MAULDING  
ED LEONARD  
BEN BURNETT



*This excellent leadership academy will provide school leaders with a solid background in school culture, leadership ethics, and instructional theory. A 360-approach designed for individual leadership growth will be provided throughout the 5 seminars. Furthermore, a network of passionate school leaders will be formed to assist in combatting the isolation of leading a school while skill sets and resources will be enriched. This real-time instruction will immediately foster growth and support. With the help of a generous grant from the Phil Hardin Foundation, we provide this opportunity to MS school leaders at a reduced rate or no cost (Meridian and Lauderdale County) to our PREPS member districts.*

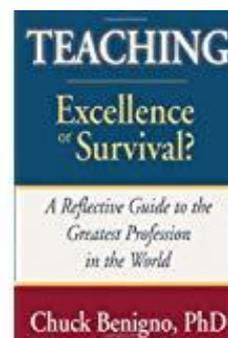
Dr. Wanda Maulding and Dr. Ed Leonard will be presenting their "*Leadership Intelligence: The Journey to Your True North.*" As the publisher says, "Much like Gardner's Multiple Intelligences, Maulding and Leonard have, in *Leadership Intelligence: The Journey to Your True North*, postulated a theory regarding the age-old question, 'are leaders born or are leaders made?'



The five critical factors which undergird the tenets of Leadership Intelligence, are delineated and developed through the lens of the soft skills of a leader. There is further clarification as to why some leaders seem to have 'a greater intensity' of these factors than their peers.

To aid the reader in relating to the theory, a conceptual model based on a GPS is threaded throughout each chapter interweaving both examples and understandable content. The model relates keeping the organization moving in a true north fashion. The final chapters reveal how a leader can develop or enhance these skills and how he/she can avoid leadership derailment, due to neglecting them."

Dr. Chuck Benigno, WCU Professor, and former Superintendent for the Laurel School District in Laurel, Mississippi will also be facilitating the CEO Leadership Academy. Dr. Benigno was the Vice President for Students at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. He has also served as principal of West Jones Middle School, and principal of North Forrest High School in Hattiesburg.



Dr. Benigno earned his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern Mississippi. He has been named in "*Who's Who Among American Teachers*", has been chosen Coach of the Year and Administrator of the Year, and was a participant in the "Project Zero Classroom" at Harvard University. During his tenure at Laurel, the school district has moved from At-Risk of Failing to Successful as rated by the Mississippi Department of Education. Chuck was named the 2014 Mississippi "Superintendent of the Year" and has served as a motivational speaker for schools and corporations. He is also the author of *Teaching: Excellence or Survival?*

*CEO Participants will be enrolled in three William Carey University graduate courses during their time which include: Leadership Ethics, School Culture, and Instructional Design Theory – 9-hours credit will be awarded for successful completion of the academy through the generosity of WCU.*

# Save the Date



FEBRUARY 25-26, 2019

# Partnership Conference

MAPE/PREPS

We have tentatively set the Partnership Conference date and location. The Partnership Conference is scheduled for **February 25-26, 2019** and will be held at the Hattiesburg Convention Center. The theme will be - MS Educators Have What It Takes: Grit, Moxie, and Perseverance. **Please save the date and put us in your PD Plans.**

In addition to all the benefits mentioned above, your district will be considered for Beating the Odds recognition through our PREPS Value-Added Awards which will be awarded at our yearly conference.

In addition to the PREPS Value-Added Awards and the Governor's Partnership Awards, we will also be hosting a **JOB FAIR** at the conference where soon to be graduates and pre-service teachers from all MS schools of higher learning will be encouraged to attend. We are excited to invite these potential teachers to learn more about your schools.

Thank you for your continued loyalty to PREPS, and let us know if we can be of assistance to help you and your faculty to prepare for the 18-19 school year!

## PREPS PARTNERS

Bailey Education Group

Belhaven University

Blue Mountain College

Class Dismissed PodCast

CORE Learning

Delta State University

Generation Ready

Hoonuit – Professional Development

Howardedu – Howard Industries

IMPACT Education Group

I-RISE Education Group

James A. Keith – Attorney At Law  
Adams and Reese, LLP

Johnny Purvis, Ph.D. – School Law  
Updates

Mississippi Association of Middle Level  
Education

Mississippi Association of Partners in  
Education

Mississippi College

Mississippi Department of Education

Mississippi Dyslexia Therapists  
Association

Mississippi Professional Educators – MPE

Renaissance

School Status

Southern Dropout Prevention Association

STEP - Physical Literacy Insight

The Kirkland Group

The University of Southern Mississippi

William Carey University