Voices From the Field: A Panel of Consumers of the

New P-12 Principal Endorsement

**Mr. Dan Bridges**

Superintendent Dan Bridges joined Naperville Community Unit School District 203 in July 2011 after a lengthy career in the western suburbs where he held a number of leadership positions. After one year as the assistant superintendent for secondary education, Dan was named Superintendent in August 2012 implementing many new initiatives to mprove student learning. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, all District 203 elementary schools will offer all-day kindergarten to provide the District’s earliest learners with important early learning. The District is also implementing a Digital Learning Initiative to study the impact of one-to-one technology on learning. Career 203, the District’s model for professional learning and compensation, is an innovative approach to rewarding teachers for contributions to the profession.

Bridges has become an active member of the Naperville community. He is a trustee on the Naperville Education Foundation (NEF), board member on the Naperville Development Partnership, and member of the Rotary Club of Naperville. He has a Bachelors degree in History and Secondary Education from Millikin University, a Masters degree in Educational Leadership from Aurora University, and an Ed.S. in Educational Administration from Northern Illinois University.

**Mr. Brad Hutchison**

Brad Hutchison is a long-time leader of P-12 education in Illinois and is a proud ISU alumnus. He is a graduate of the Illinois School for Advance Leadership (ISAL) program sponsored by the Illinois Association of School Administrators where he also served as a member of the board of directors and was a participant on the ISU Teacher Effectiveness Advisory Committee funded by the Wallace Foundation. In addition, Brad is currently an ISAL coach to practicing superintendents.

Brad has served a wide array of P-12 positions including Superintendent of Schools. Currently, Brad is serving as the P-12 Coordinator in the EAF department at ISU and as an Instructional Assistant Professor teaching in the redesigned Principal Preparation Program. He has also been a member of the Illinois Association of School Administrators for the past ten years and active in many of the initiatives to improve leadership in Illinois.

**Dr. Maureen Kincaid**

Maureen Kincaid is the Department Head for the North Central College (NCC) Education Department. She has been actively involved in initiatives such as the McCormick LINC project and numerous state committees for educational graduate and undergraduate programs.

Dr. Kincaid was previously a teacher in Special Education and has taught literacy courses in education at NCC for the past ten years. Dr. Kincaid has provided leadership in the development of five formal district partnerships that work in collaboration with the graduate and undergraduate programs to prepare pre-service teachers and future principals. Dr. Kincaid is an advocate for greater training and preparation of educators in ELL. She is presently active in a Department of Education federal grant with partners in the East Aurora School district to provide full time internship training for leadership candidates.

**Dr. Darlene Ruscitti**

Darlene J. Ruscitti is the Regional Superintendent of Schools for DuPage County and began her 3rd term on July 1, 2011.  She has earned her doctorate of education from Loyola University, undergraduate work and graduate at Northeastern Illinois University. Professionally, Dr Ruscitti has been a school board member, teacher, higher education adjunct faculty member, education administrator, professional development director, and assistant regional superintendent of schools for DuPage. Amongst her civic responsibilities, she is Vice President of the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents, Vice-President of the DuPage Area Project, a member of the Illinois P-20 Council subcommittees, Honorary Board Member of DuPage United Way, and others. Her experiences include appointments and nominations to a myriad of education and business committees that currently include, Chair,DuPage County Strategic Planning Initiative, DuPage Work Force Investment Board, Choose DuPage Board, DuPage Youth Council, Board of Trustee, Northeastern Illinois University, and Member of the Congressional Conference on Civic Education, to name a few. Dr Ruscitti was appointed by US Senator Mark Kirk to co-chair his statewide education commission, which firmly places DuPage’s voice and vote at the decision making table at the state and national level.

Darlene is married to Bill, her husband of 38 years and they have two children, one in finance and the other an accountant. Most importantly, they have jobs and live successfully on their own!

**Ms. Heather Schild**

Heather Schild just began her ninth year in Naperville School District 203 and is serving as the Instructional Coordinator for the Literacy and Academic Support Department at Naperville North High School.  This winter, she will graduate from North Central College (NCC) in Naperville with a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership.  Ms. Schild is among the first NCC leadership candidates completing the new Illinois requirements for principal licensure.

Ms. Schild also holds a Master’s degree in Bilingual Bicultural Education from DePaul University in Chicago (2010) and a Bachelor’s degree in Secondary English and Art Education from DePaul University (2005). Prior to taking on her role as Instructional Coordinator three years ago, she taught freshman, sophomore, and honors senior English classes.  She currently teaches freshman English 1 and senior Traditions in Communication courses.

**Mr. Joseph Shoffner**

Joseph Shoffner is a veteran educator that has been the principal of McClellan Elementary in Chicago for the past five years. This neighborhood Pre-K to 8th grade public school also has an autism cluster program. Prior experience includes six years as an assistant principal at Talman Elementary in Chicago and fifteen years as a classroom teacher and Special Education Department Chair.

Mr. Shoffner is a past recipient of the Pat Dan and Patricia Jorndt “Joy of Teaching “Award, recognized as leading a Model School for Inclusive Practices, Chicago Principal Achievement Award. Mr. Shoffner is an Ed. D. candidate in the Urban Education Leadership Program at the University of Illinois.