

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Sunday Evening Keynote Speaker: Kit Summers

For over 25 years, Kit Summers has used his skills and experience to become one of America's foremost educators in the field of performing, juggling, and personal achievement.

Learning to juggle in 1975, at the age of 15, Kit knew this is what he wanted to do for his life's work. After winning first place on "**The Gong Show**," at the age of 16, Kit taught juggling and performing at Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Clown College.

Later, Kit went on to perform around the world and achieved the position of "**featured performer**" at **Ballys Park Place Casino** in Atlantic City. Performing at Ballys, he did two 12 minute shows 6 days a week. So, Kit worked about 24 minutes a day, doing something he loved, and was paid very well for it! At this point, Kit's juggling was at a high level and he was trying to **master juggling 7 clubs**, a world record at the time.

Becoming a featured performer at Ballys was a **starting point on his way toward stardom**. Unfortunately, while Kit was on his way to the show at Ballys during a torrential rainstorm, he crossed a busy street when, suddenly, out of the downpour from behind a sheet of rain, a truck was on the scene. **The collision was inevitable**. Kit was thrown onto the hood of the truck, broke the windshield with his head, rolled off to the side and tore off the side mirror with his body. He lay in a crumpled heap 30 feet away from the truck.

After 37 days asleep, Kit slowly emerged from his coma. When he awoke, he had to learn to do everything once again, including eating, talking, walking, and of course, juggling. The lessons that Kit learned during his recovery are an inspiration to us all. **He has also written four books, started three businesses, and speaks to groups around the world on the subject of personal and professional growth**. Millions have heard Kit's story.

Monday Morning Keynote Speaker: Jim Bierma



Jim is the Immediate Past-President of ASCA (American School Counseling Association), Co-Lead counselor for Minneapolis Public Schools, and adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin—River Falls, a part-time counselor at Henry High School, and a counselor/tutor at homeless shelters.

Jim has written hundreds of classroom lessons and articles that help school counselors around the country. He will certainly inspire and educate as he speaks about "Providing Sustainability and Resilience!"