Check out our 2023 date! Add it to your calendar today!

Save the Date:

2023 WSUNER 11th Annual Conference will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2023

Proposals due: November 15, 2022

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 2023 WSUNER 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 9, 2022.
## Conference Schedule

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## Conference Sponsor

![Wright-Patt Credit Union, Inc.](image)

*Official Financial Institution for the Wright State University Community*
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WSUNER Conference Committee

Kathleen Bledsoe - Teacher, Huber Heights City Schools

Betsy Chadd - Director of Curriculum and Gifted, Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools

Dr. Rusty Clifford - Director of Administration and Operations – Montgomery County ESC

Dr. Amy Elston - (Chair), Assistant Director, Office of Partnerships and Field Experiences, Wright State University

Dr. Michelle Fleming - Assistant Professor in Teacher Education, College of Health, Education, and Human Services, Wright State University

Kristine Gillespie - Teacher, West Carrollton City Schools

Tracey Kramer - Director, Office of Partnerships and Field Experiences, Wright State University

Diane Kroplin - Manager of Educational Media, ThinkTV

Beth Mitchell - Language Arts Teacher, West Carrollton City School District

Michael Moore - Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Troy City Schools

Jenn Reid - Training Center Coordinator/PBL Coach, Dayton Regional STEM School

Dr. Colleen Saxen - Assistant Chair, Teacher Education Department, College of Health, Education, and Human Services, Wright State University

Dr. William Slattery - Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, College of Science and Mathematics, Wright State University

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

Dr. Nancy Williams - Field Experience Supervisor, Office of Partnerships and Field Experiences, Wright State University
Established in 1932, Wright-Patt Credit Union (WPCU) is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative proudly serving Central and Southwest Ohio with more than 446,000 members and over $7.1 billion in assets. WPCU is headquartered in Beavercreek, Ohio, and has 34 convenient Member Centers throughout the state. WPCU's mission is to help people through life by allowing members to achieve a greater degree of economic independence.

WPCU provides our members and the residents of the communities we serve with the best tools, resources and services to meet their financial needs at every stage of life. WPCU understands its members and those in the communities it serves have financial goals they would like to achieve.

WPCU wants everyone to have the flexibility to weather storms and challenges they are faced with and the freedom to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. WPCU helps members and those in surrounding communities they serve learn how to save better, spend and manage wisely, borrow smarter and plan for the future no matter where they are on their financial journey.

Visit WPCU.coop for more information.
Unlock Your Retirement Possibilities with WPCU!

We realize that planning for retirement can be stressful, even under the best situations. Trying to make sense of all the information can seem like an impossible and daunting task – especially if you are trying to do it on your own.

Let us get to know you and your goals, dreams and aspirations for retirement. The CUSO Financial Services, L.P. (“CFS”) financial advisors and registered representatives on WPCU’s Retirement Solutions Team, available through CFS*, are here to sit down with you side-by-side to:

• Better understand your unique situation, goals, and aspirations
• Set achievable short-term and long-term goals for a happy retirement
• Develop a plan to help you cut through the clutter and stay on your path to success

A variety of services designed with your retirement in mind.

• Retirement Planning for Individuals and Businesses
• 401(k), 403(b) and Pension Rollovers**
• IRAs (Traditional, Roth and Educational)
• Mutual Funds
• Market-Linked CDs

• Stocks and Bonds
• College Planning (529 Plans and Educational IRAs)
• Insurance Products (Life, Disability and Long-Term Care)
• Fixed and Variable Annuities
• Tax and Estate Planning Strategies*

Session: Inflation Doesn’t Retire When You Do

In our discussion today, Amanda will discuss and help you understand the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS Ohio) Defined Benefit Plan and how there is currently no Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) on this plan. She will discuss the impact that inflation can have on this retirement plan and the importance of creating additional retirement funding sources so you are better prepared for retirement.

Presenter

Amanda S. Van Schaik, AAMS is a Financial Advisor with CUSO Financial Services,* L.P. located at Wright-Patt Credit Union. Amanda has been in the Financial Services industry 26 years working in the greater Dayton area, licensed in securities and insurance since 2000. Amanda holds the designation of Accredited Asset Management Specialist through the College of Financial Planning.

Amanda S. Van Schaik, AAMS
AVanSchaik@WPCU.coop

* Non-deposit investment products and services are offered through CUSO Financial Services, L.P. ("CFS"), a registered broker-dealer. (Member FINRA/SIPC) and SEC Registered Investment Advisor. Products offered through CFS: are not NCUA/NCUSIF or otherwise federally insured, are not guarantees or obligations of the credit union, and may involve investment risk including possible loss of principal. Investment Representatives are registered through CFS. Wright-Patt Credit Union has contracted with CFS to make non-deposit investment products and services available to credit union members. CUSO Financial Services, L.P. ("CFS") does not provide tax or legal advice. For such guidance, please consult your tax and/or legal advisor.

** Before deciding whether to retain assets in an employer sponsored plan or roll over to an IRA, an investor should consider various factors including, but not limited to: investment options, fees and expenses, services, withdrawal penalties, protection from creditors and legal judgments, required minimum distributions and possession of employer stock.
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**Presentation Summaries**

**1st Session**

*(8:45-9:30)*

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### Improving Parent Involvement to Increase Student Achievement

Justen Seay – Dayton Public Schools  
*Overarching Topics: Administration, School-Community Partnerships, School Culture and Climate*  
*Audience: Grades Pre-K-12*  
*Content: Open to all content areas*

Parent involvement is a major factor in improving outcomes for students. This workshop will discuss strategies for improving parent involvement and creating strong school-home connections.

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### Connecting with Your Students

Sarah Pacher – Troy City Schools  
*Overarching Topics: Classroom Management, Self-Wellness*  
*Audience: Grades Pre-K-12*  
*Content: Open to all content areas*

Are you looking for simple ways to connect with your students? I have a few simple strategies that I use daily, weekly, monthly, to help connect and build relationships with my students. I have found these strategies cut down on behavior issues, as well as increase student motivation to please and perform. All participants will leave with simple strategies or ideas to build community and relationships within their classroom.

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### Student Engagement with Technology

Sarah Ahmad – North Dayton School of Discovery  
*Overarching Topics: Differentiation, Student Engagement and Motivation, Technology*  
*Audience: Grades Pre-K-12*  
*Content: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies*

Does it seem that your students are not engaged with your current technology websites/apps? Participants will be introduced to technology website/apps that will increase student engagement and can be implemented immediately or be added to their teacher toolbox, like Classkick, Wordwall, Blooklet, and Edpuzzle. All participants will leave the training with new tools that can be used in their next lessons!

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### A Trip Around the Engineering Design Process

Elizabeth Wolfe-Eberly – Montgomery County ESC  
*Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Student Engagement and Motivation*  
*Audience: Grades Pre-K-12 and College Level*  
*Content: Open to all content areas*

Join us for a trip around the Engineering Design Process (EDP). This hands-on session will help teachers understand how they can use the EDP in any class and how students benefit from these experiences. Using Inquiry practices, teachers can use all or parts of the EDP to engage students in problem-solving, collaboration, and innovation. Participants will experience an Engineering Design Challenge and learn how to access free resources that can be adapted for any classroom.

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### Using Desmos to Create a PBL Classroom

Nathaniel Heading – Kettering City Schools  
*Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Technology*  
*Audience: Grades 6-12 and College Level*  
*Content: Math*

The purpose of this presentation is to give design and development tips for math teachers on how to create problem-based lessons using Desmos. Teachers will come away with instructional design strategies for finding, creating, and editing their own activities. We will go through the process of creating our own activity using the design principles explained during the session. There will be some scripting done in the Computation Layer (CL) of Desmos.

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### Building a Trauma Informed and Restorative Based Classroom

Deanna Granroth – Dayton Public Schools  
*Overarching Topics: Classroom Management, Social-Emotional Learning, Struggling Students*  
*Audience: Grades Pre-K-12*  
*Content: Open to all content areas, Mental Health, SEL*

In this training, you will learn how to incorporate Trauma-Informed resources/techniques within your class, no matter the subject you teach. You will also walk away with a step by step process on how to incorporate Restorative circles and mediation within your space.
Finding the “Balance” in a Balanced Literacy Classroom

Katie Gilding – Montgomery County ESC

Overarching Topics: Content Focused Instructional Practices, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Struggling Students

Audience: Grades K-3

Content: Language Arts

How does Structured Literacy fit into a Balanced Literacy Classroom? Participants will dive into the differences between each and learn how to modify components of the Balanced Literacy Classroom to integrate more Structured Literacy. This methodology will create a “balance” for meeting all students' needs to develop successful readers, writers and decoders in the classroom. Participants will leave with strategies to implement right away.

Apprentice Master Gardener Program

Shari Little and Erik Tritsch – Fairborn Digital Academy

Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, School-Community Partnerships, School Culture and Climate, Student Engagement and Motivation

Audience: Grades 11-12

Content: Language Arts, Math, Science

This student-led presentation will introduce the participants to Fairborn Digital Academy’s Apprentice Master Gardener Program. Participants will learn how the school partnered with The Ohio State University Extension Office, Greene County to build a curriculum for high school students. The program teaches general gardening skills and incorporates life skills and leadership skills while teaching students to have pride in themselves, their school, and their community. Participants will leave with a framework to help build a similar program at their own schools.

Making STEM Accessible for ALL

Christine Irby – WeSTEMTOO & The Dakota Center

Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Differentiation, Special Education

Audience: Grades 3-5

Content: Science, STEM

How do you teach children with special needs STEM? How do you differentiate STEM? How do you modify STEM? During this workshop the participants learn simple, fun, and engaging activities for students with special needs.

Celebration of Learning - Self Care: Our Many, Different and Valuable Pieces to Share with Teachers (2021 Jennings Action Research Project)

John Isaacs, Kimberly Barnhart, and Karen Robles – Huber Heights City Schools

Overarching Topics: Social-Emotional Learning, Student Engagement and Motivation, Technology

Audience: Grades 5-12

Content: Open to all content areas

Participants will learn how to use accessible technology to create, customize, communicate, generate, and collect research that can be used in their classrooms. We will share our unique experiences of Self Care active research, through the 2021 Martha Holden Jennings Foundation: Action Research Project. We discuss how students in the classroom and online, watched four Vyond animation videos, exclusively created by Barnhart, Isaacs and Robles, to convey the self-care concepts. Data was collected from 326 students in grades five and eight, using pre and post-tests with exit tickets through Google Classroom, utilizing Chromebook computers.

Creating Welcoming Spaces for Students Around the Classroom

Ashley Wheeler, Tasha Wilson, and Pablo Nunez – Dayton Regional STEM School

Overarching Topics: Cultural Responsiveness, Equity, Inclusion, School Culture and Climate

Audience: Grades 9-12 and College Level

Content: Open to all content areas

In today's world, students are surrounded by messages that make it hard for them to establish their identities in a safe environment, and as educators, we know that school is one of the safest places for students to be. Participants will learn about various initiatives and activities that are conducted at the Dayton Regional STEM School in order to create an inclusive, equitable, and affirming environment, which benefits students' social, ethical, and intellectual development. Participants will leave the session with ideas on how to make their schools more welcoming for their diverse student body.
## The Arts Matter: Creating Opportunities for Creativity For All Students

Justen Seay – Dayton Public Schools  
*Overarching Topics: Content Focused Instructional Practices*  
*Audience: Grades Pre-K-12*  
*Content: Art, Music*

Teaching the whole child should be a focus of urban schools across our area. The arts help to develop skills that students don’t usually get in the general education classroom, such as self-discipline, self-efficacy, and creativity. This presentation will discuss strategies to integrate the arts into the school environment and share the successes of a local school district.

## PBIS Behavior Paycheck System

Lucinda Hyer – Fairborn City Schools  
*Overarching Topics: Classroom Management, Special Education, Student Engagement and Motivation*  
*Audience: Grades 8-12*  
*Content: Math, Open to all content areas*

How to get your students to do their work, show respect, have courage to teach others and take responsibility! Teach your students valuable life skills, meet transition goals, collect behavior data and address IEP goals with one program. A PBIS system that takes all the emotions out of behavior management for both the student and teacher!

## There's a Map for That

Kurtz Miller – Huber Heights City Schools  
*Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, General Instructional Practices, Technology*  
*Audience: Grades Pre-K-12, College Level, and Community*  
*Content: Science, Social Studies, STEM*

Are you looking for ways to improve the usage of data/geospatial information in the classroom? Participants will be introduced to free geospatial platforms, software packages, websites, and cloud-based applications that can be used in geospatial mapping instruction in science, social studies, or STEM courses. The presenter will discuss ESRI’s StoryMaps, GeoInquiries™, ArcGIS® Online, Survey123, and ArcGIS® Desktop/ArcGIS® Pro for advanced, gifted users. All participants will leave with many web resources, examples of student work, knowledge of ArcGIS® Online school competitions, and sample “testable questions.”

## When Self-Care Isn't Enough: A Trauma-Informed Approach to Resilience

Syndra Snelling – Montgomery County ESC  
*Overarching Topics: Self-Wellness, Social-Emotional Learning, Trauma Informed Care*  
*Audience: Educators/Administrators*  
*Content: Health, Social Emotional Learning*

Enduring the storms of uncertainty and unpredictability of the last few years have made our self-care efforts feel less effective and caused many of us to experience the sense that “nothing works!” In this session we’ll explore methods to build resilience in the face of overwhelming circumstances while also uncovering the key obstacles that get in the way. Participants will walk away with a better understanding of their individual responses to stress, and discover a clear path to finding balance and resilience once again.

## Inflation Doesn't Retire When You Do

Amanda Van Schaik – Wright-Patt Credit Union  
*Overarching Topics: Self-Wellness, Teacher Resource*  
*Audience: All teachers*  
*Content: Teacher Specific*

The need to outpace inflation doesn't end at retirement; in fact, it becomes even more important. If you're living on a fixed income, you need to make sure your investing strategy takes inflation into account. Otherwise, you may have less buying power in the later years of your retirement because your income doesn't stretch as far.
Incorporating Botanicals into STEM Instruction

Allyn Hall 270

Christine Irby – WeSTEMTOO & The Dakota Center

Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning

Audience: Grades Pre-K-12

Content: Science, STEM

Let's talk about incorporating STEM into gardening. The participants will learn how to design a pollination program for their students. The participants will learn how to utilize the Engineering Design Process for a small classroom botanical space, for home instruction, or for a school garden.

Don't Let the Teacher Drive the Bus!

Allyn Hall 494

Toni Holzapfel and Cam Van Leeuwen – Tri-County North Local Schools

Overarching Topics: Classroom Management, General Instructional Practices, Student Engagement and Motivation

Audience: Grades K-4

Content: Language Arts, Math

Who is driving the bus in your classroom? Are your elementary students encouraged to take control of their own learning? Come and see how to transform your teacher-led classroom to one where all students are challenged to create their own learning opportunities. Participants will be introduced to instructional resources and classroom management and organizational practices that help to promote a self-paced, independent student-led learning environment that supports all learners in the classroom. Are you ready to step aside and let your students drive the bus?!
**Elementary School Intro to the Stock Market**

Gregory Powell – Dayton Public Schools, Derryl Powell, and Mr. Montana Limehouse  
*Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Student Engagement and Motivation, Technology*  
*Audience: Grades 4-8*  
*Content: Language Arts, Math, Social Studies*

This presentation is designed to afford any elementary classroom teacher the resources and step-by-step guidelines for introducing their students to the world of investing in today's stock market. The process is simple to implement and the activity has proven to be engaging to all students. Required materials and prerequisite skills are identified, as are applicable curriculum standards. The presenter has made presentations on the subject at national conferences and co-published a related article in the March/April 2021 edition of "Social Studies and the Young Learner".

**Captivating Career Exploration: Including Planning a Career Fair**

Jolene Young – Dayton Public Schools  
*Overarching Topics: Student Engagement and Motivation, School Counselor standards domain: Career*  
*Audience: Grades K-12*  
*Content: School Counselor*

Learn about ways to engage your students in career exploration activities throughout the school year that will lead up to a career fair. Participants will learn about numerous captivating career exploration activities like: Ohio Means Jobs, Youscience, Career One Stop, Career Cruising, Career Interest Surveys, Career Cafés, and how to plan a career fair for their building both in-person and virtually.

**Building Foam Rockets**

Alan Limke – Milton Union Exempted Village  
*Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Technology*  
*Audience: Grades 3-6*  
*Content: Science, STEM*

Here's a great STEM activity that ticks a lot of boxes, satisfies science, and technology standards and hones collaboration skills. Make this part of a broader unit on the history of flight or use it to address topics such as measurement. Learn about the four forces of flight, develop design abilities, and take home a fun artifact - your own Goddard foam rocket.

**Skin Color Project: An Integrated Exploration**

Amy Vazquez, Nichole Miller, James Smith, and Erin Lukas – Dayton Regional STEM School  
*Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, School-Community Partnerships*  
*Audience: Grades 8-10*  
*Content: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Technology*

A team of teachers from the Dayton Regional STEM School share how an integrated project focusing on skin color has evolved and adapted over the years. Courses that have been a part of this project include Language Arts, Math 8, Algebra I, Honors Algebra I, Science, US History, and Digital Design. Join us to hear how students learn about genetics, data analysis, video editing, Microsoft Excel, and the experiences of different Americans through this project. You'll leave with ideas for stand-alone activities, great discussion topics, or perhaps a project of your own!

**Building Classroom Community Through Interactive Read Alouds**

Rebecca Davis – Dayton Public Schools  
*Overarching Topics: General Instructional Practices, Social-Emotional Learning, Student Engagement and Motivation*  
*Audience: Grades K-6*  
*Content: Language Arts*

Building relationships with students is a critical part of establishing classroom community. Not only do students need to have positive relationships with their teachers, but they need to build relationships with one another, as well. Interactive Read Alouds in the classroom are a great way to do just that! Through IRA, students have the opportunity to engage in deep conversation about books and have shared experiences that connect them as a class. All participants will learn how to craft an Interactive Read Aloud and will leave with a list of engaging, inclusive picture books to help get started.
Being Intentional About Engagement
Laura Drager – Montgomery County ESC
Overarching Topics: Student Engagement and Motivation
Audience: Grades Pre-K-12 and College Level
Content: Open to all content areas
When teachers are intentional about engaging students, classrooms come to life and student growth is inevitable. In this session, participants will consider how relationships, clarity, and challenge come together to create student engagement. Teachers will walk away with resources to enhance relationship building, clarity of instruction, and inquiry in the classroom. Engaging students and motivating them to learn is the precursor to everything that happens in the classroom!

PBIS: Attendance Matters!!
Katie Young - Huber Heights City Schools
Overarching Topics: Administration, Classroom Management, and School Culture (PBIS)
Audience: Pre-K-12
Content: Language Arts, Open to all content areas, PBIS and attendance
"PBIS: Attendance Matters!" will discuss new insights and strategies related to Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and attendance. Presenter Katie will examine the direct correlation of integrating elements of PBIS with purposeful, methodical, and meaningful attendance improvement campaigns such as March Mania, Baseball or Olympic-themed events designed to make attendance fun.

Incorporating Nature to Increase Student Engagement
Erin Rowekamp and Joshua York - Five Rivers MetroParks
Overarching Topics: School-Community Partnerships, Student Engagement and Motivation
Audience: Grades Pre-K-12
Content: Open to all content areas
Capture your student’s attention and natural curiosity, while keeping them actively engaged by using nature to bring lessons and concepts to life! No matter the subject or grade level, nature lends itself to innumerable hands-on experiences that can solidify and strengthen what is being learned in the classroom. Learn how Five Rivers MetroParks is working to support local teachers in getting their students outside and bringing nature into the classroom.

Boost Motivation and Learning with Choose Your Own Adventure Writing
Romena Holbert – Wright State University
Overarching Topics: Content Focused Instructional Practices, Social-Emotional Learning, Student Engagement and Motivation
Audience: Grades 5-12 and College Level
Content: Open to all content areas, Science, Social Studies
Are you looking for engaging ways to boost critical thinking, collaboration, and content learning? Are you hoping to introduce your students to planning processes, project management skills and other aspects of the Social and Emotional Learning Standards? Are you looking to provide choice and technology learning? If so, join this session to learn how engaging students in the design of choose your own adventure stories can achieve each of these goals. Easily customizable instruction templates allow teachers across subject areas and grade levels to differentiate the assignment for their content and context.

Planning for a Comfortable Retirement: Following the SEC's Recommendations
Sandra Winter – Fairborn City Schools
Overarching Topics: Administration, Self-Wellness
Audience: Grades Pre-K-12, College Level, and Community
Content: Finances for Educators
Research indicates that many Americans are not fully prepared for retirement, even those with employer sponsored plans. It's important to know the difference between investment and insurance professionals and their services, potential conflicts of interest, difference between fiduciaries and non-fiduciaries, and what the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) advises the public regarding tax sheltered plans. The SEC has clear suggestions on where to start investing. Attendees will have a starting point, questions to ask a financial professional, and a clear understanding of which professionals are required by law to work in their best interests.
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