

NEWS RELEASE

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Educators, law enforcement to convene in OC for school safety conference Breakout sessions will cover topics including bullying, active shooter response

COSTA MESA, Calif. – More than 600 educators, school workers and law enforcement representatives will have the opportunity to choose from over 50 workshops addressing critical school safety issues during the ninth annual Safe Schools Conference, which will take place Wednesday, July 18 through Friday, July 20 at Delta Hotels by Marriott Anaheim Garden Grove.

Presented by former California Secretary of Education Dave Long through his firm, Dave Long & Associates, in collaboration with the Orange County Department of Education and the Orange County Sheriff's Department, the three-day conference is designed to promote best practices and increased collaboration between the education community and law enforcement.

The event annually draws school counselors, police officers, youth service workers, elected officials and other school and community leaders interested in learning more about student safety, as well as its impact on school attendance and academic performance.

This year's breakout sessions will cover such topics as bullying, active shooter response, social media trends, human trafficking, gang intervention, drug prevention, restorative practices, suspensions and expulsions, crisis management for schools and classroom climates. As in years past, each day of the conference will also feature a different keynote presenter.

Internationally recognized speaker, trainer, author, teacher and educational consultant Dr. Stephen Sroka will headline the July 18 general session. Sroka offers expertise on a number of topics, including school safety, health education, violence, alternative education, dropout prevention and leadership-building for schools and communities.

On July 19, participants will hear from New York Times best-selling author and lecturer Michael Hingson, who escaped from the 78th floor of Tower One in the World Trade Center with his guide dog Roselle moments before the building collapsed on Sept. 11, 2001. Hingson will share lessons of trust, courage, heroism and teamwork.

Finally, on July 20, Orange County Chief Probation Officer Steve Sentman will facilitate a panel of young people who have found success in life after navigating the county's probation system. The session will exemplify the positive outcomes that result from educators and law enforcement officials working together.

In addition, Officer J. Fulton, a school resource officer with the Garden Grove Police Department, and Chris Vlastic, director of safety and personnel services for the Los Alamitos Unified School District, will each be honored as the 2018 recipients of the Distinguished Safe Schools Award.

Delta Hotels by Marriott Anaheim Garden Grove is located at 12021 Harbor Blvd. in Garden Grove. For more information, visit safeschoolsconference.com, or contact OCDE Chief Communications Officer Ian Hanigan at ihanigan@ocde.us.

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