

Strengthening the Federal Education Research Engine: Value and Impact

Speaker Information



Dr. Michael Rice

Former Superintendent of Public Instruction, Michigan

Dr. Rice served as Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and as a Superintendent in Kalamazoo, Michigan and Clifton, New Jersey. During his time as State Superintendent, Michigan reached its highest four-year graduation rate in history, 82.8 percent. Prior to serving as Kalamazoo's superintendent, Dr. Rice served five years as superintendent of the Clifton (NJ) Public Schools. Dr. Rice began his career in public education in the Washington, D.C. Public Schools, where he taught high school French, and founded and coached an award-winning speech and debate program. Dr. Rice earned his master's and doctoral degrees in public administration from New York University.



Christine Dwyer

Senior Vice President, RMC Research

Chirs Dwyer is co-owner of RMC Research, a national firm that provides consultation and conducts research and evaluation in education, arts and culture, community engagement, and media. Her particular areas of expertise include early childhood education, literacy, family engagement, school improvement, and evaluation in arts and culture. At the beginning of her career, Dwyer taught in early learning and elementary school settings in New Hampshire's North Country. She recently concluded her seventh term as an elected Portsmouth City Councilor.



Bobby Murphy

Director of Curriculum and Assessment/Chief Academic Officer/Instructional Supervisor, Anderson County Schools, Kentucky

In his role as Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Mr. Murphy develops and oversees academic programs for Anderson County Schools, which serves over 3,000 students across 7 schools. He previously served as Principal at Emma B. Ward Elementary School in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky. He also serves on the Regional Opportunity Council for Bluegrass Community and Technical College.



Candace Vinson

Lead Education Consultant at Michigan Department of Education, Office of Career & Technical Education, Career Readiness Unit

Candace Vinson is a Lead Education Consultant in the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Career & Technical Education (CTE), where she supports Statewide career-readiness initiatives. With a background as a high school educator, she has been a driving force behind expanding early childhood and youth development credentialing pathways across Michigan. Candace has led major Statewide growth in high-school CDA and YDA programs and is recognized for her work building teacher supports and strengthening credential-focused CTE systems.