

nbrs 2015 TALKS

Crowd-sourcing ed reform

Academic Rigor

U.S. Department of Education Regional Representative *Dennis Bega* facilitated a networking discussion on “Meeting School Challenges” at the 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools ceremony. Ideas collected here related to increasing academic rigor were generated by 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools ceremony participants.



Create Buy-In

- Lots of committee work on 5 advanced standards.
- Vertical committees also working on standards to ensure students are prepared for next grade.
- Grade-level discussions (including specialists) about specific student needs based on data.

C. Clark, Teacher, [Bowley Elementary School](#), Fort Bragg, NC

Use a Common Instructional Framework (Jobs for the Future)

- Scaffolding
- Questioning

- Writing to learn
- Collaborative study
- Literacy groups
- Classroom talk

Janice Lombardi, Principal, [Trinidad Garza Early College HS](#), Dallas, TX

Set a Variety of Post-Secondary Goals

- Build relationships with students, parents, and community.
- Address all students at and below benchmark and provide rigorous instruction, expectations, every day.
- Celebrate all student success—academic, athletic, extra-curricular, and personal.
- Open enrollment in AP courses, expansion of AP to 13 courses.
- Offer dual enrollment credit.

Teresa Speed, Principal, [Murray High School](#), Murray, KY

Build a Common Vision

- Developed a motto by focusing on what we wanted to become.
- Ensured the belief that all students belong to all adults.
- Set clear expectations for all teachers.
- Support common vision with a schedule.

Liann Brenneman, Principal, [Spring Creek Elementary](#), Laramie, WY

Maintain High Standards

- Communicate growth to all stakeholders.
- Kristine Bennett, Principal, [Brooks DeBarolo Collegiate High School](#), Tampa, FL*

