



Milton Hershey School's Thomas Robinson Named Board President of the Coalition of Residential Excellence (CORE)

Thomas Robinson, associate director of Elementary Division Home Life at Milton Hershey School, has been named president of the Board of Directors for the [Coalition of Residential Excellence](#) (CORE), a nationally recognized professional organization focused on advancing and strengthening residential education programs for economically and socially disadvantaged youth.

Robinson has been a member of CORE's Board of Directors since 2015 and most recently served as vice president.

“Through my involvement in CORE and career at MHS, I've seen the critical need for quality education and a safe space for children to live and learn,” said Robinson. “My presidency will be focused on concrete ways our members can collaborate to enhance supports and create more opportunities for the children we serve.”

Robinson brings 23 years of experience in residential education and leadership to his new CORE position. At MHS, a cost-free residential school for children in pre-K through 12th grade from low-income backgrounds, he oversees the [home life experience](#) for the school's youngest students, starting at 4 years of age.

“We are very proud of Thomas for embracing this role, helping lead strategy, and raising awareness for residential programming at a national level,” said Pete Gurt '85, MHS President. “As an MHS graduate myself, I know the impact that MHS and other CORE-member organizations make in helping children and their families break the cycle of poverty.”

CORE members represent boarding schools, residential charter schools, children's homes, youth ranches, and other residential education-based programs. Since 1989, the organization has promoted and strengthened programs for children and equipped members with resources and training.

In October, Milton Hershey School will host the 2022 CORE National Conference where members and other professionals will learn from one another and develop solutions to current challenges facing residential education.

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Register Now for 2022 CORE National Conference

RAISING THE BAR

2022 CORE National Conference

October 11-13, 2022

Hosting by
Milton Hershey School

CORE
COALITION OF RESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE

The poster features a 3D bar chart with four bars of increasing height. A golden figure is standing on the tallest bar, and another figure is pushing a large golden block into the chart. The background is dark with a swirling pattern. The text 'RAISING THE BAR' is written vertically on the left side. The dates 'October 11-13, 2022' are in yellow. The CORE logo is in the bottom right corner.

Conference Registration

Conference registration is now open. Registering on this website is an easy, secure way to sign up. CORE uses PayPal for processing, but a PayPal account is not required to checkout; you can just use your credit card. The conference theme is: “A Sweet Time at

Hershey While Raising the Bar to the Golden Standard.” Please save the October 11-13, 2022 date on your calendars, and make plans now to be in attendance.

Conference Topics and Presenters



Congruent Leadership - Matching the Mission With The Mayhem

**Presenter: Michelle Maikoetter
Cal Farley's**

How do we know, as leaders, what to do and when to do it? So many times we are making decisions we have not been trained in, role modeled, or can be explained in policy and procedure. The delicate ecosystems known as residential education/care requires a unique balance of structure and nurture just as our clients do. This workshop will examine how leaders are required to act as the frontal cortex, as well as, the attachment figure for an entire organization. And if leaders are unable to exemplify the very training and mission we espouse such as self-regulation, being trauma aware and connecting, how can anything work? Case examples will be used and discussion will be had.

A New Future From A Great Past

**Presenter: Christopher Goins
Girard College**

At Girard College, we have a legacy of prominence and leadership in serving children from hard places. Today's census pales in contrast to the numbers of children previously served at the onset and height of our history.

That is not to say the need isn't as great now as it was then. If anything, there are more roadblocks and hurdles today that threaten to sabotage a young person's quest for academic success and accomplishment than at any time in our history. The drop out rate for children coming from impoverished neighborhoods is at an all time high.



In a day where academic success is synonymous with certain zip codes, the quest to make a difference for children and families that fall outside those zip codes is a driving force behind Girard College's vision for the future.

In this workshop, Girard College's new President, F. Christopher Goins has plans to respond to community need in an unprecedented way by serving at risk children and equipping families for a different trajectory. In the process, he will be re-introducing Girard College to the world as a valued resource for children from hard places.



**Our Identities: Navigating In Community -
Presenter: Tyler Pau
Kamehameha Schools**

The self-identity discovery process can be confusing, complicated, and even controversial for youth. Frankly, it can be a daunting process for all of us at all points in life. As Residential Life educators, our role is to engage students in these hard conversations to get them to a place of greater understanding and increased comfort level with who they are as individuals. In order to do this well, we need to be aware of and honest with ourselves in our personal process of identity. Who we are can impact who we are in the community as context can have so much say on our experience. Rooting students in their self-identity gives them a greater self-assurance as they launch into emerging adulthood. Combining perspectives from a career in higher education Residential Life settings all around the continental U.S. and now in a K-12 system in Hawai'i . This session will unpack some challenges and share strategies for engaging staff and ultimately students in the self-identity process.

**Beyond Banners and Board Rooms
Presenter: Trey Oakley &
Traci Wagner
Methodist Children's Home**

We all know that language and culture are closely connected. Still, attempts at establishing a shared language run the risk of becoming a series of irrelevant buzz-words or a punch-line for staff jokes



because it gets relegated to a series of flashy banners or only spoken by a handful of agency leaders. We have all been to enough seminars about charismatic leadership and healthy workplace cultures. This session is not one of those. If you are interested in learning how one organization is using language to make their vision a reality and some of the wins and losses discovered along the way, this is for you. A shared language should do more than sound impressive on paper; it should impact the way people feel and behave, connect teams together in unlikely ways and inspire others to want to follow the processes, procedures and plans you have in place.

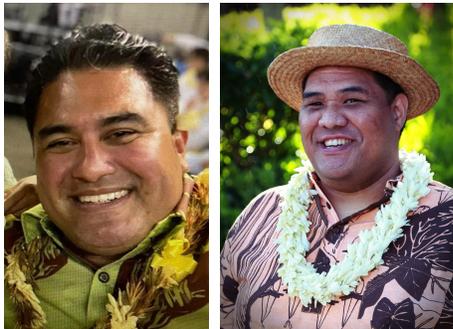


Leading Transformational Change
Dr. Laura Perales
Kamehameha Schools

Why do only 30% of change initiatives end in success? In this session we will unpack strategies for effective change management that will help successfully navigate change. This presentation will take you through the journey of a Residential Life program that underwent transformational change. Significant changes included an entire reorganization, rewriting job descriptions, (re)hiring for positions, revamping protocols and procedures, and starting on a new path. This journey of moving from stagnation to innovation is not an easy road, but one worth taking when navigated well.

And You, And You, And You And You Were There
Presenter: Gabriela Mora
Texas Baptist Children's Home

Attachment focused-EMDR case conceptualization and demo



Education With Roots - Intentional Student Engagement

Presenters: Pono Lopez & Kilipaki Solatorio
Kamehameha Schools

It is essential for residential programs to be responsible with the great amount of time gifted by students

and their families. This time and the living environment can be transformed to educate and enrich, fostering a meaningful student experience. This presentation will convey a process of developing powerful and intentional engagement opportunities grounded in our school's and program's missions. At Kamehameha Schools we are tasked to learn and teach through the culture of Hawaii and its people. With the foundation of education rooted in the culture, students are connected to content in a meaningful way. We will share the story and lessons learned in our journey to build a meaningful world class engagement program.

New Resident Assessment, Admission and Belonging

**Presenter: Suzanne Wright
Cal Farley's**

The presentation will include information about Cal Farley's approach to obtain new residents, how residents are assessed for appropriateness for placement and how the admissions process is conducted. The presentation will also discuss how residents are provided with felt safety and encouraged to find belonging on the campus after they arrive.



Perspectives - Student, Employee & Parent Presenter: Coty "Buffy" Trugillo Kamehameha Schools

At the core of a successful Residential Life program are people (participants, parents/family, staff) working together. This presentation follows a unique story of one individual who has had the unique opportunity of living all three roles in her lifetime.

The speaker will describe this incredible journey of being a boarding student middle through high school, then returning to work as a dorm advisor for seven years and later being the parent of three children that went through the same residential life program.

Now recently returning to a new role as a staff member in residential life, she will share how her experiences are shaping her vision and the program's impact on her siblings and blended family. Hawaiian values of 'ohana, aloha, and pilina, which are transferable to any residential school, will be explored during this presentation.

What Kind Of Soil Are You?

**Presenter: Joshua Sprock
Cal Farley's**

If your direct reports were to describe your style of supervision, would they use words like supportive, encouraging, helpful, and resourceful? Do they see the workplace as an environment in which they can thrive and develop a higher skillset? Do they sense that management values their creativity and their ability to incorporate information gleaned from professional trainings in their day-to-day relationships with those they serve?



In too many workplace environments, direct reports see their supervisor as the ultimate micro-manager. The experience stifles their freedom for creativity and leaves them longing for more job satisfaction.



The Road Not Taken

**Presenter: Dr. Danielle Budash Newkam
Milton Hershey School**

The impact of trauma and adverse experiences can lead to a complex presentation of emotional and behavioral difficulties and academic deficits. Exacerbating the complexity is the impact that the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on children over the past two years. It is easy to see these children as difficult; purposely defying instructions, not putting forth effort, and acting out with verbal and physical aggression. However, when we view these children with a trauma-informed lens, our perception changes. Remaining curious, building connections, and resilience-focused collaboration help create a safe and trusting community for children. Using a helping hands and reaching hearts mentality, we can learn to care together as we navigate the road not taken.

Never Enough - Working With Addiction

**Presenter: Michelle Maikoetter
Cal Farley's**

What do we know? What do we think we know? What do we want to know? In our work with families and children who are struggling to survive, much less thrive – addiction is



often a part of the equation. We have received so much conflicting information about how to even view the issue of addiction – as a disease? As a moral dilemma? An example of insufficient personal fortitude? And what role does race, social status, power and politics play into it? Nothing? Everything? No wonder we are confused about what the answers are...we aren't even sure what the questions should be. This training may leave you with more questions than answers...but maybe they will be the right ones.



You Can't Pour From An Empty Pitcher

Presenter: Dom Forrester

Coalition of Residential Excellence

The workshop discusses the importance of self-care and the need for those working with children from hard places to promote balance in their own lives through prioritizing the need for meaningful relationships. You can't pour from an empty pitcher. One of the characteristics of our evolving culture is filling every waking moment of our lives with activity and dismissing the importance of connecting. Sadly, those involved in the helping profession often times experience a significant disconnect between theory and practice. Caregivers need to be reminded that the basic relational skills and techniques that can make the journey more enjoyable serve as tools for survival.

Reframing Family Stories

Presenter: Dr. Michelle Kissinger

Independent Consultant



How we perceive our families and ourselves is a byproduct of the stories that we share, re-tell, and negotiate over time. Children and youth in out-of-home care are dislocated from the organic family storytelling that happens moment-by-moment while living together. In the process, they miss out on stories large and small which can create gaps in their family history memory banks. Sometimes gaps are formed by innocent omission when someone forgets to tell their away-from-home child about a noteworthy event. In other cases, gaps are created by the intentional concealment of inconvenient or embarrassing family information. And sometimes, stories are captured in institutional records that are not easily accessible. Regardless,

the result is the same: missing stories leave blanks in a child's family history that can undermine their sense of connection, belonging, and self-understanding.



Jay Harvey
Tour and overview of the MHS Family Engagement Center
Milton Hershey School

The Milton Hershey Family Engagement Center was developed as part of the MHS strategic plan to deepen the sense of belonging, contributions, and collaboration among staff, students, parents/sponsors, and alumni to strengthen the school community.

The MHS Family Engagement Center: Allows students and families to ENGAGE in safe and meaningful visitation. EQUIP families with programs and resources to grow themselves as they support growth in their children. EMPOWER families with their own identified space on campus that promotes a sense of belonging within the MHS community.



Re-evaluating your Campus Safety Program
Presenter: Rick Gilbert
Milton Hershey School

The basis of the program is to discuss the ever-growing conversation regarding keeping our community safe in our K-12 environment.

In our ever-changing society, when it comes to the protection of our school community, we tend to think of Law Enforcement as our only resource.

This presentation is from the private sector lens with less of an emphasis on enforcement, but rather on protection. We will discuss strategies on the importance of creating a solid security program that will help engage stakeholders in order to help support your initiatives. We will also look at what benefits come from community engagement and strategies to take within the academic world.

We will review of what a formal structure regarding policy and procedures should look like, and the importance of advanced and environment specific training, which will make your officers more of a resource than a necessity.

Catherin Hershey Awards Luncheon Speaker
Topic: Defining the Difference Maker: Relationship, Leadership, Stewardship
A. J. Rinaldi
Milton Hershey School



2022 CORE National Conference Schedule

“A Sweet Time at Hershey While Raising the Bar to the Golden Standard”

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Time 8:30 –8:45

A Sweet Time at Hershey - Raising the Bar to the Golden Standard - General Session - Presenter: Tom Robinson

Time: 8:45 –9:45

Congruent Leadership – Matching the Mission with the Mayhem General Session - Michelle Maikoetter

10:00 –11: 00 Workshop #1A **A New Future From A Great Past** - Christopher Goins

#1B Our Identities: Navigating In Community - Tyler Pau

#1C Beyond Banners and Board Rooms - Trey Oakley

11:10 –12:10 Workshop #2A **A New Future From A Great Past** - Christopher Goins

#2B Our Identities: Navigating In Community - Tyler Pau

#2C Beyond Banners and Board Rooms - Trey Oakleyr

12:10- 1:00 Lunch

2:00 Workshop **#3A Leading Transformational Change** - Laura Perales

#3B And You, And You, And You And You Were There - Gabriela Mora

#3 C Education with Roots – Intentional Student Engagement Pono Lopez & Kilipaki Solatori

2:10 –3:10 Workshop **#4 A Leading Transformational Change** - Laura Perales

#4 B And You, And You, And You And You Were There (Attachment Focused - EMDR case conceptualization and demo) - Gabriela Mora

#4 C Education with Roots – Intentional Student Engagement Pono Lopez & Kilipaki Solatorio

3:20 -4:20 Workshop **#5 A New Resident Assessment, Admission & Belonging** Suzanne Wright

#5 B Perspectives – Student, Employee & Parent - Coty (Buffy) Trugillo

#5 C Reframing Family Stories - Dr. Michelle Kissinger

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Time 8:30 –9:30 **The Road Not Yet Taken** General Session - Dr. Danielle Budash Newkam

9:40 –10:40 Workshop **#6A New Resident Assessment, Admission & Belonging** - Suzanne Wright

#6B Perspectives – Student, Employee & Parent - Coty (Buffy) Trugillo

#6C Reframing Family Stories Dr. Michelle Kissinger

10:50-11:50 Workshop #7A **Never Enough – Working with Addiction** Michelle Maikoetter

#7B **You Can't Pour From an Empty Pitcher** Don Forrester

#7C **What Kind of Soil Are You?** Joshua Sprock

12:30 – 2:30 **Catherine Hershey Awards Luncheon**

Post Award Speaker **Defining the Difference Maker: Relationship, Leadership, Stewardship**
- A. J. Rinaldi

2:30 Tours of Milton Hershey - **Tour & Overview of MHS Family Engagement Center** - Jay Garvey and other designated places of interest

Conference Hotel



The block of rooms at the Hershey Lodge has been filled.

Reservations can now be made at the Days Inn by Wyndham in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

There are a couple of ways to reserve rooms for the conference:

1.) The following link may be used for reservations:

MAKE A RESERVATION

2.) Reservations may also be made by calling (717) 534-2162 to book for October 10-12, 2022. Attendees to the conference should plan to arrive on or before Monday, October 10, as the conference will begin at 9:00 a.m. the following morning.