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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illinois Principals Association to Host “Legacy Builders” Conference in October

Springfield, IL - The Illinois Principals Association (IPA) will host its 53rd Education Leaders Annual Conference, “Legacy Builders,” from October 20-22, 2024, in Peoria, IL. The event will feature keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and networking opportunities to help school leaders enhance their impact on schools and communities.

2024-2025 IPA President Cris Edwards shared, “We’re excited to welcome Illinois school leaders to this year’s conference, offering inspiring speakers and opportunities to celebrate the legacy they bring to their schools.”

The conference kicks off Sunday with a golf tournament, committee meetings, and a welcome reception honoring past IPA presidents. Keynote speakers include:

- **Dr. Stanley Leone, Jr.**, CEO of *This Side of Hope*, will open Monday with his session “*The HeArt of Teaching and The Science of Relationships*.” Dr. Leone will share his personal journey from a traumatic childhood to success, emphasizing how relationships within schools transformed his life. A Certified Clinical Trauma Professional and award-winning speaker, Dr. Leone has shared his story with more than a million people.
- **Cris Edwards**, 2024-2025 IPA President and **Dr. Jason Leahy**, IPA Executive Director will speak Monday afternoon. IPA Awards for Excellence, Herman Graves Award, Reaching Out & Building Bridges Award, and the Mr. John Ourth & Dr. Fred W. Singleton Professional Development Scholarships will also be presented at this session.
- **Monica Genta**, author and educator, will deliver a keynote Tuesday morning titled “*180 Days of Awesome – Celebrating Every Day of Education*.” With 14 years of teaching experience, Genta will inspire leaders to turn each school day into an exciting adventure. She is the author of five books, including “*180 Days of Awesome*,” and is a National Board Certified Teacher.
- **Illinois State Superintendent Dr. Tony Sanders** will speak on Tuesday, addressing the state of education in Illinois and sharing insights with school leaders.

Additionally, Tuesday’s **IGNITE** session will feature fast-paced presentations from notable principals, including Allan Davenport (Granger Middle School), Dr. Lisa Carlos (Plainfield

Elementary School), Charles Williams (Michele Clark Academic Prep Magnet High School), and IPA President-Elect Dr. Angie Codron (Normal West High School). Each will share their unique perspectives on school leadership in 5-minute bursts.

The conference will conclude with IPA Deputy Executive Director Brian Schwartz and Government Relations Director Alison Maley providing updates on new education-related laws passed during the 2024 Illinois Legislative Session, offering insights on how school leaders can stay informed and advocate for their schools.

For more information about the IPA or to register to attend, please visit **ilprincipals.org**.

The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization serving more than 6,600 educational leaders throughout Illinois whose mission is to develop, support, and advocate for innovative educational leaders.

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