January 2014

Inspired by a book gifted to me last month, I have promised to become a better listener in 2014. My resolution is impacting the 2014 Emerging Issues Forum, Teachers and the Great Debate. Over a 29-year history, thousands have come to know the Forum as a convening that offers new and diverse ideas that inspire us all to “Think and do.” However, this year, expect a few new features to help us listen, learn and lead like never before. These features include:

- such a remarkable variety of opinions, you will be afraid to miss a moment of any speaker.
- greater opportunities for your active listening through questions to the speakers.
- meaningful time to reflect with other attendees on what you have heard.
- technology that serves to augment, rather than distract, from speakers.

Who else will be there? Some of this year’s speakers include:

- North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory
- Ron Clark, Founder and Mathematics Teacher, The Ron Clark Academy
- Rick Hess, Director of Education Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute
- Bryan Hassel, Co-Director, Public Impact
- Dan Pink, author of Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us
- Diane Ravitch, Research Professor, New York University and Author of Reign of Error
- Amanda Ripley, Author, The Smartest Kids in the World and How they Got that Way
- Pasi Sahlberg, Director General, Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation in Helsinki, Finland
- Tennessee Governor William Haslam

Click here to view the agenda.

Registration for this year’s Forum is at historic highs with an unbelievably good mix of sectors, regions of the state, and ideology. Also, due to the generosity of the Belk Foundation, Goodnight Educational Foundation, and the Child Trust Foundation, we will be blessed to have in our midst teachers and administrators representing traditional public, charter and private schools from nearly every county in the state.

This February is sure to bring the most important Forum yet, and I look forward to listening to YOUR voice as we identify the best opportunities for North Carolina to recruit, retain and support world-class teachers.

If you are not registered, please go ahead and do so. We have extended our capacity, and still have less than two hundred seats remaining.

Anita