



Superintendent Study Council Spring 2023 Program

Program Theme: **Thinking Systemically for Executive Leadership**

In person meetings at Shippensburg University ~ District registrations at the links below
Session descriptions on next pages

Facilitator: Dr. Rhonda, Professor, Shippensburg University

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Location</u>
February 1, 2023	Book Discussion: <i>A Search for Common Ground</i>	Tuscarora Room (in Reisner Dining Hall)

Facilitator: Dr. Rhonda Brunner, Associate Professor, Shippensburg University

[Registration Link 2/1/2023](#)



<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Location</u>
February 22, 2023	Systems Thinking	Tuscarora Room (in Reisner Dining Hall)

Presenter: Amy Morton: Systems Design Specialist, National Center for Education and the Economy

[Registration Link for 2/22/23](#)



<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Location</u>
March 1, 2023	Frank Conversations About	Tuscarora Room (in Reisner Dining Hall)

Facilitator: Dr. Travis Waters, Associate Professor, Shippensburg University

[Registration Link for 3/1/2023](#)



March 22, 2023 Exemplary Programs
Tuscarora Room, Reisner Dining Hall, Shippensburg University
Registration Forms sent to districts



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Facilitator: **Dr. Rhonda Brunner**

Date: February 1, 2023, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Book Discussion: *A Search for Common Ground*: By Frederick M. Hess and Pedro A. Noguera

At a time of bitter national polarization, there is a critical need for leaders who can help us better communicate with one another. In *A Search for Common Ground*, Rick Hess and Pedro Noguera, who have often fallen on opposing sides of the ideological aisle over the past couple of decades, candidly talk through their differences on some of the toughest issues in K–12 education today—from school choice to testing to diversity to privatization. They offer a sharp, honest debate that digs deep into their disagreements, enabling them to find a surprising amount of common ground along the way. Written as a series of back-and-forth exchanges, this engaging book illustrates a model of responsible, civil debate between those with substantial, principled differences. It is also a powerful meditation on where 21st-century school improvement can and should go next.

This book discussion is intended for district-level leaders. Information will be emailed to registered participants to provide context and guide their reading. The February 1st session will be held in-person on the Shippensburg University campus to debrief on book content and to dialogue about implications for district leaders. Lunch is included.

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Book discussion

11:00 AM –12:00 PM Lunch and continued conversation

Book ordering information: <https://www.tcpres.com/a-search-for-common-ground-9780807765166>

Free Shipping Code: TCP2022

Dr. Rhonda Brunner is an Associate Professor of Educational Leadership at Shippensburg University, where she teaches aspiring and practicing school and district leaders. Dr. Brunner brings to her university position administrative experience in rural, urban, and suburban school districts. Prior to beginning her tenure at Shippensburg University Dr. Brunner served as Assistant Executive Director at the Capital Area Intermediate Unit. Previous administrative roles include Superintendent of Schools and Assistant Superintendent at West Perry School District and leadership positions at West Shore School District and Harrisburg School District.

Presenter: **Amy Morton**

Date: February 22, 2023, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Systems Thinking

Amy Morton with over 39 years of experience in education will present and lead a discussion on thinking systemically for executive leadership. The landscape of education is changing rapidly and superintendents need visionary thinking that impacts the entire organization to provide continuous student growth in a time of competition, politics, and changing demographics.

Amy C. Morton has served in local, state and national education roles over the past 39 years. She is currently the System Design Specialist for the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE) and serves as one of their national facilitators for programs that engage school leaders in strategic thinking and system design to achieve equity and excellence for all students. Amy spent several years working for the PA Department of Education, including Executive Deputy Secretary (Chief of Staff) under Governor Corbett, Deputy Secretary for K-12 Education under Governor Rendell, and Bureau Director for Curriculum under Governor Ridge. Amy led the Capital Area Intermediate Unit as Executive Director after serving as



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Curriculum Specialist, Director of Education Services, and Assistant Executive Director. Her career began as a high school social studies teacher after graduating from Dickinson College in Carlisle. She earned her M.S.Ed. from McDaniel College and her Superintendent Letter of Eligibility from Shippensburg University. Amy has taught curriculum courses for Penn State York, York College, Wilkes University and Wilson College as an adjunct professor. When not working, Amy enjoys hiking in the Fall and Spring, any type of water ride including the ocean, and listening to audiobooks downloaded from the public library as she travels throughout the commonwealth.

Facilitator: Dr. Travis Waters

Date: March 1, 2023, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Frank Conversations About Learning Loss Post COVID

School districts and students across the country have experienced the effects of learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The most recent standardized test scores suggest that Pennsylvania is experiencing this national trend. This session is designed to have a frank conversation on learning and what districts are doing about it. Through a fishbowl format, district leaders can share what they are doing about learning loss and at the same time learn from each other.

Dr. Waters has more than 24 years of experience in urban and urban fringe public school districts. He has experience as a classroom teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent. Most recently, Dr. Waters held the position of superintendent of the Steelton-Highspire School district. Additionally, he was appointed as the Chief Recovery Officer for the Harrisburg School District. He also serves on the Dauphin County Mental Health/Autism/Developmental Programs Advisory Board, the Penn State Parents and Children Together Community Action Board, President of the Roller Nation Foundation, and the Education Committee for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Capital Region, and is on the Board of Directors for Uplift Inc. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Cheyney University, a Master of Education in Teaching and Curriculum and Principal's certification from the Pennsylvania State University. He also earned a Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility and Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Shippensburg University.