



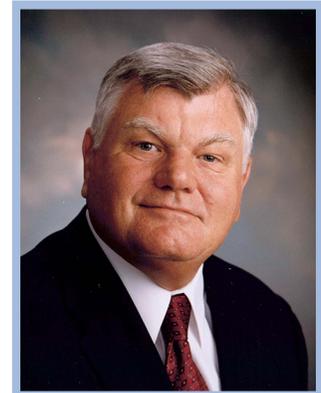
## Georgia Ethics Symposium

Building School Cultures that Foster Professional Decision-Making  
August 28-29, 2018

### Welcome from Kelly Henson

Welcome to the very first Georgia Ethics Symposium! We are glad you are here.

The vision of this event is reflected in its theme of "Building School Cultures that Foster Professional Decision-Making." Critical in this vision are school cultures that foster not only an expectation of success for all learners, in which each can realize his/her full potential, but also an expectation of success for those who are teaching, as well as those who provide support through a myriad of roles within schools. As part of this success, the role and responsibility of the leader in placing an intentional focus on achieving the work of schools within ethical and regulatory boundaries is paramount.



**Kelly C. Henson**  
Executive Secretary, GaPSC

Educators make hundreds of decisions each day. While we have a very comprehensive Georgia Code of Ethics, these conduct standards do not explicitly address all the ethical decisions educators face. There are many decisions and behaviors that educators may not see as unethical and many that may not start out as unethical, but can lead to a slippery slope into gray areas, which can ultimately either lead to a violation of the Georgia Code of Ethics or cross professional, ethical boundaries established by the profession. Many of these situations can be addressed through an intentional focus on ethics preparation for pre-service educators and on professional development for in-service educators, all of which hinges on school cultures that expect, support, and embrace professional decision-making.

This work is not easy. Educational leaders must balance the increasing complexity of their positions, including high stakes decisions, across their many areas of responsibility. Yet, we have such an opportunity before us for continuous improvement in providing school cultures that inspire the best in all who work with students, ensuring all are professionals in the profession of education. Doing so is true leadership.

So, embrace your responsibility as professional leaders to set the tone at the top. It is your attitude, actions, decisions, intentionality, and commitment to this work that will influence others and build the school cultures that foster professional decision-making that are so critical to ensure a better and safer learning environment for Georgia's children.

Again, welcome to the Symposium.

Regards,

Kelly C. Henson