

## 2013 Ceremony Networking Session: Transcript: *Rigor and High Expectations* (2:39)



### [Craig Menzel, Seoul American Middle School, Department of Defense Education](#)

**Activity.** Craig Menzel, Seoul American Middle School. Very simply, we're reading the book *Teach like A Champion*. It's the most practical book I've ever read, and one of the practices is "No opt out." Whenever a child enters your classroom or school, they know there are no passes out. Everybody learns. Everybody completes every assignment. There is no pass to get you out anything.

### [Arlene Wallace, Principal, Mayo High School for Math, Science, and Technology,](#)

**Darlington, SC.** Good morning. My name is Arlene Wallace; I'm the principal of Mayo High School for Math, Science, and Technology. I am from Darlington, SC—about an hour and a half from Myrtle Beach, but we are a rural school district. We are a magnet school where students come from the county. A couple of things that work in my school: One is we have a school—a culture—of high expectations. I expect 100% in whatever they do. I tell our students every day, "You are writing your resume. And the only way you're going to get it is, "Hard work pays off." That's our slogan. I don't care where you come from. I have great teachers and I always let them know that they are the most valuable resource in the classroom. [Applause] We have academic advising, which when we were in school was called homeroom. And you are with your academic advisor for four years. You kind of get a little college feel, where your advisor follows you until you graduate. And those advisors, they are on stage when they graduate, shaking their hand when they cross to get their diploma. We have 100% graduation rate. We have reading every day. Every discipline is responsible for at least 10 to 15 minutes of reading every day. Again, rural students, we've got to put the experience before them so that they can be successful. At my school, not succeeding is not an option. They know that they must be successful.

**Mark Abramovich, Principal, Harmon Middle School, Aurora, OH.** My name is Mark Abramovich, principal of Harmon Middle School in Aurora, OH, just about half hour outside of Cleveland. Every single assignment better apply directly to the curriculum. I better not see

a crossword puzzle or word search, or anything like that to waste their time, my time, paper and all that stuff. But if an assignment's not done, those kids stay in for detention or inside during their lunch time. And we take it all down to the bottom bare bones basic that every single assignment is important to that. And I let the teachers know, let me know if someone is missing an assignment and we'll follow up on that. And it benefits them in that way. And we have been able to develop what's called an Academic Saturday school [and] during the day, before school after school and during lunch. Kids know that if they're in the lunchroom eating lunch or on the playground or whatever, that means they have every assignment done. And when it comes down to it, every teacher, they have 30 kids in the class, they collect 30 assignments. And everyone is on the same page and on board and it really does push things to the next level.