

Keynote and Breakout Topics and Descriptions for Educators

If you are looking for a high-energy, humorous keynote speaker or presenter for your next event, Dr. Peppers is your choice. Debra mixes wit with wisdom tailored especially for your group, for she “does her homework” in advance. She devotes herself to finding the specific needs and intentions of each particular group and incorporates stories, quotes and research specifically relevant for your audience, some of it contributed by audience members themselves beforehand. Teachers, administrators, staff, parents and school board members, love how Debra brings a timely relevant message wrapped in fun and passion. Interacting with the audience comes easily for her as a ten-year radio and television host. Dr. Peppers has a knack for spontaneity and will have your participants both laughing and yet deeply moved and inspired as she shares “her story” and those of others as well. One of her unique abilities is writing humorous poetry or songs specifically for the group and weaving it in at the perfect time! Because of her expertise in the area of humor, inspiration and motivation, Debra is often invited back year after year as every presentation is an original!

Each keynote is tailored to the specific audience, school or group to whom Debra is speaking. With much prior research, Debra is personal, current and involves her audience. Keynotes are adaptable for teachers of Pre-K-12, Administrators, Staff, Parents, or School Boards.

Sample Keynote Titles:

- ***Bam! Kick It Up A Notch!***
- ***Of Course We're Laughing With You!***
 - ***Teachers Have Class***
- ***Stumbling Blocks To Stepping Stones***
- ***Is It Summer Yet?/ Is It Christmas Yet***
 - ***No Teacher Left Behind***
 - ***On Fire or Burned Out***
 - ***The Faculty Lounge***

Breakout Specialties of Dr. Peppers

Each can be modified to be a keynote, or from 45 minutes to day-long institutes. For 10 years Dr. Peppers has taught some of these as a full 3 hour graduate course through Webster University in St. Louis, Mo. where she is on the adjunct faculty. Lee Canter filmed her and her students for national training films for Master's degrees.

Succeeding with Challenging Students (Teachers of K-12) 45 minutes to Full Day

At sometime or other, teachers today find themselves in challenging situations with students. However, when a struggle seems to be with the same students over and over, they often feel they have literally tried everything. Yet there is always something more. This session offers tried and true strategies used by the most successful teachers throughout the world. As a 25 year high school teacher and a 10 year consultant for Lee Canter, Dr. Peppers helped initiate her district's Discipline Plan by visiting and incorporating the best from schools nationwide. Preventative strategies bring a more peaceful and productive classroom from Kindergarten through High School. Debra has been teaching this course as a 3-hour graduate credit course for ten years and helped initiate her district's Alternative School. Educators learn how to develop management techniques that meet both the needs of challenging students and the needs of the teacher in the classroom. Building on positive interactions, this workshop includes understanding why a student misbehaves, how to respond proactively in a calm, professional manner, strategies for establishing positive relationships and developing individualized behavior plans. The result is increased learning and a more peaceful classroom.

***Different Strokes for Different Folks* (Teachers of K-12) 45 minutes to Full Day**

Once teachers experience effective differentiated instruction, they will never again teach as though “one size fits all.” We know it in our heads, we believe it in our hearts, but we need to have the tools and confidence for successful implementation. Because each learner comes to school with a different set of learning needs and varying degrees of academic skill, differentiated instruction training helps the educator proactively plan a variety of instruction methods creating effective learning experiences for each student. Dr. Peppers presents tried and tested tools, many of which she used with her own classes. Having taught 4th graders through Masters level, she also helped launch a successful Alternative School. Debra had to create lesson plans for an AP class followed by a “Class Within a Class” where half of the students had special needs. Including a blend of whole-class, group, and individual instruction Dr. Peppers presents numerous approaches to facilitate, input, and process. Once teachers realize how little adjustment this takes and how successful both *they* and their students can be, they too will begin to sing the praise of differentiated instruction.

WhAt makes yOu think I’m StreSsed?! (Teachers of K-12) 45 minutes to Full Day

In this high paced society in which we live, all educators need practical tools and guidelines for getting or keeping the momentum going, both short term and long term. Dr. Peppers has the right prescription by incorporating both research and humor, while leaving the audience with real tools and guidelines for personal as well as professional applications. Learning how our physiological and intellectual responses are often dictated by our emotions, we learn to realize the enormous amount of time and energy we spend on the petty things that don't really matter. Dr. Peppers incorporates the "urgent vs. the important", rekindling enthusiasm, and practical tools for not internalizing situations. The most content, peaceful, joyous people have several traits in common, and most are acquired not innate. While the audience is having fun, they will learn how to play upon their strengths, find their niche, and develop the style best suited to them to enjoy the great profession of education.

The Ultimate Juggling Act (Balance/Health/Wellness) (Teachers of K-12) 45 minutes to Full Day

All of us sometime feel like our lives are chaotic and out of control. But we cannot properly function when we are constantly overwhelmed and overextended. Dr. Peppers compares our hectic lives to a balancing act as she shares 30 years worth of practical information for much needed relief. Whether you're a first year teacher, long-timer, principal or other staff member, Debra presents keys that will help you learn to dissect your time and as you value experiences, and find how to live with more joy, vitality and peace in the midst of mounds of papers and everyone vying for our time. Debra will provide the keys to reduce tension and find greater balance in our complicated, stressful life. Most of us are more able to help our students, co-workers and family than we are ourselves and need to bring ourselves back into the equation. Even when we think we have no time, we must begin to attend to our forgotten needs and longings. Dr. Peppers shares strategies of successful teachers throughout the world in balancing work responsibilities and obligations with enjoyment, play, activity and rest.

The Legacy of Leadership: Who’s Leading Whom? (Teachers of K-12) 45 minutes to Full Day

Like it or not, every educator and staff person is called to be a leader in some capacity. If leaders are "born" that way why do so many who achieve leadership status seem the most unlikely? Most great leaders have several traits in common: and most are acquired not innate. In this motivational presentation Debra applies different styles of leadership while she teaches the audience how to gain confidence, play upon their strengths, find their niche, and develop the style of leadership best suited to them. From an office worker, to a teacher leading a classroom to the superintendent leading a district, the measure of one's success as a leader, is not in what you get others to do but how well you can lead them in doing it. Dr. Peppers encourages the audience to realize that the particular leadership role we each hold, is both a responsibility and an exciting opportunity to encourage others by example as we all achieve a higher degree of success together!

Communication: It's What You Say AND How You Say It! (Teachers of K-12) 45 minutes to Full Day

The number one most “costly” error in education, business and even family, is miscommunication. Dr. Peppers presents proven strategies all can learn to make the classroom, workplace and even the home more peaceful and productive. Because people process and impart information in different ways, we can learn tools to make life easier on everybody. Dr. Peppers shows how to create rapport, nip conflict in the bud, deal effectively with different personality types, and model body language in a way that connects more profoundly with others. Teaching ways to develop plans to be proactive rather than reactive in interactions with others, Debra shares strategies for remaining professional and calm, while responding with confidence. She also shares how to de-personalize and redirect conversation when needed. In our fast paced, technical world, written, oral and non-verbal communication must all be addressed. Dr. Peppers shares the “do’s and don’ts” in the areas of tone, body language, facial expression and gestures. We all have areas in which we can improve, both with children and adults and it is crucial that we learn to integrate them both personally and professionally.

Best Practices for Best Educators (Teachers of K-12) 45 minutes to Full Day

What do award winning, highly successful teachers seem to all have in common? We hear so much today about “Best Practices” in all aspects of curriculum; but it is not usually the curriculum itself that elicits the greatest results. Research has found that the manner in which the educator implements the curriculum, and deals with students both collectively and individually is what makes the greatest difference. The “Top Ten Traits of Successful Teachers” has nothing to do with age, race, personality or even length of time in teaching. In examining the common denominators of the most successful teachers, an amazing secondary inherent byproduct emerged – contentment. The most successful teachers were also the most peaceful, joyous and fulfilled both in and out of the classroom. Since most of the associated traits are acquired not innate, Debra teaches the audience to play upon their strengths, find their niche, and develop the style best suited to them. She encourages the audience to be willing to follow the model and learn by example. Although this is not a “one size fits all” recipe, research shows *most* can certainly benefit from personal application.

Character Counts! (Teachers of K-12) 45 minutes to Full Day

In today’s turbulent society, a return to ethics and manners sometimes seems all but lost. Most schools are now incorporating Character Education into the classroom but teachers are already so overloaded it seems impossible at times. Most agree the need is definite, but our classes and curriculum are already filled to capacity. Dr. Peppers shares with educators how to incorporate character-centered instruction and lessons on character into the regular curriculum – no matter what the subject. Using an anticipatory opening to the lesson, modeling by example, and incorporating “teachable moments”, character education is not an “add-on” program, but rather an “add-in” program. The overall principles presented represent a common ground of basic understanding of society regardless of political leanings, race, religious convictions or gender. Whether required by a district, or initiated by a teacher, all educators and students alike will benefit from incorporating character into the classroom. Dr. Peppers takes it a step further by challenging educators with “Character Education for Teachers,” reminding participants we must practice what we preach! The result is that the entire classroom environment is more peaceful, respectful and elevated.

The Power of Two: Teaming with Parents (Teachers of K-12) 45 minutes to Full Day

In a recent survey on educational needs, other than more funding, number one on the “wish list” of teachers nationwide, is increased parent involvement. When parents were surveyed they almost unanimously agreed but often felt as if they didn’t have the knowledge, ability or a lot of time. In this presentation Dr. Debra Peppers shares the experience and strategies of successful schools from all sizes, socioeconomics, and grade levels, in working with parents. Covering everything from grades, attendance, discipline and motivation, the information presented is hands on and personally applicable by all teachers, parents, communities and schools and. Included are: how to get together, proactive steps for success in both the class and at home, consistency in communication verification tactics, differentiating behavior from class work, involving the administrator, involving parents and the child in the process, setting guidelines for communication and conferences, documentation, professionalism, and proactive measures. Culmination and follow-up often include sharing success with others. As all schools and communities are different, Dr. Peppers shares the best strategies of the most successful and “turned around” schools, inviting the audience to apply as is best for them.