2012 Keynote Speaker – James Delisle

Dr. Jim Delisle has taught gifted children and those who work on their behalf for more than 3 decades. Jim retired from Kent State University after 25 years of service as a professor of special education. Throughout his career, Jim has taken time away from college teaching to return to his “classroom roots”, volunteering as a 2nd, 4th, 5th and 8th grade teacher in 1991, 1997 and 2006. Too, Jim taught gifted middle school students one day a week between 1998 – 2008 in the Twinsburg, Ohio Public Schools.

The author of more than 250 articles and 17 books, Jim’s work has been translated into multiple languages and has been featured in both professional journals and in popular media such as The New York Times and on Oprah! A frequent presenter throughout the U.S., Jim has also addressed audiences in nations as diverse as England, Oman, Canada, Greece, China, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

Jim’s wife, Deb, serves as the Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education at the United States Department of Education in Washington, DC. Their son, Matt, is a special effects editor in California and the source of many of their stories about raising gifted children. In his “retirement”, Jim plans to walk every beach he can find and write children’s picture books where the main characters are based on young people Jim has taught or counseled during his career.

Gifted education goes Hollywood:
A film lover’s guide to the future of gifted education

Matthew Broderick as Ferris Bueller...Bill Murray in "Groundhog Day"...Brad Pitt as Benjamin Button: fictional characters all, yet they and many other movie characters have a lot they can teach us about the past, present and future of gifted child education. This keynote session is the equivalent of a backstage tour of important issues that parents and educators of gifted continue care about, including the diminishing of gifted services in many schools, the reversal of underachievement, and even the very definition of giftedness in children and adults. Come to this session to see how film characters just might teach us what we need to do to improve the educations and lives of gifted kids.

Adult Session Titles: A complete list and description of adult sessions will be given out at the conference. You will be free to go to any sessions the day of the conference – this listing is tentative and for informational purposes only. A complete list and description of the sessions will be available on the website in October.

- Addressing the Educational Needs of Gifted Youth with Chronic Health Challenges
- Arthink: Creativity Skills for 21st Century Careers
- Beyond Stereotypes: Some Things that Gifted Education Teachers and Administrators Need to Know about Asian American Students
- Biofeedback and Sound Rhythms to Enhance Performance
- Common Characteristics and Common School Issues
- Conversation with Jim
- Doing poorly on purpose: Underachievement and the quest for dignity
- Do You Fit the Description: Creating Student Portfolios and Academic Profiles
- Educating Twice-Exceptional Children: Parents’ Rights and Responsibilities
- Embracing Difference: Constructing Positive Gifted Identities
- Gifted Girls Grow Up: Tools to Navigate Adolescence and Beyond
- Homeschooling Gifted Children
- I’m Ready to be Independent! Making a Successful High School to College Transition
- Learning Effectiveness: Enhancing Academic Success with Learning Strategies, Academic Skills, Organizational Systems, and Technology Tools
- Levels of Giftedness
- Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders in Gifted Children
- Moving Past Perfect: A Guide To Recovery From Perfectionism
- Parenting Precocious kids: Understanding the Ups and Downs of growing up gifted
- Powerful Strategies to Enhance Learning of Gifted & Highly Capable Students
- Responding to the Intensity of the Gifted Child in the Classroom and the Home
- Response to Intervention (RtI) for Twice-Exceptional Gifted Children
- Solving the Homework Dilemma for Gifted Students
- The Power of Presence – Accelerate your Child’s Social and Emotional Skills
- The Ten Things All Future Mathematicians and Scientists Must Know (But are rarely taught)
- The Right Triangle: Student, Parent, Teacher Teamwork
- Twelve Math Problem Solving Strategies
- Using Meditation and Creative Visualization to Reduce Stress and Anxiety
- What to Look for in a Gifted-Friendly Classroom
- Why Don’t Schools Graduate More Intellectuals?

The Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented (MCGT) is a state-wide non-profit organization dedicated to promoting better understanding of, and educational services for, gifted and talented children and their families. Its members are mainly parents, educators and other professionals. MCGT provides information, literature and referral services, publish a bi-monthly newsletter, conducts occasional topical seminars and CHAT nights, sponsors an annual state conference with special children’s program, promotes advocacy at all levels for gifted and talented children, is active in legislative efforts on behalf of gifted kids in collaboration with the Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented, and participates in a national network through its affiliation with the National Association for Gifted Children and other organizations. Chapters and parent groups throughout the state provide opportunities for local activities.

For more information, check the website www.mcgt.net, email info@mcgt.net or call 952-848-4906.