

Dr. Mark D. Benigni
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INTRODUCTION

- Experienced public educator who has led both individual schools and a school system to increased student academic and social-emotional growth through collaboration and innovation.
- Experience includes teaching courses at a community college and doctoral courses in leadership at a state university.
- Civic experiences include serving as Mayor of the City of Meriden for four terms, as well as a citywide city councilor for four years.
- Led the Meriden Public Schools to be selected as a member of the League of Innovative Schools; featured for *Schools That Work* by Edutopia; recognized for having a Blue Ribbon School and Model School by the International Center for Leadership in Education, as well as for being selected as a Google Reference District.
- Led the Meriden Public Schools to receive a National School Board Association 2020 Magna Award for equity access and a 2016 Magna Award; the Learning Counsel 2018 Digital Curriculum Top 10 Strategy Award; a Consortium for School Networking 2017 Team Award; and a 2018 and 2016 District of Distinction Award from *District Administration*.
- *Education Week* 2015 “Leaders to Learn From” Award and the 2019 EmpowerED Superintendent Award recipient.
- Member of the Consortium for School Networking Superintendent Advisory Panel, consulting member for the Education Research & Development Institute, and a member of *The Superintendent* Journal Advisory Council.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Meriden Public Schools Superintendent of Schools, Meriden, Connecticut, 2010 to Present

Dr. Benigni leads a diverse urban school district with over eight thousand five hundred students to some of the highest test scores and the lowest suspension rates in district history. During his tenure, the Meriden Public Schools launched expanded learning time elementary schools, where students attend school one hundred minutes more per day. The district also approved Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Guidelines, launched one-to-one device programs at all schools, began elementary and middle school enrichment programs and created an autism center. The Meriden Public Schools was recognized as a model district for the state in recognition of their collaboration between union and management and their innovative practices, including the building of two brand new student-centered high schools.

Adjunct Professor, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, Connecticut and Middlesex Community College, Meriden, Connecticut

Dr. Benigni brought his extensive proven school leadership experience to the college classroom. Courses that covered school finance and educational leadership provided students with an opportunity to receive practical examples and experiences from a current practicing superintendent. Coursework was grounded in theory, but always practical and designed to assist educational leaders in their day-to-day work.

Principal, Cromwell High School, Cromwell, Connecticut, 2008-2010

He began an in-school suspension program and a credit recovery program to keep students on track and learning. Subsequently, a math lab was created where students could utilize study time to improve their math skills and assure that they met all necessary standards. Climate and culture were enhanced by the creation of a Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) system and a monthly awards program. As principal of a comprehensive high school, Dr. Benigni embraced an extensive student support network.

Assistant Principal, Berlin High School, Berlin, Connecticut, 2000-2008

Dr. Benigni was described as a fair, consistent disciplinarian by the students of Berlin High School. Dr. Benigni viewed discipline as another opportunity to teach. He strived to have students acknowledge their inappropriate behavior and create a plan to avoid recurrences. Dr. Benigni also was the administrator in charge of the district's NET Program. The NET Program was a district-wide special education program for students who were struggling in the mainstream setting. A key addition to the program was a paid internship.

Special Education Teacher, Orville H. Platt High School, Meriden, Connecticut, 1996-2000

Dr. Benigni began his career in education as a teacher of students with special needs. Whether working with students with learning disabilities or students with emotional disorders, Dr. Benigni personalized the learning experience for all of his students and created a positive, safe learning space. His creative lesson designs and pace of instruction kept students engaged and on task throughout the lesson.

Mayor, City of Meriden, Meriden, Connecticut, 2001-2008

As the chief elected official for the City of Meriden, a city of over fifty-eight thousand residents, Dr. Benigni was entrusted with officiating at all City Council meetings, approving effective City budgets, representing the City at all formal affairs, as well as numerous community engagements. In addition, Dr. Benigni was the spokesperson for the City and tasked with designing a community engagement and notification plan. Three major accomplishments during his tenure were the construction of a new Lincoln Middle School, the building of a first-class community sports complex, and the restoration of the Augusta Curtis Cultural Center.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Education, Educational Leadership, 2001

The University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut

Master of Arts, Special Education, 1996

The University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut

Bachelor of Business Administration, Management, 1993

Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, Connecticut

Current Certifications:

Superintendent of Schools; Intermediate Administrator and Supervisor; Comprehensive Special Ed., Pre-K-12.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Lifelong resident of Meriden with two children: Bria (ninth grade) and Blake (eighth grade), who are succeeding in their neighborhood public school. I am fortunate to have a supportive and loving family who provide guidance and encouragement.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- President-Elect for the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents
- Co-Chair of the Connecticut Association of Urban Superintendents
- College Board Connecticut Superintendents' Advisory Member
- Connecticut Center for School Change Superintendents' Network Member
- Guidepoint Network Member
- American Consortium for Equity in Education Member
- South Central Area Superintendents' Association Member
- Community Schools Superintendents' Leadership Council Member
- Middlesex Community College Foundation Corporator; formerly Vice-Chair
- State Education Resource Center; formerly Chair
- American Association of School Administrators' Governing Board Member (Term ended June, 2015)
- LEAD-CONNECTICUT/ Human Capital Network Member, 2015
- State of Connecticut Education Cost Sharing Taskforce Member (Final Report-January, 2013)

PUBLISHED BOOK

Benigni, M. (2017). Leading with Innovation and Inspiration, Beau Bassin 71504, Mauritius: Scholars' Press

Benigni, M. & Petrosky, S. (2011). Mentoring Matters: A Toolkit for Organizing and Operating Student Advisory Programs, Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Education

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- “Urban Public Education: The Great Equalizer Non-Believers Need Not Apply”. *Equity & Access PreK-12* (November/December, 2020):14-19.
- “Valuing Your Diverse Staff: Implement an Affinity Group in Your School District Now”. *AASPA Perspective* (November 25, 2020): 14-16.
- “Mitigating COVID: What’s working in our schools”. *District Administration* (November 13, 2020).
- “Vigilance During the Superintendent Search—Candidates for top school system posts have much to consider to ensure the next job is the right job”. *School Administrator* (November, 2020): 36-39.
- “Distance Learning: The Power of Teachers and Technology”. *Educator Insights*, University of Phoenix, College of Education (2020 Summer Edition: Volume 3, Issue 4): 4-6.
- “A Culture of Success for All at Meriden Public Schools”. *Equity & Access PreK-12* (June, 2020): 24-29.
- “How to create a distance learning plan for all students”. *District Administration* (May, 2020).
- “Coronavirous: Keeping all Stakeholders Informed—Stay calm, be cautious, provide clarity and plan conscientiously—all to point the community in the right direction”. *Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Journal* (April, 2020).

- “Coronavirous: Keeping all Stakeholders Informed—Stay calm, be cautious, provide clarity and plan conscientiously—all to point the community in the right direction”. *District Administration* (March 17, 2020).
- “Increasing Job Satisfaction and Realizing Budget Savings”. *School Business Affairs* (March, 2020): 8-10.
- “Maximize Time, encourage Efficiencies and Secure Talent”. *AASPA Perspective* (February-April, 2020): 14-16.
- “Shine the Spotlight: Marketing your district means showing your good work”. *National School Board Association* (February, 2020): 31-33.
- “When Our Teachers Learn, Our Students Learn: Creating a Culture of Coaching and Collaboration”. *The Edvocate* (January 13, 2020).
- “Standardized testing is not the enemy: Balancing the power of learning with the pressure of testing”. *District Administration* (Online Version, November 19, 2019).
- “Hiring the Right Chief Technology Officer to Lead Change”. *AASPA Perspective* (August-October, 2019): 22-23.
- “Making the Link to Career and Life Success: Can K-12 and Higher Education Get it Right?” *The Edvocate* (July 16, 2019).
- “Communicate–Collaborate–Create: Preparing Students for Jobs That Don't Even Exist”. *Teaching4Tomorrow: Ed Tech Ideas & Strategies Worth Sharing* (June 14, 2019).
- “Leadership Levers: Your Path to Greater Success”. *The Superintendent Journal: The Superintendent Voice* (January 16, 2019).
- “Foundations to the Rescue: How to maximize funding, from nonpublic sources, to aid district innovation”. *District Administration* (December, 2018): 93.
- “Creative Staffing & Redefining Roles to Ensure College & Career Readiness”. *AASPA Perspective* (September, 2018):24-25.
- “Keeping the Arts live: A Connecticut district invests in the arts during challenging budget times”. *American School Board Journal* (February, 2018).
- “Beating the Odds in Your Neighborhood Public School: It Starts with Staffing!”. *AASPA Perspective* (November, 2017):16:19.
- “Meriden Public Schools: Here, Students Succeed”. *edu@scholastic* (September 14, 2017).
- “When Our Teachers Learn, Our Students Learn: Creating High Quality Substitute Teacher Programs”. *AASPA Best Practices* (May-June, 2017): 12-15.
- “Innovating Through District-Union Collaboration: Memorandums of Understanding Help District Leaders and Union Members Achieve Flexibility Around Time and Money Issues”. *Edutopia Schools That Work: School Leadership* (May 3, 2017).
- “Savings and Support: Meeting the Needs of All Students”. *School Business Affairs* (April, 2017): 23-26.
- “5 Reasons why blended learning programs fail-and how to save them”. *eSchool News* (April 13, 2017).
- “Meeting the Needs of our Students: Creating a Diverse Teaching Staff”. *AASPA Perspective* (November, 2016-January, 2017): 28:31.
- “When our Teachers Learn, Our Students Learn”. *Albert Shanker Institute: Shanker Blog* (November 1, 2016).
- “It Takes a Village: A Connecticut district embraces community schools, bringing in outside partners to help students and families”. *American School Board Journal* (December, 2015): 32-34.
- “School district-teachers union collaboration works for kids”. *THE HILL* (November 20, 2015).
- “Putting the Fun Back in Education: Incorporating Enrichment into your Daily Instruction”. *Heinemann.com* (October, 2015):1-3.

- “Student-Designed Personalized Learning”. *School Administrator* (November, 2015): 26-30.
- “Meeting Common Core Standards through Teamwork and Teacher Development”. *Scholars Strategy Network* (August, 2015).
- "Beating the Odds". *Scholastic.com* (Online June 17, 2015).
- "School Community Collaboration and Peer Observation as Levers to Student Success". *The Advocate* (April, 2015).
- "Unleashing students from the grip of poverty: Providing a high-quality education—against the odds—for all students". *District Administration* (April, 2015): 63.
- "How schools break the grip of poverty: Providing a high-quality education—against the odds—for all students". *District Administration* (Online Version April, 2015).
- "Putting Technology to Work in the Classroom and Beyond". *School Business Affairs* (March, 2015): 18-20.
- "A Leader Please . . . Finding Effective Leadership in Uncertain Times". *AASA National Superintendent E-Journal* (July, 2014).
- "A Leader Please . . . Building a Diverse Applicant Pool". *American Association of School Personnel Administrators Best Practices* (May/June/July, 2014): 14-16.
- "The Many Benefits of More Time in School". *Scholars Strategy Network* (December, 2013).
- "The Supportive Leader". *American School Board Journal* (July, 2012): 23-24.
- "The Inspirational Leader". *School Administrator* (May, 2012): 37-39.
- "Separate But Equal". *American School Board Journal* (May, 2010): 34-35.
- "Weaving Together Students Supports". *Principal Leadership* (January, 2010): 53-57.
- "No Safety Net Required". *Principal Leadership* (April, 2009): 22-27.
- "No Safety Net Required". *American School Board Journal* (Online Version September, 2008).
- "The Compassionate Leader". *American School Board Journal* (March, 2007):31-32.
- "Missing the Boat?". *Montana ASCA* (September, 2006): 4.
- "Upbeat Outreach". *American School Board Journal* (March, 2006): 40-42.
- "The Need for School Resource Officer". *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* (May, 2004): 22-24.
- "When Cops Go to School". *Principal Leadership* (January, 2004): 43-47.
- "Need for SRO's on the Rise". *Connecticut Police Chief*, Vol. 19, No. 2. (Autumn, 2002): 93-97.

MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

- “Mitigating COVID-29: What is Working in the Meriden Public Schools,” (with Robert E. Kosienski, Jr.), Record Journal, December 13, 2020.
- "Why the Partnership for Connecticut is Right For Connecticut," Newstimes, October 24, 2019.
- "Urban Schools Face Unique Challenges," CT Viewpoints, November 29, 2018.
- "Meriden's College Opportunity," (with Steven Minkler), Record Journal, February 2, 2018.
- "Meriden Schools Reap Benefits from Longer Days," Hartford Courant, November 12, 2013.
- "Proud of our Schools and Community" (with Mark Hughes), Record Journal, January 9, 2013.
- "Affording a Better Quality of Life" (with Mark Hughes), Record Journal, February 13, 2011.
- "NCLB, Poverty, Public Education" (with Mark Hughes), Record Journal, July 7, 2011.
- "Professional Learning Communities: Coming Soon to a School Near You," The Middletown Press. March 12, 2009.
- "Equity in the Standardized Testing Craze," Record Journal, July 19, 2008.
- "In-school Suspension Programs," Record Journal, January 7, 2009.
- "Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow," Record Journal, October 15, 2008.

PRESENTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

- “Solving the Challenges of Digital Equity—The Superintendent’s Perspective,” AASA’s National Conference on Education, Scheduled Virtual, February 19, 2021.
- “What Superintendents Need From Their Technology Leaders,” AASA’s National Conference on Education, Scheduled Virtual, February 19, 2021.
- “What Superintendents Need From Their Technology Leaders: Collaborating For Success,” ISTE20 Live, Scheduled Virtual, December 4, 2020.
- “Thought Leader Sessions: Leading Personalization of Learning,” AASA’s National Conference on Education, San Diego, CA, 2020.
- “Smart Districts Session with Getting Smart’s Tom Vander Ark,” CoSN Annual Conference, Portland, OR, 2019.
- “What Superintendents Need From Their Technology Leaders: Collaborating for Success,” CoSN Annual Conference, Portland, OR, 2019.
- “Ensuring Digital Equity for Tomorrow’s Leaders,” CoSN Annual Conference, Portland, OR, 2019.
- “Breaking Down Barriers: Ensuring Success for All,” Connecticut State Department of Education School Discipline Collaborative, Hartford, CT, 2019.
- “Beyond Bandwidth and Barriers: Leading Your Students to Success,” Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents, Igniting Innovation Conference, Bridgeport, CT, 2019.
- “College for All: It Starts With You,” College Board Regional Forum, Boston, MA, 2018.
- “Beyond Bandwidth and Barriers: Ensuring Success for All Students,” Keynote Speaker, The Learning Counsel Gathering and National Awards Conference, Houston, TX, 2018.
- “Using Next Generation Accountability Results in the District and Community,” 2018 Performance Matters Forum, Cromwell, CT, 2018.
- “Workplace Challenges and Opportunities in the New Economy—Skills and Strategies,” 2018 American Arbitration Association National Labor Conference, San Diego, CA, 2018.
- “Student-Centered Learning: Engaging and Motivating High School Students,” NetStat Session, New Britain, CT, 2017.
- “Fireside Chat: How Meriden Public Schools Keeps Students Safe,” Symposium on Student Safety, West Hartford, CT, 2017.
- “Beating the Odds in Your Neighborhood Public Schools,” Model Schools Conference, Nashville, TN, 2017.
- “Educating the Whole Child: Supporting Students Facing Housing Instability,” Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness 15th Annual Training Institute, Hartford, CT, 2017.
- “Reducing Exclusionary Practices: A Systems Approach Strategies for Success,” Connecticut State Board of Education, Hartford, CT, 2017.
- “What Keeps Superintendents Up at Night?” Consortium for School Networking 2017 Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, 2017.
- “The Winners Circle: Team Award Winners,” Consortium for School Networking 2017 Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, 2017.
- “Branding Your District for Success,” Annual School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT) 67th Annual Conference and Industry Show, Ledyard, CT, 2016.
- “The Data that Matters, Making a Difference for Your Schools,” University of Connecticut Executive Leadership Program, Meriden, CT, 2016.
- “From Design to Implementation: Blending Literacy into Curriculum,” Personalized Learning Summit, Scottsdale, AZ, 2016.

- "Developing the Talent from Within: Building Capacity for Student Success," AASPA Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida, 2016.
- "Leadership for Systems Change and Sustainability of Student-Centered Learning," District Level Systems Change: Innovating, Improving, and Aligning for College and Career Readiness: Nellie Mae Education Foundation, Wakefield, MA, 2016.
- "Professional Learning System in Action: Union/District Collaboration Exemplars Panel: Meriden," Summer Education Academy: AFT Collaborative Network, Linthicum Heights, MD, 2016.
- "Blended Learning: A Team Approach," International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), Denver, CO, 2016.
- "Creating Opportunities for All Learners," Connecticut Council for Education Reform, Rocky Hill, CT, 2016.
- "There is Strength in Collaborative Action," 2015 CABE/CAPSS Convention, Mystic, CT, 2015.
- "Developing the Talent from Within: Building Capacity for Student Success," 2015 CABE/CAPSS Convention, Mystic, CT, 2015.
- "Idea Sharing: Creating Positive School Climates for Students and Staff," Albert Shanker Institute: Creating Safe and Supportive Schools, Washington, D.C., 2015.
- "Developing the Talent from Within: Building the Capacity for Student Success," 77th AASPA Annual Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, 2015.
- "Bridging the Opportunity Gap for Students and Families through Community Schools: A Case Study," Northeast TURN, Cambridge, MA, 2015.
- "Leading Learning through Collaborative Partnerships," Northeast TURN, Cambridge, MA, 2015.
- "Collaboration to Innovation . . . moving a district forward," AFT TEACH, Washington, DC, 2015.
- "Taking the Plunge: Creating High Schools that Support Student-Centered Learning," 11th Annual Summer Leadership Institute, Southbury, CT, 2015.
- "Seeing Results," Tech & Learning Live, Newton, MA, 2015.
- "Engaging and Motivating High School Students through Student-Centered Learning," New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC): High School Redesign in Action, Norwood, MA, 2015.
- "Early Prevention of Bullying and Psychological Disengagement: New Technology to Identify and Guide Social-Emotional Development and Assure Success for all Students," National School Boards Association (NSBA) 75th Annual Conference, Nashville, TN, 2015.
- "Developing the Talent from Within: Building Capacity for Student Success," American Association of School Administrators (AASA) Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, 2015.
- "From Accountability to Innovation," 2014 CABE/CAPSS Convention, Mystic, CT, 2014.
- "Digital Literacy Inspires Reading in the Meriden Public Schools," District Administration Summit, Newport, RI, 2014.
- "Systems Change Panel," Nellie Mae's New Approach in Urban Districts, New Haven, CT, 2014.
- "The Data that Matters: Making a Difference for Your Schools," American Association of School Administrators (AASA) 2014 National Conference on Education, Nashville, TN, 2014.
- "On the Same Page: Effective Implementation of College- and Career-Ready Standards Through Labor-Management Collaboration," American Federation of Teachers, St. Louis, MO, 2014.
- "Transition from School House to Community School," 2014 Community Schools National Forum, Cincinnati, OH, 2014.
- "More Collaboration + More Time = More Learning," Teaching and Learning 2014 Conference, Washington, DC, 2014.
- "Utilizing Data to Improve Student Achievement," UCONN/CAPSS Educational Leadership Cohort, West Hartford, CT, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

- "The Data That Matters: Making a Difference for your Schools," American Association of School Administrators (AASA) Annual Convention, Nashville, TN, 2014.
- "Mandate Relief," Connecticut Education Task Force, Hartford, CT, 2014.
- "The Effects of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on Schools," Witness to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, Washington, DC, 2013.
- "Closing Gaps in Meriden," State of Connecticut Interagency Council for Closing the Achievement Gaps: Chronic Attendance, Hartford, CT, 2013.
- "Teacher-Driven Expanded Learning Time," AFT TEACH, Washington, DC, 2013.
- "The Education System," Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), Southbury, CT, 2013.
- "Leadership Panel and Extended Time Breakout Session," Connecticut Council for Education Reform, New Haven, CT, 2013.
- "Securing Substitute Teachers for Student Success," Sub Solutions National Conference, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, 2012.
- "No Safety Net Required," National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) Annual Convention, Phoenix, AZ, 2010.

GUEST LECTURES

- "Using Data to Drive Innovation", University of Connecticut
- "Educational Leadership", Southern Connecticut State University
- "Supervision of Instruction", Central Connecticut State University
- "School Finance", Southern Connecticut State University
- "School Resource Officers", University of Hartford, Connecticut
- "The Budget Process", Western Connecticut State University

MEDIA PRESENTATIONS

- Education Talk Radio: Pandemic Progress: Lessons Learned, 1/7/2021.
- Education Talk Radio: Back to School Fall 2020, 8/11/20.
- Community Conversation Around School Reopening: United Way, 7/22/2020.
- Community Conversation Around Race and Opportunity: United Way, 7/1/2020.
- The Hour with Jim Pelegriano: 1809, School Violence, 9/14/18.
- Middlesex Community College: Middlesex Moments, 3/22/18.
- The Hour with Jim Pelegriano: 1802, How Connecticut Schools Compare, 2/9/18.
- Getting Smart.com: Getting Smart Podcast, 2/8/18.
- Education Talk Radio: Special Education Redesign, 8/23/17.
- Education Talk Radio: Tech Buddies, 7/19/17.
- The Hour with Jim Pelegriano: 1608, Progress in Education, 8/12/16.
- Education Talk Radio: Student-Centered Learning Coaching, 6/2/16.
- Education Talk Radio: Personalized Learning Experiences and the Student Perspective, 5/24/16.
- The Hour with Jim Pelegriano: 1509, Educational School Models, 9/11/15.
- Education Talk Radio: Personalizing Student Learning and Giving Students Greater Voice, 3/26/14.
- The Hour with Jim Pelegriano: 1309, School Security, 9/13/13.
- Education Talk Radio: Personalized Learning Experiences, 1/3/13.
- The Hour with Jim Pelegriano: 1104, Educational Accountability, 5/13/11.

WEBINARS PRESENTED

- “Special Achievement Spotlight”. The Learning Counsel (December, 2020).
- “Virtual District Leader Panel: Meeting the Challenges of Getting Back to Teaching and Learning in Unprecedented Times”. Imagine Learning (September, 2020).
- “Smart Education Networks by Design: The CoSN SEND Initiative”. CoSN and edWeb.net (July, 2020).
- “The World After Quarantine: Definition of Hybrid Learning”. The Learning Counsel (May, 2020).
- “Meeting the Challenges and Learning from Change”. CSDE Professional Support Series for Districts (April, 2020).
- “Meriden Public Schools’ Distance Learning Plan”. CSDE Professional Support Series for Districts (April, 2020).
- “Leading Digital Learning: Successful Strategies for 1:1 Implementations”. CoSN and edWeb.net (January, 2020).
- “Effective Professional Learning: The Secret Sauce for Successful Classroom Transformations”. CoSN and edWeb.net (December, 2019).
- “How to Become a Student-Centered Learning Ambassador”. Future Ready Schools (September, 2018).
- “Do You Know What Your Students Are Doing Online?” Gaggle (May, 2017).
- “Student-Centered Learning – Taking the Plunge”. Odysseyware (May, 2015).
- “Realizing the Promise of Digital Textbooks”. eSchool News (February, 2014).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Harvard Graduate School of Education, Change Leadership Group, Focus on Accountability Institute
- Center for Performance Assessment, Data Teams Certification
- Connecticut Principals Center, Summer Institutes
- Solution Tree, Professional Learning Communities, Assessment Institute

DISTRICT FEATURES

- “How This District Avoided Disruptions to Learning When Schools Shut Down”. *EdSurge* (September 29, 2020).
- “How students at Meriden Public Schools continued learning during school shutdowns”. *ClassLink* (September 25, 2020).
- “COVID creativity: Connecticut districts swap teachers: Two school districts trade teachers temporarily, and will also share some equity training”. *District Administration* (September 18, 2020).
- “What Summer Schools Learned About the Challenges of Reopening: Across the country, forward-looking districts used summer school to anticipate—and try to solve—some of the issues they’d inevitably face when schools reopened”. *Edutopia* (August 7, 2020).
- “Beating the Odds and Succeeding with Remote Learning”. *ClassLink* (July 9, 2020).
- “Big Impacts Needed Strong Leadership”. *Lumos Learning Whitepaper* by Edward G. Rogoff, Ph.D. (Released July, 2020).
- “It Takes a Village to Train an Effective Principal: Close partnerships with school districts and the state help the University of Connecticut strengthen principal training”. *Wallace Foundation* (June 16, 2020).
- “5 Steps to Curb Cyberattacks in 1-to-1 Computing Schools”. *Education Week* (March 17, 2020).
- “Leaders discuss move toward personalization”. *Education DIVE* (February 18, 2020).

- “Getting Whole Community Buy-in for 1:1 Initiatives”, eSchool News (January 31, 2020).
- "5 Steps to Getting Community Buy-In on Your EdTech Programs". *EdScoop* (January 24, 2020).
- "College and Career Readiness – Increasing Expectations and Supports for All: A Systems Approach to Fostering Equity at Meriden Public Schools". *Connecticut State Department of Education: Learn Together, Grow Together CT – Innovative Promising Practices* (January, 2020).
- "Impact STORIES: Meriden Public Schools, Connecticut". *Imagine Learning* (January, 2020).
- "Meriden Public Schools Upgrades: Cyberattack prevention requires state of the art tools". *CCM Town & County* (December, 2019).
- "Private funding expands student opportunities, but over-reliance could be detrimental". *Education DIVE* (November 29, 2018).
- "ESSA's focus on chronic absenteeism breeds variety of district strategies". *Education DIVE* (November 19, 2018).
- "Education Reimagined: Leading Systemwide Change with the ISTE Standards, Vignettes". ISTE (2018): 27-28.
- "Redbird Professional Learning Helps Meriden Public Schools Embrace Blended Learning and Transform Its Classrooms". *McGraw Hill Education* (Fall, 2018).
- "Leading A Student-Centered Agenda: 10 Lessons from Mark Benigni". *Getting Smart* (February 8, 2018).
- "RISE to the Challenge". *EdTech Focus ON K-12* (Spring 2017): 22-25.
- "For successful blended learning, encourage ownership by teachers, students". *Education DIVE* (April 13, 2017).
- "4 Things to Learn About Digital Transformation from Meriden Public Schools". *EdTech Focus on K-12* (March 9, 2017).
- "What Effective Blended Learning Looks Like". *THE Journal* (January 11, 2017).
- "Collaboration Launches Common Core in Conn. District". *Title I Admin.com* (May 11, 2016).
- “It’s about Time”. *Scholastic Administrator* (Fall, 2015).
- "Want to personalize learning? Try personalizing PD first". *eSchool News* (March 20, 2015).
- "Collaborative Culture Fuels Meriden's Blended Success: Opinion: Vander Ark on Innovation". *Education Week* (March 23, 2015).
- "It's About Time: Lessons from Expanded Learning Time in Meriden, Conn." *AFT/MFT: A Handbook for Unions and Districts* (AFT 2014).
- "Moving Meriden: In Connecticut, a Road Map for Union-District Relations". *American Educator* (Winter 2013-2014): 29-35.

DISTRICT FEATURED WEBSITE

The Connecticut Council for Education Reform partnered with the Meriden Public Schools to create the Connecticut School Data Systems Guidebook. This online guidebook features the following four chapters: District Performance, School Performance, Technology Infrastructure, and Meriden Innovations. The purpose of this guide is to facilitate discussions within a school district about their data and IT systems and their ability to support their district's mission and goals. The tool is designed to promote team discussions and develop priorities for improvement.

DISTRICT-LED EVENTS

- The Learning Counsel Digital Transition Discussion, Platt High School, Meriden, CT, September 25, 2018.
- Open Mic on Education, Meriden Public Schools, February 19, 2016.

- Blended Learning Summit, Platt High School, March 17, 2015 (Sponsored by Discovery Education, Imagine Learning, myON, Odysseyware, ST Math).
- Personalizing Learning, Meriden Board of Education, December 13, 2014 (Sponsored by Odysseyware).
- CECA Pre-Conference Day of Discovery, Lincoln Middle School, October 22, 2011 (Sponsored by Meriden Public Schools, Discovery Education, and the Connecticut Educators Computer Association).

DISTRICT RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

- The Learning Counsel 2020 EduJedi Knight Award
- *District Administration* 2020 District of Distinction
- *American School Board Journal* 2020 Magna Award
- The Learning Counsel 2019 EduJedi Achievers Award
- *District Administration* 2018 District of Distinction
- The Learning Counsel 2018 Digital Curriculum Top 10 Strategy Award
- American Association of School Personnel Administrators C. S. Robinson Award 2018
- *EDUTOPIA* 2017 Schools that Work
- COSN Leading Education Innovation 2017 Team Award
- *HundrEd* 2017 – 100 Global Inspiring Innovations
- Google for Education Reference District
- HP and Intel 2017 Schools of Tech Xcellence
- Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools
- Healthier USDA and Food Nutrition Service Schools Challenge, 2017 Gold Award of Distinction and Six Gold Schools
- *American School Board Journal* and Sodexo Education 2016 Magna Award
- *District Administration* 2016 District of Distinction
- The Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Honorable Mention Outstanding Program 2015
- Midstate Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Education Award 2015

DISTRICT FOUNDATION GRANTS

- Barr Foundation Grant
Community-Driven Portrait of a Graduate (2019 – Present)
- Gear Up Grant (with MxCC)
College Readiness (2019 – Present)
- Nellie Mae Education Foundation
District Level Systems Change (2012-2020)
Equity Leadership Academy (2018-2020)
Administrator Professional Development (Summer, 2018)
- RISE Network (Dalio Foundation)
College and Career Readiness (2015 – Present)
- The Wallace Foundation (with UCONN)
Principal Development and Support (2018 – Present)

PERSONAL RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

- AASA Digital Superintendent of the Year Award, February, 2020
- The Bushnell William A. Yandow Educator Award, June 2019
- CoSN Empowered Superintendent of the Year Award, April, 2019
- Christensen Institute Who You Know Matters Honoree, March, 2019
- Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness Social Justice Award, May, 2017
- District Administration Mover and Shaker, March, 2017
- Education Week Leaders to Learn From Award, 2015
- Connecticut American Federation of Teachers President's Award, 2013
- Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, Distinguished Service Award, 2012
- United States Junior Chamber of Commerce Ten Outstanding Young Americans (TOYA), 2008
- Connecticut Junior Chamber of Commerce Connecticut's Outstanding Young American, 2007
- Middlesex Community College, Board of Trustees' Merit Award, 2005

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Reading nonfiction and leadership texts
- Health, fitness, and sports
- Travel and exploring different places
- Meeting new people
- Writing for publication

REFERENCES

- Available upon request.