November 4-6, 2010: Hathaway Brown School’s Education Innovation Summit

Nearly 600 educators from more than 100 U.S. public, private, and parochial schools to gather in Cleveland to explore the phenomenon of innovation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shaker Heights, Ohio (October 12, 2010) – At this critical time when national attention is focused on the value of innovation and the need to improve America’s educational system for the benefit of all students, Hathaway Brown School will be hosting the Education Innovation Summit. Designed to bring educators and innovators in a variety of fields together in a sort of think tank for difference makers, the Summit will convene experts on the phenomenon of innovation from several different fields, including science, business, medicine, and the arts, as well as education.

With states around the country vying for Race to the Top funding, the recent release of the buzz-generating Davis Guggenheim documentary “Waiting for Superman,” and last month’s Education Nation Summit hosted by NBC News, Americans clearly are focused on the issue of education reform. Because they are smaller and more nimble, independent schools are able to innovate in ways that public schools cannot. Hathaway Brown believes it is morally imperative for all educators to share their knowledge and best practices that may be replicated in schools around the country. There are many important and effective ways for the independent school community to contribute to this national conversation.

This November 4-6, Education Innovation Summit attendees will explore how innovation actually happens, how to build and sustain cultures of innovation, and how change-resistant schools can change their ways. They’ll also hear the stories of breakthrough independent schools, with presentations by some of the brightest minds in the field about their innovations in numerous facets of the educational process, from science to scheduling, finance to fine arts.

The event’s keynote speaker is Daniel Pink, author of New York Times bestsellers “A Whole New Mind” and “Drive.” Additional presenters include MacArthur Genius Award winner Bill Strickland, social activist
and president and CEO of Manchester Bidwell Corporation; Jessica Jackley, cofounder of kiva.org, the world’s first peer-to-peer microlending site; Ian Jukes, a teacher, writer, and technology guru; Richard Ogle, author of “Smart World;” Joan Countryman, former head of school for the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls; Liz Coleman, visionary president of Vermont’s Bennington College; and Paul Tough, a frequent contributor to The New York Times Magazine and Esquire, and author of “Whatever It Takes: Geoffrey Canada’s Quest to Change Harlem and America.”

The speakers’ roster includes John Spirk, cofounder of invention and development group Nottingham-Spirk; Chris Coburn, executive director of Cleveland Clinic Innovations; James Beard Award-winning writer and “Iron Chef America” judge Michael Ruhlman; The Greenhouse Tavern’s Jonathon Sawyer, who was named one of the 2010 Best New Chefs by Food and Wine magazine; Daniel Coyle, author of “The Talent Code;” and Yohannes Haile-Selassie, chief of physical anthropology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and discoverer of Kadanuumuu, the world’s oldest hominid skeleton.

Already, nearly 600 educators and administrators from 110 U.S. schools and Canadian schools – from Punahou in Honolulu to Castilleja in Palo Alto – have registered to attend, along with numerous business professionals and community leaders. HB faculty and administrators will be joined at the Education Innovation Summit by several representatives of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, which is now in the throes of its own massive transformation plan, along with superintendents and administrators from many other regional public school districts.

About the Education Innovation Summit
Two years in the making, the Hathaway Brown Education Innovation Summit is being funded in part by a leadership grant from the Edward E. Ford Foundation and a generous gift from Ann Rittinger Petersen HB ’46. In the last two years, 30 different schools have sent teams of teachers to Cleveland to observe the HB process. The Summit will further extend this important reach. Event sponsors include finalsite, Sodexo, Westlake Reed Leskosky, Inside Business, and Carney, Sandoe & Associates. Visit www.hb.edu/innovation to learn more.

About Hathaway Brown School
Located in Shaker Heights, Ohio, Hathaway Brown is an independent school serving girls K-12 and boys and girls in Early Childhood. Founded in 1876, HB is committed to a fusion of academic and experiential learning. Visit www.hb.edu to learn more.

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