

# Introducing William Cathers

Marriott Hotel May 8, 2014 9am-10:30am

## **Beyond the Deadlocks: The Art of Associating and Building Community in Difficult Times**

Mr. Cathers will make a multi-media presentation on the common deadlocks that hamper collective accomplishment and the wisdom needed for inspiring communal creativity and practical action beyond the deadlocks. Whether in your individual organization, the community at large, or the political arena, Mr. Cathers' presentation will enlighten and encourage your efforts to lead "Beyond the Deadlocks."

"Bill Cathers inspires tremendous confidence in everyone who participates in his seminars at *The Aspen Institute*. He challenges, but it is a welcoming challenge, not a threatening challenge at all; and he inspires everyone to believe they can handle any material that is at hand—Plato, Aristotle, Beethoven—anything that seems erudite. He makes the content relevant and creates a sense that it is urgent that all of us *really* need to know this material and that all of us *can* know it. Mr. Cathers believes in each person who studies with him and they, in turn, believe in themselves. He's filled with enthusiasm and it carries over to anyone in his presence. In his seminars there is an electricity going on around the room. You can see light bulbs going on in the minds of the participants. I've been in several of Mr. Cathers' seminars and my daughter was in his high school program. Like many others, we can attest to the fact that learning with Bill Cathers is a life-changing experience."

**Bonnie McCloskey**, Member of the Board of Trustees of *The Aspen Institute*

William Cathers is an educator, speaker, consultant and intellectual coach. He has also designed and moderated a variety of seminars for The Aspen Institute, an internationally recognized think tank and leadership training organization and was a protégé of the institute's intellectual architect, Dr. Mortimer J. Adler.

"As an academic, I'm surrounded by intellectuals. But for many years, I have not participated in a conversation that was as intellectually stimulating as the ones facilitated by Bill Cathers at *The Aspen Institute*. The discussion of the Greek Tragedy, *Antigone*, was perhaps the best discussion I've ever had of dilemmas faced by change agents and leaders in organizations. The conversation so moved me, that I built a case discussion of *Antigone* into my course on "Leading Social Change" at the Stanford Graduate School of Business."

**Professor Debra Meyerson**, Stanford University

In the 1980's, Bill developed, directed, and was lead teacher of the *Options Enrichment Program*, an alternative high school program for at-risk youth based on the principles of Dr. Adler's *Paideia Program*. Students included expulsion cases, dropouts, pregnant minors, as well as others released from jail. In 1989, Mr. Cathers entered two teams of these students into the United States Academic Decathlon, a rigorous, nation-wide intellectual competition. Competing against the top students from the regular high schools, *Options* won six medals, placed in the top ten in the Super Quiz, and won the music category with a record-setting team score.

Due to the success and acclaim of the *Options Enrichment Program*, Mr. Cathers created his second educational program, the *High Intellectual Preparedness Program*. *HIPP* provides workshops for high school students and teachers in Los Angeles and has helped produced dramatic improvement of test scores across a variety of subjects.

Each summer during college, Bill worked for legendary UCLA coach John Wooden at his youth basketball camps; and upon graduating from college, played professional basketball in Europe. Mr. Cathers' unique background in academics, athletics, and fine arts enables him to provide a versatile and inspiring approach as a consultant, educator, coach, writer and speaker.