

Good Teaching Conference Breakout Session Descriptions

Asset-based Teaching for Students of Color

PK – 12: Culturally Relevant/Sustaining Pedagogy

Tambra Jackson, Associate Professor, Natasha Flowers, Clinical Associate Professor & Lasana Kazembe, Assistant Professor, School of Education, IUPUI

Learn how to implement culturally relevant/sustaining teaching in K – 12 classroom settings. Elementary, middle and high school educators will find this session useful as it will show how to tap into the potential of students of color using culturally relevant and sustaining pedagogy. Vignettes, sample activities and resources will be shared. This session will include an interactive discussion and demonstration of culturally relevant/sustaining pedagogy and strategies for meeting curriculum standards.

Best Practices in Ed Tech

PK – 12: STEM

Annie Schoenfelt & Peggy Pollitt, ISTA Members

Learn about the 4 Cs and how to integrate them into your instruction. Review technology frameworks, specifically focusing on Liz Kolb's Triple E framework. Together we will work through the Triple E rubric, reviewing a specific lesson. Finally, discover tech tools that are easily integrated into your daily instruction!

Close Reading: A Love Story

PK – 5: Literacy

Amy Crosser, ISTA Member & NBCT

This session will go into what close reading is and how it can enhance your reading instruction. Participants will review lessons to incorporate into your current curriculum to help students fall in love with books and encourage lifelong readers.

Creating Technology-enhanced Activities & Assessments

PK – 12: Classroom Strategies

Carissa Richardson, ISTA Member

Teachers will become familiar with creating standards-based, technology enhanced activities and assessments through Edcite.com. This platform allows students to practice their technology enhanced testing skills throughout the year through formative and summative assessments to determine standard mastery and prepare students for ILEARN. Create your own activities or utilize Edcite's vast database of resources.

Critical Assessment Literacy

PK – 12: Assessment

David Rutkowski, Associate Professor & Leslie Rutkowski, Associate Professor,
School of Education, Indiana University – Bloomington

For better or worse, standardized educational assessments have emerged as an integral part of our educational systems. What began as low stakes explorations into student learning have developed into high-stakes assessments used to make decisions about the future of students, teachers and schools. Today, many educational decisions are dependent on assessment results. This workshop will begin to unpack assessments by arguing that assessment literacy among educators is imperative. Discuss important assessment concepts and provide tools to improve your knowledge of standardized assessment.

Dealing with My Plate

PK – 12: Wellness Strategies

Kristine Etter, ISTA Member & NBCT

Educators have so much on their plates – from school, administration, parents and their own families and activities. Educators may feel like they never have any “me” time or can’t have anything else added to their plates. This session looks at the entire “educator’s plate” to reprioritize and reorganize to find that needed “me” time.

Dynamic Tension: Strategies for Promoting Self-Efficacy

3 – 12: Classroom Strategies

Kristy Nystrom, ISTA Member

Many students exhibit anxiety when asked to give a presentation or take an assessment. This is because they have not learned how to perform confidently under pressure. Dynamic tension classroom strategies can reduce anxiety by putting students “on the spot” in a controlled environment so they are better prepared for high-stakes situations in the future. Students gain confidence in their ability to demonstrate knowledge in fun and safe ways by accomplishing tasks in front of the class. This session will introduce educators to dynamic tension, the hot seat, wait time and bowl of knowledge strategies. Attendees will participate in scenarios that can be used in the classroom.

Early Learners with the Indiana State Museum

PK – 2: STEM & Social Studies

Bethany Thomas, VP of Programs and Education Engagement &
Hayley Whitehead, Early Childhood Programs Manager,
Indiana State Museum & Historic Sites

Join the Indiana State Museum and explore how the museum creates programs that meet the needs of our early learners and encourages curiosity and sparks interest in science, art and history. We’ll share ideas and resources for creating this experience in your classroom.

Earth & Space STEM Inquiry

3 – 5: STEM

**Bethany Thomas, VP of Programs and Education Engagement &
Nicole Rife, Director of Education Engagement, Indiana Museum & Historic Sites**

Explore ways to incorporate earth and space hands-on activities into your classroom curriculum. The activities focus on STEM, inquiry and problem solving to encourage students to ask questions and discover answers. The Indiana State Museum will share free NISEnet resources and tips for creating these experiences in your classroom.

Establishing Effective Classroom Discourse in Mathematics

3 – 5: Classroom Strategies, STEM

**Diana Underwood-Gregg, Associate Professor, Math Education,
Purdue Northwest**

In this session, learn strategies for engaging students in productive whole class and small group classroom discourse. While the instructional activities in this session are geared toward teachers of grade 3 – 5 mathematics, the strategies for establishing effective classroom discourse apply to all content areas. Discuss how engaging students in discourse helps promote autonomous problem solvers.

Fostering Intrinsic Motivation in the Classroom

PK – 12: Classroom Management & Brain-based Learning

Katie Gerdts, ISTA Member

Learn the secret recipe to foster the development of intrinsic motivation in every child. Listen to what research tells us about the importance of and cultural bias associated with intrinsic motivation. Leave this presentation armed with the knowledge necessary to prepare yourself as a non-anxious presence in the classroom and how to structure an environment that fosters the development of intrinsic motivation.

From My Way to Their Way: Empowering Student Choice

5 – 12: Classroom Strategies

Dakota Hudelson, ISTA Member

How can we design lessons and classroom environments that reach and challenge all learners, regardless of their ability level or learning preferences? Using Universal Design of Learning, participants will answer this question by looking at how teachers can provide students with options in the classroom instead of prescribing specific activities and establishing a cycle of choice that empowers students to make choices in their learning that are as beneficial as possible. Review several common classroom routines and activities where teachers often prescribe learning activities and explore ways to give students options instead.

Game On! A Journey into the Gamified Classroom

PK – 12: Classroom Management & Strategies, Literacy, STEM, ELL, Related Arts & Social Studies

Kara Doegnes, ISTA Member

Curious about gamifying your classroom? In this interactive session, learn about one teacher's journey at creating a more creative, collaborative and engaging classroom through playful learning.

Experience the ups and downs of gamification and learn about the design process used to turn your own classroom into a unique gamified adventure. Walk away with practical and fun teaching strategies that you can use immediately in any class or grade level. This session is sure to give you ways to motivate your students and LEVEL-UP your own teaching!

Gettin' Techy with It

PK – 5: Literacy, STEM & Social Studies

Megan McAdams, ISTA Member

Learn how to integrate Apple apps (Pages, iMovie, Numbers, Keynote and Garageband) that are already on your iPads and Chromebooks into your everyday curriculum – from simple interactive worksheets to summative science units. McAdams is a Certified Apple Teacher in both iPads and Macbooks. All ranges of experience are welcome.

How to Teach Learning

6 – 12: Classroom Strategies

David Schurger, ISTA Member

Too often teachers teach information, but not how to learn. This session will touch upon some of the basics of how we learn: encoding, consolidation, retrieval. A good portion of the presentation will look at blocked versus interleaving and spaced retrieval of information and how to teach students that making mistakes and failure is part of the learning process. Learning is messy and the student (in this case the educators) needs to make their own connections to previously learned material, while managing their desirable difficulties.

I Love My Job – It's People I Can't Stand

PK – 12: Professional Practice

Jody Urquhart, Keynote Speaker

Join this hilariously interactive, practical and inspiring motivational speech that shows you how to develop healthy communication patterns with anyone. Learn to handle the most difficult situations and the most challenging people and how to get through to others without giving in. Never again fall victim to those who love to make life miserable for the rest of us! Knowing how to deal with difficult people at work will allow you to approach your job with more enjoyment and your coworkers and students with greater confidence.

Literacy Tech Tools for Intervention

3 – 8: Literacy & Special Education

Kara Guiff, ISTA Member

Discover how to use free technology tools to help students build the reading comprehension skills needed to progress toward mastery of grade-level standards. Learn why these tools make it easier for you to differentiate, know where students are succeeding and struggling and help free up time to meet with students individually or in small groups.

Learn how Actively Learn, Read Theory and several other programs help students make more progress than they ever thought possible. Bring your laptop, tablet or Chromebook to fully participate in this session as you will have time to work in the programs to experience them as a teacher and a student.

The Model Code of Educator Ethics: Why Should I Know About This?

PK – 12: Classroom Management & Strategies, Social Issues & Parent Involvement

Callie Marksberry, ISTA-Retired

Educators face dilemmas daily that are not cut and dry, sometimes requiring a split-second decision or course of action. The Model Code of Educator Ethics (MCEE) with its five principles, including responsibility to the profession, responsibility for professional competence, responsibility to students, responsibility to the school community and responsible and ethical use of technology, provide guidance and a road map for personal decision making to avoid action that could result in severe consequences.

The code created by educators, for educators establishes ethical best practice and helps ensure that educators are equipped with a framework for ethical decision-making. Practice real-life scenarios and discuss the possible ways these muddy waters can be traversed successfully without negative repercussions.

Handouts regarding the MCEE, do's and don'ts and resources will be available.

NEA Micro-credentialing

PK – 12: Special Education, Classroom Management & Strategies

Kristine Etter, ISTA Member & NBCT

This session introduces and explains NEA's micro-credentialing opportunities to participants. Micro-credentialing allows educators to decide what professional development they want to pursue and earn micro-credentials in those chosen areas.

Organize Me

PK – 5: Classroom Management & Strategies

Megan McAdams, ISTA Member

You've bought it and printed the materials, but now how do you store and organize it? What's the best way to keep your centers, bulletin boards and lesson plans more organized? Learn how to keep your downloads organized on your computer and some simple tricks to save paper and ink, as well as, space when creating and organizing your centers. These ideas will keep your classroom organized and tidy, materials easily accessible and all the hair still on your head!

Social Media & Educator Ethics

PK – 12: Classroom Management & Strategies, Social Issues & Parent Involvement

Callie Marksbery, ISTA-Retired

Social media seems to be the number one way that everyone communicates. Learn the ins and outs of educator ethics with discussions and guidance for the personal and professional use of and decision making regarding social media, using principal five of the Model Code of MCEE. Learn how you can protect yourself when social media is such an integral part of everyone's life.

Teacher Brain States: Priming Your Brain

PK – 12: Classroom Strategies, Wellness Strategies, Brain-based & Trauma-informed Learning

Mary Desautels, Well-Being Coach

This presentation is interactive with a brief introduction to neuroanatomy, neuroplasticity and regulation through breath, movement, touch and rhythm. Participants will experience brain intervals to demonstrate novelty, curiosity and engagement making the brain stay focused and alert. We are priming the brain (child or adult) to learn. We will move through a series of focused attention practices, which calm our sympathetic nervous system ("fight" or "flight" response). These practices relax the body through deep breathing and movement – again priming the brain for cognition. These practices speak the language of our brain stem region and they work to calm us from the bottom of the brain up.

The goal of the breakout is to give educators strategies they can use for themselves to self-regulate and to prime their brains for learning and share the simple strategies with their students.

Tech Slam Jam I

PK – 12: Technology Tools

Diana Reed & Cathy Taylor, ISTA Members

Explore Google Chrome extensions that will simplify your life, turn your favorite bookmarks into Favicons and reveal some simple techniques to organize your Google Drive.

Tech Slam Jam II

PK – 12: Technology Tools

Diana Reed & Cathy Taylor, ISTA Members

Explore tips, tricks and tools for Google Docs, Slides, Drawings and Google Earth, along with a plethora of websites/apps for incorporation in instruction, learning and student engagement.

These are tools that a teacher at any grade level may use to create efficiency and productivity in the classroom.

Trust Cards: Personalized Student Management

3 – 8: Classroom Management

Carissa Richardson, ISTA Member

Trust Cards support classroom-based interventions by rewarding students who follow classroom norms. They are a strategy that allows for students to earn individualized classroom or school-based privileges. Trust Cards also allow for students to lose trust when repeatedly not following classroom norms. This process removes the need for classroom-wide rewards and punishments, instead allowing you to personally track and reward those students who do what is required every day. The system also allows for conferencing and goal setting for those students who do not buy into the classroom environment. Trust Cards provide the classroom teacher with a system of management to incrementally allow students to earn classroom privileges throughout the year.

Two Heads Are Better Than One

PK – 12: Co-teaching

April Oldham & Lorie Shiveley, ISTA Members & NBCTs

Good teaching is good teaching. Instead of students always being pulled out of class, resources are coming into the classroom. That may mean special education resource teachers, ENL teachers or math or literacy coaches spending time in the general education classroom. How do these teachers co-exist? There are many ways in which these teachers can work together within the classroom. In this session, learn some of the fundamental skills necessary for this to work as well as different ways this might look.

Using the Escape Room Concept to Engage Students

9 – 12: Classroom Strategies

Crystal Flath, ISTA Member

Looking for ideas to enhance student engagement in the classroom? The Escape Room concept may appear to be more geared for the science and social studies disciplines, but it can be implemented in all kinds of courses in easy steps and with varying degrees of prep work by the teacher. From very simple to the more complex models, the Escape Room idea can be used in multiple types of classrooms to increase student engagement.

This session will include tips and techniques that teachers can use immediately to increase student engagement. Discover how to implement the Escape Room in your classroom and learn from the presenter's successes and failures. Find resources to build your own Escape Room.

Verbal De-escalation Strategies

PK – 12: Classroom Management & Strategies, Special Education, Brain-based Learning & Trauma-informed Care

Chrystal Streeter, ISTA Member & NBCT

This session provides an understanding of the verbal/behavior escalation cycle as well as tools and strategies that can be applied at the varying levels to calm and de-escalate student anxieties and frustrations. We will also look at proactive approaches to manage student behavior and classroom disruptions.

What Is National Board Certification?

PK – 12: Professional Development

Lorie Shiveley & April Oldham, ISTA Members & NBCTs

Do you want to participate in the most valuable, transformative professional development possible? Do you want to have a greater impact on your students? Do you want to demonstrate a commitment to excellence? Begin your path to National Board Certification. Learn more!

What They Didn't Cover in Methods Class

9 – 12: Classroom Management & Strategies, Social Issues, Parent Involvement, Wellness Strategies & Trauma-informed learning

Renee Albright, ISTA Member & Sierra Miranda, ISEA Member

This is a panel discussion between student teachers and cooperating teachers on what it is like to transition from taking education classes to taking charge of the classes for yourself. The conversation will include: trouble-shooting, student chemistry (a.k.a. "seating chart re-working"), time management, parent contact, IEPs, your mental health and becoming part of the school. This might be a useful session for potential cooperating teachers as well as newer teachers, not just high school-level teachers.

You Know Your School Best: How to Use NEA's Opportunity Checklist to Get What You Want

3 – 12: Educator Voice

Thais Council, Senior Policy Analyst/Program Specialist,
National Education Association

The National Education Association's (NEA) Opportunity Checklist provides a mechanism to assess the strengths and needs of a classroom and school. Educators have the knowledge about what schools need to succeed, and the Opportunity Checklist is the initial step to addressing gaps within a school community. In this session, use the Opportunity Checklist to assess your school and learn how to use the Opportunity Checklist to engage with other aspiring educators, colleagues, community members and families. Gain an understanding of how the Every Student Succeeds Act can provide opportunities for you to use your voice to drive change in your classroom and school.