



Another Successful Leadership Summit

The latest ASQ Leadership Summit for Superintendents took place June 18-19 in Fort Myers, FL. Ten school districts from across the country were represented, and a total of 50 people attended the two-day event.

The summit followed the theme “Shaping the Future of Education: Leading and Learning for Organizational Excellence” and included three keynote speeches:

- Terry Holliday, superintendent of Iredell-Statesville Schools, which received a 2008 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.
- Mike Miles, superintendent of Harrison School District Two in Colorado Springs, CO.
- Bob Ewy, education performance improvement coach. He was most recently the director of planning and quality programs for Community Consolidated School District 15, which earned a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in 2003.

Leadership coaching

In addition to their keynote speeches, Holliday, Miles and Ewy served as coaches during the workshop-style learning sessions throughout the summit. They sit in on these dialogs and share their personal guidance with smaller, more intimate groups. They engage with the teams and help them overcome resistance and discuss challenges.

The summit’s program is designed to also include time in which administrators meet and discuss their own district’s strategic planning, then meet with other districts to share best practices and challenges and finally get back together with their own administrators to apply their learning.

These breakout groups focused on summit attendees’ greatest challenges in their districts, including:

- Cross functional district relationships.
- Dealing with resistance.
- Process Management.
- In-process Measures.



Leadership Summit attendees each received a copy of Ewy's new book, [*Stakeholder-Driven Strategic Planning in Education: A Practical Guide for Developing and Deploying Successful Long-Range Plans*](#). In addition to his book, Ewy developed a questionnaire for districts to review their performance and to identify where performance might be improved.

The questionnaire, called "Reviewing Organizational Performance," is based on the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence (educational version). After the districts complete the questionnaire, Ewy will put together a report to analyze the results as a free service to summit attendees.

Ken Getkin, chair of the [Education Team Excellence Award](#), gave an overview of what the team award entails. The award presentation, which occurs at the annual [National Quality Education Conference](#) (NQEC), showcases teams excelling in education excellence.

Feedback

Summit attendees provided valuable feedback on the event. There was a statistically significant amount of people finding this year's information even more useful to use in their district than last year, and 100% of attendees answering the questions "Would you recommend the summit?" and "Will you attend next year?" said yes. Other feedback from the summit included:

- "The Education Leadership Summit was a unique opportunity to receive valuable coaching and reflect on the quality process our school district has been undertaking. I have much greater confidence in our next steps because of the summit."
- "It was a big plus to sit down with such leaders."
- "The networking time was very beneficial. Great to see so many districts. Many into systems and continuous improvement work."
- "The summit this year had clear purpose ('process'), laser focus on that purpose, talent that matched, sound interlocking presenter topics."
- "Loved the presenters—fantastic."



In addition to the program, there was a panel discussion during which four education leaders answered two important questions and discussed their answers in depth.

The questions asked were:

1. What is your district doing to support the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act?
2. If you could address the current presidential administration, what would you suggest it focus on to support schools and districts?

The district administrators represented on the panel noted they have seen improvements in areas President Obama and his administration want to see.

Sponsoring the Leadership Summit was Follett Software Co., a subsidiary of Follett Corp., which is a privately held company that provides products, services and solutions to the educational marketplace. Follett Software Co. partners with more than half of America's school districts to help them manage everything from library resources and school assets to information for data-driven decision-making. [Learn more about Follett Software Co.](#)

For more information about the Leadership Summit, visit <http://leadership.asq.org>.