

# **School Success Symposium**

**Niswonger Performing Arts Center**

**Thursday, June 20, 2019**

Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Penny Schwinn**

Tennessee Commissioner of Education

Special Guest Speaker

**Perry Wilson**

Founder, If I Had A Hammer

**Counselor Convening**

Special Guest Speaker

**Dr. Amanda Propst Cuevas**

Director of Appreciative Education

Florida Atlantic University

**Unicoi County High School**

**Bluegrass Band**



**2019 NISWONGER SCHOOL SUCCESS SYMPOSIUM** will focus on best methods for helping students establish and reach their career goals. Talented educators from across the region will share ideas, learn with peers, and develop networks that share a common purpose of student success.

**2019 KINDERGARTEN-UNIVERSITY COUNSELOR CONVENING** will focus on *Appreciative Advising*. K-12 counselors and college advisors will meet at Walters State Community College Niswonger Campus, Greeneville.

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## **SCHEDULE**

- 7:30-8:30**                    **REGISTRATION AND COFFEE - GREENEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**  
  
   **After registration and coffee, Please Move to the NISWONGER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NPAC) - UNICOI BLUEGRASS BAND WILL BE PREFORMING.**
  
- 8:30-8:45**                    **Welcome and INTRODUCTION OF CHAIRMAN AND FOUNDER DR. NANCY DISHNER, PRESIDENT AND CEO**
  
- 8:45-8:55**                    **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER SCOTT M. NISWONGER, CHAIRMAN AND FOUNDER**
  
- 8:55-9:40**                    **KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. PENNY SCHWINN, COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**
  
- 9:40-9:50**                    **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER DR. RICHARD KITZMILLER, VICE PRESIDENT**
  
- 9:50-10:20**                    **SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER PERRY WILSON, FOUNDER, IF I HAD A HAMMER**
  
- 10:20-10:35**                    **THE DAY’S LOGISTICS VIVIAN FRANKLIN, PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COORDINATOR**
  
- 10:50-11:50**                    **CONCURRENT SESSION I**



# CONCURRENT SESSION 1

## 10:50 TO 11:50

### **IF I HAD A HAMMER**

Target Group – Elementary/Middle Educators Room NPAC

Stay and learn more about the national applied mathematics program "If I Had a Hammer." Elementary and middle school students learn the essence of architectural design – fractions, angles, measurement and scaling – by using hammers and drills. They can create a one-room wood-frame house that is large enough for the entire class to fit in. The "Hammer" program is based on the premise that if children don't gain math skills early on, their educational future will suffer. The National Mathematics Advisory Panel advises: "Competence with fractions is considered foundational for learning algebra, success with advanced mathematics, and for competing successfully in the American Workforce."

*Presenter: Perry Wilson, Founder, If I Had A Hammer*

### **GOING FORWARD IN EDUCATION - TENNESSEE**

Target Group – All Educators Room 154

Attend Dr. Schwinn's session and hear how education in Tennessee is going forward and what exciting opportunities you and your students can look forward to experiencing.

*Presenter: Dr. Penny Schwinn, Tennessee Commissioner of Education*

### **ROBOTICS COMPETITION AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL**

Target Group –Elementary/Middle Science Teachers Room 151

Robotics, is this possible? Attend this session and learn the essential information needed to start a middle school Robotics Club/Competition Team. There will also be information on grant writing, funding, competition requirements and expectations and how to leverage support and interest within the school and community.

*Presenter(s): Janet Hartman, Steve Tipton, Amy Brooks, Greene County Schools*

### **LIFE (LITERACY INITIATIVE FOCUSED ON EFFECTIVENESS)**

Target Group – K-2 Educators Room 152

This session focuses on a 3-year Literacy Initiative in Greene and Hancock County. This pilot, provided by the Niswonger Foundation, focused on 5 major components including data review, extended planning time, parental involvement, instructional assistant usage, and ELG's (Early Learning Groups). During this session presenters will describe each component in detail, data findings, and an overall explanation of how this grant supported literacy development in the early grades.

*Presenter(s): Amanda Carpenter, Sara Holt, Erica Lawson, Deane Wright, Greene County and Hawkins County Schools*

## **INTEGRATING CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION INTO THE IEP AS A CRITICAL TRANSITION SERVICE**

Target Group –6-12 Educators

*Room 147*

Previous research has found enrollment in CTE is predictive of positive outcomes in postsecondary education and employment. Students with disabilities who engage in a concentration of CTE courses in high school: (a) have fewer unexcused absences, (b) are more likely to graduate high school on-time, and (c) are more likely to be employed after high school than those students enrolled in few to no CTE courses. Outcomes of youth with disabilities are influenced by many factors (e.g., expectations). Services provided to students while in high school also contribute to positive outcomes. One important transition service that can be provided to students while in high school to assist in mitigating poor outcomes for youth with disabilities is access to career technical education (CTE). The content presented will support practitioners in aligning services and supports in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) to increase the likelihood of post-school success after high school.

*Presenter(s): Dawn Roe, ETSU Clemmer College of Ed*

## **EXPLORE TCAT ELIZABETHTON**

Target Group –Secondary Educators

*Room 214*

The Session will be a brief overview of TCAT Elizabethton and the programs that we offer. We discuss Early Post-Secondary Opportunities and Industry Certifications that are available at TCAT Elizabethton. It will also provide information on how high schools can offer these EPSO's and Industry Certifications on their campus

*Presenter(s): Danny O'Quinn, Tennessee College of Applied Technology,  
Elizabethton*

## **TESTING / EMPLOYABLE SKILLS - HOW CTE STANDS IN THE SKILLS-GAP**

Target Group –7-12 Educators

*Room 148*

Various cultural and language barriers separate education and employers. These have led to graduates who possess skills that differ from the ones an employer requires, a skills-gap. This presentation will detail how Career and Technical Education (CTE) enhances the student's education, equipping them with the skills to fill the gap. During the presentation I shall endeavor to explain cultural and language differences and enhance educator's understanding of employment needs. I will use classroom teaching examples and cultural language discussion topics to get everyone involved.

*Presenter(s): Joe Carter, Washington County Schools*

**BRAIN-BASED LEARNING. USING BRAIN RESEARCH TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Target Group –K-12 Educators

*Room 129*

Current research has clearly demonstrated that the human brain is designed and programmed to process information in very specific ways. Educators who understand and use this research to modify teaching strategies to be more compatible with brain-based learning are more effective. This session is designed to target three primary objectives. First, we will explore the basic nature, composition, tendencies, and purpose of the human brain. Second, we will review and discuss the most current research associated with brain-based learning and explore how the learning process actually occurs. Third, we will discuss practical strategies, techniques, and practices that participants can implement within the classroom to improve student achievement.

*Presenter(s): Jeff Perry, Hamblen County Schools*

**SUCCESS IS MORE THAN JUST SETTING SMART GOALS**

Target Group –6-12 Educators

*Room 130*

Achieving Career Goals / Choices. Achieving success in life is more than just setting SMART Goals. This session discusses the 6 Essential for Student and Individual Success in today’s highly competitive world. Topic based on leadership and organizational success from business leaders and authors.

*Presenter(s): David McCuiston, Cocke County Schools*

**FROM CLASS ROLL TO PAYROLL:**

**BEING THE BRIDGE BETWEEN SCHOOL AND CAREER**

Target Group – 6-12 Teachers, Administrators

*Room 171*

Students in high school are beginning to look to their future as they try to narrow down their future choices. They are exploring various pathways based on the careers they wish to pursue. Unfortunately, many of them lack a full understanding of the work, and sometimes good fortune, which may be required for their success in a particular career field. Meanwhile, the world of business and industry is seeking employees that are dependable, professional, and skilled. As educators, we have both an opportunity and a responsibility to bridge the gap between students and the careers they will pursue. This session will explore ways that schools can be intentional and instrumental in bridging the gap that exists between students and a world full of opportunities.

*Presenter(s): Rich Murray and Robert Tester, Johnson City Schools*

## **STAGE FRIGHT: OVERCOMING STUDENT TRAUMA**

Target Group – K-12 Administrators, Teachers

*Room 202*

"Why is a twelve-year old in tears about speaking in front of her class? Why aren't we training and preparing students to be confident and successful in front of a live audience?" This session is designed to encourage "oral performance" in schools beginning in kindergarten. Today's curriculum (in every grade) all but ignores the ever-present need that most every student has to build poise, confidence, and composure in front of an audience. We spend a great deal of time focused on Reading and Writing, but little time is spent in classrooms addressing Speaking as a critical part of a student's education. The major portion of the session will address oral language assignments and expectations for students beginning in kindergarten with a few nods to specific theatre-based work. This is an area in education where we are truly doing students a disservice - and the need to help kids prepare for their future is tremendous!

*Presenter(s): Rebecca Edmisten, Johnson City Schools*

## **PRESENTATIONS THAT POP:**

**TEACH YOUR STUDENTS TO CREATE PRESENTATIONS THAT MAKE THEM STAND OUT IN THE CROWD OF POWER POINT PRESENTERS!**

Target Group –K-12 Educators

*Room 213*

Are you tired of watching power point after power point? Want your students to make a memorable impression when interviewing and on the job? Learn tons of programs that go beyond Power Point for your students to use and of course, teachers can utilize them too! Leave with a list of over 100 programs (most are free) to improve any type of presentation.

*Presenter(s): Johnnie Sue Hawley, Johnson City Schools*

## **"BUILDING STRONG BRAINS"**

**A CASE FOR TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES IN TENNESSEE**

Target Group – K-12 Educators

*Room 205*

This session will evaluate the epidemic of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) in Northeast Tennessee and the impact it has on our students. We will delve into brain architecture, the impact of ACEs, the mitigating factors for ACEs, and the importance of adults taking care of themselves. This is a training sanctioned by the Tennessee Department of Education and the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. Richard Church is a "Building Strong Brains" Facilitator and current educator in the Johnson City School System.

*Presenter(s): Richard Church, Johnson City Schools*

## **GREENE TECHNOLOGY CENTER:**

### **BUILDING A WORK-READY COMMUNITY EVERYDAY**

Target Group –6-12 Educators

*Room 215*

Students, parents, and guests entering the Greene Technology Center quickly realize that our school functions daily as a pre-employment training center. Our motto of Building a Work-Ready Community Daily is an attitude every staff member takes seriously. Our school is a hub of exciting & invigorating work-ready pursuits. Preschoolers, high school students, and adult learners all know it is "not business as usual" at GTC. We believe our students must graduate high school with a loaded employability toolbox being able to enhance and empower every opportunity. During our session we will share our "not so usual business"!

*Presenter(s): Kim Gass, Randy Wells, Greeneville City Schools*

## **HOW TO CREATE A WORK BASED LEARNING PROGRAM THAT WORKS!**

Target Group –6-12 Teachers, CTE Teachers & Administrators

*Room 144*

Hamblen County has created a strong Work Based Learning program that provides juniors and seniors with on the job work experiences that align with the student's program of study and career interests. Utilizing interest and aptitude data, students are encouraged to choose a program that fits the student's career goals. Work Based Learning coordinators and the CTE Supervisor for Hamblen County Schools will share how this program was developed and how it is continually growing and expanding into a wide variety of career clusters and professions.

*Presenter(s): Chuck Carter, CTE Supervisor; Daniel Aldridge, Work Based Learning/CTE Program Coordinator; Amy Jeffers; and Samantha Snapp, WBL Coordinators, Hamblen County Schools*

## **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:**

### **TECHNICAL COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES AND PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT**

Target Group –K-12 Teachers & Administrators

*Room 150*

This session will take a detailed look into the growth of advanced manufacturing in the region and the increased demand for a qualified, skilled workforce. Participants will learn how partnerships between the Technical College and Local Education Agencies are creating opportunities for students to earn industry certifications and dual credit while creating seamless pathways to earning a post-secondary credential. You will also learn about the program offerings at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Morristown and the initiatives at the college that are focusing on Workforce Development and Student Success.

*Presenter(s): Jerry Young, President & Chris Edmonds, Business & Industry Coordinator, Tennessee College of Applied Technology Morristown*

## **CIVILIAN RESPONSE TO ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENTS**

Target Group –All Educators

*Room Lecture Hall*

In the last two decades, horrific mass shootings have been thrust into public consciousness. Research has shown that many of the mass shootings, or active shooter events, are over before law enforcement responders arrive on scene. Civilians who find themselves in an active shooter event must be prepared to take immediate action to save their own lives before law enforcement arrives. This course, designed and built on the Avoid, Deny, Defend (ADD) strategy developed by the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center, provides guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event.

*Presenter(s): Mike Williams, University of Tennessee Police Department*

## **"YOUR FUTURE IS NOW"**

Target Group –6-12 Educators

*Room 216*

During this session we will cover all programs that are currently offered at TCAT-Elizabethton and the new process for admissions.

*Presenter(s): Patricia Henderson, Tennessee College of Applied Technology,  
Elizabethton*

## **WHAT IS THE NC3 TRAINING TRUCK, AT TCAT ELIZABETHTON SNAP ON TOOLS AND DEMONSTRATION WITH RACING SIMULATOR**

Target Group – All Educators

*Room 217*

Come to this session and learn what the NC3 Truck from Snap on Tools has to offer students and how it can be used as students earn certifications and job credentials. Then you can take a spin around the track with the racing simulator.

*Presenter(s): Brandon Franklin, Tennessee College of Applied Technology,  
Elizabethton*

## **EVIDENCE-BASED READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES**

Target Group –5-12 Teachers

*Room 29*

This session will help teachers deepen their understanding of reading comprehension instruction for adolescents in upper elementary, middle and high schools. Presenters will discuss several evidence-based reading comprehension strategies that have been recognized as effective by the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse.

*Presenter(s): Dr. Lori Marks, Candace Bacon, East Tennessee State University*

## **ACTIVE LITERACY STRATEGIES FOR ANY CONTENT AREA**

Target Group –Middle School Teachers

*Room 31*

How Asking Questions and Fostering Curiosity in the Classroom Can Lead to Stronger Readers Good readers ask questions. This session will review the six key active literacy strategies (Harvey & Goudvis, 2007) and dive deep into how encouraging students to ask questions propels them forward as readers. Learn how teachers in any content area can foster a sense of wonder and curiosity and help students use questioning to better understand texts. Leave with resources and activities you can use right away, no matter what subject you teach.

*Presenter(s): Brooke Drinnon, Niswonger Foundation – Rural Life*

## **BOOK TALKS IN A BUSY CLASSROOM**

Target Group –6-8 ELA Teachers

*Room Library*

Robotics, is this possible? Attend this session and learn the essential information needed to start a middle school Robotics Club/Competition Team. There will also be information on grant writing, funding, competition requirements and expectations and how to leverage support and interest within the school and community.

*Presenter(s): Debbie Webster, Niswonger Lead Teacher 8th ELA Maury Middle School-Jefferson County*

## **IMPROVING POSTSECONDARY TRANSITIONS FOR RURAL STUDENTS**

Target Group –6-12 Educators

*Room Citrix*

This session will equip participants with proven strategies for supporting rural students' successful postsecondary transitions. We will review and discuss the research related to the importance of parent and family engagement and college knowledge skills in relation to postsecondary transitions. Participants will work through a series of activities that build understanding of how to take what works and apply it to their setting. Participants will leave this session equipped with new ideas for how to better support their students right away.

*Presenter(s): Deborah Jonas, Director, REL Appalachia and Victoria A. Schaefer, Lead for Training, Coaching, and Technical Support, REL Appalachia*

## **AIR FORCE VIRTUAL REALITY**

Target Group – K-12 Educators

*Room 121*

Come and visit this session to learn about the opportunities for your students. Each participant will have the opportunity to participate in the Virtual Simulation. Your students may see this but do you really know what they are offered.

*Presenter(s): Adam Shaffer, US Air Force*

## **CONCURRENT SESSION 2**

### **1:00 TO 2:00**

#### **LIFE (LITERACY INITIATIVE FOCUSED ON EFFECTIVENESS)**

Target Group – K-2 teachers, Assistants, Principals, & Specialists

Room 152

This session focuses on a 3-year Literacy Initiative in Greene and Hancock County. This pilot, provided by the Niswonger Foundation, focused on 5 major components including data review, extended planning time, parental involvement, instructional assistant usage, and ELG's (Early Learning Groups). During this session presenters will describe each component in detail, data findings, and an overall explanation of how this grant supported literacy development in the early grades.

*Presenter(s): Amanda Carpenter, Sara Holt, Erica Lawson, Deane Wright, Greene County and Hawkins County Schools*

#### **CULTURAL COMPETENCE IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION**

Target Group –K-12 Teachers & Administrators

Room 143

This session is a discussion on cultural responsive teaching, cultural responsive behavior management and cultural competence in working in school organizations. National accreditation for the teaching profession requires knowledge of diversity and cultural competence. Teachers and administrators in our region are typically less prepared in working with multicultural populations due to lack of exposure on diversity in our region. However, in the past decade we have experienced an increase in the number of minority students, teachers, and staff in our region. This session will equip all stakeholders: teachers, coaches, administrators, counselors and staff on how to address issues of cultural responsiveness and competence in the classroom and school organizations. We will discuss cultural competence assessment tests and its implications to professional development in teaching and working in school organizations.

*Presenter(s): Arnold Nyarambi, PhD, East Tennessee State University*

#### **GRIT: IT'S NOT JUST A BREAKFAST FOOD**

Target Group –6-12 Educators

Room 145

Part of college and career readiness involves students having a collection of soft skills that will enable them to overcome setbacks and persist in the face of challenges. In this session, educators will learn how to teach the skills of grit and resilience to middle and high school students. Through projects, reflections, and real-world applications, students learn how to overcome obstacles and continuously pursue their goals.

*Presenter(s): Lindsey Weeden and Kari Eubanks, Bristol City Schools*

**SERVICE-LEARNING: UNLOCKING THE KEY TO THE FUTURE GENERATIONS  
UNLIMITED POTENTIAL**

Target Group –All Educators

*Room 149*

This interactive session will highlight the meaning of service and how service-learning is a pathway to prepare students for life-long skill sets that they will need in their educational and career development. Participants will learn how to utilize service-learning as a tool for their students, develop partnerships, and understand the benefits of this pedagogy in preparing students' success in an ever diverse and changing world. Reflective stories shared from students directly impacted from unlocking their potential will be captured in this engaging session.

*Presenter(s): Deidra Rogers & Teresa Brooks-Taylor,*

*East Tennessee State University*

**EXPLORE TCAT ELIZABETHTON**

Target Group –Secondary Educators

*Room 214*

The Session will be a brief overview of TCAT Elizabethton and the programs that we offer. We discuss Early Post-Secondary Opportunities and Industry Certifications that are available at TCAT Elizabethton. It will also provide information on how high schools can offer these EPSO's and Industry Certifications on their campus

*Presenter(s): Danny O'Quinn, Tennessee College of Applied Technology,*

*Elizabethton*

**THE POWER OF PRIDE: HOW SUPPORTING OUR LGBTQ STUDENTS SETS THEM UP FOR SUCCESS**

Target Group –8-12 Teachers and Administrators

*Room 124*

The barriers these unique students face impact overall sense of individual safety, level of school engagement, attendance rates, graduation rates, homelessness, and school climate while the students are within our walls. Additionally, the environment students are in directly impacts their abilities to go to college and achieve stable careers. This session will discuss what individuals and schools can do to help them succeed.

*Presenter(s): Jon Tully, Kingsport City Schools*

**HELPING SCHOOL STAFF UNDERSTAND CHILDHOOD TRAUMA AND  
CREATING A TRAUMA RESPONSIVE SCHOOL CULTURE**

Target Group –K-12 Educators

*Room 128*

This workshop will provide participants with a shared understanding of trauma, how to identify it, ways that trauma affects brain development and how to create a trauma responsive school culture.

*Presenter(s): Becky Haas, Ballad Health*

## **INTRODUCTION TO CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

Target Group –K-12 Educators

*Room 154*

Information regarding how to make a Child Protective Services (CPS) call in Tennessee. What information is needed when making the call? Who is a mandated reporter? What happens after the call is made? Get these answers and many more in this session so that you will be informed on how to assist each child in your care.

*Presenter(s): Kim Garland, MSW, Regional Investigations Director, TN Department of Human Services*

## **SMALL GROUP ELA INSTRUCTION**

Target Group – Middle School ELA and ESL Teachers

*Room 127*

This session will focus on incorporating teacher led small groups into the middle school ELA/ESL classroom. We will provide tips and strategies to help build reading comprehension, fluency, and assigning technology during teacher led group work. Our small groups will be centered around data to establish your groups. The groups include: Instructional Level, Current Grade Level, Independent Vocabulary/Writing stations, and technology to reteach ELA standards. Emphasis will be placed on using classroom assessment, CFA data and, benchmark data to structure your flexible small groups.

*Presenter(s): Crystal Turner and Stephanie Stiles, Hamblen County Schools*

## **BRAIN-BASED LEARNING. USING BRAIN RESEARCH TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Target Group –K-12 Educators

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Current research has clearly demonstrated that the human brain is designed and programmed to process information in very specific ways. Educators who understand and use this research to modify teaching strategies to be more compatible with brain-based learning are more effective. This session is designed to target three primary objectives. First, we will explore the basic nature, composition, tendencies, and purpose of the human brain. Second, we will review and discuss the most current research associated with brain-based learning and explore how the learning process actually occurs. Third, we will discuss practical strategies, techniques, and practices that participants can implement within the classroom to improve student achievement.

*Presenter(s): Jeff Perry, Hamblen County Schools*

## **BUILDING RESILIENCE IN UNIVERSITY FIRST YEAR PRE-HEALTH MAJORS**

Target Group –K-12 Teachers and Administrators

*Room 153*

In this session we will discuss the introduction of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and trauma informed care to first year university students. We trained students in Health Professions Exploration courses on brain development, how to mitigate the effects of ACEs and trauma, and

building resilience factors. This provided an opportunity for students to learn about themselves and the people they will serve in their careers. Information on students' ACEs and resilience factors as well as instructor feedback will be provided. Implications for an earlier teaching of these resilience factors and how this can benefit high school students will be discussed.

*Presenter(s): Julia Bernard, Jessica Houston, Judy McCook,  
East Tennessee State University and Washington County Schools*

### **ROBOTICS COMPETITION AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL**

**Target Group –Elementary/Middle Science Teachers      *Room 151***

Robotics, is this possible? Attend this session and learn the essential information needed to start a middle school Robotics Club/Competition Team. There will also be information on grant writing, funding, competition requirements and expectations and how to leverage support and interest within the school and community.

*Presenter(s): Janet Hartman, Steve Tipton, Amy Brooks, Greene County Schools*

### **FOUR DOMAINS OF RESILIENCE**

**Target Group –6-12 Teachers and Administrators      *Room 130***

How to cultivate the ineffable quality that allows people to be knocked down by life and bounce-back at least as strong as before. Four key elements to help students overcome the stresses of daily living.

*Presenter(s): David McCuistion, Cocke County Schools*

### **PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION CONFUSION**

**Target Group –K-12 Teachers and Administrators      *Room 201***

Have you ever felt like inclusion "just doesn't work" in your school? This session will focus on implementing a truly inclusive program with success and you will walk away with several ideas to overcome challenges with inclusion regarding scheduling, culture, co-teaching, and more. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/inclusionconfusion> to submit a specific question you would like addressed in the session.

*Presenter(s): Dr. Melody Blevins, Washington County Schools*

### **USING EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

**Target Group – K-12 Teachers and Administrators      *Room 203***

This session will discuss why extracurricular activities are important to both school climate and school improvement data using a study from the US Department of Education. Along with the many benefits that will be introduced, we will also look at potential obstacles, stakeholder buy-in, financial support, and ideas to get you started. Participants will leave this session with many takeaways.

*Presenter(s): Priscilla Davis, Amanda Mullins, Johnson County Schools*

## **BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS THROUGH ACADEMIC LANGUAGE**

Target Group – Pre-K-3 Teachers, Administrators *Room 204*

Sometimes referred to as the “million word gap”, the landmark Hart and Risley study in 1995 identified “remarkable differences” in the early vocabulary experiences of young children. This is important because vocabulary development during the preschool years is related to later reading skills and school success in general. Building a strong foundation of vocabulary and academic language in the early grades can also lead to career success. This session will provide an overview of the Read to be Ready Interactive Read Aloud module, with an emphasis on utilizing an explicit routine for vocabulary instruction. Following the steps to plan and implement an interactive read aloud, presenters will model selecting texts and vocabulary as well as share classroom data that demonstrate student vocabulary growth following these procedures. Participants will engage in these same routines, building a strong foundation for academic language.

*Presenter(s): Dr. L. Kathryn Sharp and Angela Shelton,  
East Tennessee State University*

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*Presenter(s): Kim Gass, Randy Wells, Greeneville City Schools*

## **ICRADLE TO GRAVE: TECHNOLOGY AND ITS EFFECTS ON RELATIONSHIPS AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE LIFESPAN.**

Target Group –All Educators

*Room 146*

In the past decade researchers have explored the effect of technology on our personal lives. What is emerging is a picture where human existence, our relationships, and emotions are affected by, and even mediated by, technology interference: technoference. The consequence vary from attachment and attention issues in early childhood, emotional regulation challenges later in childhood, depression, anxiety and social anxiety for some adolescents, and impacts on intimate relationship formation. This session will explore how technology influences our emotional life and our connection to others across the lifespan, with particular attention to the impacts educators would observe on school-age children.

*Presenter(s): Bill Garris, Ph.D., Alex Richardson, B.S. Aisia Robbins, B.S. and Ryoko Tsukada B.S., East Tennessee State University*

## **CIVILIAN RESPONSE TO ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENTS**

Target Group –All Educators

*Room Lecture Hall*

In the last two decades, horrific mass shootings have been thrust into public consciousness. Research has shown that many of the mass shootings, or active shooter events, are over before law enforcement responders arrive on scene. Civilians who find themselves in an active shooter event must be prepared to take immediate action to save their own lives before law enforcement arrives. This course, designed and built on the Avoid, Deny, Defend (ADD) strategy developed by the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center, provides guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event.

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*Presenter(s): Brandon Franklin, Tennessee College of Applied Technology, Elizabethton*

## **INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN AND THE CHANGING DIGITAL CLASSROOM**

Target Group –K-12 Teachers and Administrators *Room 125*

This presentation will focus on the evolution of the digital classroom and how new technologies, engagement expectations, and federal/state mandates help shape the delivery of education, specifically online education. As the K12 classroom continues to adopt online classroom technologies, how, as teachers, should we prepare for this incorporation? How can instructional designers help teachers achieve their course content goals? This presentation will walk through some real-world applications of instructional design principles and how the application of these principles can help teachers evaluate new technologies as they continue to diversify the instructional materials provided to students.

*Presenter(s): Chelsie Dubay and Stephanie Tweed,  
ETSU/Academic Technology / Clemmer College of Education*

## **EVIDENCE-BASED READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES**

Target Group –5-12 Teachers *Room 29*

This session will help teachers deepen their understanding of reading comprehension instruction for adolescents in upper elementary, middle and high schools. Presenters will discuss several evidence-based reading comprehension strategies that have been recognized as effective by the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse.

*Presenter(s): Dr. Lori Marks, Candace Bacon, East Tennessee State University*

## **UNDERSTANDING THE TDOE'S LITERACY LEARNING WALK TOOL**

Target Group –6-8 ELA Teachers *Room 30*

Teachers will become familiar with how to both quantitatively and qualitatively assess text complexity using the Tennessee Department of Education's Literacy Learning Walk Tool.

*Presenter(s): Kristi Snyder and Linda Stuart,  
Niswonger Foundation Instructional Coaches*

## **BOOK TALKS IN A BUSY CLASSROOM**

Target Group –6-8 ELA Teachers *Room Library*

Robotics, is this possible? Attend this session and learn the essential information needed to start a middle school Robotics Club/Competition Team. There will also be information on grant writing, funding, competition requirements and expectations and how to leverage support and interest within the school and community.

*Presenter(s): Debbie Webster, Niswonger Lead Teacher 8th ELA Maury Middle  
School-Jefferson County*

## **ONE FIGHT, TWO ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS, AND FOUR RULES OF LOVE AND LOGIC**

Target Group –K-12 Educators *Room 178*

Using the example of one fight handled by two assistant principals, the presenter will go over the basics of Love and Logic, which stresses classroom discipline and management. Laugh and learn about enforceable statements, choices, and building relationships with students. Applicable for K-12 teachers, counselors, and parents as well.

*Presenter(s): John Greer, Bristol Tennessee City Schools*

**AIR FORCE VIRTUAL REALITY**

Target Group – K-12 Educators

*Room 121*

Come and visit this session to learn about the opportunities for your students. Each participant will have the opportunity to participate in the Virtual Simulation. Your students may see this but do you really know what they are offered.

*Presenter(s): Adam Shaffer, US Air Force*

## **CONCURRENT SESSION 3**

### **2:15 TO 3:15**

#### **CULTURAL COMPETENCE IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION**

Target Group –K-12 Teachers & Administrators *Room 143*

This session is a discussion on cultural responsive teaching, cultural responsive behavior management and cultural competence in working in school organizations. National accreditation for the teaching profession requires knowledge of diversity and cultural competence. Teachers and administrators in our region are typically less prepared in working with multicultural populations due to lack of exposure on diversity in our region. However, in the past decade we have experienced an increase in the number of minority students, teachers, and staff in our region. This session will equip all stakeholders: teachers, coaches, administrators, counselors and staff on how to address issues of cultural responsiveness and competence in the classroom and school organizations. We will discuss cultural competence assessment tests and its implications to professional development in teaching and working in school organizations.

*Presenter(s): Arnold Nyarambi, PhD, East Tennessee State University*

#### **GRIT: IT'S NOT JUST A BREAKFAST FOOD**

Target Group –6-12 Educators *Room 145*

Part of college and career readiness involves students having a collection of soft skills that will enable them to overcome setbacks and persist in the face of challenges. In this session, educators will learn how to teach the skills of grit and resilience to middle and high school students. Through projects, reflections, and real-world applications, students learn how to overcome obstacles and continuously pursue their goals.

*Presenter(s): Lindsey Weeden and Kari Eubanks, Bristol City Schools*

#### **INTEGRATING CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION INTO THE IEP AS A CRITICAL TRANSITION SERVICE**

Target Group –6-12 Educators *Room 147*

Previous research has found enrollment in CTE is predictive of positive outcomes in postsecondary education and employment. Students with disabilities who engage in a concentration of CTE courses in high school: (a) have fewer unexcused absences, (b) are more likely to graduate high school on-time, and (c) are more likely to be employed after high school than those students enrolled in few to no CTE courses. Outcomes of youth with disabilities are influenced by many factors (e.g., expectations). Services provided to students while in high school also contribute to positive outcomes. One important transition service that can be provided to students while in high school to assist in mitigating poor outcomes for youth with disabilities is access to career technical education (CTE). The content

presented will support practitioners in aligning services and supports in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) to increase the likelihood of post-school success after high school.

*Presenter(s): Dawn Roe, ETSU Clemmer College of Ed*

### **SERVICE-LEARNING: UNLOCKING THE KEY TO THE FUTURE GENERATIONS UNLIMITED POTENTIAL**

Target Group –All Educators

*Room 149*

This interactive session will highlight the meaning of service and how service-learning is a pathway to prepare students for life-long skill sets that they will need in their educational and career development. Participants will learn how to utilize service-learning as a tool for their students, develop partnerships, and understand the benefits of this pedagogy in preparing students' success in an ever diverse and changing world. Reflective stories shared from students directly impacted from unlocking their potential will be captured in this engaging session.

*Presenter(s): Deidra Rogers & Teresa Brooks-Taylor,  
East Tennessee State University*

### **THE POWER OF PRIDE: HOW SUPPORTING OUR LGBTQ STUDENTS SETS THEM UP FOR SUCCESS**

Target Group –8-12 Teachers and Administrators

*Room 124*

The barriers these unique students face impact overall sense of individual safety, level of school engagement, attendance rates, graduation rates, homelessness, and school climate while the students are within our walls. Additionally, the environment students are in directly impacts their abilities to go to college and achieve stable careers. This session will discuss what individuals and schools can do to help them succeed.

*Presenter(s): Jon Tully, Kingsport City Schools*

### **HELPING SCHOOL STAFF UNDERSTAND CHILDHOOD TRAUMA AND CREATING A TRAUMA RESPONSIVE SCHOOL CULTURE**

Target Group –K-12 Educators

*Room 128*

This workshop will provide participants with a shared understanding of trauma, how to identify it, ways that trauma affects brain development and how to create a trauma responsive school culture.

*Presenter(s): Becky Haas, Ballard Health*

### **TESTING / EMPLOYABLE SKILLS - HOW CTE STANDS IN THE SKILLS-GAP**

Target Group –7-12 Educators

*Room 148*

Various cultural and language barriers separate education and employers. These have led to graduates who possess skills that differ from the ones an employer requires, a skills-gap. This presentation will detail how Career and Technical Education (CTE) enhances the student's education, equipping them with the skills to fill the gap. During the presentation I shall endeavor

to explain cultural and language differences and enhance educator's understanding of employment needs. I will use classroom teaching examples and cultural language discussion topics to get everyone involved.

*Presenter(s): Joe Carter, Washington County Schools*

### **SMALL GROUP ELA INSTRUCTION**

**Target Group – Middle School ELA and ESL Teachers**      *Room 127*

This session will focus on incorporating teacher led small groups into the middle school ELA/ESL classroom. We will provide tips and strategies to help build reading comprehension, fluency, and assigning technology during teacher led group work. Our small groups will be centered around data to establish your groups. The groups include: Instructional Level, Current Grade Level, Independent Vocabulary/Writing stations, and technology to reteach ELA standards. Emphasis will be placed on using classroom assessment, CFA data and, benchmark data to structure your flexible small groups.

*Presenter(s): Crystal Turner and Stephanie Stiles, Hamblen County Schools*

### **BUILDING RESILIENCE IN UNIVERSITY FIRST YEAR PRE-HEALTH MAJORS**

**Target Group –K-12 Teachers and Administrators**      *Room 153*

In this session we will discuss the introduction of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and trauma informed care to first year university students. We trained students in Health Professions Exploration courses on brain development, how to mitigate the effects of ACEs and trauma, and building resilience factors. This provided an opportunity for students to learn about themselves and the people they will serve in their careers. Information on students' ACEs and resilience factors as well as instructor feedback will be provided. Implications for an earlier teaching of these resilience factors and how this can benefit high school students will be discussed.

*Presenter(s): Julia Bernard, Jessica Houston, Judy McCook,  
East Tennessee State University and Washington County Schools*

### **SUCCESS IS MORE THAN JUST SETTING SMART GOALS**

**Target Group –6-12 Educators**      *Room 130*

Achieving Career Goals / Choices. Achieving success in life is more than just setting SMART Goals. This session discusses the 6 Essentials for Student and Individual Success in today's highly competitive world. Topic based on leadership and organizational success from business leaders and authors.

*Presenter(s): David McCuiston, Cocke County Schools*

## **FROM CLASS ROLL TO PAYROLL:**

### **BEING THE BRIDGE BETWEEN SCHOOL AND CAREER**

Target Group – 6-12 Teachers, Administrators *Room 171*

Students in high school are beginning to look to their future as they try to narrow down their future choices. They are exploring various pathways based on the careers they wish to pursue. Unfortunately, many of them lack a full understanding of the work, and sometimes good fortune, which may be required for their success in a particular career field. Meanwhile, the world of business and industry is seeking employees that are dependable, professional, and skilled. As educators, we have both an opportunity and a responsibility to bridge the gap between students and the careers they will pursue. This session will explore ways that schools can be intentional and instrumental in bridging the gap that exists between students and a world full of opportunities.

*Presenter(s): Rich Murray and Robert Tester, Johnson City Schools*

## **PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION CONFUSION**

Target Group –K-12 Teachers and Administrators *Room 201*

Have you ever felt like inclusion "just doesn't work" in your school? This session will focus on implementing a truly inclusive program with success and you will walk away with several ideas to overcome challenges with inclusion regarding scheduling, culture, co-teaching, and more. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/inclusionconfusion> to submit a specific question you would like addressed in the session.

*Presenter(s): Dr. Melody Blevins, Washington County Schools*

## **STAGE FRIGHT: OVERCOMING STUDENT TRAUMA**

Target Group – K-12 Administrators, Teachers *Room 202*

"Why is a twelve-year old in tears about speaking in front of her class? Why aren't we training and preparing students to be confident and successful in front of a live audience?" This session is designed to encourage "oral performance" in schools beginning in kindergarten. Today's curriculum (in every grade) all but ignores the ever-present need that most every student has to build poise, confidence, and composure in front of an audience. We spend a great deal of time focused on Reading and Writing, but little time is spent in classrooms addressing Speaking as a critical part of a student's education. The major portion of the session will address oral language assignments and expectations for students beginning in kindergarten with a few nods to specific theatre-based work. This is an area in education where we are truly doing students a disservice - and the need to help kids prepare for their future is tremendous!

*Presenter(s): Rebecca Edmisten, Johnson City Schools*

## **USING EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

Target Group – K-12 Teachers and Administrators *Room 203*

This session will discuss why extracurricular activities are important to both school climate and school improvement data using a study from the US Department of Education. Along with the many benefits that will be introduced, we will also look at potential obstacles, stakeholder buy-in, financial support, and ideas to get you started. Participants will leave this session with many takeaways.

*Presenter(s): Priscilla Davis, Amanda Mullins, Johnson County Schools*

## **BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS THROUGH ACADEMIC LANGUAGE**

Target Group – Pre-K-3 Teachers, Administrators *Room 204*

Sometimes referred to as the “million word gap”, the landmark Hart and Risley study in 1995 identified “remarkable differences” in the early vocabulary experiences of young children. This is important because vocabulary development during the preschool years is related to later reading skills and school success in general. Building a strong foundation of vocabulary and academic language in the early grades can also lead to career success. This session will provide an overview of the Read to be Ready Interactive Read Aloud module, with an emphasis on utilizing an explicit routine for vocabulary instruction. Following the steps to plan and implement an interactive read aloud, presenters will model selecting texts and vocabulary as well as share classroom data that demonstrate student vocabulary growth following these procedures. Participants will engage in these same routines, building a strong foundation for academic language.

*Presenter(s): Dr. L. Kathryn Sharp and Angela Shelton,  
East Tennessee State University*

## **"BUILDING STRONG BRAINS"**

### **A CASE FOR TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES IN TENNESSEE**

Target Group – K-12 Educators *Room 205*

This session will evaluate the epidemic of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) in Northeast Tennessee and the impact it has on our students. We will delve into brain architecture, the impact of ACEs, the mitigating factors for ACEs, and the importance of adults taking care of themselves. This is a training sanctioned by the Tennessee Department of Education and the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. Richard Church is a "Building Strong Brains" Facilitator and current educator in the Johnson City School System.

*Presenter(s): Richard Church, Johnson City Schools*

## **HOW TO CREATE A WORK BASED LEARNING PROGRAM THAT WORKS!**

Target Group –6-12 Teachers, CTE Teachers & Administrators

*Room 144*

Hamblen County has created a strong Work Based Learning program that provides juniors and seniors with on the job work experiences that align with the student's program of study and career interests. Utilizing interest and aptitude data, students are encouraged to choose a program that fits the student's career goals. Work Based Learning coordinators and the CTE Supervisor for Hamblen County Schools will share how this program was developed and how it is continually growing and expanding into a wide variety of career clusters and professions.

*Presenter(s): Chuck Carter, CTE Supervisor; Daniel Aldridge, Work Based Learning/CTE Program Coordinator; Amy Jeffers; and Samantha Snapp, WBL Coordinators, Hamblen County Schools*

## **ICRADLE TO GRAVE: TECHNOLOGY AND ITS EFFECTS ON RELATIONSHIPS AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE LIFESPAN.**

Target Group –All Educators

*Room 146*

In the past decade researchers have explored the effect of technology on our personal lives. What is emerging is a picture where human existence, our relationships, and emotions are affected by, and even mediated by, technology interference: technoference. The consequence vary from attachment and attention issues in early childhood, emotional regulation challenges later in childhood, depression, anxiety and social anxiety for some adolescents, and impacts on intimate relationship formation. This session will explore how technology influences our emotional life and our connection to others across the lifespan, with particular attention to the impacts educators would observe on school-age children.

*Presenter(s): Bill Garris, Ph.D., Alex Richardson, B.S. Aisia Robbins, B.S. and Ryoko Tsukada B.S., East Tennessee State University*

## **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:**

### **TECHNICAL COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES AND PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT**

Target Group –K-12 Teachers & Administrators

*Room 150*

This session will take a detailed look into the growth of advanced manufacturing in the region and the increased demand for a qualified, skilled workforce. Participants will learn how partnerships between the Technical College and Local Education Agencies are creating opportunities for students to earn industry certifications and dual credit while creating seamless pathways to earning a post-secondary credential. You will also learn about the program offerings at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Morristown and the initiatives at the college that are focusing on Workforce Development and Student Success.

*Presenter(s): Jerry Young, President & Chris Edmonds, Business & Industry Coordinator, Tennessee College of Applied Technology Morristown*

## **CIVILIAN RESPONSE TO ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENTS**

Target Group –All Educators

*Room Lecture Hall*

In the last two decades, horrific mass shootings have been thrust into public consciousness. Research has shown that many of the mass shootings, or active shooter events, are over before law enforcement responders arrive on scene. Civilians who find themselves in an active shooter event must be prepared to take immediate action to save their own lives before law enforcement arrives. This course, designed and built on the Avoid, Deny, Defend (ADD) strategy developed by the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center, provides guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event.

*Presenter(s): Mike Williams, University of Tennessee Police Department*

## **INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN AND THE CHANGING DIGITAL CLASSROOM**

Target Group –K-12 Teachers and Administrators

*Room 125*

This presentation will focus on the evolution of the digital classroom and how new technologies, engagement expectations, and federal/state mandates help shape the delivery of education, specifically online education. As the K12 classroom continues to adopt online classroom technologies, how, as teachers, should we prepare for this incorporation? How can instructional designers help teachers achieve their course content goals? This presentation will walk through some real-world applications of instructional design principles and how the application of these principles can help teachers evaluate new technologies as they continue to diversify the instructional materials provided to students.

*Presenter(s): Chelsie Dubay and Stephanie Tweed,  
ETSU/Academic Technology / Clemmer College of Education*

## **UNDERSTANDING THE TDOE'S LITERACY LEARNING WALK TOOL**

Target Group –6-8 ELA Teachers

*Room 30*

Teachers will become familiar with how to both quantitatively and qualitatively assess text complexity using the Tennessee Department of Education's Literacy Learning Walk Tool.

*Presenter(s): Kristi Snyder and Linda Stuart,  
Niswonger Foundation Instructional Coaches*

## **ACTIVE LITERACY STRATEGIES FOR ANY CONTENT AREA**

Target Group –Middle School Teachers

*Room 31*

How Asking Questions and Fostering Curiosity in the Classroom Can Lead to Stronger Readers Good readers ask questions. This session will review the six key active literacy strategies (Harvey & Goudvis, 2007) and dive deep into how encouraging students to ask questions propels them forward as readers. Learn how teachers in any content area can foster a sense of wonder and curiosity and help students use questioning to better understand

texts. Leave with resources and activities you can use right away, no matter what subject you teach.

*Presenter(s): Brooke Drinnon, Niswonger Foundation – Rural Life*

### **INTRODUCTION TO CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

**Target Group –K-12 Educators**

*Room 154*

Information regarding how to make a Child Protective Services (CPS) call in Tennessee. What information is needed when making the call? Who is a mandated reporter? What happens after the call is made? Get these answers and many more in this session so that you will be informed on how to assist each child in your care.

*Presenter(s): Kim Garland, MSW, Regional Investigations Director, TN Department of Human services*

### **ONE FIGHT, TWO ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS, AND FOUR RULES OF LOVE AND LOGIC**

**Target Group –K-12 Educators**

*Room 178*

Using the example of one fight handled by two assistant principals, the presenter will go over the basics of Love and Logic, which stresses classroom discipline and management. Laugh and learn about enforceable statements, choices, and building relationships with students. Applicable for K-12 teachers, counselors, and parents as well.

*Presenter(s): John Greer, Bristol Tennessee City Schools*

### **IMPROVING POSTSECONDARY TRANSITIONS FOR RURAL STUDENTS**

**Target Group –6-12 Educators**

*Room Citrix*

This session will equip participants with proven strategies for supporting rural students' successful postsecondary transitions. We will review and discuss the research related to the importance of parent and family engagement and college knowledge skills in relation to postsecondary transitions. Participants will work through a series of activities that build understanding of how to take what works and apply it to their setting. Participants will leave this session equipped with new ideas for how to better support their students right away.

*Presenter(s): Deborah Jonas, Director, REL Appalachia and Victoria A. Schaefer, Lead for Training, Coaching, and Technical Support, REL Appalachia*

### **AIR FORCE VIRTUAL REALITY**

**Target Group – K-12 Educators**

*Room 121*

Come and visit this session to learn about the opportunities for your students. Each participant will have the opportunity to participate in the Virtual Simulation. Your students may see this but do you really know what they are offered.

*Presenter(s): Adam Shaffer, US Air Force*