

2026 ERCO LEADER SUMMIT

LEADING FOR IMPACT

Guest Presenter Bios

AUGUST 13, 2026

Rumpke Waste & Recycling | Columbus, Ohio





GUEST PRESENTER

Dr. Melvin Brown

Keynote Speaker

SUMMIT SESSION

Keynote Address

Drawing from his book, *Roaches in My Cereal*, Dr. Brown brings the voice of a practitioner, educator, and advocate who challenges leaders to view education through the eyes of students. His presentation explores educational equity, student engagement, trauma-informed leadership, authentic learning experiences, and reimagining schools for the future.

Through personal stories, practical strategies, and thought-provoking insights, Dr. Brown examines how school systems, leadership decisions, and daily interactions can either strengthen or diminish a student's capacity to learn and thrive. The session challenges participants to reflect on their leadership practices and renew their commitment to learning environments where every student feels valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.



GUEST PRESENTER

Dr. Barbara Boone

Program Director, Family Engagement Programs

The Ohio State University, Center on Education and Training for Employment

SUMMIT SESSION

Strong Schools Are Built on Strong Partnerships with Families and Communities

Dr. Barbara Boone is the Program Director for Family Engagement Programs at The Ohio State University, Center on Education and Training for Employment. Her role includes directing the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center. She leads a multidisciplinary team focused on improving partnerships between home, school, and communities for children of all ages through research, tools and resources for families, professional development, and direct work with parents, local school districts, state agencies, and organizations.

She previously served as an early childhood educator, parent educator, education consultant, and Director at the Ohio Department of Education. Dr. Boone takes a family-centered approach to education, recognizing that children learn, grow, and live fulfilling lives when nurtured by their families and supported by their schools and communities.



GUEST PRESENTER

Dr. Morgan Fagnani

Consultant

State Support Team 11

SUMMIT SESSION

Purposeful and Precise Use of Data

Dr. Morgan Fagnani is a consultant with State Support Team 11, specializing in instructional improvement, data analysis, and systems-level school improvement. Throughout her career, she has served students in both traditional public and community schools in a variety of leadership and instructional roles, including intervention specialist, general education teacher, curriculum director, chief academic officer, and treasurer.

Dr. Fagnani has extensive experience supporting districts and schools through the EDSTEPS process and partnering with educators to design, implement, and strengthen Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) that improve outcomes for all students.



GUEST PRESENTER

Kimberly Brown

Consultant

State Support Team Region 11

SUMMIT SESSION

Adolescent Literacy and the Science of Reading

Kimberly Brown earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Secondary Education from James Madison University and a Master of Science of Curriculum and Instruction from Western Governors University. She has dedicated more than 30 years to improving adolescent literacy and instructional practice.

She began her career teaching high school English Language Arts in Virginia and Ohio and later served as a Literacy Coach in Parma City School District and an Instructional Coach in Shaker Heights City School District. While living in Alabama, she served as a secondary literacy lead with the Alabama State Department of Education. Kimberly currently supports districts through State Support Team Region 11 in implementing Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Supports and evidence-based literacy practices.



GUEST PRESENTER

Maria L. Markakis

Managing Partner

PKM Law Firm

SUMMIT SESSION

Legal Updates

Maria Markakis is the Managing Partner at PKM Law Firm and has provided legal counsel to numerous community schools, sponsors, and management companies for over 25 years. Her areas of focus include general education law, special education law, and labor and employment law.

Maria earned her undergraduate degree with honors (B.S., 1997) from The Ohio State University and her law degree (J.D., 2000) from The Ohio State Moritz College of Law, where she currently serves as a professor teaching Education Law.