Subscribe Past Issues Translate ▼

RSS 🔊

View this email in your browser



SAFETY



meet or exceed the requirements to keep kids safe. This includes assessing schools against every known code and providing the tools, guidance, and support to help them meet those requirements and expectations.

The West40 Comprehensive Educational Services team works every day to ensure that our partner schools

We recently expanded to assist districts in their threat assessment and emergency response protocols. We know that if we fail, we become a barrier to our kids' success, and we will not let that happen.

making sure kids have adults whom they trust.

But our approach to school safety is more than just having physical security measures in place. It's about

"A lot of schools believe that 'hardening' the school with cameras and metal detectors is the best way to make schools safe. But the other piece

that is most important is 'heartening' the schools," said West40 Director of

Comprehensive Educational Services Phil Abraham. "It's what you're doing to build relationships and build connections and making people feel that they belong, that they have a voice, and that they feel safe and that they feel connected to adults."

SERVICES AND SUPPORT WEST40 CAN PROVIDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:
Create Emergency Response Plans
Physical Security Assessment
Behavioral Threat Assessment
Identifying Warning Signs of Violence
Averted Attack Training
School and Student Safety/Emergency Protocols
Assembling an Effective Threat Assessment Team
Threat Assessment Document/Plan Assistance
Digital Threat Assessment
Assistance with School/Safety Related Investigations and Interviewing SRO Training
Assisting with SRO and Law Enforcement Partnerships

WEST40 HOSTS 2023 ILLINOIS SCHOOL SAFETY CONFERENCE

Senior Director, Steve Bogren, sbogren@west40.org

Director, Phillip Abraham, pabraham@west40.org

the annual Illinois School Safety Conference in Niles on October 4th. The conference empowers attendees with knowledge and tools needed to help them create safer educational environments.

West40 hosted more than 500 school administrators, law enforcement personnel, and first responders at

safety technologies. Additionally, guest speakers shared stories of survival and lessons learned when responding to crisis situations.

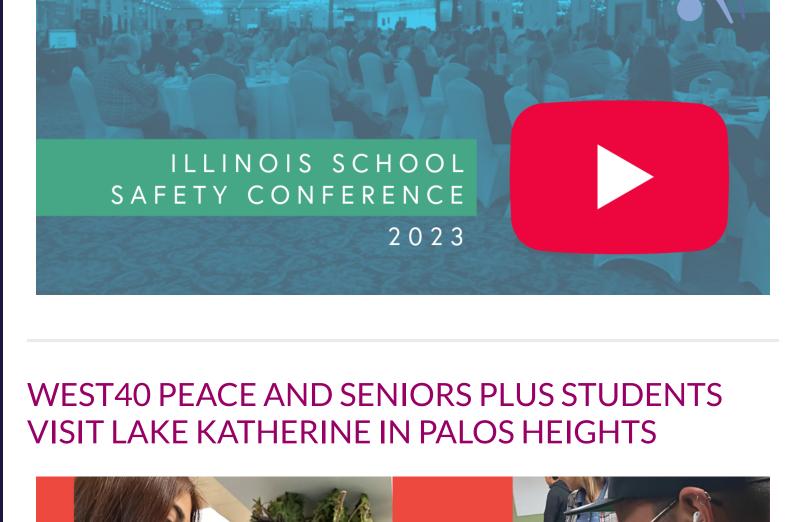
West40's Randy Braverman organized the all-day event, which featured vendors that specialize in school

in the school safety field to ensure the schools, police and fire departments have the best training for free,"

Braverman said.

Click here for a video recap of the Illinois School Safety Conference.

"We have such great partnerships with local, state, federal agencies, including the top vendors and speakers





some of our partner districts, including Pleasantdale School District 107, Riverside School District 96, Ridgewood High School District 234, Mannheim School District 83, and Norridge School District 80. Here's an example of a video we recently created for Pleasantdale Elementary, which is celebrating a

At West40, we believe in celebrating small acts of kindness and wins. Our goal is to change the conversation

around education by highlighting your school district's continuous support in student growth and success.

During the past year, our communications department has recorded, written, and edited video projects for

National Blue Ribbon Award! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrc9aFPaRSg.

CONGRATULATIONS PLEASANTDALE STUDENTS, STAFF, AND PARENTS!

Interested? Connect with our communications team by emailing Heidi Bellm (hbellm@west40.org) or Chris

possible" in education. Innovation is not just about technology. It's also about doing things differently. Connect with the team at https://tinyurl.com/575x9cmv to learn more.

Innovation Coordinator Angela Gonzales and Innovation Specialist Justin Gonzalez recently discussed the

idea behind their team and innovative education techniques on the Shift Everything podcast:

West40's new Innovation Team specializes in inspiring and empowering educators to explore "what's

SUPERINTENDENTS INVITED TO WEST40 & GCU

powerful pathways for addressing the teacher shortage.

TEACHER SHORTAGE

the shortage, including science and math.

WEST40 INNOVATION TEAM

Coffey (ccoffey@west40.org).

https://tinyurl.com/47z3jjm8.

West40 and its premier university partner, Grand Canyon University, invite area superintendents to West40's Lexington building (415 Lexington St., Maywood, IL 60153) on November 10th to learn about two

One solution includes growing members into approved teacher prep programs through a partnership with

GCU. Another pathway involves offering high-quality professional learning opportunities to teachers and

access to free and robust, live virtual lessons from GCU staff, especially for hard-to-fill matters impacted by

The event runs from 10am to 1pm on November 10th. Lunch will be provided. To RSVP, email Karla Chavez

EVENT ADDRESSING POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR

at kchavez@west40.org (Note: Please RSVP even if you did so for the last month's event that was rescheduled for Nov. 10).

NEWCOMER RESOURCE AND NETWORK EVENT

best practices to support our newcomers and educators.

We are beyond grateful to the expert presenters from across the country who contributed to the success of

our event. Dr. Carmen Ayala, recently retired State Superintendent, and Dr. Rebecca Vonderlack-Navarro,

VP of Education, Policy, and Research at the Latino Policy Forum, kicked off the event by highlighting the

West40 partnered with DuPage ROE's SEL Hub earlier this month to host a statewide Newcomer Resource

and Network Event to bring education and advocacy professionals together to learn, network, and share

need fore statewide collaboration from all stakeholders to support our new neighbors.

We were proud to have such a passionate group of educators, leaders, and policymakers to join us to help lead this event. In the end, we had 280 people representing 38 different regions across the state attend all or part of the event. The participants' responses continue to confirm that this event was beneficial and

part of the event. The participants' responses continue to confirm that this event was beneficial and valuable.

ST. JOSEPH UPDATE

West40 is in the initial stages of the zoning process that the Village of Westchester is requiring us to

complete prior to opening our program. Additionally, we have applied for several grants that could accelerate the renovation process.

We remain committed to creating a school that will serve approximately 40 youth-in-need at a time, including foster students and those with social-emotional concerns. The school will be funded by state

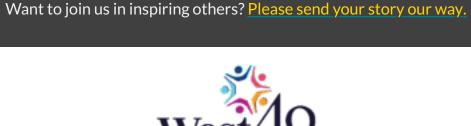
support of Governor Pritzker's commitment to providing behavioral health services to youth.

agencies such as the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Human Services in

Meanwhile, NBC Chicago recently reported on our plans for the St. Joseph High School Campus. Here is a

link to their report: https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/health/health-wellness-science-news/shuttered-westchester-facility-finds-new-life-as-alternative-school/3249600/





We love sharing stories of how lives have been changed in partnership with your school or district.

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can <u>update your preferences</u> or <u>unsubscribe from this list</u>.