

2010 Omeka/Latinamekaa Education Summit

Welcome by Professor Debra Leigh

To the Superintendents, Dr. Bruce Watkins and their administrative staff, the women of Omeka and Latinameka and their families, Create CommUNITY, Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation and other sponsors, partners, community members, students and friends. I just want to take a few minutes to welcome each of you and the entire St. Cloud District.

First I want to WELCOME all those who are joining us for the first time to work on behalf of our children. I want to encourage you to buckle your seat belts because you are in for the ride of your life. You are now a part of the “central Minnesota Districts” that is Inspiring Excellence: Every Grown up, Every Child, Everyday...! Yes, Excellence in Math, Excellence in Reading, Excellence in Spelling and History and Science. Yes, Excellence in Sports, Drama, Debate, Art, in all classes and departments. We are excited to have you on board. Your skills and passion for the betterment of our children are welcomed and appreciated. We look forward to working with you this year.

Secondly I want to Welcome those parents, teachers, volunteers, and administrators who have **come back** to work **with and for** the St. Cloud and other central Minnesota school Districts. These Districts are known for having “**Comeback Champions**”. That’s Right, **Champions**. You have been Coming Back: tutoring, training, coaching, driving, listening, preparing, grading, laughing, encouraging, lifting and inspiring our youth. You are our **Come Back Champions**. Champions don’t quit. They keep coming back. Champions are winners and inspire NEW WINNERS. To our Come Back Champions, I say Welcome. We appreciate you!

Thirdly I want to WELCOME **our students**. We are here because we care about You!! We believe every child deserves a good education. You are young and gifted. I want to encourage each student here to DO YOUR BEST, BE YOUR BEST, ACT YOUR BEST! If you do your Best Everyday you will become the “Best of the Best”.

To all of our community partners and business associates Welcome. We are fired up, pump up and charged up because of the good things that are about to happen for students and staff this year.

Omeka and Latinameka’s goal is to do our share to ensure the central Minnesota School Districts are the most effective, the most exciting and the most academically excellent school district in the nation. Yes, I said it--most effective, most exciting and the most academically excellent school district in the NATION and the children of color in these districts achieve at the highest possible levels. That means we got some work to do, but we are willing to face those challenges, and that’s what brings us here today.

Welcome to You ALL: AND REMEMBER SUCCESS IS YOURS.... AND KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

I invite Bruce Watkins, the Superintendent of District 742 to give a few words of welcome.

I’d also like to introduce Penny Snipper of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation to also say a few words of greetings.

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

We are pleased to have as our Keynote Speaker Dr. Lalita Subrahmanyam. Her outstanding leadership in middle school education,

science, and social justice has inspired many young women in our community. She is currently the Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. She is a gifted scholar, an excellent teacher, a dedicated parent, a strong advocate for social justice and an inspiration for all. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Lalita Subrahmanyam.