

Led by national speakers Chris Stewart and Dr. Daniel Willingham, “Ed Talks” is a series of thought provoking sessions at the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit designed to start conversations and idea sharing on how Louisiana schools can ensure meaningful growth for every child, every day.

Chris Stewart



Chris Stewart is President and CEO of the Wayfinder Foundation, a nonprofit that invests in grassroots anti-poverty and education activism.

Prior to that he built relationships in urban communities as Director of External Affairs at Education Post, a public education advocacy nonprofit. Chris also served as the founding Executive Director of the African American Leadership Forum (AALF), a cross-sector network of Black leaders working to develop and implement an urban policy agenda across five northwest states.

In 2007 Chris was elected to the Minneapolis Public Schools Board of Education. In that role, he helped establish the Office of New Schools, a department of the Minneapolis Public Schools that implemented school reform strategies.

Teacher Leader Summit Session: *Before All Else: Closing the Belief Gap*

The national debate about the power of education and the obstacles to equitable educational results for America’s 8 million black students and 13 million LatinX students remains contentious. Too often the perceived deficits of our children are awfulized so much that it raises doubt about their capacity for learning. Building on the African American Leadership Forum’s “5 gaps” research, this session identifies the “belief gap” as the most dangerous of all. Defined as the gap between what marginalized children are capable of achieving versus what the adults in their lives *think* they can achieve, the belief gap lowers expectations, redoubles inequities, and becomes inevitable prophecy.

Session Times:

- Session 1 (Room 245) Wednesday, May 30 10:20 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.
- Session 2 (Room 245) Wednesday, May 30 2:35 p.m. - 3:55 p.m.
- Session 3 (Room 244) Thursday, May 31 8:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.
- Session 4 (Room 244) Thursday, May 31 9:35 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.

For More Information on Chris Stewart

- Website: www.citizenstewart.org
- Twitter: @citizenstewart
- Recent Coverage: citizen.education

Daniel Willingham



Daniel Willingham earned his B.A. from Duke University in 1983 and his Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology from Harvard University in 1990. He is currently Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia, where he has taught since 1992. Until about 2000, his research focused solely on the brain basis of learning and memory. Today, all of his research concerns the application of cognitive psychology to K-16 education.

He writes the “Ask the Cognitive Scientist” column for American Educator magazine, and is the author of *Why Don't Students Like School?*, *When Can You Trust the Experts?*, *Raising Kids Who Read.*, and *The Reading Mind* (2017). His writing on education has appeared in sixteen languages.

In 2017 he was appointed by President Obama to serve as a Member of the National Board for Education Sciences.

Teacher Leader Summit Session: *Improving Reading Comprehension*

Every teacher wants every student to be a successful reader. To teach children successful reading, it's essential that teachers have a rich understanding of what reading *is*. In this talk I will briefly summarize what scientists have uncovered about the mental processes of reading, with an eye towards applying those findings in the classroom.

The science of reading carries profound implications for

1. comprehension strategy instruction;
2. the role of curriculum in reading; and
3. questions of socio-economic status and equity in reading instruction.

Session Time: Wednesday, May 30 1:00 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. in the La Nouvelle Ballroom

For More Information on Daniel Willingham

- Website: www.danielwillingham.com
- Twitter: @DTWillingham
- Recent Coverage:
 - [NY Times Op-ed](#)
 - [EdWeek Interview](#)
 - [American Educator article](#)
 - [Teachers College Record article](#)