



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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September 12, 2017

TO North Carolina School Superintendents
Charter School Directors with AIG Programs

FROM Superintendent Mark Johnson *MJ*
Maria Pitre-Martin, Deputy State Superintendent *MPM*

Sneha Shah-Coltrane, Director, Advanced Learning and Gifted Education *SSC*

NC Superintendent's Forum on Gifted Education – Thursday 11/09/17 ***Changing Mindsets, Policies and Practices at NAGC Convention, Charlotte, NC***

This year, North Carolina has the incredible opportunity to access national perspectives surrounding the education of our advanced students. The entire field of gifted education is converging upon Charlotte, NC on November 9 – 12, for the [National Association for Gifted Children's 64th Annual Convention \(NAGC\)](#). NCDPI has had an integral role with the Local Arrangements Committee to ensure this national convention will meet both national and state needs and we invite you to participate.

We are pleased to announce an event designed for you as Superintendents. Please join us on **Thursday, November 9**, for NAGC's **Superintendents' Forum: *Changing Mindsets, Policies and Practices***. This day-long forum will be anchored with three mini-keynotes from national experts addressing your role in the education of our state's most academically promising students (speaker info on last page). The forum will focus on how we can impact and develop the most effective AIG programs to meet the needs of our students, including those we have traditionally under-served. We will be sharing success stories and best practices while discussing why your leadership in offering gifted services is more critical than ever before.

At the close of the forum, NAGC has graciously extended the invitation to those of you who wish to stay for the general opening NAGC keynote with Duke University's Dr. Angel Harris, author of *Kids Don't Want to Fail*. NAGC will be holding seats near the stage so that we can recognize you during our welcome to the gifted and talented teachers and leaders from around the nation.

Here is a brief overview of the day, we will be sending out a final agenda later:

Changing Mindsets, Policies and Practices

8:30 – 9:00	Registration & Coffee
9:00 – 9:30	Opening with Rene Islas, NAGC Executive Director NCDPI Leadership, Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, Deputy State Superintendent
9:30 - 10:30	Session 1: <i>Mindsets</i> with Dr. Mary Ruth Coleman*
10:30 - 11:30	Session 2: <i>Policies</i> with Dr. Jonathan Plucker*
LUNCH	Remarks from State Superintendent Mark Johnson
12:30 – 1:30	Session 3: <i>Practices</i> with Dr. Julia Roberts*
1:30 – 2:30	Action Planning & Closing
3:00	NAGC 2017 Opening Session with Dr. Angel Harris

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*Please see short bios below.

We encourage you to participate in this high-level forum and luncheon to address your leadership role in the education of our state's most academically promising students. **There is no cost to this event**, as it is sponsored by the NAGC as a service to our state. **To register** for the Superintendent's Forum, please complete the registration form at [Superintendent's Forum Registration NAGC2017](#). We ask that registration be completed by **October 1**. Several of your district leaders have helped to organize this event designed for Superintendents from NC and surrounding states and we could not be more pleased with this opportunity for us to focus on our students with advanced learning needs.

The Superintendent's Forum is on the eve of the NAGC Annual Convention, where experts from across many disciplines of gifted education will combine their expertise to educate 2500+ gifted and talented teachers from around the nation. While there is no fee for registration to the Superintendent's Forum, we are pleased that NAGC is offering North Carolina public schools a [special registration rate](#), for the NAGC convention. This information has already been shared with AIG Coordinators across the state, and we hope you will be able to support their attendance.

We hope to see you at the Superintendent's Forum on **Thursday, November 9, 2017**. We will also be inviting RESA Directors and our State Board of Education members. If you have any questions regarding the Forum or registration, please contact Sneha Shah-Coltrane, Director of Advanced Learning and Gifted Education at sneha.shahcoltrane@dpi.nc.gov or 919-807-3849. Having this national convention here in our own state is a wonderful opportunity to access national perspectives and a rare opportunity to spotlight North Carolina and our strong foundation with supporting gifted education and advanced learning opportunities for all.



National Experts Joining Us for the Superintendent's Forum:

Mary Ruth Coleman, Ph.D. is a Senior Scientist, Emeritus, at the FPG Child Development Institute, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she directs Project U-STAR~PLUS (Using Science, Talents and Abilities to Recognize Students – Promoting Learning in Underrepresented Students). Her projects have included: ACCESS (Achievement in Content and Curriculum for Every Student's Success), a National Significance Project funded by OSEP and applications of RtI for young children through the Recognition & Response Project sponsored by the Tremaine Foundation. Dr. Coleman has numerous publications including the 14th Edition of the seminal textbook, *"Educating Exceptional Children"* by Samuel A. Kirk, James J. Gallagher, Mary Ruth Coleman (2015). She has served three terms on the Board of Directors for the Association for Gifted (TAG), one of which she was President; three terms on the Board of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC); and two terms on the Board of Directors for the international Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). She was president of the CEC in 2007.

Jonathan Plucker, Ph.D. is the Julian C. Stanley Endowed Professor of Talent Development at Johns Hopkins University, where he works in the Center for Talented Youth and School of Education. He received his Ph.D. in educational psychology from the University of Virginia. His research examines educational psychology, education policy, and talent development, with over 200 publications to his credit and over \$40 million in external funding to support his work. Recent books include *Excellence Gaps in Education* with Scott Peters (Harvard Ed Press) and *Creativity and Innovation* (Prufrock). He has worked with administrators, teachers, and parents in several states and other countries. He frequently works with the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation on studies of state-level policies that promote excellence and reduce excellence gaps. Professor Plucker is the recipient of the 2012 Arnheim Award for Outstanding Achievement from APA and 2013 Distinguished Scholar Award from the National Association for Gifted Children. He is president-elect of NAGC.

Julia Link Roberts, Ph.D. is the Mahurin Professor of Gifted Studies at Western Kentucky University and the Executive Director of The Center for Gifted Studies and The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky. Dr. Roberts is the president of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children; current past-president of The Association for the Gifted, a division of the Council for Exceptional Children; chair of the Kentucky Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Children; and board member of the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education. She has been honored as a Distinguished Professor at WKU and has received the Acorn Award as the outstanding professor at a Kentucky four-year university. Her most recent publication is *Introduction to Gifted Education* for which she was co-editor. Dr. Roberts writes and presents on advocacy, assessment, differentiation, curriculum, and various topics in gifted education. She directs programming for children, young people, and educators in the summer and throughout the school year.