Check out our 2025 date! Add it to your calendar today!

Save the Date:
2025 WSU Learn Local 13th Annual Conference will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2025

Proposals due: November 15, 2024

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 2025 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 13, 2024.
## 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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WSU Learn Local Conference Committee

Amy Anyanwu – Assistant Superintendent, Montgomery County Educational Service Center

Tess Asinjo – Executive Director, Dayton Leadership Academy

Amy Elston - (Chair), Assistant Director, Office of Partnerships and Field Experiences, Wright State University
Betsy Gann - Director of Curriculum and Gifted, Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools

Michelle Fleming – Associate Professor in Teacher Education, College of Health, Education, and Human Services, Wright State University
Kristine Gillespie - Teacher, West Carrollton City Schools

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

Valerie Herdman – Assistant Principal, Fairborn City Schools

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

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

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

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

Candice Sears - Instructional Services Director, Montgomery County Educational Service Center

Marty Sexton – Associate Dean, CHEH, Wright State University

William Slattery - Professor, 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

Lesha Wallace – Human Resources Supervisor, Huber Heights City Schools

Melissa Williams – Instructional Data Analyst & Coach, Fairborn City Schools
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**Standards-Based Grading/Assessment in the Music Classroom**  
**Allyn Hall 112**

Christopher Roden – Northmont City Schools  
**Overarching Topics:** Intellectual Learning/Teaching, Assessment and Grading, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, General Instructional Practices  
**Audience:** Grades PreK-12  
**Content:** Music  
**Presentation Format:** Traditional 45-Minute Presentation  

All too often, music teachers find themselves scrambling when grades are due. I know many teachers who mark full participation grades for all students and call it a day. This does not speak to the quality of educator, but a lack of tools in the grading toolbox. Come and learn about grading in music that is standards-based rather than behavior-based and why it is important. This is an interactive workshop from which you will leave with a full assessment toolbox and a renewed inspiration for music education!

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**Don't Have a Writing Curriculum? We got you!**  
**Allyn Hall 210**

Brooke Ellington – Dayton Leadership Academies  
**Overarching Topics:** Intellectual Learning/Teaching, Content Focused Instruction Practices, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Universal Design for Learning  
**Audience:** Grades 3-8  
**Content:** Language Arts  
**Presentation Format:** Traditional 45-Minute Presentation  

Our students are expected to write multiple paragraphs in response to a text, but rarely do ELA teachers have a formal curriculum with lessons to teach these skills. This workshop will present strategies to improve students' sentence quality, organization, and ability to cite evidence. Participants will engage in writing practice and will leave with activities to implement immediately.

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**Harmful Effects of Too Much Screen Time for Students**  
**Allyn Hall 219**

Casey Haper, Alise Damschroder – Fairborn City Schools and Sheri Stover – Wright State University  
**Overarching Topics:** Family Engagement, Intellectual Learning/Teaching, Leadership, School Culture and Climate, Social-Emotional Learning, Struggling Students, Teacher Leadership, Technology  
**Audience:** Grades PreK-12  
**Content:** Open to all content areas  
**Presentation Format:** Traditional 45-Minute Presentation  

Research shows that increased screen time or electronic media use by children is associated with lower language skills, adverse effects on physical and mental health, negative impact on sleep, lower academic performance, attention deficit, increased aggression, lower self-esteem, and many more issues. This presentation will update teachers on this topic and provide suggestions for dealing with the issues in the classroom. It will also provide information teachers can share with parents to educate them on the problems of their children spending too much time on screens and electronic media.

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**Teaching Using Simulations**  
**Allyn Hall 225**

Justin Crews, Madison McCoy, and Sharon Lindsey – Troy City Schools  
**Overarching Topics:** Project Based Learning, Content Focused Instructional Practices, Student Engagement and Motivation  
**Audience:** Grades 7-12  
**Content:** Social Studies  
**Presentation Format:** Traditional 45-Minute Presentation  

This session will offer a variety of simulation styles with a focus on a Colonization Game. Attendees will participate in a version of the simulation.

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**Chronic Absence: A Preventative Approach to Family Engagement**  
**Allyn Hall 229**

Kristy Anderson, Kristen Felts, and Sam Cox – Hamilton County Educational Service Center  
**Overarching Topics:** Family Engagement, Administration, Struggling Students, Whole Child  
**Audience:** Grades K-12  
**Content:** Open to all content areas  
**Presentation Format:** Traditional 45-Minute Presentation  

Chronic absenteeism continues to be a state-wide problem for school districts in Ohio. As the Ohio Department of Education calls out for more preventative and early intervention supports, session participants will learn how you can apply a preventative, supportive model for students and families to assist with improved attendance. Participants will understand the need for cultivating student and family connection as a critical step for improved attendance. Join us to discuss how school districts can move to a more supportive, proactive, and effective model of practice to ensure students are at school ready and engaged to learn.
Heroes of the Household

Ella Jordan Isaac and Dr. Reva Cosby – Trotwood-Madison City Schools

Overarching Topics: Family Engagement, Administration, Leadership, Preservice/New Teacher Preparation

Audience: Grades PreK-12, College Level, Community

Content: Open to all content areas

Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation

"Heroes of the Household, is our intentional efforts to partner with families for student success. Our goal is to guide your child to 100% student success and support you with the tools you need to be the Hero of Your Household.

We believe that by providing families with the resources they need, we can work together to support student success. We believe that supporting student success is a partnership between families and the district and we are committed to providing families with the support and resources they need to help their children succeed.

Not Walking Calculators: Stretching Minds Mathematically

Emily Roper and Shirmaine Vaughn – Dayton Leadership Academies

Overarching Topics: Intellectual Learning/Teaching, Content Focused Instructional Practices, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Universal Design for Learning

Audience: Grades 3-8

Content: Math

Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation

Students of the next generation need to be able to think critically, problem-solve, and see math in flexible ways. The days of drill-and-kill are over. We will present intellectual engagement in math class using the strategies of number talks and notice and wonder. Participants will engage in demonstrations and have the opportunity to reflect on their own practices. Come ready to stretch your brain!

Two 20-Minute Presentations

Earning Trust in an Urban School

Anthony Wyatt – Dayton Public Schools

Overarching Topics: Culturally Responsive Teaching, Classroom Management, Teaching in an Urban Setting

Audience: Grades 9-12

Content: Open

Presentation Format: 20-Minute Presentation

Throughout my seven years of inner-city education, I’ve heard many times how important building rapport with students can be. However, despite numerous PDs about the subject, I have never received any practical advice or resources for how to accomplish that. As a result, I would like to share some day-to-day tips and real-world strategies that I’ve used over the years to develop meaningful relationships with students. These simple strategies help to make the classroom environment more positive, productive, and conducive to learning.

Why Relationships Matter

Levi Hahn – Miami County Educational Service Center

Overarching Topics: Struggling Students, Student Engagement and Motivation

Audience: Grades PreK-12

Content: All Teachers, Paras, and Administration

Presentation Format: 20-Minute Presentation

This presentation will cover the importance of having positive relationships with all (Parents, Students, and Staff) and experiences in the classroom and how relationships can change the outlook of situations we deal with every day.
Children's Literature in the Music Classroom
Jennifer Hewitt – Troy City Schools

Overarching Topics: Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Student Engagement and Motivation
Audience: Grades K-5
Content: Music
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation

Music class is an excellent place to use children's literature. Sound carpets, performance pieces, and everything in between can be created with children's book. In this participatory workshop, teachers will learn how to take a children's book and create a musical piece to be used as part of a lesson or develop it into a program. This cross-curricular activity will connect musical knowledge with what they are learning in the general classroom. Teachers will walk away with many ideas that can be immediately used as-is or build upon them to create their own performance.

Family & Community Engagement-Now Factor
Belinda Tubbs-Wallace, Kathy Curry, and Eugenia Woods – Home Community & Schools Impact Services

Overarching Topics: Family Engagement, School-Community Partnerships, Student Engagement and Motivation
Audience: Grades PreK-12, College Level, and Community
Content: Open to all Content Areas
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation

As we have merged generations for the first time in history, our communication tools have evolved along with techniques and individuals. Caregivers are not parents, parents are not mothers and fathers, and school engagement has changed. This workshop will demonstrate how we can gain an increase in F&C engagement by considering new methods to use to gain attendance, communication, participation, and awareness. After examining these new tools, the participant will leave with a different mindset to gather evidence of the goal behind the engagement and the increase in effective outcomes for families and schools.

Positive Teenage Engagement
James McDaniel III and Daisha Williams – Dayton Leadership Academies

Overarching Topics: Intellectual Learning/Teaching, Differentiation, General Instructional Practices, Student Engagement and Motivation, Teaching in an urban setting
Audience: Grades PreK-12
Content: Open to all content areas
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation

The presenters will discuss the following topics:
I. Gallery Walks - Williams
   This discussion technique allows students to be actively engaged as they walk throughout the classroom. They work together in small groups to share ideas and respond to meaningful questions, documents, images, problem-solving situations or texts.
II. Engagement Strategies - J. McDaniel
   Turn and talks
   Four Corners
   Brain breaks
   Incentives

Culturally Responsive Teaching Through Children’s Picture Books
Katie Gilding – Montgomery County Educational Service Center

Overarching Topics: Culturally Responsive Teaching, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning
Audience: Grades PreK-5
Content: Language Arts
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation

Incorporate unique student experiences and identities into your classroom with Culturally Responsive Teaching and Picture Books! In this session, we will address the 8 competencies for Culturally Responsive Teaching and how we can use picture books to teach some of these in our classrooms. Participants will understand the benefits and importance of this pedagogy and will leave with ideas of how to incorporate culturally diverse picture books into their read-alouds to bring real-world issues into their classrooms, promote respect for differences and model high expectations for all students.
The DPS Teacher Collaborative PLC
Sharon Goins, Gianni Rossi, and Shadayah Lawrence – Dayton Public Schools

Overarching Topics: Culturally Responsive Teaching, Intellectual Learning/Teaching, Administration, Equity, General Instructional Practices, Teaching in an urban setting

Audience: Grades PreK-12
Content: Open to all content areas
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation

The sessions will explore how educators develop professional trust, cultural awareness, challenge implicit biases, and engage in critical reflection as they seek to create a class and schoolwide community that respects and enables students to become independent learners while encouraging and maintaining high-quality academic achievement. Additionally, another aim is the collaboration between Curriculum, Equity, and HR to support and retain teachers in the urban setting.

Bringing Joy to the Classroom
Nate Doolos – Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools

Overarching Topics: Intellectual Learning/Teaching, Classroom Management, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, School Culture and Climate, Social-Emotional Learning

Audience: Grades 4-8
Content: Math, Social Studies
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation

Help bring joy back to the classroom based on lesson plan design to engage your students in active lessons. This simple framework allows students to engage with content, build a rapport with their peers, and enjoy the classroom.

Growing STEM Practices through Micro Gardens
Michelle Fleming, Dave Herick, Colleen Saxen – Wright State University

Overarching Topics: Content Focused Instructional Practices, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Culturally Responsive Teaching, Interdisciplinary lessons/units

Audience: Grades PreK-5th
Content: Health, Math, Science, STEM
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation

This presentation will explore the dynamic intersection of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) practices by engaging participants in creating their own micro gardens. Our focus will be on the use of micro gardens as a powerful tool for active learning and engagement. We will provide ten creative ways to integrate micro gardens in the STEM classroom, and challenge participants to design lessons that transform students into problem solvers, critical thinkers, and engaged community contributors.
Four 10-Minute Speed Sessions

**Workforce Development Coordinators impact on family and community engagement, employment, and district supports**
Christa Gaines, Amanda Pennix, Victoria Flanders, Jennifer Dameron, and Robyn Scott – Warren County Educational Service Center
Overarching Topics: Differentiation, Equity, Inclusive Teaching, School-Community Partnerships, Special Education, Struggling Students
Audience: Grades 7-12, Community
Content: Open to all content areas, Special Education
Presentation Format: 10-Minute Speed Session
Learn how Warren County ESC Workforce Development Coordinators support school district's Special Education programs. The department specializes in assisting and coordinating transition events and activities, acts as a liaison for agency supports and collaboration, offers IEP supports, builds work study opportunities, and supports students' graduation requirements. See how your district can build transition and workforce development services, agency collaboration, and employment opportunities for students!

**Family Engagement Through Fundraising**
Michelle Hurr – Mount Healthy City School District and Angela Adams – Middletown City Schools
Overarching Topics: Family Engagement, Administration, Leadership, School Culture and Climate
Audience: Grades PreK-12
Content: Open to all content areas
Presentation Format: 10-Minute Speed Session
Family engagement is a challenge for schools, finding available funds is a challenge, but when a balance is found between family engagement and fundraising it can be done! Families are wanting to be involved, but many families don't know how to become involved or the time commitment is too much. Learn how to get families involved through programs and fundraising to benefit everyone. Learn how to balance family engagement and fundraising with little time commitment. Families become involved in the school and engaged while students get the rewards in the classroom with materials and field trips.

**Enhancing Learning Environments: Embracing Flexible Seating**
Jenise Stanley – Dayton Leadership Academy
Overarching Topics: Culturally Responsive Teaching, Classroom Management, Student Engagement and Motivation, Whole Child
Audience: Grades PreK-12
Content: Open to all content areas
Presentation Format: 10-Minute Speed Session
In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, it is crucial for educators to create dynamic and engaging learning environments that cater to the diverse needs of their students. One innovative approach gaining popularity is the implementation of flexible seating arrangements in classrooms. This presentation aims to explore the benefits and strategies of embracing flexible seating for educators.

**Spark Motivating Student Conversations with Circle Questions!**
Romena Holbert, Alexys Barfield, Irumva Susan, and Samiyah DeVost – Wright State University
Overarching Topics: Culturally Responsive Teaching, Project Based Learning, General Instructional Practices, Inclusive Teaching, Social-Emotional Learning
Audience: Grades 7-12, College Level
Content: Open to all content areas, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, STEM
Presentation Format: 10-Minute Speed Session
Are you having a hard time getting students talking? Would you love for students to readily share perspectives, experiences and action plans? Join this session for a simple framework to support students in designing important questions in your content area and engaging in relevant, student-centered, discussion with peers!
Utilizing Ohio DOE Resources to Excel Student State EOC Test Results for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies in STEPS (Student Tutoring Enrichment Program Series)  
John Isaacs – Huber Heights City Schools -Weisenborn Junior High  
Overarching Topics: Intellectual Learning/Teaching, Assessment and Grading, Content Focused Instructional Practices, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning  
Audience: Grades 3-12  
Content: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies  
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation  
Learn how to access and administer the Ohio Department of Education (DOE) Readiness Assessments and develop an understanding of how to measure student preparedness through full-length benchmark tests and six-ten-item checkpoint assessments using the Ohio DOE Readiness Assessment portal. Succeed in gleaning actionable performance data built from state test questions. Provide students with experience understanding on-line test format and question structure using evaluations aligned with Ohio Learning Standards and built using test items from the Ohio DOE State End of Course (EOC) Tests. I will present my "war stories" of using these assessments to determine progress and performance data to guide and inform my classroom instruction.

Full district Career Technical Education Planning  
Zane Fessler – Trotwood-Madison City Schools and Chinequa Taylor and Dana Roskey – Miami Valley Career and Technical Center  
Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning  
Audience: Grades 4-12, Community  
Content: Open to all content areas, STEM, Career Technical Education  
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation  
A well-developed 4-12 Career Technical Education (CTE) plan will open up additional funding, prepare students for alternative academic success, involve the community, and help increase the school report card. In this session, learn where CTE classes can fit in your current schedule and how these classes connect with student success. We'll discuss how CTE classes are ranked by funding, how industry credentials can be incorporated cross-curricular, and how to generate community involvement. You will discover how 4-12 CTE planning can prepare students for college and career readiness, while creating a community of lifelong learners.

Ripple Effect: Incorporating Literature that Leads to Positive Action  
Maureen Williams – Archdiocese of Cincinnati/Wright State University  
Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, School-Community Partnerships, Student Engagement and Motivation  
Audience: Grades PreK-12  
Content: Language Arts, Social Studies  
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation  
When high-quality texts are used in the classroom, our students are given the opportunity to learn about the world around them, develop their awareness and appreciation of other cultures, and recognize that they have the power to do good in this world and create positive change. Reading, discussing, and writing about these texts, can create feelings of inspiration, motivation, and empowerment. Students' empathy towards others grows and oftentimes they even develop a deeper appreciation of the wonderful things in their lives. Sometimes, something magical happens. Sometimes students use this new knowledge and inspiration to do something great!

The Benefits of VR in the Classroom  
Jessica Meyer – Dayton Public Schools – Mound Street Academy  
Overarching Topics: Intellectual Learning/Teaching, Content Focused Instructional Practices, Struggling Students, Student Engagement and Motivation  
Audience: Grades 8-12  
Content: Math, Science, STEM  
Presentation Format: Traditional 45-Minute Presentation  
Work with a teacher who has implemented and successfully improved engagement and understanding with her students by using Prisms VR in the classroom. See the basic outline of the teacher-facing dashboard that provides a lesson plan outline, preparation guidelines, implementation and assessment, based on skill level and for needed accommodation. Interact with a VR Headset and see for yourself how this amazing technology will change the future of education.
"Fair Isn't Always Equal" is an interesting phrase but what exactly does it mean in the classroom? Before a student can engage academically in class, they need to feel safe. As teachers, we need to factor in students' environmental, racial, and neurodiverse backgrounds, so that all students - including those with learning disabilities or who come from difficult home lives - have an equal playing field with their peers to fulfill any academics in and out of the classroom. In this session, we will explore strategies to incorporate into lessons throughout your school year to reach and teach each student in your classroom.

**Using the 3-Act Task to Jumpstart Your Math Unit with Your Primary Students**

Krystine Gillespie – West Carrollton City Schools and Wright State University

**Overarching Topics:** Intellectual Learning/Teaching, Content Focused Instructional Practices, Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning, Student Engagement and Motivation

**Audience:** Grades K-5

Mathematics often requires students to think creatively when solving problems. The earlier students can be presented with mathematical tasks, they will have more opportunities to learn how to develop this skill. In this session, learn how you can use the 3-act task in your mathematical lessons to jumpstart any unit of instruction. We'll discuss the research surrounding the 3-act task and its basic components. You will discover what it is like for your students by solving a 3-act task. You will have time toward the end to brainstorm some ideas to create your first 3-act task.

**Two 20-Minute Presentations**

**Supplementing 21st Century Skills with Informal Place-Based Learning**

Chelsea Holmes – Dayton Society of Natural History

**Overarching Topics:** Intellectual Learning/Teaching, Interdisciplinary lessons/units, School-Community Partnerships, 21st-Century Learning

**Audience:** Grades PreK-12

Experiential place-based learning can show your students how to think creatively, work collaboratively, and solve problems in a whole new way. Zoos, museums, parks, nature centers, and other cultural institutions provide unique learning environments that can enrich learning in any content area or grade level. The Dayton Society of Natural History will share some general tips that can apply to any informal learning collaboration, as well as specific opportunities that are offered through the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery and SunWatch Indian Village/Archaeological Park sites.

**Casting Light on the Great North American Eclipse of 2024**

Kurtz Miller – Huber Heights City Schools and Solar System Ambassador Program

**Overarching Topics:** Family Engagement, Project Based Learning, Interdisciplinary lessons/units, Nature-based learning

**Audience:** Grades PreK-12, College Level, and Community

Attendees’ names will be entered into a raffle to win a small number of eclipse glasses.
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<tr>
<th>Four 10-Minute Speed Sessions</th>
<th>Allyn Hall Atrium</th>
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**Tips and Tools for Project Based Learning**  
Nichole Miller, Amy Vazquez, Melissa Curran, Sarah Paul – Dayton Regional STEM School  
Overarching Topics: Project Based Learning, Classroom Management  
Audience: Grades 6-12  
Content: Health, Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, STEM, Open to all content areas |

1. **Collaboration Logs**  
2. **Critique & Feedback**  
3. **Running a Conference Queue**  
4. **Project Folders & Files**
Thank you again to our Conference Sponsors

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