

I currently work as a Senior Fellow for the International Center for Leadership in Education as a leadership coach and consultant. I have worked for ICLE the past three years and feel blessed to have formed such a positive relationship with Bill Daggett and his team. I was honored in 2012 to be named Iowa Principal of the Year, and, in 2013, as a NASSP Principal of the Year finalist. Since then, my personal consulting work has continued to grow, and after fourteen years as principal of Bettendorf High School, I decided to leave that role when my consulting work was questioned by a few folks who claimed there was a conflict of interest in leading both a high school and doing my own consulting.

I have found in my work with schools across the country that many other school leaders are facing similar scrutiny due to their desire to continue to grow professionally as well as serve other leaders in our profession by speaking/presenting at regional and national conferences. This has left many of my colleagues feeling confused and underappreciated. Fortunately for me, I had a great network of support that wanted me to work with their teams. This includes Drake University and NASSP, where I continue to serve as an adjunct professor teaching courses in educational leadership and serve on the Professional Development Faculty, respectively.

Today, I feel blessed to be the co-founder and CEO of ConnectEDD, an educational leadership company aimed at organizing world class professional learning conferences and professional development services for educators across the country. Finally, my second book, *Start. Right. Now. – Teach and Lead for Excellence,* was just released and is already being recognized as a must read book by educators across the country. I look forward to seeing you in August.

Jimmy Casas
ICLE, Drake University, ConnectEDD
@casas_jimmy