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SIGNATURE KEYNOTE

The Accidental Rocket Scientist

How Making Movements Makes It Matter

ABSTRACT

“Why does this even matter?”

It’s a question every educator faces at some point in their career, and answering it can feel more important than the content itself. Because without it, even the best lessons fall on deaf ears.

And while it’s not in the job description, answering it could be the single most important driver of engaged, effective classrooms. The kind of classroom that reminds us why we started teaching in the first place.

In this keynote, I draw from my journey as a checked-out, underperforming student to a NASA engineer to break down how to answer that question in a room full of diverse students. The result? Classrooms become movements where even the most disengaged students buy in. And educators can get back to what they do best... educate.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Learn the four-step framework** that transforms disengaged students into active, engaged learners.
- **Discover how to build classroom movements** where students no longer question why it matters.
- **Walk away with actionable strategies** you can immediately apply upon returning to school.

“People are still talking about what they learned from her talk from the perspective of a young person persevering through the gauntlet of the education system.”

LYNN LAWSON, M.Ed. · Missouri AfterSchool Network