Check out our 2026 date!
Add it to your calendar today!

Save the Date:

2026 WSU Learn Local
14th Annual Conference
will be held on
Saturday, March 7, 2026
Proposals due:
November 17, 2025

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Outstanding Instructional Practice Award Nominations

Do you see fantastic work and excited students on your team, in your school or district, or down the hall? Consider submitting an Outstanding Instructional Practice Award nomination for the 2026 WSU Learn Local Conference for an individual, team, school, or district. Nominating a colleague is a great way to show your appreciation for the efforts and dedication of educators in your district. Please visit the link below to find more information about the awards and to nominate the outstanding work at your school/district. Nominations are due by December 12, 2025.

Conference Schedule

8:00 a.m. Hangar	Registration Open
8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Hangar	Lite Breakfast Served
8:30 a.m.-8:50 a.m. Hangar	Opening Address
9:05 a.m.- 9:50 a.m.	Breakout Session 1
10:05 a.m-10:50 a.m.	Breakout Session 2
11:05 a.m.-11:50 a.m.	Breakout Session 3
12:05 p.m.-12:35 p.m. Hangar	Awards, Recognition, and Prizes

Conference Sponsors

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Ohio STEM Learning Network

A public-private partnership of:

BATTELLE | Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

DAYTON STEM HUB

OHIO STEM LEARNING NETWORK

Wright State University
Office of Partnerships and Field Experiences
Partners

	Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools
	Dayton Public Schools
	The Dayton Regional STEM School
	Fairborn City Schools
	Five Rivers MetroParks
	Huber Heights City Schools
	Milton-Union Exempted Village Schools
	Trotwood-Madison City Schools
	Troy City Schools
	West Carrollton City Schools

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Tess Asinjo – Executive Director, Dayton Leadership Academy

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Katie Hartley - Curriculum Director, Milton-Union Exempted Village School District

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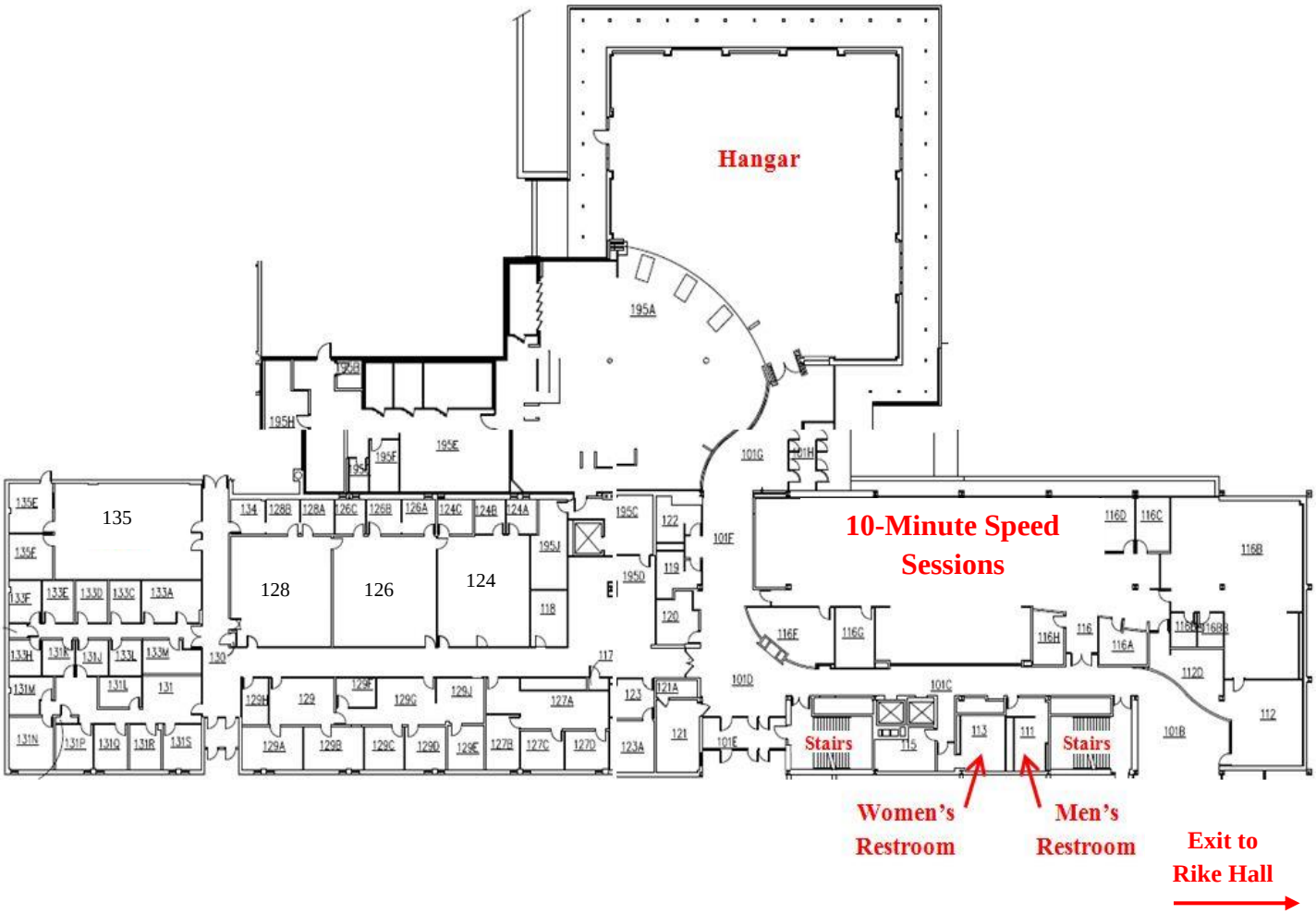
William Slattery – Professor Emeritus, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, College of Science and Mathematics, Wright State University

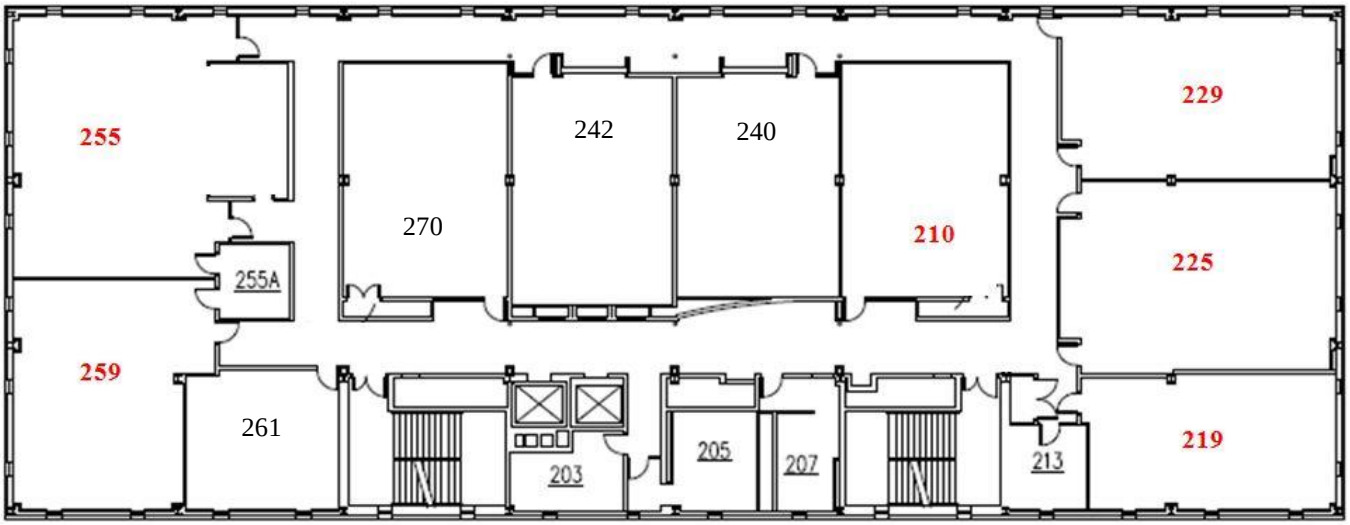
Sheri Stover - Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, College of Health, Education, and Human Services, Wright State University

Melissa Williams – Instructional Data Analyst & Coach, Fairborn City Schools

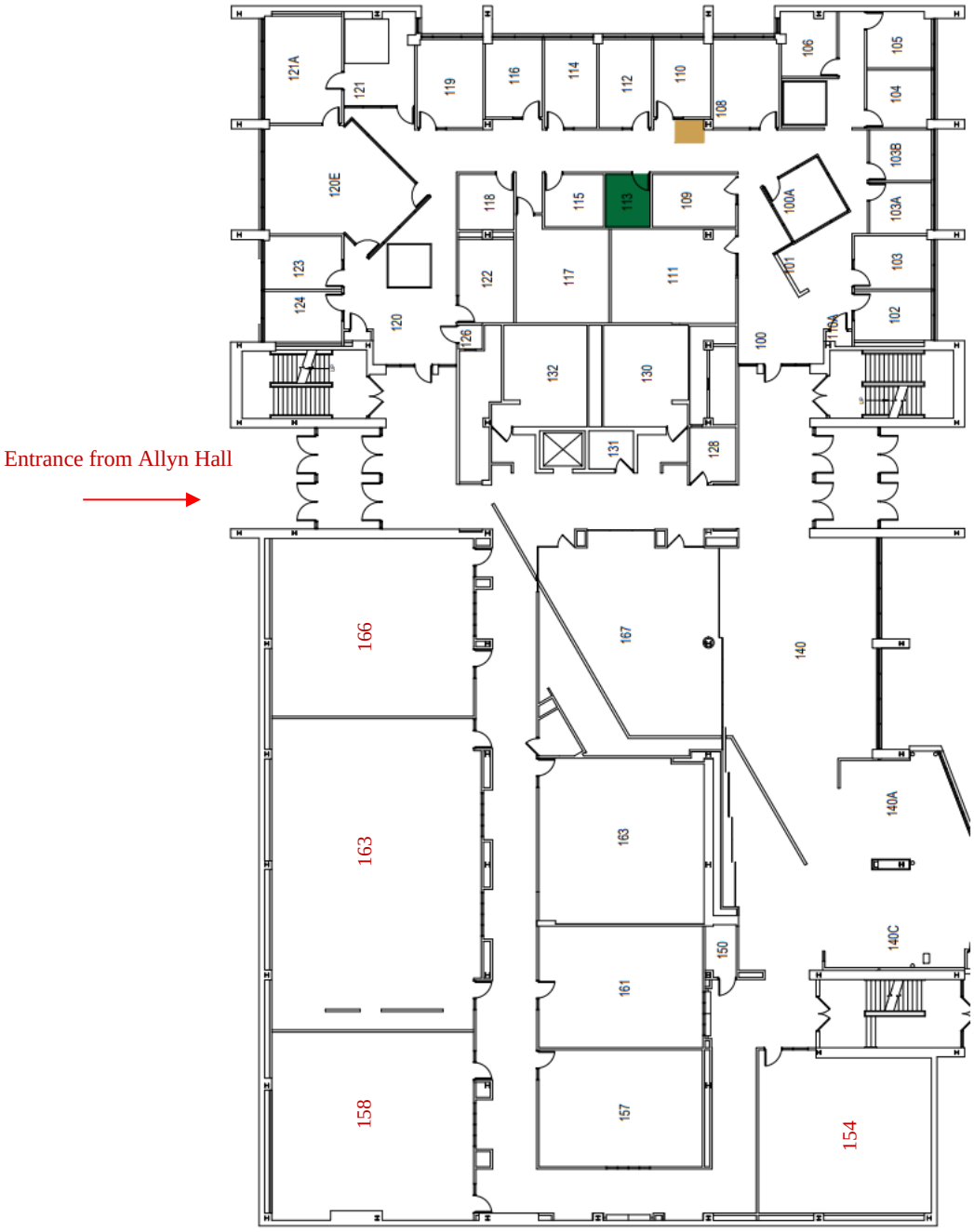
1st Floor Allyn Hall



2nd Floor Allyn Hall



1st Floor Rike Hall



2025 Conference at a Glance

1st Session 9:05 – 9:50

Presentation Title	Intended Audience	Content Area(s) Addressed	Strand	Focus Topics	Presentation Format	Presenting School District/ Organization	Page	Room
Small Group Peer Assessment - Effects on Student Engagement, Content Knowledge, Student Self Efficacy, and Collaboration Skills within a Physics Classroom	Grades 7-12, College	Science, STEM	Self-Directed Learning, STEM	Content Focused Instructional Practices, General Instructional Practices, Student Engagement and Motivation	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Wright State University	12	Allyn 210
More than a Controversial Topic – A Black American History Curriculum	Grades 7-12	Social Studies	Self-Directed Learning	Project Based Learning, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Culturally Responsive Teaching	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Dayton Leadership Academies	12	Allyn 219
Brain Science in Action: Guiding Classroom Decisions and Discussions	Grades PreK-12 and College Level	Open to all content areas, Science, SEL		General Instructional Practices, Social-Emotional Learning, brain science informing pedagogy	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Wright State University/ Ascension School	12	Allyn 225
Using AI as a tool for teaching: Magic School and Canva	Grades Pre-K-12, College Level	Open to all content areas	Using AI	Artificial Intelligence, Differentiation, Technology	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Kettering City Schools	12	Allyn 229
Reading, Understanding, and Implementing IEPs	Grades PreK-12	Open to all content areas, Pre-service teachers and new teachers	Career Readiness	Inclusive Teaching	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools	13	Allyn 259
Connecting Advanced Mathematical Topics Through Virtual Reality	Grades 9-12	Math	Self-Directed Learning	Content Focused Instructional Practices, Student Engagement and Motivation, Technology	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Dayton Public Schools	13	Rike 166
AI-mazing Tools to Support Teachers and Students	Grades PreK-12, College Level	Open to all content areas	Using AI	AI tools for classroom management, instructional planning, and learner support, technology integration, supporting executive function	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Milton Union Exempted Village Schools	13	Rike 158

Additional 1st Session Presentations on Next Page

Presentation Title	Intended Audience	Content Area(s) Addressed	Strand	Focus Topics	Presentation Format	Presenting School District/ Organization	Page	Room
Beyond the Curriculum: Creative Approaches to Inspire Readers and Writers	Grades PreK-12	1. Language Arts, Open to all content areas		Content Focused Instructional Practices, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Culturally Responsive Teaching, Student Engagement and Motivation, Teaching in an urban setting	Two Twenty-Minute Presentations	Dayton Leadership Academies	13	Rike 163
STEM Speed Dating 1. Engineering Dreams: Xenia's All-inclusive STEM Revolution 2. Growing Chemists through Stream & Soil Sensing 3. Engaging Students in STEM through Robotics 4. STEM on Earth: Using Coding to Collect Weather and Plant Data	Grades PreK-12	Open to all content areas, Science, STEM	STEM	Project Based Learning, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Interdisciplinary lessons/units	Four 10-Minute Speed Sessions	The Dayton Regional STEM School, Xenia Community Schools, Russia Local Schools, and Trotwood-Madison City Schools	14	1st Floor Near Hangar

2nd Session 10:05 – 10:50

Presentation Title	Intended Audience	Content Area(s) Addressed	Strand	Focus Topics	Presentation Format	Presenting School District/ Organization	Page	Room
What's New with Ohio's ELA Writing Rubrics?	Grades 3-11, Preservice teachers	Language Arts		Assessment and Grading	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Indian Hill Exempted Village Schools	14	Allyn 210
The Teacher/Para Relationship	Grades PreK-12	Special Education		Classroom Management, Co-Teaching, Differentiation, Special Education, Struggling Students	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Miami County ESC	14	Allyn 219
Career-Focused Design Challenges	Grades 9-12	Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, STEM	Career Readiness, STEM	Project Based Learning, Interdisciplinary lessons/units, School-Community Partnerships	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	The Dayton Regional STEM School	14	Allyn 225

Additional 2nd Session Presentations on Next Page

Presentation Title	Intended Audience	Content Area(s) Addressed	Strand	Focus Topics	Presentation Format	Presenting School District/ Organization	Page	Room
Harness the Power of AI for Transformative Education	Grades PreK-12, College Level, and Community	Art, Health, Language Arts, Math, Music, Physical Education, Science, Social Studies, STEM	Using AI	Project Based Learning, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Differentiation	Traditional 45-Minute	Dayton Leadership Academies	15	Allyn 229
Diving Into a New Career: Trade Secrets from a Career Counseling Professional	Grades 10-12, College Level, Community	Open to all content areas	Career Readiness	Social-Emotional Learning, Student Engagement and Motivation, career preparation and generalizable skills	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Wright State University	15	Allyn 255
Enhancing STEM Learning with Interdisciplinary Lessons	Grades 9-12	Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, STEM	STEM	Project Based Learning, Interdisciplinary lessons/units	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Dayton Public Schools	15	Allyn 259
Discover Portable Innovation Labs: A lab for every class	Grades PreK-12	Art, Health, Language Arts, Math, Physical Education, Science, Social Studies, STEM	STEM	Interdisciplinary lessons/units, Nature-based learning, Student Engagement and Motivation	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	The PAST Foundation	15	Rike 166
Bringing Math Class Alive with Rich Tasks and Inquiry Learning	Grades K-8	Math	STEM	Project Based Learning, Content Focused Instructional Practices, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Differentiation, General Instructional Practices, Inclusive Teaching, Student Engagement and Motivation	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Wright State University	15	Rike 163
1. School Counselors' Toolkit: Using ChatGPT to Build Essential Classroom Skills	1. Grades PreK-12, College Level, and Community	1. Language Arts, Math, Open to all content areas, Science, Social Studies, Study skills, organization skills, time management	1. Using AI	1. Artificial Intelligence, Differentiation, Equity, Inclusive Teaching, Technology	Two 20-Minute Sessions	1. Kettering City Schools	16	Rike 158
Social and Emotional Learning Strategies for Building Peer Connectedness	Grades Pre-K-12 and College Level	Open to all content areas	2.	Inclusive Teaching, Social-Emotional Learning, Student Engagement and Motivation		Wright State University		

3rd Session 11:05-11:50

Presentation Title	Intended Audience	Content Area(s) Addressed	Strand(s)	Focus Topics	Presentation Format	Presenting School District/ Organization	Page	Room
From Connection to Success: The Role of Rapport in Student Growth	Grades 6-8	Math, Social Studies		Administration, Classroom Management, School Culture and Climate, Social-Emotional Learning, Student Engagement and Motivation	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools	16	Allyn 210
Making Every Word Count in Social Studies and Science	Grades 5-12	Science, Social Studies, STEM	Career Readiness, Self-Directed Learning	Content Focused Instructional Practices, General Instructional Practices, Teaching in an urban setting	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Dayton Public Schools	16	Allyn 219
Fueling Young Minds: Integrating STEM and Nutrition for Healthy Learning	Grades PreK-12, College Level	Health, Science, STEM	STEM	Project Based Learning, Preservice/New Teacher Preparation, School-Community Partnerships	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Wright State University and the Dayton Regional STEM School	17	Allyn 225
Autism: Take a Walk in my World!	Grades PreK-12	Open to all content areas, Special Education	STEM	Project Based Learning, Differentiation, Special Education	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	The Dayton Regional STEM School	17	Allyn 229
Guide on the side: Promoting Student Directed Learning Through Math Centers	Grades PreK-12	Math	Self-Directed Learning	Project Based Learning, Differentiation, Student Engagement and Motivation	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Dayton Leadership Academies	17	Allyn 255
Read, Rise, Repeat - Identifying Student Needs and Tailoring Targeted Support for Lasting Literacy Growth	Grades K-8	Language Arts, Intervention		Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Differentiation, Science of Reading	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Dayton Leadership Academies	17	Allyn 259
AI and Self-Directed Learning: Empowering Students in Career Exploration	Grades 6-8	Language Arts, while this subject matter will primarily support language arts, there is an opportunity to collaborate across subjects.	Career Readiness, Using AI, Self-Directed Learning	Artificial Intelligence, Project Based Learning, Student Engagement and Motivation	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Write with Mrs. Brown	18	Rike 166

Additional 3rd Session Presentations on Next Page

Presentation Title	Intended Audience	Content Area(s) Addressed	Strand(s)	Focus Topics	Presentation Format	Presenting School District/ Organization	Page	Room
What the AI is this?	Grades PreK-12	Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, STEM	Using AI	Artificial Intelligence, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Student Engagement and Motivation	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	North Dayton School of Discovery	18	Rike 163
Global Perspectives in STEM Education—Insights from Ecuador and Beyond	Grades PreK-12	Science, STEM	STEM	Project Based Learning, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning	Traditional 45-Minute Presentation	Dayton Leadership Academies	18	Rike 158

Presentation Summaries
1st Session
(9:05-9:50)

Small Group Peer Assessment - Effects on Student Engagement, Content Knowledge, Student Self Efficacy, and Collaboration Skills within a Physics Classroom — Allyn Hall 210

Joseph Donatelli – Wright State University
Strands(s): Self-Directed Learning, STEM
Overarching Topics: Content Focused Instructional Practices, General Instructional Practices, Student Engagement and Motivation
Audience: Grades 7-12, College Level
Content: Science, STEM
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
This is a presentation on my master's research conducted this summer/fall through Wright State University. This study of over 100 high school, AP Physics 1 students, highlights how small group peer assessment drastically increases student engagement and motivation. Students overwhelming reported growth in their self-efficacy, collaboration skills, the collaboration skills of their peers, and in their knowledge of physics. Other effects displayed include the effects on international students, effects on mood and social dynamics, and incredible growth in whiteboard work habits. Extensive quantitative and qualitative data present these results.

More than a Controversial Topic - A Black American History Curriculum — Allyn Hall 219

Daisha Williams – Dayton Leadership Academies
Strand(s): Self-Directed Learning
Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Culturally Responsive Teaching
Audience: Grades 7-12
Content: Social Studies
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
Recently, politicians and school districts have positioned black history and social justice as divisive or dangerous topics. This workshop will discuss ways to incorporate black history and social justice in social studies and history classes using the C3 framework, inquiry, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving. Participants will gain free resources, as well as a well-rounded curriculum that they can implement in middle and high school classes.

Brain Science in Action: Guiding Classroom Decisions and Discussions — Allyn Hall 225

Melissa Jordan – Wright State University/Ascension School
Strand(s):
Overarching Topics: General Instructional Practices, Social-Emotional Learning, brain science informing pedagogy
Audience: Grades Pre-K-12, College Level
Content: Open to all content areas, SEL
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
This session will empower educators with insights from neuroscience to inform their teaching practices and enhance classroom interactions. Participants will explore:

- Neuroscience Principles: Understand key concepts of how the brain processes information and learns, providing a foundation for effective teaching strategies.
- Informed Decision-Making: Learn strategies for how to apply brain science to make informed decisions in the classroom for learning to occur.
- Empowering Discussions: Discover techniques to promote meaningful discussions with your students that align with cognitive and emotional development.

Using AI as a tool for teaching: Magic School and Canva — Allyn Hall 229

Erin Luehrs – Kettering City Schools
Strand(s): Using AI
Overarching Topics: Artificial Intelligence, Differentiation, Technology
Audience: Grades PreK-12, College Level
Content: Open to all content areas
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
Artificial intelligence has become a hot topic. It can be an incredible tool for teachers and can save time when it comes to lesson planning, differentiation, and engagement. Learn how to navigate popular AI platforms and use basic tools within to make your job easier!

Reading, Understanding, and Implementing IEPs **Allyn Hall 259**

Ben Trick and Evan Geist – Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools
Strand(s): Career Readiness
Overarching Topics: Inclusive Teaching
Audience: Grades PreK-12
Content: Open to all content area, Pre-service teachers and new teachers
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
Meet Mr. Geist, a school psychologist, and Mr. Trick, a general education teacher and learn how they have worked together in order to better serve students with specific learning needs who are on IEPs. Hear from both as they walk through the process of reading, understanding and implementing IEPs, the reason for particular classroom accommodations, as well as how and why the accommodations are implemented in the classroom.

Connecting Advanced Mathematical Topics Through Virtual Reality **Rike Hall 166**

Kari Vaughn and Avril Gedman – Dayton Public Schools
Strand(s): Self-Directed Learning
Overarching Topics: Content Focused Instructional Practices, Student Engagement and Motivation, Technology
Audience: Grades 9-12
Content: Math
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
Participants will interact with virtual reality missions that involve learning Mathematical concepts. These topics will be focused primarily at the Algebra 2 level. Participants will learn how virtual reality goggles can be used to support student exposure to these mathematical Topics and how teachers can use the missions in whole-group instruction.

AI-mazing Tools to Support Teachers and Students **Rike Hall 158**

Becky Renegar – Milton Union Exempted Village Schools
Strand(s): Using AI
Overarching Topics: AI tools for classroom management, instructional planning, learner support, technology integration, supporting executive function
Audience: Grades PreK-12
Content: Open to all content areas
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
As technology is multiplying exponentially, one of the cutting-edge tools is the use of artificial intelligence (AI). From Siri to Alexa AI is becoming an integral part of our lives and it's making its way into education in new and exciting ways. Participants in this session will learn about multiple tools that can assist them in managing and enhancing the learning experience and supporting students in their classrooms.

Two 20-Minute Presentations **Rike Hall 163**

Beyond the Curriculum: Creative Approaches to Inspire Readers and Writers
James McDaniel and Brooke Ellington – Dayton Leadership Academies
Strand(s):
Overarching Topics: Content Focused Instructional Practices, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Culturally Responsive Teaching, General Instructional Practices, Struggling Students, Student Engagement and Motivation, Teaching in an urban setting
Audience: Grades Pre-K-12
Content: Open to all content areas, Language Arts, Writing
Presentation Format: Two 20-Minute Presentations
Are you looking for effective strategies to engage students in the curriculum? This session offers practical solutions for boosting student interest through high-engagement reading materials. Many students struggle with curriculum concepts due to limited background knowledge, yet research shows that building this foundational understanding can significantly improve comprehension and insight. By enhancing background knowledge, students are better prepared to apply the RACE writing strategy with confidence and clarity. Join us to discover how to create more enjoyable and impactful lessons that captivate your students and deepen their learning.

Four 10-Minute Speed Sessions **Allyn Hall Atrium - 1st Floor Near Hangar**

STEM Speed Dating

Station 1: Engineering Dreams: Xenia's All-inclusive STEM Revolution
Tim Carey – Xenia Community Schools

Station 2: Growing Chemists through Stream & Soil Sensing
Eric Sullenberger, Russia Local Schools

Station 3: Engaging Students in STEM through Robotics
Sophia – The Dayton Regional STEM School

Station 4: STEM on Earth: Using Coding to Collect Weather and Plant Data
Annette Larson – Trotwood-Madison City Schools

Speed Session Facilitator – Jenn Reid – The Dayton Regional STEM School

Strand(s): STEM
Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Interdisciplinary lessons/units
Audience: Grades PreK-12
Content: Open to all content areas, Science, STEM
Presentation Format: Four 10-Minute Speed Sessions
Attendees will rotate through multiple stations showcasing innovative STEM projects. Highlights include Ohio STEM Learning Network STEM Classroom Grant Award winners, featuring real-world problem solving and standards-aligned activities. Discover a variety of projects, suitable for classroom integration or after-school clubs. Don't miss this opportunity to explore cutting-edge STEM education happening in local classrooms.

2nd Session

(10:05-10:50)

What's New with Ohio's ELA Writing Rubrics? — Allyn Hall 210

Brad Brunswick – Indian Hill Exempted Village School District
Strand(s):
Overarching Topics: Assessment and Grading
Audience: Grades 3-11, Preservice teachers
Content: Language Arts
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
Participants will learn the latest changes and progressions of Ohio's Writing Rubrics in grades 3-5 and grades 6-12 for informational/explanatory (expository) writing and opinion-based (argumentative) writing. The changes within each scoring domain will be explored: purpose, focus, and organization (PFO); evidence and elaboration (EE); and, conventions of standard English (C). In addition, participants will collaborate with one another to discuss best practices when teaching various modes of writing. Finally, participants will analyze student exemplars and determine the overall score based on the newest rubrics.

The Teacher/Para Relationship — Allyn Hall 219

Levi Hahn and Nancy Boehringer – Miami County ESC
Strand(s):
Overarching Topics: Classroom Management, Co-Teaching, Differentiation, Special Education, Struggling Students
Audience: Grades Pre-K-12
Content: Special Education
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
Covering the teacher/para roles in the classroom and how to effectively work together as a team.

Career-Focused Design Challenges — Allyn Hall 225

Jade McDaniel, Meena Neelankantan, Riley Toppins, Catherine Amoateng, and Alex Helton – Dayton Regional STEM School
Strand(s): Career Readiness, STEM
Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Interdisciplinary lessons/units, School-Community Partnerships
Audience: Grades 9-12
Content: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, STEM
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
This presentation and mini design challenge will provide an example of an integrated project between 11th grade Technical Reading & Writing, Government, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Chemistry, and Engineering Design. During this project, students used the Design Thinking Process to explore and propose a product or process that improves sustainability in various industries, including aerospace, engineering, computer science, military, and healthcare. Attendees will walk away with ideas for combining students' career interests and design challenges as well as details about the yearly Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) Design Challenge.

Harness the Power of AI for Transformative Education **Allyn Hall 229**

Damian McClure – Dayton Leadership Academies
Strand(s): Using AI
Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Differentiation
Audience: Grades Pre-K-12, College Level, Community
Content: Art, Health, Language Arts, Math, Music, Physical Education, Science, Social Studies, STEM
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
Discover how artificial intelligence can revolutionize teaching and learning through powerful tools like ChatGPT, Khanmigos, Magic School AI, and Diffit. This session will explore practical applications of AI in Project-Based Learning (PBL), curriculum design, lesson planning, and differentiation strategies. Learn how these resources can enhance student engagement, streamline educator workflows, and create personalized learning experiences for diverse learners. Come to explore the future of education with AI at the forefront. Participants should bring their laptops to explore and interact firsthand with various AI platforms.

Diving Into a New Career: Trade Secrets from a Career Counseling Professional **Allyn Hall 255**

Jessica Warrick – Wright State University
Strand(s): Career Readiness
Overarching Topics: Social-Emotional Learning, Student Engagement and Motivation, career preparation and generalizable skills
Audience: Grades 10-12, College Level, Community
Content: Open to all content areas
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
Career readiness tips and tricks will be shared that will prepare attendees to tackle the next steps in their career goals. Many of us have generalizable skills and experiences that prepare us to be ready for our next challenge. From working up the confidence to apply for the dream job, to writing a resume that gets through AI resume screening tools, and answering interview questions to illustrate our strengths and goodness of fit for the job, attendees will walk away with tangible strategies and supporting information that will help them nail the job they want in today's world.

Enhancing STEM Learning with Interdisciplinary Lessons **Allyn Hall 259**

Lauren Allman and Chavin Lewis – Dayton Public Schools
Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Interdisciplinary lessons/units
Audience: Grades 9-12
Content: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, STEM
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
Students learn better when they can make connections to their work from other disciplines. Join us to help enhance those connections by incorporating interdisciplinary lesson planning into your practice. We'll share our schoolwide collaborative process, including videos of our teachers in action. You'll complete a collaborative activity to help you begin planning an interdisciplinary lesson. You'll leave with valuable tools, such as meeting agendas and example high school lessons. We'll include a smaller collaborative lesson planned among a few teachers, along with a more large-scale PBL lesson.

Discover Portable Innovation Labs: A lab for every class **Rike Hall 166**

Brianna Agomessou, Andrew Bruening, Sam Kula, and Zach Brooks – The PAST Foundation
Strand(s): STEM
Overarching Topics: Interdisciplinary lessons/units, Nature-based learning, Student Engagement and Motivation
Audience: Grades PreK-12
Content: Art, Health, Language Arts, Math, Physical Education, Science, Social Studies, STEM
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
Come learn about our FREE portable labs that you can check out right here in Dayton! Our labs are designed to nurture each students' STEM identity and are able to be borrowed for 2–3 weeks to allow educators in any subject area to work the labs into their curricula. Join us to see how our labs incorporate the design thinking process, to experience a taste of some of our labs, and to learn how to reserve a lab to use with your students.

Bringing Math Class Alive with Rich Tasks and Inquiry Learning **Rike Hall 163**

David Herick, Sara Hufford, Ericca Holloway, Taylor Huffman, and Aurora McVey – Wright State University
Strand(s): STEM
Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Content Focused Instructional Practices, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Differentiation, General Instructional Practices, Inclusive Teaching, Student Engagement and Motivation
Audience: Grades K-8
Content: Math
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
Join us in this interactive session where we will explore what makes a "rich task" in math class. We will identify attributes of rich tasks in grades k - 8 and explore rich tasks for various grade levels. Participants will leave with resources for finding rich tasks and bringing inquiry math to the classroom.

Two 20-Minute Presentations **Rike Hall 158**

School Counselors' Toolkit: Using ChatGPT to Build Essential Classroom Skills

Matt Kesner – Kettering City Schools
Strand(s): Using AI
Overarching Topics: Artificial Intelligence, Differentiation, Equity, Inclusive Teaching, Technology
Audience: Grades PreK-12, College Level, Community
Content: Open to all content areas, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Study skills, organization skills, time management
Presentation Format: 20-Minute Presentation
School Counselors' Toolkit: Using ChatGPT to Build Essential Classroom Skills" explores how school counselors can leverage ChatGPT to enhance student success. The presentation covers using ChatGPT for academic support by clarifying difficult topics, fostering critical thinking, and aiding in reading comprehension. It also discusses how the tool helps with time management, study planning, and task organization. Ethical use is emphasized, ensuring ChatGPT supports learning without replacing student effort. The goal is to empower students to actively engage with their studies and build essential skills for the classroom.

And

Social and Emotional Learning Strategies for Building Peer Connectedness

Romena Holbert, Sarah Trotter Moore, and Megan Meyer – Wright State University
Strand(s):
Overarching Topics: Inclusive Teaching, Social-Emotional Learning, Student Engagement and Motivation
Audience: Grades PreK-12, College Level
Content: Open to all content areas
Presentation Format: 20-Minute Presentation
In today's learning settings, it is increasingly important to build connectedness among students to support mental health and academic achievement. Experience two strategies and learn of two additional approaches to building students' confidence and connectedness in this speed session presentation! This presentation models two strategies - an updated version of themed show and tell, and a simple approach to implementing proactive restorative circle conversations while describing an icebreaker activity and an approach to ongoing peer recognition throughout the year.

3rd Session
(11:05-11:50)

From Connection to Success: The Role of Rapport in Student Growth **Allyn Hall 210**

Nate Doolos and Ben Trick – Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools
Strand(s):
Overarching Topics: Administration, Classroom Management, School Culture and Climate, Social-Emotional Learning, Student Engagement and Motivation
Audience: Grades 6-8
Content: Math, Social Studies
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
Building strong connections with students is one of the most important parts of teaching today. In this session, we'll explore how developing real rapport can boost student engagement, motivation, and achievement. We'll share practical strategies for creating meaningful relationships that foster trust and respect, leading to a positive learning environment. We'll also talk about how rapport not only helps students succeed but makes teaching more rewarding. Let's dive into the power of connection and how it drives student success!

Making Every Word Count in Social Studies and Science **Allyn Hall 219**

Tierra McGee and Kurtz Miller – Dayton Public Schools
Strand(s): Career Readiness, Self-Directed Learning
Overarching Topics: Content Focused Instructional Practices, General Instructional Practices, Teaching in an urban setting
Audience: Grades 5-12
Content: Science, Social Studies, STEM
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
This presentation "gets the word out" about writing in science, social studies, and STEM to develop college-ready, self-directed learners. The presenters will share Solution Tree graphic organizers, strategies, and tools proven and tested in classrooms and professional learning communities (PLCs). Attendees will learn how the presenters delivered writing-focused professional development at DPS and gained adaptable strategies. Participants will also engage in planning sessions to effectively use provided resources. The "word on the street" is that you will walk away with great ideas and materials for your own classrooms. Word to the teachers.

Fueling Young Minds: Integrating STEM and Nutrition for Healthy Learning **Allyn Hall 225**

Michelle Fleming, Alison Davis, Brooklyn Gibson, Sara Hufford, Emily Martin, Jenna Vogt, and Kristina White– Wright State University and Jenn Reid and Zeke Dawson –Dayton Regional STEM School

Strand(s): STEM

Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Preservice/New Teacher Preparation, School-Community Partnerships

Audience: Grades PreK-12, College Level

Content: Health, Science, STEM

Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation

Discover how high school students and future teachers collaborated on a project-based learning (PBL) experience to create engaging, interdisciplinary STEM and nutrition activities for K-5 students. This session explores a unique partnership model that addresses equitable educational needs in local elementary schools. Participants will gain insight into PBL, the collaborative process, the benefits of integrating diverse perspectives, and the impact on students' learning. Engage with sample activities and lessons, and discuss strategies for forming similar partnerships or implementing the integrated curriculum in your educational context.

Autism: Take a Walk in my World! **Allyn Hall 229**

Azure Hickman and Stephanie Crosby – Dayton Regional STEM School

Strand(s): STEM

Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Differentiation, Special Education

Audience: Grades PreK-12

Content: Open to all content areas, Special Education

Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation

Autism is a winding road that takes children and adults through a colorful world that is not accessible to everyone. In this session you will take a journey into Autism from the perspective of an adult who is also an intervention specialist. Learn techniques on how to support, manage and teach your ASD students in the classroom through both a traditional and project-based school model.

Guide on the side: Promoting Student-Directed Learning Through Math Centers **Allyn Hall 255**

Shirmaine Vaughn – Dayton Leadership Academies

Strand(s): Self-Directed Learning

Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Differentiation, Student Engagement and Motivation

Audience: Grades PreK-12

Content: Math

Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation

The person doing and talking about Math, is the person learning the Math. Transform Math into lively, engaging, and meaningful learning wherein teachers take a step back and watch students take charge of their own learning through Math Centers. This presentation is about building opportunities for students to do the thinking and creating deep understanding through peer collaboration, cooperative learning, and intellectual and productive discussions in a community where everyone believes they are a Math person. Participants will experience Math Center activities that they can use with their students immediately.

Read, Rise, Repeat - Identifying Student Needs and Tailoring Targeted Support for Lasting Literacy Growth **Allyn Hall 259**

Jenise Stanley – Dayton Leadership Academies

Strand(s):

Overarching Topics: Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Differentiation, Science of Reading

Audience: Grades K-8

Content: Language Arts, Intervention

Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation

Our students start the year with many reading strengths and vast needs. This workshop will help teachers know who to work with, what they need, and how to get results. Participants will see the teacher-driven action research that shows this approach works and receive resources to help them assess student needs and target instruction to meet each student's reading goals.

AI and Self-Directed Learning: Empowering Students in Career Exploration **Rike Hall 166**

Alicia Brown – Write with Mrs. Brown
Strand(s): Career Readiness, Using AI, Self-Directed Learning
Overarching Topics: Artificial Intelligence, Project Based Learning, Student Engagement and Motivation
Audience: Grades 6-8
Content: Language Arts, while this subject matter will primarily support language arts, there is an opportunity to collaborate across subjects.
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
In this presentation, educators will explore innovative ways to leverage AI tools for independent career research among middle school students. Participants will learn to integrate AI platforms that provide personalized career guidance, helping students identify interests and strengths. We'll cover strategies for setting achievable career goals using AI-generated insights, discuss best practices for fostering self-directed learning, and leave with practical materials to implement in their classrooms. The session aims to blend AI technology with traditional exploration methods for a dynamic, student-centered approach to career readiness.

What the AI is this? **Rike Hall 163**

Sarah Ahmad and Brittney Fries – North Dayton School of Discovery
Strand(s): Using AI
Overarching Topics: Artificial Intelligence, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Student Engagement and Motivation
Audience: Grades PreK-12
Content: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, STEM
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
Participants will be shown how the presenters have used AI in a practical and collaborative way. Presenters will share their successes & challenges of using AI in a way that gives their students access and exposure to their future world. Together we will share some innovative and collaborative tools and resources that you can take back to your classroom the next day. Spice up your lessons with AI resources using apps like Brisk, Snorkel, Diffit, & more. There are so many stellar uses of AI in our classroom. Let's embrace the future together and use AI for the betterment of our scholars.

Global Perspectives in STEM Education—Insights from Ecuador and Beyond **Rike Hall 158**

Damian McClure and Cassandra Foster – Dayton Leadership Academies
Strand(s): STEM
Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning
Audience: Grades PreK-12
Content: Science, STEM
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation
This presentation will highlight Damian McClure's experience in the NSF Research Experience for Teachers (RET) program, focusing on human-centered design and appropriate technology. During three weeks in Ecuador, Damian explored Indigenous Kichwa customs and worked with the Tandana Foundation on engineering solutions for the local water system. Participants will learn strategies to connect real-world challenges to classroom instruction, engage underrepresented students in STEM, and enrich curriculum with global perspectives.

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