

»» **FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION®:
CREATING HIGH-PERFORMING SCHOOL CULTURES**
Alan Blankstein, President, HOPE Foundation
OPENING KEYNOTE SESSION
Sunday, January 11 / 4:30 - 6 pm



Alan Blankstein, Founder and President of the HOPE Foundation, leads this interactive session illustrating six principles essential for creating and sustaining learning communities where all students succeed. This inspirational session provides specific strategies and processes drawn from 15 years of research on how high-performing learning communities sustain success. Attendees will also learn how to build courageous leadership capacity at all levels. Alan is a prolific presenter, former teacher, and author of the best-selling book, *Failure is Not an Option®*.



Education

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»» **BURY MY HEART AT CONFERENCE ROOM B**
Stan Slap, President, slap
SECOND GENERAL SESSION
Monday, January 12 / 9 – 10:30 am



An individual's emotional commitment is the ultimate trigger for discretionary effort; it's worth more than financial, intellectual and physical commitment --- combined. It's the kind of commitment that solves unsolvable problems, creates energy when all energy has seemingly been expended, and ignites emotional commitment in others, such as teachers, teams, and school board members. Leaders are those rare individuals who have emotional commitment and can inspire others. That's why school districts want their superintendents to be leaders. The irreducible essence of leadership is that leaders live their values without compromise. The true purpose of leadership is to live your values and use them to improve the lives of others.

This is why people become leaders and why people follow leaders. Stan will show educators how to connect to their "emotional commitment" and learn to become a more effective leader.



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»» **THIRD GENERAL SESSION**
Speaker, TO BE ANNOUNCED
Monday, January 12 / 2:15 – 3:15 pm
Senior Level Elected Official (Invited)



>> A TOWN HALL MEETING
Commissioner Richard P. Mills, NYS Education Department
FOURTH GENERAL SESSION
Monday, January 12 / 4 - 5 pm



Participate in A Town Hall Meeting with Commissioner Richard Mills as he addresses Council members. His presentation will be followed by an interactive discussion of issues and ideas which affect public education. Richard Mills became New York State Commissioner of Education in August 1995. He serves as Chief Executive Officer of the State Education Department and President of the University of the State of New York, which encompasses more than 15,000 schools, colleges, libraries, museums, and public broadcasting stations across New York.

>> CAPITOL UPDATE
FIFTH GENERAL SESSION
Tuesday, January 13 / 9 - 10:15 am



Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan (Invited) & a Senate Representative To Be Determined

Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan (invited) represents the 37th Assembly District serving communities in southern and western Queens County in New York City. She became Chair of the Assembly Education Committee in 2006, having previously served as Chair of the Committees on Labor and Banks. Currently, she is also a member of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

The leadership of the State Senate for 2009 is unresolved at present. An appropriate Senate Representative will be invited.

The Legislators will speak about state education issues on Tuesday morning after the plated breakfast.

>> TRENDS, LIKE HORSES ARE EASIER TO RIDE IN THE DIRECTION
THEY ARE GOING: EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY
Mary Montle Bacon, Ph.D., President, Images of Culture
SIXTH GENERAL SESSION
Tuesday, January 13 / 10:30 – 11:30 am



Leadership for the 21st century requires individuals who are creative, competent and sufficiently flexible to adapt to the many changes that impact the lives of the clients we serve. As our society becomes more complex and more resistant to change, there is a need to re-examine the assumptions we make and the strategies we use to function effectively in the rapidly changing global world of the future. This humorous but inspirational presentation will explore some of the interpersonal, institutional and instructional impediments that must be removed to ensure success in closing the achievement gap between these young people who are different from us in a variety of ways.