

## 2018- 19 Career Grant Reflection for Kari Dendurent

As the Region III Board Representative for the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals, I felt it was extremely important for me to attend the 2018 Alaska Principal Conference. In addition to attending the conference, I was also responsible for several of the activities of the conference to include assisting with the pre-conference to facilitate JC Pohl's presentation about Teen Truth- an in depth approach to assist with social emotional supports for teens. I also facilitated the DEED presentation by Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson and his staff's presentation about the rollout and communication about the PEAKS scores and how to disseminate these scores to school staff, parents and the community.

During the three days of the conference, I was able to work behind the scenes to support the conference and made a concerted effort to collaborate with colleagues throughout the state of Alaska. I was able to achieve my goal to interact with several middle school principals and to create a support network with these administrators to share best practices, build trust to ask for help in difficult situations as well as to discuss next steps for the future of education in the state of Alaska. In addition to working with my fellow like-school colleagues, I was able to reach out and to get to know the AASSP Board Members as well as to work in an informal setting with my colleagues in the KPBSD.

The most impactful professional development I received at the conference was through one of the Keynote Speakers, Weston Kieschnick. Weston shared his approach to personalized learning and his philosophy resonated with practices and philosophical attitudes of the staff at Homer Middle School. Through Weston's keynote, he shared the importance of focusing on teacher's strengths and to supplement these strengths with technology. He shared that teachers are focused on the "shiny new toy" instead of the implementation of effective teaching strategies. Through his work and research from John Hattie, I am hopeful the teachers at HMS will find ways to go from great to striving for perfection.

During the conference, I chose to bid on 15 of Weston's Kieschnick Bold School Books as well as to receive 2 virtual face to face workshops to support personalized learning at Homer Middle School during the Spring of 2019. I have presented information about Weston to the HMS staff and have provided each staff member a copy of Bold School to begin our book study.

The other inspirational keynote speaker at the conference included Beth Houf- author of Lead Like a Pirate. Beth's message was about the importance of Relationships and Positive Energy. I was able to spend time with Beth and to pick her brain on some techniques I can use at Homer Middle School for our school climate and culture. Beth provided some new ideas and reaffirmed the importance of the crazy personality of a middle school administrator. I have continued to communicate with Beth through both Facebook and Twitter.

The final activity I would like to highlight from my attendance of the Alaska Principal Conference was as the co-chair for the Larry Graham Auction. The purpose of this auction is to provide scholarships for new and aspiring principals. I am hopeful through this scholarship fund that we are able to provide scholarships to grow our next generation of school administrators.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Dusk". The signature is written in a cursive style.

12/5/18