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**Laurel Middle School introduces Edge Foundation coaching  
to help bolster the resiliency of its students  
in times of COVID-19 and online education**

LAUREL, MISS. (July 15, 2020): [Laurel Middle School](#) for the first time is training staff to provide executive-style one-on-one coaching to at-risk students – those who are struggling to succeed in school.

The research and evidenced-based [Edge Foundation](#) Coaching Model has proven that providing personalized one-to-one coaching to struggling students with executive function challenges helps them succeed not only in school, but also in the social-emotional aspects of a successful life.

As a result of recommendations for social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Edge Foundation has recently moved its in-person coach training sessions to virtual, online training.

“Many of the students who benefit from Edge coaching have a range of executive function challenges derived from ADHD, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to the new anxiety of online learning in the COVID-19 education environment. The common thread for these students is these types of challenges can impede their ability to reach their full potential. We train school staff and others who work with youth whose executive function challenges inhibit their academic progress and social and emotional learning,” said Neil Peterson, a successful businessman who founded the Edge Foundation after seeing how he and his own children benefited from executive-style one-to-one coaching. “We’re excited to extend the reach of our program through online training. Edge coaching empowers young people to realize their full potential. It gives at-risk kids the brain skills needed to succeed in school and life.”

Laurel Middle School in July is sending 37 staff members through Edge coach training.

“I am looking forward to the enabling our staff to better communicate with our students. Building relationships is very important and we want our students to know that we all care - from the bus drivers to the superintendent and all the people in between,” said Laurel Middle School counselor Franchell Thomas King

“By providing one-to-one weekly 20- to 25-minutes coaching sessions, Edge coaches help students succeed by working with them to develop agency – the ability to successfully act on

their own behalf to solve problems and make good decisions in school and in life,” Peterson said.

Edge Foundation has trained the educator and counseling staff in its Edge Model for coaching at more than 90 schools and organizations in Washington State, Oregon, California, New York and Washington, D.C. Laurel Middle School is the first school in Mississippi to sign up for Edge coach training.

Why did Laurel Middle School sign up for Edge Model coaching? Because it works. A study by Wayne State University looked at Edge Foundation coaching methods involving students from 10 universities and community colleges. The study was the largest and most comprehensive study of ADHD coaching conducted to date. The research team determined that the Edge Coaching model was four times more effective than any other educational intervention in helping students improve executive functioning and related skills as measured by the Learning and Study Strategies Inventory. (LASSI; Weinstein and Palmer, 2002).

Schools and individual teachers are required to produce results, close performance gaps, boost achievement and reduce drop-out rates. Edge coaching can help them achieve success with all students.

Additional schools, organizations or individuals that work with students interested in joining the Edge Foundation’s online training should contact Denise von Pressentin at 206-632-9497 (D), 206-390-0251 (M), 888-718-8886 or [dvonpressentin@edgefoundation.org](mailto:dvonpressentin@edgefoundation.org).

**About the Edge Foundation:** The Edge Foundation aims to give each student a coach so they can complete their education, realize their full potential and pursue their passion. The foundation focuses on children, teens and young adults at risk of dropping out of school - non-traditional learners with executive function challenges that can come from ADHD and Adverse Childhood Experiences. Learn more at [www.edgefoundation.org](http://www.edgefoundation.org).

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