

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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## OPENING PLENARY SESSION

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Saturday, February 26  
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

### **The Art of Leadership**

In an era that has witnessed the demise of the star CEO, Bill Strickland, president of Manchester Craftsmen's Guild and the Bidwell Training Center, restores our faith in ethical, accountable, and visionary leadership. With little more than immense willpower and an undying belief in the goodness of human beings, he turned a nearly bankrupt community training center in Pittsburgh into one of the most successful organizations in America.

Bill Strickland's message—give people the tools they need, treat them with respect, and they will perform miraculous deeds—is as simple as it is profound. Starting from a sleeping bag on the second floor of a dilapidated building, he built one of the most extraordinary organizations in the United States.

*Bill Strickland, President, Bidwell Training Center*

## DISTRICT SHOWCASE PLENARY

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Sunday, February 27  
11:00 a.m. - noon

### **Neptune Project: From Imagination to Exploration!**

This year we're showcasing an exciting research project made possible by the advancement of education and demonstrating how such a venture can enhance an institution's image in all of its communities.

NEPTUNE is a project to create an undersea observatory on the Juan de Fuca Plate, located off the Pacific Northwest coast. By sharing the exploration and scientific discovery of this otherwise inaccessible realm of mystery, NEPTUNE will inspire scientists and explorers of all ages and from around the world. Through its connection to the Internet, NEPTUNE will provide real-time data and images from dynamic earth-ocean systems.

Scientists, students, decision makers, and the general public will interact with the NEPTUNE to gain new understanding of earthquakes, tsunamis, fish stock assessment, marine mammal populations, metal and hydrocarbon deposits, and human influences on ocean and climate systems.

Leaders of the project will address how NEPTUNE went from an idea to a funded initiative, who is involved in the partnership, and how it has enhanced the research reputation of two universities.

*John Delaney, Program Director of NEPTUNE, and Professor of Oceanography, University of Washington*  
*Chris Barnes, Director of NEPTUNE Canada, and Professor, University of Victoria*

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## CLOSING PLENARY

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Monday, February 28  
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### **Blending the Passion With the Profession**

Get recharged about the value and joy of what you do—everyday. Whether you are a colt or an established thoroughbred, Ken will inspire you to look beyond the numbers and discover what ignites individuals, foundations, and corporations to connect with higher education. As a philanthropist who heads his own foundation, Ken provides insight on facilitating the request and turning what often seems like an obligation into an exciting opportunity to advance the education of the next generation.

A Seattle native, Kenneth Alhadeff is chairman of Elttaes Enterprises (read it backward), chairman of the Kenneth and Marleen Alhadeff Charitable Foundation, president and chief executive officer of MiKen Properties, and owner of the Majestic Bay Theatres in Ballard, Washington. Born into a family that emphasized community responsibility, civil rights, and the arts, Ken learned philanthropy and culture from an early age. He also grew up breathing the romance of horseracing at Longacres racetrack, his family's business.

*Kenneth Alhadeff, Chairman, Elttaes Enterprises, and Chairman of Kenneth and Marleen Alhadeff Charitable Foundation*