

The Advertiser-Tribune

Education Summit to focus on emotionally wounded students

This year's Education Summit is to focus on reaching out to emotionally wounded students in the classroom.

The summit, hosted by Heidelberg University, is to take place March 23-24 on campus.

“The main message is that we have a high number of emotionally wounded students in our classrooms, many of it invisible to the trained eye,” Brian Haley, professor of education at Heidelberg, said. “The teaching profession has traditionally focused on many disabilities, but the emotionally wounded students are often ignored.”

During the event, an opening address and keynote speech is to be delivered by Joseph Hendershott, co-founder of Hope 4 the Wounded.

Hendershott is president of his consulting firm, serves as a featured presenter at international and national conferences and has conducted staff training/professional development on understanding and working with wounded students, emotional literacy, empathy, esteem, inclusive communities and other topics.

“According to Hendershott, there are over 20 percent of students sitting not just in K-12 classrooms, but in universities as well as the workplace, who are emotionally wounded,” Haley said. “Joe's research is groundbreaking as its a topic often not touched or recognized.”

Haley said the purpose of the summit is to discuss topics relevant to teachers in the classrooms.

“Not topics important to administration that have a top-down approach to how they see the work of teachers,” Haley said. “It is about giving voice to teachers in the classroom, and not just those who have the loudest voices when it comes to discussing the teaching craft.”

Haley said the way this summit is different from other university pre-service program is that the students get to have professional development opportunities while still learning their craft.

“This will actually help them understand the complexities of the profession in meaningful, authentic ways,” Haley said.
