

# PRE-CONFERENCE A

WED, DEC 4 | 8:30AM-11:30AM | SANDSTONE 1456

## RELATIONSHIPS MATTER: EVERY KID, EVERY DAY, WHATEVER IT TAKES

### PRESENTER:

**Dr. Rainey L. Briggs** is listed as one of the 48 Most Influential Black people in the state of Wisconsin 2021 by Madison 365. Dr. Briggs is a dynamic educator who has served as a cultural liaison, teacher, principal, Director of Elementary Education, and currently serves as the **School District Superintendent of Baraboo schools**. As an African American boy growing up in poverty, Dr. Briggs quickly learned how to advocate for himself and others and has carried that passion over into his daily work. Dr. Briggs obtained his degree from Edgewood College and wrote a dissertation on the Factors that Promote or Impeded the Success of African American Males in a Predominately White High School. Dr. Briggs strives to bring a voice to marginalized students and families. As a principal, he collaborated with staff and families to bring the motto "Every kid, Every day, Whatever it Takes" at the forefront of their school and a mission to live by daily.



Dr. Rainey Briggs

Dr. Briggs has worked with many school districts on providing professional development around equity and cultural responsiveness. He is also an adjunct professor at Edgewood College and Viterbo (V (eye) ter Bo) University. Dr. Briggs is a husband to Julie, an educator herself, and the dad to three teenage daughters. When they are not in a gym or on a field, Dr. Briggs and his family enjoy traveling, spending time outdoors, and barbecuing.

### DESCRIPTION:

*Cultivating Meaningful Connections: The Key to Positive School Culture-- Relationships!*

In the dynamic world of education, relationships form the bedrock upon which successful learning experiences are built. Whether it's the bond between staff and students, peer-to-peer interactions, or students advocating for themselves, the quality of our relationships profoundly impacts academic achievement, social-emotional well-being, and the overall school culture. In this immersive pre-conference half-day session, we will embark on an exploration of why relationships matter in education and how we can cultivate stronger and more meaningful connections to enhance student success and well-being. Through thought-provoking discussions, interactive activities, and insightful case studies, participants will gain a deep understanding of the pivotal role relationships play in creating a positive and nurturing school environment. We will delve into the intricacies of building trust, fostering open communication, and promoting a culture of mutual respect and empathy. Participants will learn strategies for strengthening staff-student relationships, fostering a sense of belonging and inclusivity among peers, and empowering students to advocate for their needs effectively. Moreover, we will explore the significance of promoting positive relationships beyond the classroom, involving families and the broader community in the educational journey. Throughout the session, participants will have the opportunity to share their own experiences, challenges, and best practices, creating a collaborative learning experience that encourages the exchange of ideas and the development of practical solutions. By the end of this transformative session, attendees will leave equipped with a comprehensive toolkit of strategies and techniques to cultivate meaningful connections within their school communities. They will gain a renewed appreciation for the power of relationships in shaping positive school culture and be inspired to implement these learnings to create an environment where every student feels valued, supported, and empowered to thrive. Don't miss this invaluable opportunity to invest in the cornerstone of educational success – the relationships that bind us together and propel us towards excellence.

### OBJECTIVES:

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the pivotal role relationships play in academic achievement, social-emotional well-being, and cultivating a positive school culture.
- Develop strategies and techniques for building trust, open communication, mutual respect, and empathy in relationships within school communities.
- Create an action plan for implementing learnings and cultivating meaningful connections that contribute to student success and well-being.



**APPLIES TO ALL GRADE LEVELS**

**ADVANCED OR IN-DEPTH LEARNING**

**REGISTER FOR INDIVIDUAL PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS**