



2014 Annual Conference

Game Changer

Education for a Better Future

Conference Agenda

(subject to change)

Thursday, April 24 – New Program Staff and Board Members

Dolce Norwalk Conference Center

3:30-5:30 pm

Pre-Conference Session

New Executive Director & Program Leader Orientation

New to the network, this workshop is for you. The session will provide a thorough orientation for new Executive Directors, site directors, and board members.

Friday, April 25

A full, hot Breakfast is available at Dolce in J. Sheffield's Restaurant, beginning at 6:30 am

7:00-8:00 am

Conference Registration

8:00-8:30 am

Networking and Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:30 am

Lyn McNaught Awardee Panel

At the top of their game, the outstanding teachers and recipients of the Lyn McNaught Teacher Award will share best practices for creating engaging learning environments.

9:40-10:30 am

Changing the Game - The Future of Horizons National

With 38 programs in 16 states, the Horizons National network footprint is expanding and changing the game for students and families across the country. Horizons National CEO Lorna Smith will provide a big-picture look at the growth trends and future goals of Horizons National.

10:45-11:30 am

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- **Taking the Game to your Community with Strategic Communications and Messaging**
Recommended for Executive Directors and Board Members
This session, led by Jennifer Hahn, Senior Vice President at [Fenton Communications](#), will introduce Horizons National's new strategic messaging. Jennifer will guide us through the evolution of this messaging and how it can be integrated into your program's strategic marketing and communications plans.
- **Data at Work – Game Changing Proof**
Recommended for Program Leaders and Required for Reading Specialists
Faye Bowman, Horizons National Senior Data Manager, will provide an overview of network-wide assessment results. Jenny Leger, Horizons National Program Specialist, will discuss creative ways data can be used to guide instruction and develop resources.



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Friday, April 25 (continued)

- 11:30 am – 12:15 pm **Reading Specialist Training - Best Practices in Literacy Instruction**
Required for Reading Specialists
The Kindergarten through third grade Literacy working group will lead a panel discussing best practices used in their programs, including time and resource management.
- 11:30 am – 12:15 pm **Partnership Overview of Concentric and Horizons**
Recommended for Executive Directors, Board Members, and Program Leaders
The research team from [Concentric Research and Evaluation](#) will present the goals and methods of the Wallace Foundation-funded feasibility study for a possible RCT longitudinal study, looking at long-term outcomes for our students. This session will provide an overview of how affiliates may be involved and set the tone for smaller focus group discussions to be held on Saturday.
- 12:15 – 1:45 pm **Working Lunch - Game Changers in Action**
Network with your peers while participating in roundtable discussions focused on a specific topic. *Roundtable Topics include: fundraising, expansion, swimming, research, evaluation and assessment, nutrition, high school programs, and middle grades.*
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
- **Common Core: Changing the Game in Education**
Recommended for Executive Directors and Program Leaders
This interactive session will look deeply at the relationship between Common Core State Standards and Horizons. We will discuss the natural fit between Horizons and CCSS and how our colleagues in summer and out-of-school-time learning are integrating CCSS into their programming.
 - **Sustainability: Long-range Planning and Collaboration with Horizons National**
Recommended for Board Members
This session will provide a look at creative ways to plan and fund the future of your program.
- 2:00 – 3:15 pm **The Roles of the Reading Specialist**
Required for Reading Specialists
Reading specialists wear many hats: trainer, tester, and demonstrator. This session will share tips and techniques for balancing the functions and the relationships between the Executive Director and Reading Specialist.
- 3:15 – 4:30 pm **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
- **Horizons National Board Meeting**
Recommended for Affiliate Board Members and Executive Directors
You are invited to observe the first hour of the Horizons National Board meeting.
 - **Common Core Instructional Practices**
Recommended for Program Leaders and Required for Reading Specialists
Veteran Reading Specialists and Lyn McNaught Award Recipients will demonstrate data-driven and Common Core aligned lessons.



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6:00 pm

Networking Reception

7:00 pm

Annual Dinner Celebration

We will celebrate our work and how it is changing the game for students and families.



Dinner Key Note Speaker

You are sure to be inspired by Ralph Smith, Senior Vice President of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and managing director for the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, who will be our Keynote Speaker at the Annual Dinner on Friday, April 25. [Click here to learn more about Ralph.](#)



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Saturday, April 26

A full, hot Breakfast is available at Dolce in J. Sheffield's Restaurant, beginning at 6:30 am

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Reading Specialist Training

Required for Reading Specialists

This hands-on session will walk new Reading Specialists through the use of DIBELS synching laptops, iPads, or iPhones to the Amplify system.

Experienced Reading Specialists will share lessons gleaned from the working group and review resources available online.

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Shaping the Future of Horizons

Recommended for Affiliate Board Chairs, Executive Directors, and Program leaders

This is your time to share your visions for the future of the Horizons National network. You will participate in rotating focus group discussions that will allow you to share your experience and perspective as we determine the long-term strategic direction of our network. Focus groups will be facilitated by outside partners.

- Concentric Research and Evaluation -Diving deeper into the potential for a longitudinal study
- Fenton Communications -Strategic communications and messaging in action
- Root Cause- What will Horizons National Affiliate Support look like in the future? How do we maintain high quality and continue to serve more students?

12:30 – 2:30 pm

Closing Luncheon: Go Forth and Change the Game!

We will end the 2014 Annual Conference with an energizing luncheon. Horizons National Board Chair and Host of Bloomberg EDU, Jane Williams, will share how she sees Horizons in the context of education trends and what is in store for national education reform efforts. New Haven Register reporter, Brian Charles, will discuss the ways in which Horizons National can be a game changer in providing our students with a path toward achieving the American dream.

Thank you for joining us for the 2014 Annual Conference!