

# USAA Newsletter

Urban Superintendents Association of America, Inc.  
[www.usaa.org](http://www.usaa.org)

P.O. Box 461  
Lake Orion, MI 48361



Vol. 1, Issue 2, 2024



## Annual Summer Academy

The 29th Annual Urban Superintendents Summer Academy was a tremendous success and we couldn't have done it without you!

Thank you to everyone who joined us!

To relive the momentum, [visit our website](http://www.usaa.org) to see a photo gallery from the conference.

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# Greetings from the President

Wow! Now that I've had time to return home, get the school year started, I finally had an opportunity to reflect on our outstanding time in Chattanooga—great time reconnecting with our fellow superintendents and their guests, making new friends, enjoying a unique travel experience, and of course, the opportunity for learning provided by our colleagues and our sponsors.

I want to thank our Executive Director Wanda, her staff, the terrific '24 Executive Board, and our sponsors for making Chattanooga an event to remember. I heard many compliments on the way sponsor luncheons and dinners were arranged so that everyone was included. The trip to the Aquarium and the dinner cruise added exceptional memories as well. Our speakers were all informative, especially hearing the experiences of our fellow superintendents. The renewed format gave us all a chance to spend our trip in thoughtful, enlightening conversation as well as giving us time for reflection and much needed rest!

But wait, there's more: How exciting is 2025 going to be? We heard some great information from our President-Elect Daveda at our 2024 conference—our next two conferences are scheduled for some exciting cities—New Orleans followed by Detroit. This represents a departure for our organization that promises to be full of great comradery, learning, and exciting locales.



Regina Rossall

The 2025 Board is also looking forward to adding a Women's Conference to our annual schedule of events, which is also sure to be another transition for USAA. Don't wait to nominate your colleagues you think will find a place with us. I am excited and looking forward to see what our future holds.

As the 2024 President, I am proud of the work done by Wanda, the Board and all of our participants and thankful for the opportunity to serve. Transitions are both a promise of a different approach, while simultaneously it is a time to reflect on the successful past of our vibrant organization. Thank you for your attendance, participation, and enthusiasm at Chattanooga, and here's hoping I'll see you in New Orleans in 2025, which is sure to be exceptional.

I hope all of you find joy, challenge, happiness in remembering how lucky we all are to do such important work for our students and communities. I appreciate all of you!

Fondly,

Gina Rossall  
USAA President, 2024



# Annual Summer Academy

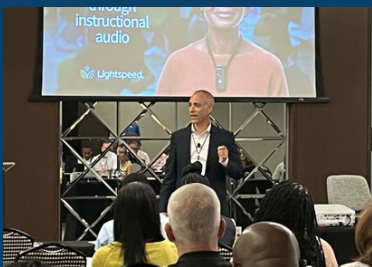
We are thrilled to share that our annual summer academy was a tremendous success! From inspiring keynote speakers to dynamic sessions and vibrant networking opportunities, the event was filled with energy, innovation, and collaboration.

Key highlights of the conference included keynote presentations, engaging sessions, and networking opportunities.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, from our incredible speakers and sponsors to every participant who brought their passions and expertise.

We look forward to continuing this momentum and seeing you again next year!

## Dynamic Presentations



## Engaging Sessions



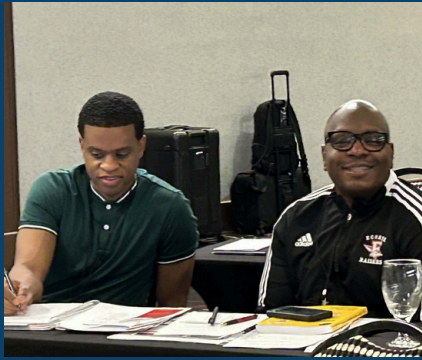
## Vibrant Networking













## Guest Column

### Accelerating Student Learning: Key Strategies for Success

By Chris Devling

In today's educational landscape, accelerating student learning is crucial. To achieve this, we must prioritize evidence-based approaches that promise more than a year's worth of growth. This involves shifting focus from favored methods to those proven to yield greater gains.

**Implementation is Key:** Identifying effective strategies is just the beginning. Successful implementation requires dedicated time, energy, and resources. Teachers need support to adapt these strategies to their unique classroom contexts.

**Empowering Teachers:** Expert teachers significantly enhance student learning. Providing professional development opportunities helps teachers build expertise in areas such as social-emotional support, monitoring progress, feedback, and designing engaging tasks. This investment maximizes the resources available to schools.

**Evidence of Impact:** It's essential to gather and utilize evidence of student learning to guide instructional decisions. This approach helps avoid assumptions of who is learning and who is not, and makes teaching and learning more visible.



Chris Devling

### Beyond Structures and Schedules:

The focus of any school improvement effort should be on instructional practices, rather than just extending learning time. The effectiveness of acceleration strategies depends on the quality of instruction and engagement during learning time, not just the quantity of learning time.

By following these recommendations, educators can create a more effective and equitable learning environment that accelerates student growth and success.

*Chris Devling is Managing Director of Corwin, the premier provider of professional learning products and services that equip educators with the needed to improve teaching and learning. Learn more about our books, consulting services, and events at [www.corwin.com](http://www.corwin.com).*



# 30th Annual Urban Superintendents Summer Academy

## From the Desk of the Executive Director

We're excited to invite you to the 30th Annual Urban Superintendents Summer Academy in New Orleans! This milestone event promises to be an exceptional opportunity for professional growth, featuring esteemed speakers, innovative workshops, and invaluable networking opportunities with peers from across the country.

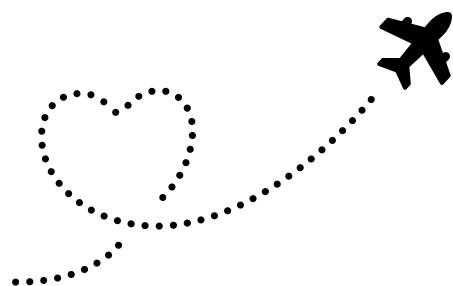
The vibrant city of New Orleans provides a unique backdrop, offering a blend of culture and history that will enhance the experience. Don't miss this chance to recharge, gain fresh perspectives, and equip yourself with the latest tools to drive success in your district!

Watch your inbox for conference information coming soon!

I look forward to seeing everyone again soon!

Warmly,

Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson  
Executive Director



**2025**

New Orleans, Louisiana  
Hilton Riverside  
Two Poydras Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130



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07/09

# USAA Board Members

The USAA Board of Directors is comprised of dynamic leaders from across the United States. These individuals are at the forefront of innovation and excellence in education. Whether you are looking to collaborate, learn or find inspiration, this directory connects you with trailblazers who are shaping the future of education in our nation.

## Directory

**Regina Rossall, President**

Quartz Hill, CA

**Dr. Daveda J. Colbert, President-Elect**

Wayne, MI

**Elie Bracy, III, Past President**

Portsmouth, VA

**Jason Simeroth, Secretary-Treasurer**

Yukon, OK

**Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat, Vice President, At Large**

Peoria, IL

**Damian LaCroix, Vice President, At Large**

Green Bay, WI

**Dr. Casey Allen, Vice President, At Large**

Barlow, KY

**Dr. J. R. Green, Vice President, Southeastern States**

Winnsboro, SC

**Danny Massey, Vice President, South Central States**

Clute, TX

**Eric Bracy Vice President, Eastern States**

Smithfield, NC

**Gordon Amerson, Western States**

Duarte, CA

**Erin Keating, Northeastern States**

Old Forge, PA





## Visit Our New Website

Have news to share?

Submit your questions, comments or story ideas to:  
[urbansuperintendents@gmail.com](mailto:urbansuperintendents@gmail.com)

**Visit [www.usaa.org](http://www.usaa.org).**

### Notes/Story Ideas

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### Contact USAA

Our mailing address has changed.  
Please update your records with our new address:

P.O. Box 461  
Lake Orion, MI 48361  
Phone: (248) 587-7429

Note: Remittances to the Urban Superintendents Association of America Inc.

All payments must be addressed to the Urban Superintendents Association of America Inc. The full name of the organization must be used.



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