June 2017 Institute

Stonewall Resort

Roanoke, WV

Participants from McDowell, Raleigh and Fayette County schools gathered in Roanoke, West Virginia in June as part of the five-year Principal Leadership Development model training program which, through the support of a federal grant, is addressing the necessity for high quality school leaders in high needs districts. Administrators from Pleasants County also joined the group and were productive partners in advancing new ideas and thinking about improving outcomes for students.

Over a period of three days, thirty educators were engaged in deep discussions about leadership, teaching and learning under the stewardship of Dr. Steve Edwards, Project Director, Dr. Anthony Annunziato, Dr. Terry Cash, Dr. Mary Lu MacCorkle and guest speaker, Dr. Jerry Lake. Betty Salvatore and Dreama Bell, program coordinators, assisted in facilitating the conversations.

During this Institute, school leaders and aspirants delved into seminal topics such as Leadership and Management, Emotional Intelligence, Courageous Conversations and Managing Conflict, and Cultural Responsiveness and the Ethics of Dealing with Children of Poverty. Dr. Cash shared school culture data and discussed how that data can be applied to lessons learned from the Institute.

The dialogue was rich and thoughtful. Through project based learning activities, participants were able to apply their new learning to real life applications in their respective schools. It was clear by the quality of the feedback and Institute outcomes that all participants benefitted from the dedicated time to work with colleagues and address collectively common problems of practice.