Assistant Principal Institute 2019-2020

Description, Goals and Objectives
Assistant principals occupy a central role in schools. This position is typically conflict-driven, complex and isolating with few opportunities for learning with peers. This year-long program provides assistant principals with an opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills by learning with colleagues in a highly interactive and supportive group setting.

Assistant principals play an integral role in creating a positive school culture and impacting the success of all students. Theirs is one of the most varied and challenging school leadership roles—crossing the boundaries of operations, curriculum, instruction, student services and community engagement—which requires strong relationships with administrators, teachers, teacher leaders, students and parents. Many assistant principals struggle to navigate the many and varied demands placed on them from each sector of the school community and to leverage their daily interactions into opportunities to impact student learning.

Participants will:
- Deepen their thinking and expand their repertoires through engaging in problems of practice with colleagues
- Understand the unique opportunities to exercise leadership within the assistant principal role
- Understand the leadership qualities that both assistant principals and principals share
- Exercise best practice in supervision and evaluation to influence people to shift their thinking and improve their behaviors/practice
- Impact school culture through daily interactions and partnerships with students, parents, and colleagues
- Explore the pathway to the principalship (for those who have that interest)

Program Components
Monthly Roundtables, 8 morning sessions
An ongoing cohort of support and coaching
In these ongoing sessions of support and coaching with their cohort, participants explore problems of practice and develop their ability to take a learning stance through the use of consultancy protocols, case studies, and professional readings. The agenda for the monthly sessions is guided by the needs of the participants. Participants may use this forum to pose questions or present a particular issue from their current work for the purpose of problem solving and strategizing. These sessions are designed to provide a supportive and confidential learning environment for assistant principals.
What People are Saying

This group has been the most valuable professional learning opportunity I have participated in throughout my 4 years as an assistant principal. The opportunity to hear from others who assume the same role in different schools has been valuable, as has the experience working with Matt and Jim. I am so happy I participated.

You start out feeling alone in a challenging position and find out that others are experiencing similar struggles, joys and interesting experiences. It was an amazing source of mutual supports.

As a 1st year Assistant Principal, it was extremely helpful to have a job alike group with skilled facilitators. Jim and Matt effectively provided guidance and asked the right questions to help me as a professional.

This group was one of my great supports for my first years as assistant principals. Having a group of colleagues and two experts to talk things through with was a huge support.

Thank you so much for the group. It was extremely informative and helpful and I enjoyed it very much. I may even join again next year!