



MEDIA RELEASE

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**Empowering Education: Uniting Forces for Student Success
at Social Determinants of Learning Summit**



Rumson, NJ - We are thrilled to share some extraordinary news from our Rumson community! Rumson's very own Mrs. Jennifer Gibbons, Principal of Forrestdale, and Dr. Michael Snyder, Director of Student Services, recently embarked on a remarkable journey of advocacy and innovation as they participated in the esteemed Social Determinants of Learning Summit hosted by the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine. This pivotal summit brought together a diverse array of educators, clinicians, mental health experts, and community leaders from across New Jersey, providing a platform to delve into critical topics such as understanding the social determinants of learning, fostering healthcare partnerships, and advocating for policies to support students' holistic development.

Reflecting on their experience, Mrs. Gibbons shared her enthusiasm, stating, "We were honored to represent the educational voice in this important discussion and shed light on how important it is to bridge the gaps between school and community

in promoting student wellness." Dr. Snyder's perspective added depth to the discussion, emphasizing, "The Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine's vision of health and medical education guides us towards transformative solutions." His dedication to holistic student support was palpable as he and Mrs. Gibbons conducted a workshop on Building a Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) program in school districts. Their presentation focused on systematic solutions, partnerships, and innovative strategies for supporting mental health within educational settings.

Dr. Snyder's insightful words echoed, "Integrating SEL programs within school districts is not merely a necessity; it's a profound opportunity. It's about nurturing environments where students not only thrive academically but also develop the resilience and emotional intelligence needed for lifelong success." His insights underscored the critical importance of collaboration between educators, healthcare professionals, and community stakeholders in promoting student well-being.

The impact of this summit extends far beyond the classroom, permeating into the fabric of our community and shaping our collective approach to education and student well-being. It establishes a foundation for a profound paradigm shift within our educational landscape, reminding us that education encompasses the comprehensive well-being of the entire child. This initiative not only lays the groundwork for a more effective educational system but also ignites a transformative shift in perspective, challenging us to prioritize the holistic development of each and every student. It empowers educators, clinicians, and community leaders to collaborate, innovate, and create environments where every student can thrive.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Gibbons and Dr. Snyder for their outstanding contributions to this groundbreaking conversation among New Jersey's medical and educational leaders. Their unwavering dedication to advancing student support initiatives embodies Rumson's commitment to nurturing the whole child. With their remarkable participation in the Social Determinants of Learning Summit, they exemplify Rumson School District's proud position at the forefront of innovative and inspiring educational initiatives.