



SESSION DESCRIPTIONS – SPRING 2019 MEETING

Keynote Speaker

We plan to announce our keynote speaker shortly!

Size-Alike Session

This session will provide an opportunity for representatives from our large, medium, and small school districts to meet in groups according to district size. Groups will participate in a facilitated conversation regarding an issue in urban special education and discuss how the district has worked to address challenges around that issue.

Concurrent Presentations

Colleagues in our member districts will present on *The Power of Social and Emotional Learning: “A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination” (Nelson Mandela)*. These sessions are designed as an opportunity learn more about each other's successes and challenges and to start the conversations for future collaboration.

Consultancy Sessions with Pittsburgh Public Schools

These sessions will provide us with an opportunity to serve as consultants or “critical friends” to our colleagues in Pittsburgh Public Schools. We have invited leadership from our host district to present a dilemma that they would like our participants to consider and on which to share their experience and expertise. We will be guiding participants through a facilitated protocol where district leaders might learn how others would advise they respond to the specific areas of need. At the same time that we are supporting our colleagues, we believe that all participants benefit from the sharing and bring home new strategies and ideas.

Partner/Sponsor Expo

During this time, our partners and sponsors showcase their products. We are proud of our vendors and every company that supports the Urban Collaborative is promoting a service or product that we believe is useful to our members. Speak with the representatives during this time and learn what they have to offer. Ask them to develop what you need. Take advantage of the time they are here to make these connections.

Partner Focus Groups

Our partners conduct focus groups to introduce participants to their products and services, while concurrently collecting feedback from school district leaders on the effectiveness of their products and services. These sessions are designed to showcase our partners’ expertise as well as for participants to discuss their needs.

Town Hall

Town hall meetings present an opportunity to come together to build our knowledge and discuss with colleagues issues affecting the larger educational contexts in general, and in particular, special education. Topics in the past have included disproportionate representation, immigration, restraint and seclusion, and gun violence.

World Café

We devote this session to the theme of our Fall 2019 Member Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, hosted by Chicago Public Schools. Using the World Café protocol (www.theworldcafe.com), the World Café provides an opportunity for meeting participants to divide into smaller groups to converse, share challenges, and explore questions that will help frame the theme for our upcoming meeting.