



Session Title: Recognizing the Additive and Multiplicative Structures to Take the Confusion Out of the Operations

Strand: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT – Curriculum alignment, instructional design, and assessment development strategies that result in improved student learning. Specifically, addressing topics such as; literacy, Science, Technology, and Math (STEM).

Audience: Teachers

Structure: Learning Academies – 120 minute in depth learning opportunity for participants. This will be a time to take a deep dive into a specific topic. (Similar topics may be combined to create full or half day sessions)

Description: This session is designed for teachers and math interventionists. The interactive presentation shows the relationship between addition and subtraction (additive structure) and between multiplication and division (multiplicative structure). Participants will use graphic organizers and incorporate kinesthetic movements to take the confusion out of the operations.

Presenter: Kay Perry

Position: Retired Math Specialist/Hourly Lecturer

Organization: Houston ISD



Session Title: Words, Words, Words, Oh My!

Strand: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT – Curriculum alignment, instructional design, and assessment development strategies that result in improved student learning. Specifically, addressing topics such as; literacy, Science, Technology, and Math (STEM).

Audience: Teachers

Structure: Learning Academies – 120 minute in depth learning opportunity for participants. This will be a time to take a deep dive into a specific topic. (Similar topics may be combined to create full or half day sessions)

Description: According to Strickland and Alvermann (2004), African-American and Latino students often struggle in reading, because they lack the prior knowledge and decoding skills to understand complex vocabulary words. Because of this, it is imperative that African-American and Latino students receive direct vocabulary instruction to build their reading and vocabulary capacity. Our presentation is aligned to the literacy strand and is designed to equip teachers with the necessary skills to employ direct vocabulary instruction in classroom discourse.

Presenter: Adam Whitaker

Position: Teacher

Organization: Roosevelt High School



Session Title: I Spy A Reader!

Strand: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT – Curriculum alignment, instructional design, and assessment development strategies that result in improved student learning. Specifically, addressing topics such as; literacy, Science, Technology, and Math (STEM).

Audience: Teachers

Structure: Learning Academies – 120 minute in depth learning opportunity for participants. This will be a time to take a deep dive into a specific topic. (Similar topics may be combined to create full or half day sessions)

Description: Teachers, parents, and Administrators! You will love this presentation with its simple interactive presentation of literacy theory, modeling of strategies and opportunities to dance and sing multi-sensory literacy songs. You will be inspired to spread this joyous method of engaging children to reading and writing skills that boost them in school readiness, close the learning gap, and ensure their success in school. Participants will receive copies of strategies and activities that you can readily implement in the classroom.

Presenter: Ingrid Ingrid Haynes, Ph.D. Haynes

Position: Associate Professor/Chairperson of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Organization: Texas Southern University



Session Title: High Yield Instructional Strategies for African American Learners: Teaching Black Kids

Strand: DIVERSE LEARNERS – Discussion of the unique academic needs of diverse learners including, underserved students, SPED, and ELL learners. Exploration of how best practices to better understand and incorporate insight into diversity in the classroom.

Audience: Teachers

Structure: Learning Academies – 120 minute in depth learning opportunity for participants. This will be a time to take a deep dive into a specific topic. (Similar topics may be combined to create full or half day sessions)

Description: This fast-paced session will focus on introducing teachers and educational leaders to practical instructional strategies that are proven to engage African American learners. What is more, the strategies presented will provide participants an assortment of instructional tools to use in the classroom with African American learners, students in poverty, and students who are difficult to engage. The strategies to be explored require very little preparations; however, they are ideal for increasing the rigor, engagement, critical thinking, and level of discussion for any lesson regardless of the grade level or content area.

Presenter: Brandon Thurston

Position: Assistant Principal/Doctoral Candidate

Organization: Gilmer Independent School District/ Texas A&M University-Texarkana



Session Title: NELSON BEATS THE ODDS: THE INTERSECTIONALITY OF RACE, GENDER, AND ABILITY

Strand: DIVERSE LEARNERS – Discussion of the unique academic needs of diverse learners including, underserved students, SPED, and ELL learners. Exploration of how best practices to better understand and incorporate insight into diversity in the classroom.

Audience: Teachers

Structure: Learning Academies – 120 minute in depth learning opportunity for participants. This will be a time to take a deep dive into a specific topic. (Similar topics may be combined to create full or half day sessions)

Description: "Nelson Beats the Odds" is a semiautobiographical best-selling comic book about an African American boy diagnosed with ADHD and a learning disability. During the presentation we'll explore how race, gender and ability impact the outcomes for African American students. The presenter will share how self-efficacy, resiliency and championing can help African American students beat the odds.

Presenter: Ronnie S Sidney, II

Position: Author-Therapist

Organization: Creative Medicine: Healing Through Words, LLC



Session Title: Educating African Immigrants and Other Newcomers: Las Americas Newcomer Middle School Programming Informs Leadership and Decision-Making

Strand: DIVERSE LEARNERS – Discussion of the unique academic needs of diverse learners including, underserved students, SPED, and ELL learners. Exploration of how best practices to better understand and incorporate insight into diversity in the classroom.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: Learning Academies – 120 minute in depth learning opportunity for participants. This will be a time to take a deep dive into a specific topic. (Similar topics may be combined to create full or half day sessions)

Description: Newcomer Immigrants from Tanzania, Congo, Somalia, Ethiopia and other parts of the World are outperforming homegrown English Language Learners. Why? The nationally recognized Las Americas Middle School in Houston, Tx gives us answers.

This campus' faculty/staff commits to fundamental tenets, educational leadership systems, and continuous professional development that ensure the success of 2nd Language Acquisition for the whole child. Some students, even, achieve Honors/Salutatorian status. Developmentally appropriate, data-driven, high intensity, and strategically planned instruction produces their success. Moreover, it is strangely reminiscent of the competent, caring, committed, and courageous leadership portrayed in James Anderson's research entitled, *The Education of Blacks in the South*. Government support was minimal and School Board and Central Office Support was usually marginalized. Then, as now, it required a special temperament from principals and teachers working with Black students.

The Principal of Las Americas along with McNeil Foundation Principal Practicum participants will facilitate Teacher-Leaders and School Administrators in thought-provoking exercises and dialogues about developmental best practices and policies that affect the achievement of 2nd Language Learners from 29 countries speaking 32 languages.



Presenter: Jesse McNeil

Position: President/Founder/CEO

Organization: McNeil Educational Foundation for Ecumenical Leadership



Session Title: How to Go to College for Free

Strand: COLLEGE/CAREER READINESS- Addresses issues that relate to college access and job attainment including, ACT/SAT involvement and advanced placement for minority students.

Audience: Counselors

Structure: Learning Academies – 120 minute in depth learning opportunity for participants. This will be a time to take a deep dive into a specific topic. (Similar topics may be combined to create full or half day sessions)

Description: According to the College Board, the cost of college has increased 3.4% beyond inflation every year for the last 10 years. In the face of layoffs, reduced hours, and stagnant wages, how can families afford the cost of higher education?

In this workshop, you will learn the following:

- How to navigate the financial aid process;
- How to position your students for scholarships;
- Tools to prepare for the PSAT, SAT, and ACT (tests that lead to scholarships); and
- How to eliminate thousands of dollars in college costs.

Presenter: Jennifer Ledwith

Position: Lead Instructor and Certified Financial Planner

Organization: Scholar Ready, LLC



Session Title: Streamlining District Initiatives

Strand: LEADERSHIP – Relevant issues faced by district leaders, principals, and aspiring leaders, including counselors and school board members.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: Learning Academies – 120 minute in depth learning opportunity for participants. This will be a time to take a deep dive into a specific topic. (Similar topics may be combined to create full or half day sessions)

Description: This session will provide participants with a system to streamline district initiatives. As the tendency, especially in struggling schools/districts, is to inundate and overwhelm teachers with initiatives, this results in high levels of stress that negatively impact teacher and student performance. The activities through which I will engage session participants will equip them with an effective process that they may replicate with their staff. The outcome of use of this process will be decreased stress, enhanced focus, and improved student achievement.

Presenter: Kevin Dougherty

Position: Director of Business Development

Organization: Thinking Maps, Inc.



Session Title: Leading Learning for All: A Leadership Development Framework that Models Systems Thinking for School Change

Strand: LEADERSHIP – Relevant issues faced by district leaders, principals, and aspiring leaders, including counselors and school board members.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: Learning Academies – 120 minute in depth learning opportunity for participants. This will be a time to take a deep dive into a specific topic. (Similar topics may be combined to create full or half day sessions)

Description: The purpose of this workshop is to share lessons learned from the implementation of leadership development model for understanding systems thinking and systems changing in schools. The model gives leaders the skills to see their schools through a different lens as they engage in an organized, reflective process for identifying problems on their campuses and engaging a team to find solutions. This workshop will discuss the structure of the leadership development model, along with its guidelines, caveats, and outcomes. Examples of learning topics will be presented including transforming school culture and leading organizational change for equitable student outcomes. Presenters will also share lessons learned from leaders, who experienced the model, about the connections they made for putting theory into practice in schools whose student population is predominately students of color. Throughout the session, presenters and participants will discuss the benefits of implementing this step-by-step model to prepare school leaders to make significant contributions in schools that significantly improve student learning outcomes. Learn how we use facilitative leadership seminars to help leaders become skillful in sharing decision-making, and developing a systematic approach to school improvement. Leave with tools for making this happen in your schools and districts.

Presenter: Deirdre Sharkey

Position: Leadership Advancement Officer



Organization: Harris County Department of Education



Session Title: I'm not broken! I just do school differently! Cultural considerations to behavior and learning

Strand: DISCIPLINE- This strand will address specific strategies that will help educators address guidance and management for students of African descent.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: Learning Academies – 120 minute in depth learning opportunity for participants. This will be a time to take a deep dive into a specific topic. (Similar topics may be combined to create full or half day sessions)

Description: The presentation will engage the participants in moving theory to action in the cultural considerations that must be implemented to eradicate the disproportionality of behavior challenges facing black students in k-12 schools. A cultural behavioral framework will be shared which provides administrators and teachers concrete methodologies to narrowing cultural incongruencies that may exist in learning and behavior with diverse learners. Participants will be provided a self-assessment survey to rate their level of cultural consciousness to enhance their mind-set, planning and instructional delivery. Cultural scenarios within the workshop will be used to provide "hands-on/minds-on" application.

- Deeper understanding of how to incorporate Race and Culture as preventive practices to behavior & discipline
- Understanding and application of racial identity for diverse learners to foster students resiliency
- Distinguish and connect the cultural incongruencies of school and community norms
- Analyze and proactively engage inequities of school culture to support teachers and students

Presenter: Edwin Javius



Position: CEO/President

Organization: EDEquity, Inc.



Session Title: How to Make Writing Engaging and Fun

Strand: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT – Curriculum alignment, instructional design, and assessment development strategies that result in improved student learning. Specifically, addressing topics such as; literacy, Science, Technology, and Math (STEM).

Audience: Teachers

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: You want to get your students excited about writing? Learn strategies that will increase students' engagement as well as achievement through acting and music.

Presenter: Dawnyell Brown

Position: Teacher

Organization: Sheldon ISD



Session Title: Rap, Rhythm & Rhyme: Rebuilding the Writing Foundation

Strand: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT – Curriculum alignment, instructional design, and assessment development strategies that result in improved student learning. Specifically, addressing topics such as; literacy, Science, Technology, and Math (STEM).

Audience: Teachers

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: This workshop is a Grammatical and Verbal Reawakening. Principals, Teachers, Curriculum Coordinators and ELA Specialists exit this session with lively learning strategies to motivate young scholars to systematically organize their voice into a flood of meaningful sentences. Those who feast on the delicious literary details of this lavishly lively workshop routinely exceed rigorous academic requirements. Music, mnemonic devices and audience participation make this non-stop session an intoxicating buffet of teachable techniques for educators who are serious about providing each student with vital communication skills they can appreciate for a lifetime.

Presenter: Erik Cork

Position: Writing Consultant

Organization: International Write Now, Inc.



Session Title: The Impact of Social Media on Student Academic Performance

Strand: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT – Curriculum alignment, instructional design, and assessment development strategies that result in improved student learning. Specifically, addressing topics such as; literacy, Science, Technology, and Math (STEM).

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: The Internet and Social Media are a new phenomenon in our lives, more importantly, in the lives of our students. We as parents and educators have no idea about the impact of the Internet and Social Media on the lives of our students. In this session, participants will understand how Social Media is impacting student performance and student safety on a daily basis in our school districts and in our homes. Do you know what’s occurring on your campus? We do! Come and find out.

Presenter: Dapne Levenson

Position: Owner and Trainer

Organization: CyberLife Success



Session Title: Raising the Grade: Improving African American Students' Academic Performance Through Kinesthetic Active Education Learning

Strand: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT – Curriculum alignment, instructional design, and assessment development strategies that result in improved student learning. Specifically, addressing topics such as; literacy, Science, Technology, and Math (STEM)., EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY- These sessions will address successful and/or innovative tools to enhance student and professional learning., DISCIPLINE- This strand will address specific strategies that will help educators address guidance and management for students of African descent.

Audience: Teachers

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Innovation regarding kinesthetic learning is needed in our P-12 classrooms. Current research has shown a positive correlation between physical activity and positive educational outcomes, health outcomes, and lifestyle or behaviors. Research has also shown adverse outcomes for those who are inactive and participate in little to no physical activity. This session will breakdown the challenges regarding healthy living and learning, and also provide proven techniques and solutions for Active Education implementation in the classroom.

Presenter: Jasmine Trier

Position: Doctoral Candidate

Organization: Texas Southern University



Session Title: It's Getting Hot In Here!

Strand: PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – Practices that promote parental engagement as well as community building sustainable partnerships that benefit the community.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: With the ever- changing and increasingly demanding role of the principal to be "all things great", schools leaders are in constant pursuit of ways to increase parental engagement and empowerment in an effort to improve academic outcomes. This session is designed to give school leaders and leadership teams practical, real- world sustainable models that increase engagement. Participants will engage in a collaborate environment as we leverage resources.

Presenter: Helena Mosely

Position: Deputy Superintendent of Achievement

Organization: Lancaster Independent School District



Session Title: Shattered Bonds: Reweaving the Ties of Family Engagement

Strand: PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – Practices that promote parental engagement as well as community building sustainable partnerships that benefit the community.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Studies show that student success is certain when families are involved in schools. Campus Leadership will be provided with practical strategies to effectively engage families successfully.

Presenter: HOPE LUSTER, Ed.D

Position: EDUCATOR

Organization: KISD



Session Title: Parent Inclusion: Making it a Reality

Strand: PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – Practices that promote parental engagement as well as community building sustainable partnerships that benefit the community.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Parents need to be involved in schools in a truly engages them in the school. There is no straddling the fence on this. We will show you some easy ways to engaged parents in a meaning way on your campus on a very low budget. It is being done!

Presenter: Mike Walker

Position: principal

Organization: Burchett Elementary



Session Title: Rules of Engagement: Establishing Successful Relationships with Non-Profit Organizations

Strand: PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – Practices that promote parental engagement as well as community building sustainable partnerships that benefit the community.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Daily, schools are approached by non-profit organizations who wish to provide services to their students. How do you effectively engage non-profit organizations to provide services, while ensuring the safety and well-being of your students, and still have time to meet their educational needs? This course will outline the rules of engagement for both organizations. Specifically, it will address areas where non-profit organizations can support schools, the benefits of working with community organizations, and assessing non-profit capacity. Attendees will walk away with practical tips for programs and projects, a checklist for assessing organizational capacity, and examples of documents to solidify the relationships between the organizations.

Presenter: Patrina Pelton-Smith

Position: Consultant

Organization: Trinity Consulting Services



Session Title: CREATING A FAMILY FRIENDLY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Strand: PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – Practices that promote parental engagement as well as community building sustainable partnerships that benefit the community.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: PURSUING A NON-ACADEMIC APPROACH TO ACHIEVING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

CREATING A FAMILY FRIENDLY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

It's no secret that parental involvement in all schools has dramatically decreased. This is particularly disturbing when we think about students who are in grades 8 - 12. Students at this grade level will make some of the most critical decisions of their entire lives. Most educators agree that parents of these students have begun to "step-back" from the daily interaction they provided during the child's early education days. But this workshop will examine the conscious and unconscious role that the schools play in "discouraging parental involvement." This workshop will help administrators understand how to increase positive parent/guardian involvement in the school; and it will also provide practical strategies that can be provided to the school's instructional staff.

Presenter: Ako Kambon

Position: Founder & CEO

Organization: Visionary Leaders Institute



Session Title: Reclaiming Our Youth: Crowd Sourced Homeschooling in Communities of Color

Strand: PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – Practices that promote parental engagement as well as community building sustainable partnerships that benefit the community.

Audience: Teachers

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Faced with the issues of excessive force and police brutality making their way onto public school campuses, inaccurate and culturally insensitive textbooks utilized in the miseducation of our children, and the lack of ethnic studies courses available for K-12, Black Sovereign Nation has committed to developing a free in home education program that will begin as a supplementary and transition to a comprehensive and full day program by January 2018. Learn and share ideas about how you can help communities of color mold a better future through the empowerment of Black and Brown children.

Presenter: Njera Keith

Position: Founder and Executive Director

Organization: Black Sovereign Nation



Session Title: Using a collaborative evaluation practice with logic models to promote parent and stakeholder engagement in culturally responsive youth programming

Strand: PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – Practices that promote parental engagement as well as community building sustainable partnerships that benefit the community.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: This session will present how using a collaborative evaluation approach that combines creating logic models with Interactive Evaluation Practice (IEP) (King and Stevahn, 2013) can promote parent and stakeholder engagement for culturally responsive schools. Logic models are planning tools that diagram how programs are designed to work and make changes in desired outcomes. Interactive Evaluation practice is supported by Social Interdependence theory and is based on the participation of all to achieve a goal. Integrating logic models as joint planning tools into the framework of IEP provides opportunities for dialogue, understanding, and consensus with parent and community stakeholders. Involvement of all in setting objectives, and participation in activities and evaluation tasks based on cooperation and consideration of their culture can help ensure programs for all students are successful.

Presenter: Jeannette Truxillo

Position: Director, Research and Evaluation Institute

Organization: Harris County Department of Education



Session Title: Creating a Culture of Inclusion on your Campus

Strand: DIVERSE LEARNERS – Discussion of the unique academic needs of diverse learners including, underserved students, SPED, and ELL learners. Exploration of how best practices to better understand and incorporate insight into diversity in the classroom.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: This 90 minute interactive session examines the differences between traditional special education climates and ones that foster a culture of inclusive practices. Inclusion is often thought of just in terms of placement or practice; this session defines inclusive culture and give attendees tools to become change agents in addressing mindsets that support inclusion through Critical conversations and Crucial Confrontations. Participants will design a strategic plan that addresses their campus's cultural needs.

Presenter: Mullen Mullen

Position: Program Specialist-Inclusion

Organization: Houston ISD



Session Title: Using PBL (Project Based Learning) to support Students with Disabilities in an Inclusive Classroom

Strand: DIVERSE LEARNERS – Discussion of the unique academic needs of diverse learners including, underserved students, SPED, and ELL learners. Exploration of how best practices to better understand and incorporate insight into diversity in the classroom.

Audience: Teachers

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: This 60 minute interactive breakout session will briefly cover the research supporting PBL as a tool for supporting students with disabilities; as well as provide instructional strategies to plan project based/cooperative learning lessons using UDL (universal design for learning) guidelines and digital resources. Teachers will leave the session with a guideline for how to accommodate students during the PBL process and maximize self-efficacy.

Presenter: Dr. Barbara Mullen

Position: Program Specialist-Inclusion

Organization: Houston ISD



Session Title: Enhancing Teacher Efficacy: Building Sustainable Learning Networks

Strand: DIVERSE LEARNERS – Discussion of the unique academic needs of diverse learners including, underserved students, SPED, and ELL learners. Exploration of how best practices to better understand and incorporate insight into diversity in the classroom.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Learn to implement successful professional learning focused on teacher efficacy, culturally responsive pedagogy, and researched instructional practices using technology to encourage and sustain teacher engagement and growth. This session focuses on the structure and results of a nationally-implemented Teacher Efficacy Academies (TEA). The purpose is to enhance the effectiveness and efficacy of classroom teachers serving underprepared and underserved students in literacy and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math).

Presenter: Johni Cruse Craig

Position: National Project Director

Organization: Delta Research and Educational Foundation



Session Title: Rich in Passion Not in Pocket - Inexpensive yet Engaging Lessons for Diverse Learners

Strand: DIVERSE LEARNERS – Discussion of the unique academic needs of diverse learners including, underserved students, SPED, and ELL learners. Exploration of how best practices to better understand and incorporate insight into diversity in the classroom.

Audience: Teachers

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: “Help! I have 55 minutes to teach a rigorous lesson at the appropriate level and properly manage all of the materials that I paid for out of my own pocket.” Does this sound like you? Sometimes it is difficult to find engaging resources without going broke. Learn how to fully engage your students and successfully teach any TEK without going broke. Participants will learn strategies to use what he/she has to reach and teach all of the students in the classroom. Participants will learn how to engage all learners by having a thorough understanding of the modes of learning and the multiple intelligences.

Presenter: Kewanta Greer

Position: President and CEO

Organization: Feed the Mind, Inc



Session Title: Demystifying the Alphabet Code for African American Speakers of Ebonics

Strand: DIVERSE LEARNERS – Discussion of the unique academic needs of diverse learners including, underserved students, SPED, and ELL learners. Exploration of how best practices to better understand and incorporate insight into diversity in the classroom.

Audience: Teachers

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Teachers, come learn how to improve reading fluency of African American children who speak Ebonics by teaching metalinguistic awareness, i.e. consciousness of language differences through increased self-monitoring during reading and writing (Bryan, 2004; Craig H. K., 2009; Edwards & Taub, 2016; Fisher & Lapp, 2013; Hageman J., 2001; Smith & Crozier, 1998). This session on Diverse Learners with unique instructional needs related to cultural and linguistic differences will explore the features of their language that are often dismissed as "bad English" but are grounded in a spoken or oral language voiced in a way that often impedes the development of consistent, systematic decoding (Charity, Scarborough, & Griffin, 2004). The session will entail an overview of the history and linguistic features of Ebonics, demonstration lessons, scenario based practice exercises and discussion. For additional research see, "Recommended Educational Practices for Standard English Learners" (2011), Cheryl Wilkinson, Jeremy Miciak, Celeste Alexander, Pedro Reyes, Jessica Brown, and Matt Giani, The University of Texas at Austin: Texas Education Research Center, funded under the Student Success Initiative, Texas Legislature, Senate Bill, No.1, Rider 42, 81st Texas legislature, Regular Session, 2009.

Presenter: Lucy Houston

Position: Reading Specialist/Master Reading Teacher



Organization: Texas A&M University, Commerce



Session Title: Diverse Learners: Hiding in Plain Sight

Strand: DIVERSE LEARNERS – Discussion of the unique academic needs of diverse learners including, underserved students, SPED, and ELL learners. Exploration of how best practices to better understand and incorporate insight into diversity in the classroom.

Audience: Teachers

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: School age children with one or both parents incarcerated are a huge part of the "hidden diverse learner" in the public school system. The traumatic impact of parental incarceration has negatively impacted the family's dynamics, the learning environment, the physical and mental health status, self-esteem and desire for higher education of the children dealing with this social and public health concern.

This goal of this session is to raise awareness and to offer simple interventions (to educators, counselors and administrators) that have the potential to impact the classroom and the discipline decisions imposed. Children with an African American or Hispanic parent that is incarcerated are the students at the highest risk for failure because of this unrecognized or unconsidered variable. Participants will be reminded that parental incarceration is just as painful and emotionally traumatizing as experiencing the sudden death of a parent.

Presenter: Vergie Matthews Brannon

Position: Teacher 2nd Grade

Organization: Toler Elementary School Garland, Texas



Session Title: High Yield Instructional Strategies for African American Learners: Teaching Black Kids

Strand: DIVERSE LEARNERS – Discussion of the unique academic needs of diverse learners including, underserved students, SPED, and ELL learners. Exploration of how best practices to better understand and incorporate insight into diversity in the classroom.

Audience: Teachers

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: This fast-paced session will focus on introducing teachers and educational leaders to practical instructional strategies that are proven to engage African American learners. What is more, the strategies presented will provide participants an assortment of instructional tools to use in the classroom with African American learners, students in poverty, and students who are difficult to engage. The strategies to be explored require very little preparations; however, they are ideal for increasing the rigor, engagement, critical thinking, and level of discussion for any lesson regardless of the grade level or content area.

Presenter: Brandon Thurston

Position: Assistant Principal/Doctoral Candidate

Organization: Gilmer ISD/Texas A&M University- Texarkana



Session Title: Rigor and Relationships: The Culturally Responsive Instructional Educator

Strand: DIVERSE LEARNERS – Discussion of the unique academic needs of diverse learners including, underserved students, SPED, and ELL learners. Exploration of how best practices to better understand and incorporate insight into diversity in the classroom.

Audience: Teachers

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: This culturally responsive session will shed light on building gaps educators find hard to overcome with their diverse students. This session will highlight effective strategies and practices educators can utilize with their students and staff to build a culturally responsive campus.

Presenter: Shaneia Smith

Position: ESL Teacher

Organization: Garland ISD/Rowlett High School



Session Title: Get Techie With It!

Strand: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY- These sessions will address successful and/or innovative tools to enhance student and professional learning.

Audience: Teachers

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Get Techie With It!

Do you ever feel like you just can't keep up when it comes to technology? We have the perfect session for you! Elementary Educators: join us for a session where you will walk away with a technology tool belt full of online resources that have been proven successful in our classrooms. Technology is one of the best ways to engage students and improve achievement rates. We will show you ways to seamlessly integrate technology into your classroom tomorrow!

Presenter: Roslyn Kelly

Position: 2/3 Multi-age Math/Science Teacher

Organization: Lewisville ISD



Session Title: Digital Speed Dating: Tools to Marry, Date, or Just Be Friends With

Strand: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY- These sessions will address successful and/or innovative tools to enhance student and professional learning.

Audience: Teachers

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: If you've been on a lot of dates with digital tools but still haven't found that "special someone," join us for an introduction to a variety of web tools for all subject areas. You'll be sure to go home with Mr. or Mrs. Right!

Presenter: Adrienne Smith

Position: Educational Technology Specialist

Organization: Pearland ISD



Session Title: Digital Device Dreams

Strand: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY- These sessions will address successful and/or innovative tools to enhance student and professional learning.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Digital Device Dreams: Discipline in a Tech Filled Classroom
Do you remember the time when you could not wait to transform children’s lives, when your dreams were about making a difference in the world through teaching? Whatever happened to those dreams? Cell phones, lap tops, iPads and social media have taken over today’s classrooms. Alongside the benefits, mobile devices certainly come with their share of complications. Teacher authority, for example, is one area that can easily be undermined when mobile technology is allowed in the learning environment. Today’s teachers needs strategies to help them keep students focused in a high tech classroom. Come and learn several well-established classroom management techniques teachers at all levels can use to redirect student behavior in the technology filled classroom.

Presenter: Mary Payton

Position: Chemistry Teacher

Organization: Bradenton Prep Academy



Session Title: PD Outside of the Box!

Strand: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY- These sessions will address successful and/or innovative tools to enhance student and professional learning.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Traditional "sit and get" professional development is ineffective! In this session, you will explore some innovative, engaging, and effective ways technology can help you re-design and facilitate professional learning! From online EdCamps to the Amazing Race, you will get lots of ideas to Tech your PD to the next level!

Presenter: Rachelle Wooten

Position: Digital Learning Specialist

Organization: Fort Bend ISD



Session Title: Keeping up with Computer Science

Strand: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY- These sessions will address successful and/or innovative tools to enhance student and professional learning.

Audience: Teachers

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Computer science is foundational knowledge for all students in the 21st century. But many schools don't teach it, especially at the elementary level. Hear from computer science expert and code.org facilitators on how to integrate Code.org and other computer science resources in your classroom. This session will introduce teachers and administrators to computer science resources and how to begin to integrate computer science into your curriculum.

Presenter: Kimberly Lane

Position: Blended Learning Specialist

Organization: Lancaster ISD



Session Title: Tour the World of Formative Assessments

Strand: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY- These sessions will address successful and/or innovative tools to enhance student and professional learning.

Audience: Teachers

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: The movement of 21st Century Learning involves more student voice and choice, performance based assessments, and collaborative learning. So, how does a teacher monitor the technologically savvy learning process to continuously guide, scaffold, and redirect learning? Teachers must explicit learn to transition their formative assessment best practices to technology venues. Teachers will tour the world of digital formative assessments through "speed dating" each assessment in a hand-ons guided format. Teachers will be given a certain amount of time to tour a gallery of formative assessments in "speed dating format", keeping what they would like to know more about and leaving what does not pertain to their teaching needs.

Presenter: Kimberly Lane

Position: Blended Learning Specialist

Organization: lancaster isd



Session Title: Tech Tools for Administrators

Strand: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY- These sessions will address successful and/or innovative tools to enhance student and professional learning.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Today's school leaders should be harnessing the power of technology to demonstrate to faculty and staff the new teaching and learning strategies used in 21st Century classrooms to improve student engagement and improve student academic achievement.

Presenter: Adrienne Smith

Position: Educational Technology Specialist

Organization: Pearland ISD



Session Title: Huddle Up! Create a Winning Game Plan for College and Career Readiness

Strand: COLLEGE/CAREER READINESS- Addresses issues that relate to college access and job attainment including, ACT/SAT involvement and advanced placement for minority students.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Since 2006, Sheldon ISD has partnered with the AVID Center to create a schoolwide/districtwide college readiness system and a growth mindset that supports all students in grades 1-12. Utilizing the AVID College Readiness System, Sheldon ISD has earned the College Board Gaston Caperton Honor Roll award and supported 100% of its first early college high school cohort in earning college credit while in high school. Come enjoy a highly energized and interactive session led by administrators and teachers who share how to develop a plan and create powerful teams that engage parents and students in defining and pursuing college readiness. Participants will explore best practice strategies that support academic success and learn how the implementation of AVID with fidelity complements Index 4 of the Texas Accountability Rating System.

Presenter: Karen Gallow

Position: Director of Advanced Academics

Organization: Sheldon Independent School District



Session Title: All Hands on Deck: Improving Participation and Performance on the SAT

Strand: COLLEGE/CAREER READINESS- Addresses issues that relate to college access and job attainment including, ACT/SAT involvement and advanced placement for minority students.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: When faced with the challenge of increasing SAT access, participation, and performance for economically disadvantaged students and first-generation college-goers, Sheldon ISD assembled a team of educators with expertise in a variety of roles to create an SAT elective course that is embedded in the school day. This session will outline Sheldon ISD's plan for educator training, curriculum, funding, student recruitment, scheduling, and exam opportunities that resulted in an average increase of 100 points for students enrolled in the course. In a hands-on, interactive approach, participants will analyze their current resources and develop a framework for establishing an SAT Elective on their own campuses.

Presenter: Brenda Emanuel

Position: Director of Grant Development and Compliance

Organization: Sheldon ISD



Session Title: Organizational Behavior and Its Impact on Culture and Climate

Strand: LEADERSHIP – Relevant issues faced by district leaders, principals, and aspiring leaders, including counselors and school board members.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: This presentation is designed to provide school leaders with the foundation for reshaping the culture and climate through healthy organizational behavior. It's based on ongoing doctoral education coursework and research along with personal workplace experiences.

Presenter: Tyrance "Duke" Barnett

Position: Campus Principal

Organization: ExCEL High School of Choice -Pine Tree ISD



Session Title: Coaching 20 Teachers 20 Ways: Tech Tools for Effective Instructional Coaching

Strand: LEADERSHIP – Relevant issues faced by district leaders, principals, and aspiring leaders, including counselors and school board members.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: How do you give each teacher exactly what they need to grow and move students? Learn tips and tools to differentiate instructional coaching using FREE technology tools to accomplish campus goals.

Presenter: Knikole Taylor

Position: Blended Learning Specialist

Organization: Lancaster ISD



Session Title: The Art of Collaboration

Strand: LEADERSHIP – Relevant issues faced by district leaders, principals, and aspiring leaders, including counselors and school board members.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Collaboration is the new i” word. Many people use the term as a synonym for referrals. If you scratch my back, I’ll scratch yours. But that is not what collaboration is. Collaboration is a state of mind, a mode of doing business, and a set of principles that lead to the betterment of all. In this presentation you will learn the five strategies to effectively collaborate and how to implement those strategies into your business or work environment. You will leave with practical steps that you can apply immediately and create a true collaborative atmosphere.

Presenter: Shahara Wright

Position: CEO

Organization: The CEO Effect, LLC



Session Title: EQUITY WALKTHROUGHS

Strand: LEADERSHIP – Relevant issues faced by district leaders, principals, and aspiring leaders, including counselors and school board members.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Walkthroughs are used by campus leaders for many reasons. They are used to assess instructional practices, curriculum alignment, and technology use to name a few. Why not use walkthroughs to assess the level of equity on campus? Are the needs of all student populations on campus being addressed and met? Is the success of some student populations masking the shortfalls of other student populations? This presentation will explore concepts such as micro-aggressions, bias, the unintended curriculum, and opportunity gaps on campus.

This presentation is recommended for campus leaders and teachers on both the elementary and secondary campuses.

Presenter: Victor Nixon

Position: Sub-School Principal/ Dr.

Organization: Plano West Senior H.S.



Session Title: The "It" Factor

Strand: LEADERSHIP – Relevant issues faced by district leaders, principals, and aspiring leaders, including counselors and school board members.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Our presentation "The It Factor" is about how we all have "it" and we should use "it" to be effective leaders. So what is "it"? "It" encompasses everything we have as natural leaders from our perspective on life, how we communicate, how we reach out to others, our intrinsic motivation to become better, our natural ability to build relationships, and the list goes on. In this presentation we will share the keys on how to release these abilities to create a successful culture within your personal life, faculty & staff, teachers and school as a whole ☐

Presenter: Bryan Robertson

Position: President

Organization: Eduvention



Session Title: Leading & Managing Change: Creating A High Performing Learning Culture

Strand: LEADERSHIP – Relevant issues faced by district leaders, principals, and aspiring leaders, including counselors and school board members.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Navigating change has become a moral imperative for educators. This power packed session on "Leading Change" will provide you with insightful organizational management/leadership strategies and philosophies that will transform and re-brand your organization. ***Warning: This session is for educators who dare to be bold and courageous leaders.

Presenter: Dr. Ron L. Woodard

Position: Director of Pupil Services

Organization: Maury County Public Schools



Session Title: "Do They Really Matter?"

Strand: LEADERSHIP – Relevant issues faced by district leaders, principals, and aspiring leaders, including counselors and school board members.

Audience: Central Office Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Today, many of students of color enter our school systems with as much as a 30 million word gap and a much wider technology gap. Too many will end up dropping out and/or in jail if we do not close these gaps. It is our responsibility! In this session we will explore what the most recent research reveals about the critical nature of investing in early learning and the return on investment (ROI) that occurs versus traditional interventions. We will also "peel back" the impact of social justice on our community as a whole as it relates to leadership and student achievement.

Presenter: Larry D Lewis, Ph. D.

Position: President and CEO

Organization: The Impact Institute for Leadership, Transformation, Innovation and Student Achievement



Session Title: Lead Like A Champion

Strand: LEADERSHIP – Relevant issues faced by district leaders, principals, and aspiring leaders, including counselors and school board members.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: In this session campus and district level leaders will be guided in exploring and expanding their leadership paradigms through an expertly designed training module based on 27 years of campus level leadership experience in urban settings. Participants will gain the insight, information and inspiration to lead like a champion while building leadership capacity at all levels within their organization.

Presenter: Gene Morrow

Position: Principal Founder and Lead Consultant

Organization: The Principal's Advantage



Session Title: Becoming a Principal: What Assistant Principals Need to Know And Be Able To Do

Strand: LEADERSHIP – Relevant issues faced by district leaders, principals, and aspiring leaders, including counselors and school board members.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Countless assistant principals across the country believe they are ready to be a principal. Many are under the impression that they have ‘paid their dues’ and are now trying to figure out what’s preventing them from taking the next step. Some are asking themselves these questions. Why am I still an assistant principal? How long do I need to be an assistant principal before I can move up? Am I doing something wrong? Why am I not a principal? What specific steps can I take to become a principal? This session will explore these questions and the path to becoming a principal. Research will be presented that outlines the principal preparation process and what assistant principals can do to better prepare and market themselves. Participants will receive strategies that will help them grasp where they are professionally and what can be done to move to the next level. Further, participants will receive insight about what assistant principals need to know and be able to do in order to become a principal.

Presenter: Marcus Forney

Position: Executive Director for Campus Administrative Support

Organization: Katy ISD



Session Title: Tools for Principal Leadership

Strand: LEADERSHIP – Relevant issues faced by district leaders, principals, and aspiring leaders, including counselors and school board members.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: This session will discuss the necessary tools for successful school leadership.

Presenter: Dennis Dunkins, Sr.

Position: Retired FWISD Administrator

Organization: Fort Worth ISD Retired



Session Title: Regrouping for Success!

Strand: LEADERSHIP – Relevant issues faced by district leaders, principals, and aspiring leaders, including counselors and school board members.

Audience: Central Office Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Regrouping for success will explore district models of grade configurations beyond the traditional structures that have solved budgetary woes, improved student achievement, enhanced targeted professional development as well as potential community benefits. Session participants will leave this highly interactive session with active models and real-time data that will provoke your awareness and action.

Presenter: Helena Mosely

Position: Deputy Superintendent of Achievement

Organization: Lancaster Independent School District



Session Title: Personalized PD

Strand: LEADERSHIP – Relevant issues faced by district leaders, principals, and aspiring leaders, including counselors and school board members.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: One size fits all has never fit anyone. Learn how to personalize your professional development in order to meet the needs of your teachers one educator at a time.

Presenter: Knikole Taylor

Position: Blended Learning Specialist

Organization: Lancaster ISD



Session Title: Leading Through Change

Strand: LEADERSHIP – Relevant issues faced by district leaders, principals, and aspiring leaders, including counselors and school board members.

Audience: Central Office Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Kewanta

Presenter: Tameka Bruce

Position: HR Officer

Organization: Spring ISD



Session Title: A Schoolwide Approach to Implementing Proactive Discipline Procedures to Increase Student Academic Achievement

Strand: DISCIPLINE- This strand will address specific strategies that will help educators address guidance and management for students of African descent.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: This a 360 degree session, the audience will follow the journey of a middle school campus that has reduced discipline referrals by 90% and even eliminated In School Suspension. The presenter will provide the interventions and systems that led to this campuses success at reducing discipline referrals which led to a increase in academic achievement. This session will provide the audience with information that could be immediately utilized to make a positive impact on their campus.

Presenter: Dr. Glenn Barnes

Position: Principal

Organization: Cleveland Middle School/Cleveland ISD



Session Title: Restorative practices for Safe and Supportive Schools: Using Circles Effectively

Strand: DISCIPLINE- This strand will address specific strategies that will help educators address guidance and management for students of African descent.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: This work is about restoring "a sense of community in an increasingly disconnected world". A shift from culture of punishment (fear) to accountability using a set of communication tools. Restorative practices for Safe and Supportive Schools: Using Circles Effectively. Provide Overview of restorative practices, continuum of tools, use of effective circles and planning considerations. Restorative practices empower student to resolve conflicts on their own by bringing them together in small, peer-assisted groups to talk, ask questions, and air their grievances. For an increasing number of districts around the country, the use of restorative practices has helped bolster learning communities, prevent bullying, decrease suspension and expulsion rates and reduce student disagreements.

Presenter: Dr. Roberta Scott

Position: Safe and Secure Schools Specialist

Organization: Harris County Department of Education



Session Title: Discipline 101: Solutions for Principals and Teachers to Improve Discipline Management

Strand: DISCIPLINE- This strand will address specific strategies that will help educators address guidance and management for students of African descent.

Audience: Campus Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: This interactive, upbeat session will provide proven, innovative strategies for improving discipline management on the campus and in the classroom. The behavior of both boys and girls will be analyzed and solutions will be provided for addressing the common discipline problems associated with both genders. Specific techniques for improving the behavior of African-American boys in the classroom will be emphasized and highlighted. The presenter, Dr. Ron Kelley, is nationally-known for working with schools across the nation on improving discipline management and its correlation to improving standardized test scores.

Presenter: Dr. Ron Kelley

Position: CEO

Organization: The National School Improvement Corporation



Session Title: Transforming the Student Code of Conduct: A Move for the Greater Good

Strand: DISCIPLINE- This strand will address specific strategies that will help educators address guidance and management for students of African descent.

Audience: Central Office Leadership

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: The session discusses the need for transforming aspects of the student code of conduct that may impact the overrepresentation of minority youth school suspensions and expulsions. The session will identify promising preventative and alternative discipline practices that schools and districts can include in their student code of conduct to improve school climate and student behavior.

Presenter: Dr. Andy Garcia

Position: Research Coordinator

Organization: Harris County Dept. of Education



Session Title: Discipline & Truancy Intervention: An alternative to address the overrepresentation of African American students

Strand: DISCIPLINE- This strand will address specific strategies that will help educators address guidance and management for students of African descent.

Audience: Teachers

Structure: General Breakout Session – 60 minute interactive breakout session.

Description: Effective strategies are often elusive in today's dynamic educational context. Social Coaching, LLC will offer an overview of a research-based intervention program designed as a comprehensive alternative that addresses the overrepresentation of African American students in traditional discipline management techniques as well as dropout prevention. Participants will leave with the key components for a working model of a Diversionary Program on their campus or in their district

Presenter: Melanie Rogers

Position: Consultant, Social Coaching, LLC

Organization: Social Coaching, LLC