Goals of MSLBD and Its Activities

Since its beginning, the Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders, has had four goals. These apply to the February Symposium, as well as its other activities.

**Goal 1** – Identify and invite the best thinkers and thinking. Look for the people who have innovative, creative views, or who could pull together diverse ideas to make a new synthesis – not just someone who may have good delivery but few fresh ideas.

**Goal 2** – Have presenters do “New” rather than “Off the shelf” presentations. Ask presenters to think about a new topic or a new angle on a topic, rather than present what they normally had presented at other conferences.
Goal 3 – Make use of innovative formats, particularly those which stimulate thinking, or which lead to greater potential engagement than traditional formats (although traditional formats are employed as well). Find new formats which permit examination of multiple sides of issues. Formats used have included Debates, Courtroom Drama, Meeting of Minds, TED Talk-like Short Keynotes, Joint Keynotes, and more. All intended to stimulate thinking, not just passive listening.

Goal 4 – Permit people to interact and get to know each other, develop relationships, and build professional contacts and collegiality across roles and disciplines.