



HELPING TEACH

TEACHERS

Entrepreneurship Education: Enspire Conference Inspires Area Teachers

The third annual Enspire Conference hosted 375 educators — including 84 CTU teachers — at the Cleveland Marriott East on November 3-4, 2017, to learn about entrepreneurship education and experiences. Debbie Paden, CTU's Educational Issues Chairperson, made special arrangements with the conference organizers for many interested CTU teachers to attend, including paying the standard registration fee for those who registered using the CTU code.

The Enspire Conference, part of the Young Entrepreneur Institute at University School, is a creativity workshop for educators centered on expanding entrepreneurship education. The annual conference includes inspiring speakers, a take-home tool kit, ideas to fund classroom projects, peer-to-peer learning with curriculum provided, and ongoing professional development throughout the year.

This year's conference opened at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, a school day. Teachers from some CMSD schools attended the Friday session, but that had been previously arranged with their school and administrator, to allow them to attend during the day. Friday afternoon's hands-on workshop led by Stanford University design school's Rich Cox focused on teaching creativity, with exercises and examples of "how to get ideas out of your head and into the world."

CTU and Enspire worked out a special arrangement to allow many other interested CTU members to attend on Saturday only. Saturday's 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. session began with an elaborate continental breakfast, followed by a lively presentation on leadership from John Carroll University's Scott Allen that had everyone in the room on their feet and moving.

A conference highlight was the day's speaker, Charles Best, the CEO and founder of DonorsChoose.org. The successful entrepreneur (and former teacher) told about founding the popular online e-crowdfunding organization that allows individuals to help classrooms in need. Mr. Best and the Burton D. Morgan Foundation generously provided every attendee a \$100 voucher to use to invest in a classroom project through DonorsChoose.org.

"Partnering with YEI to make special arrangements for our CTU members to participate in the Enspire Conference," said Ms. Paden, "and receive \$100 vouchers to spend through DonorsChoose.org on their own or a colleague's project, provided a great experience for CTU teachers and ultimately benefited Cleveland students."

Participants also received a free book for their classroom, *The Startup Club: The Big Idea*, by J.J. Ramberg, Melanie Staggs, & S. Taylor. Other conference highlights, according to Ms. Paden, were hearing student entrepreneur pitches, shopping at the Young Entrepreneur Market, and presentations from 26 teachers and program leaders sharing best practices in K-12 education.

Since she leads the Resident Educator Program, Ms. Paden split her voucher be-

tween two Cleveland Teachers. She donated \$50 to Toiya Williams-Washington, a Fullerton middle school teacher, whose project "Celebrate Diversity" was in need of a Button Badge Maker Punch Press Machine, a printer with paper and ink, and button-making pieces.

"I was so excited to tell my students about this wonderful gift and get them working on this great project," said Mrs. Williams-Washington. "This project has so many possibilities to allow students to see the difference they can make in the world. The button maker is highly coveted among the students."

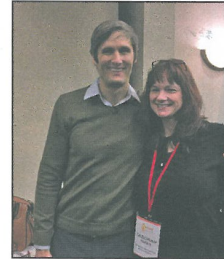
While a button maker may sound trivial, it is one more tool our school can use to create a visual reminder that we are a community here. Already, students have used it to create buttons with sayings and pictures that they like. They are also creating buttons to celebrate the diversity that we have in the school. I speak on behalf of the entire student body when I say that we greatly appreciate this gift!"

The other \$50 went to Kimber Pappas, a primary grade teacher at Case who created a project for her students called "Chart your Course to Success."

"I appreciate the opportunity that CTU provided to teachers to attend the Envision Conference," said Stephanie Fialko, teacher and CTU Chapter Chair at Paul Dunbar. "It was a great opportunity to network with community partners, and hear how they can help us to bring more opportunities to our students. The presenters at the roundtable discussion session had information on how to secure funding for field trips, guest speakers, and materials to enhance instruction."

"The keynote speaker, Mr. Best, was

Charles Best, founder and CEO of DonorsChoose.org, discusses his online crowd-funding organization with Debbie Paden, CTU Educational Issues Chairperson.



an inspiration, and his \$100 voucher for DonorsChoose.org was very generous. His non-profit has helped to bridge a gap that was typically only filled by teachers. Thank you so much, CTU!"

For more information about the Enspire Conference and the work of the Young Entrepreneur Institute, visit their website at www.youngentrepreneurinstitute.org.

YEI History

The Young Entrepreneur Institute (YEI) was founded by Greg Malkin in 2005, with its first activities at University School in 2006. Mr. Malkin was a successful entrepreneur himself for over 30 years, and believes "future generations' success rests with experiencing



CTU teachers enjoy the 2017 Enspire Conference, a creativity workshop that expands entrepreneurship education and activities into their classrooms.

entrepreneurship early in life." He believes connecting entrepreneurship education and experience with math and writing can make those subjects more relevant to students. He also believes that qualities like perseverance, hard work, managing adversity, overcoming failure, and problem solving are qualities needed for success both in entrepreneurship and in life.

YEI expanded beyond University School in 2008. Currently, it has partnerships with many schools and organizations throughout the northeast Ohio region. It provides thousands of children and their teachers with access to entrepreneurial education and experience.

YEI's funding partners include the Burton D. Morgan Foundation, Hudson Community Foundation, Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, Nordson, University School, and The Veale Foundation. YEI also works in conjunction with numerous community and school partners, including CMSD.



CTU teachers Yolanda Ryzner and Kelli McCorvey from Mary Bethune and Tenisha Willis-Patrick from East Clark thank Mr. Best, who along with the Burton D. Morgan Foundation, donated a \$100 gift card to each attendee to use for a classroom project.

