



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 2011

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Detroit to Host Conference for U.S. Independent Schools on “Innovation”

Detroit, Michigan – The Independent Schools Association of the Central States has chosen Detroit's Cobo Center as the 2011 venue for its annual conference for educators and administrators in independent schools. This year's conference on November 3 and 4 is entitled “Innovation: Thinking Outside the Box.”

Faculty and staff from schools all over the midwest will be in attendance, and the conference is forecasted to be the best-attended ISACS conference in years, with more than 1,700 people attending. “AIMS schools are especially proud to have the national conference here in Michigan,” says Dick Halsey, executive director of the Association of Independent Michigan Schools, “and the conference theme of ‘Innovation’ certainly speaks to all Michigan institutions today: schools, nonprofits, and businesses.”

“Does your school or classroom ‘enchant’ your students and their parents?” writes ISACS president Keith Shahan. “Do they see your school as an energizing and necessary part of their lives?” According to Guy Kawasaki, keynote speaker at this year's annual conference and author, the answer should be yes.

“Yes, we want a traditional education, meant to pass on the great truths and skills learned by men and women throughout history,” Shahan continues. “Yes, we want a liberal education, meant to impart a variety of viewpoints, character education, aesthetic sensibility, and critical thinking. But to achieve ‘enchantment,’ you must do more than fulfill your [school's] mission. You must innovate.”

Kawasaki's November 4 keynote, “The Art of Innovation,” will inspire attending schools to update their curriculum. He will lay out strategic steps and educational approaches by calling upon his experience with Apple and other world-class companies. Kawasaki is co-founder of Alltop.com and is founding partner at Garage Technology Ventures. Previously he was the chief evangelist of Apple. He is the author of nine books, including *Reality Check*, *Rules for Revolutionaries*, and his most recent *Enchantment: The Art of Changing Hearts, Minds, and Actions*.

“Independent schools are especially well poised for innovation because we are self-governed,” says Cathy Mohan, Head of School at Japhet School in Madison Heights. “Typically our classes are small, and teacher-to-teacher sharing and subject integration are part of the ‘everyday.’ I hope the conference will affirm some new things we are doing, as well as reveal paths we haven't considered yet.”

The two-day conference will offer more than 100 workshops such as “Going Global: How to Connect Your Classroom with Schools Around the World,” “Developing a Culturally Relevant Lower School Language Curriculum,” “Harnessing the Power of Games,” “Integrating Math and Technology for the 21st Century Learner,” “Interrupting Injustice: Promoting Solidarity in Middle School,” and much more.

To learn more about the conference, visit
http://www.isacs.org/page/472115_Conferences_and_Workshops.asp?event=212.

About ISACS:

The Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) is a membership organization of 230 independent schools from 13 states of the Midwest region. The purpose of ISACS is to promote the development of strong learning communities characterized by high achievement, social responsibility, and independence of governance, programs and policies. This goal is achieved through a rigorous accreditation process, targeted professional development programs, and focused support services. To learn more about ISACS, visit <http://www.isacs.org>.

About AIMS:

The Association of Independent Michigan Schools (AIMS) is a non-profit organization of primary, elementary, and secondary schools whose purpose is to support and advance independent education in Michigan. To learn more about AIMS, visit <http://www.aims-mi.org>. Member schools:

Academy of the Sacred Heart	Kalamazoo Country Day School
Cornerstone Schools	Kazoo School
Cranbrook Schools	Kingsbury Country Day School
Daycroft Montessori School	Meadow Montessori School
Dearborn Heights Montessori Center	New Morning School
Detroit Country Day School	Pathfinder School
Emerson School	The Roeper School
Eton Academy	Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor
Friends School in Detroit	Steppingstone School
Frankel Jewish Academy	Summers-Knoll
Greenhills School	The International School
Grosse Pointe Academy	The Leelanau School
Hillel Day School	University Liggett School
Japhet School	Upland Hills School

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