

Tuesday, December 5

Opening Speaker

Dr. Debbie Silver



Dr. Debbie Silver is an award-winning teacher and one of the most popular keynoters and professional development presenters in the United States. Audiences everywhere respond to Debbie's use of humor and sensitivity to remind them of how important adults are in the lives of children. Through research-based theory, poignant stories, and hilarious characterizations she connects with the souls of all who are involved in education.

With 30 years spent as a teacher, staff development instructor, and university professor, Debbie doesn't just know her way around the classroom – she is familiar with the challenges educators face at every level, from kindergarten to college. The former *Louisiana Teacher of the Year* has given presentations around the world (including 49 states, Canada, Mexico, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia), helping

audiences to interact with students on a deeper level.

Debbie's best-selling book, *Drumming to the Beat of Different Marchers: Finding the Rhythm for Differentiated Learning*, has been recognized for its insights into research-based models, teaching strategies, management tips, and inspirational "from-the-heart" lessons for addressing individual differences.

Her 2012 best seller, *Fall Down 7 Times, Get Up 8: Teaching Kids to Succeed*, is being heralded by parents, teachers, and administrators as a "fresh approach to getting kids to work smarter and better." In it she explains motivational theory and provides down-to-earth examples of concrete, applicable guidelines for helping students overcome setbacks and failure to foster lifelong success.

Her newest book, *Deliberate Optimism: Reclaiming the Joy in Education*, debuted as a best seller and is quickly becoming a favorite among teachers and administrators for its practical, incisive, humorous look at how educators can become their own best advocates.

Debbie's mission is to remind educators of how important they are in the lives of children. She firmly believes that teachers need to be having fun and making authentic connections with students to make the biggest impact in the classroom.

When she's not working as an educational speaker and writer, Debbie enjoys spending time in Texas with her husband, Dr. Lawrence Silver, and with their five sons and their families in five different states.