



DR. MICHAEL J. BARNES

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DrMichaelJBarnes.com

With years of corporate expertise, I inspire professionals to elevate their organization, mindset and personal brand. Through engaging talks, I transform motivation into actionable life plans, helping individuals and organizations thrive. Join me to discover how to truly enjoy life while achieving your professional and personal goals.

WHAT I DELIVER

Consulting & Advisory Services

- District & Superintendent Consulting: Strategic planning, curriculum development, leadership advisement.
- Leadership Coaching: 1:1 or group coaching for school leaders and aspiring superintendents.
- Strategic Planning Facilitation: Vision, mission, and long-term strategy development.
- Policy & Compliance Guidance: Navigate state/federal education policies, funding, and compliance.

Professional Development & Training

- Workshops & Seminars: Leadership, school finance, and school improvement.
- Keynote Speaking: Inspiring talks at conferences, summits, and events.
- Executive Leadership Retreats: Focused growth and well-being for leaders.
- Online Courses & Webinars: Self-paced leadership development offerings.

YOUR NEXT EVENT...

You want an expert who can deliver a message that captures the essence of your meeting, incorporates your theme, and creates a memorable experience for your audience.

And you deserve it!

My presentation at your event is about more than a “speech;” it’s about earning your trust and keeping it. You put your reputation on the line when you hire me—and I intend to make you look good!

Your next event is a big deal for you and your organization. You can trust me to deliver a message that hits home with your audience, reconnects your audience to your organization’s mission, and inspires them to work together to create real change!

I PROMISE YOU...

When we work together, you won’t have to worry at all. My 3-Point Promise explains what you can expect (and enjoy):

1 HIGH STANDARDS

You will get what you expect when you invest in a seasoned professional. From communication to preparation, we make things simple and efficient for you. We work hard to make you look good!

2 HIGH ENERGY

Your audience will perk up, be engaged, and feel inspired to recommit to what matters most.

3 HIGH VALUE

Everyone will have immediate action steps and takeaway lessons. You will see a lot of notes and social media posts from our session

You can trust me to deliver a message that hits home with your audience, reconnects your audience to your organization’s vision, and inspires them to take action!

I look forward to creating a great event with you.



Signature Presentations

The Modern Superintendent: Leading with Vision in a **Time of Chaos**

Strategic Planning, Leadership Coaching, Culture Building, Change Management

In this keynote, Dr. Michael J. Barnes reveals the leadership principles that drive thriving school districts, from clarifying your district's vision to managing change with confidence. You'll learn how to inspire teams, build trust with stakeholders, and lead through uncertainty while staying true to your core values. Dr. Barnes shares real-world stories and practical strategies from his decades of experience in public education. This session is for any organization seeking to move beyond survival mode and into a future-focused mindset.

Portrait of a Graduate: Beyond Buzzwords, Building a **Culture of Excellence**

Athletic Leadership, School Culture, Team Building, Leadership Coaching

In this high-energy session, Dr. Barnes draws on his unique experience as an athletic director turned superintendent to explore the surprising connections between sports, leadership, and school culture. Attendees will discover how lessons from the locker room, like accountability, teamwork, and resilience, translate into stronger school leadership and better outcomes for students. Dr. Barnes will share practical strategies for building winning culture into your organization's broader vision for success. This session unlocks the leadership potential in any organization.

Winning: Succeeding for **Lasting Impact**

Leadership Coaching, Professional Development, Succession Planning, Executive Mentorship

Dr. Barnes shares his proven approach to winning in a way for the audience to step into their full potential. You'll learn how to cultivate a winning mindset, develop personalized growth plans, and create a sustainable success. Dr. Barnes will also discuss the unique challenges of change and transitions. This is the perfect session for people looking to build strong foundations and ensure their long-term success.

Signature Presentations

Money Talks: Demystifying School Finance for District Leaders

School Finance, Compliance, Strategic Planning, Board Communication

School finance can feel like an overwhelming maze, but it doesn't have to be. In this eye-opening presentation, Dr. Barnes breaks down complex financial concepts into clear, actionable strategies that empower superintendents, board members, and district leaders. You'll learn how to communicate financial priorities with clarity, align budgets with strategic goals, and advocate for fair funding in your community. Dr. Barnes also shares insights on navigating state and federal regulations, maximizing resources, and fostering transparency and trust. Whether you're a veteran superintendent or a new leader stepping into the role, this session will equip you with the financial fluency and confidence you need to lead your district with fiscal responsibility and strategic vision.

From the Sidelines to the Boardroom: Lessons in Leadership from the Athletic Field

Athletic Leadership, School Culture, Team Building, Leadership Coaching

In this high-energy session, Dr. Barnes draws on his unique experience as an athletic director turned superintendent to explore the surprising connections between sports, leadership, and school culture. Attendees will discover how lessons from the locker room, like accountability, teamwork, and resilience, translate into stronger school leadership and better outcomes for students. Dr. Barnes will share practical strategies for building winning cultures, supporting coaches, and integrating athletics into your district's broader vision for student success. This session is perfect for superintendents, principals, and athletic directors who want to elevate their programs and unlock the leadership potential in every part of their schools.



Dr. Michael J. Barnes

Dr. Michael J. Barnes is a nationally recognized leader, author, and speaker dedicated to transforming education through visionary leadership and innovative practices. With over 30 years of experience in public education, Dr. Barnes currently serves as Superintendent of Mayfield City Schools, where he began his career as a social studies teacher. His journey has included roles as Athletic Director, Director of Human Resources, and Assistant Superintendent, culminating in his role as Superintendent in Lakewood City Schools and now back in Mayfield.

Dr. Barnes is the author of *The Modern Superintendent: A Guide to Instructional Leadership*, a timely resource for education leaders navigating the complexities of today's school systems. As a dynamic speaker and consultant, Dr. Barnes works with school districts, boards, and leaders to shape strategic visions, foster inclusive cultures, and empower leadership at all levels. His expertise spans strategic planning, leadership coaching, policy and compliance, and developing programs like the "Portrait of a Graduate" to help districts define success for their students.

In addition to his K–12 leadership roles, Dr. Barnes is an adjunct professor at Ursuline College and Cleveland State University, where he teaches courses on law, program development, and leadership. He serves on the Edinboro University Alumni Board of Directors, where he was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame, and is an active voice in national education organizations, including the School Superintendents Association, Buckeye Association of School Administrators, and the Ohio School Funding–Fair School Funding Group.

Dr. Barnes holds a doctorate from Nova Southeastern University, a master's degree from Cleveland State University, and a bachelor's degree from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. He is deeply committed to shaping the future of education by inspiring, mentoring, and guiding the next generation of school leaders.

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Degrees:

- Ed.D., Nova Southeastern University
- M.Ed., Cleveland State University
- B.A., Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Background:

- Superintendent, Mayfield City Schools
- 30+ years in public education
- Adjunct Professor at Ursuline College (School of Law), Cleveland State University (Program Development)
- Author of “The Modern Superintendent: A Guide to Instructional Leadership”
- Author of “Winning: Lessons on Life, Learning, and Leadership”

Recognitions:

- Edinboro University Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee
- Vice President, Edinboro University Alumni Board of Directors

Professional Involvement:

- School Superintendents Association
- Buckeye Association of School Administrators
- Ohio School Funding – Fair School Funding Group
- Army War College National Security Participant