



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Battelle for Kids, ITLN Partner to Bring the Happiness Advantage to Life in K-12 Education

Columbus, Ohio—Battelle for Kids (BFK) today announced an exclusive partnership with International Thought Leader Network (ITLN) and happiness researcher Shawn Achor to bring the power of positive psychology to life in K-12 education. Achor is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Happiness Advantage* (2010) and *Before Happiness* (2013). He is the winner of more than a dozen distinguished teaching awards at Harvard University where he lectured on positive psychology in the most popular class at Harvard.

BFK, in partnership with ITLN and Achor, will provide professional learning and resources to help educators increase their personal satisfaction and foster more engaged and productive cultures in schools.

“Good schools are places where students want to learn, teachers want to teach, and leaders want to lead. Getting the environment and culture right makes everything else possible,” said Jim Mahoney, Executive Director of Battelle for Kids. “We’re excited about the opportunity to work with ITLN to help schools create happy, healthy, and engaging environments for educators and students.”

More than a decade of research has shown that our formula for happiness is backwards; happiness leads to success, not the other way around. Achor’s *The Happiness Advantage* outlines the research case based upon hundreds of studies worldwide showing that happiness is one of the greatest competitive advantages you can give a brain, raising creativity, test scores, productive energy, as well as buffering against stress and depression.

ITLN and Achor developed an experiential workshop rooted in the seven core principles from *The Happiness Advantage*. This experience provides leaders with a sustainable approach to increasing engagement and enhancing productivity at the individual, team, and organization levels. As a cornerstone to the workshop, Shawn Achor wrote *The Orange Frog*, an engaging parable that illustrates the journey to creating a happier, more productive, more satisfying life and workplace. BFK will work with ITLN to bring The Orange Frog Workshop™ to K-12 education to create more positive school cultures.

“We’re seeing the impact of this work in school districts around the country. Superintendents, staff, faculty, students, and entire communities are embracing healthy cultures and positive environments as the foundation for success. The purpose of our relationship with Battelle for Kids is to create an active community of leaders and learners around the country who are putting this science to work, and build upon the research, to better our schools and improve educational outcomes,” note ITLN co-founders Greg Kaiser and Greg Ray.

“It is an honor for us to be partnering with Battelle for Kids, a leader committed to advancing educational outcomes in our schools and communities. Both my parents are educators, and the fact that positive psychology is beginning to impact school districts around the country is both exciting and heartfelt to me,” says Achor.” The research is clear; a positive engaged brain provides the greatest competitive advantage in the 21st century in the office, and in the classroom. Best yet, happiness is contagious,” he adds.

[Read](#) in the September issue of *AASA School Administrator* (pg. 42-46) how The Orange Frog helped transform the culture in one Iowa school district.

BFK and ITLN will be hosting a public training session November 15–17 at AASA headquarters in Arlington Virginia.

To learn more, visit www.bfk.org/OrangeFrog.

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About Battelle for Kids

Battelle for Kids is a national, not-for-profit organization dedicated to moving education forward for students by supporting the educators who work with them every day. They provide innovative services, solutions, and products that empower teachers, leaders, and school systems to advance educational equity and opportunity for all students. Learn more at www.bfk.org.

About International Thought Leader Network

International Thought Leader Network, in partnership with Shawn Achor, assists organizations around the world in bringing happiness research to life at work and in education...through research partnerships, training, and large-scale interventions. The Happiness Advantage I Orange Frog Workshop™ and its accompanying parable by Shawn Achor, *The Orange Frog*, are designed to deliver key lessons about the happiness advantage, serve as a rallying language for teams, organizations, and educator to embrace the principles, and provide the foundation for sustained positive behavioral change linked to core work routines and desired organizational and educational outcomes. Learn more at www.orangefrogbook.com.