

Thursday morning workshop

On Thursday morning (March 8, 2012) our workshop of the National Christian School Association will feature Dr. Warren Buckalew, the senior consultant for Independent School Management, Inc. of Wilmington, DE. Be sure to register for this separate event when you enroll in the conference. Seating will be limited and extra places will be on a space-available basis once the convention starts. We will serve a breakfast before the beginning of the event.

After consulting with me, Dr. Buckalew is going to divide the morning into two sessions of about 75 minutes each (with a breakfast before and break in between sponsored by ISM). Here are his description for the two sessions. His bio is attached as well.

- I. **The ISM Student Experience Study.** In the 2010-11 school year, ISM conducted a national project with eight private schools of all types (including faith-based) in which one aspect of faculty culture (termed “predictability and support” by ISM) was examined for its relationship to *student performance, student satisfaction, and student enthusiasm*. The outcomes of this year-long study resulted in the creation of two new instruments: (a) *The Student Culture Profile*; (b) *The (revised) Faculty Culture Profile*; and the revision of a third: (c) *The Characteristics of Classroom Teaching Excellence*. The first two are monitoring instruments; the third is a teacher evaluation instrument. Use of this third instrument allows your evaluation of faculty to focus on components that ISM research have shown to have a positive influence on student performance, satisfaction and enthusiasm.

- II. **ISM’s 20 Success Predictors for the 21st Century.** ISM’s “Stability Markers” have been in place for more than 15 years and have been updated roughly every five. These are research-based indicators of private-school stability, illuminating items that correlate strongly with a private school’s ability to sustain excellence *by its own definition*. Early in 2011, ISM produced a different kind of list, called “Success Predictors” that looked forward and produced forecasts of the elements *most likely* to prove critical to long-term success today. These “Success Predictors” do not replace the ISM Stability Markers; instead they comprise a set of thought-provoking departures from “business as usual” in our schools, looking forward. The Success Predictors have many potential consequences including curricular, financial, personnel, salary, calendar and other. ISM’s position is that any school can incorporate some of the Success Predictors *now*. For some schools, ISM suggests, implementation of selected Success Predictors may be the only way to survive financially in difficult times.