

2019 WEAC Professional Development Institute Breakout Descriptions

While a target audience is noted for each workshop, all conference registrants are invited to *any* session they feel would fit their professional learning needs.

Your Mother, Your Boss and your Ex: *Teachers and Social Media*

Elizabeth Fernandez, WEAC Attorney

Session 6

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Paraprofessionals, Teachers

When your friends, colleagues, bosses, family members, exes, classmates - past and present - all meet up online, it can get messy. Learn how to not kill your career by tweetstorm or snapchat or getting tagged in a photo from **that** bachelorette party, and how to keep your cyber footprint small.

Time Management for Teachers-You Can Do It All

Amanda McIlhone

Sessions 1 and 2

Target Audience: Teachers

Teaching seems like a never-ending job; there is just so much to do. Add in other responsibilities, it feels like there is never any time. It is possible to teach, work another job, spend time with friends and family, and most importantly SLEEP. This session will help you explore ways to do it all.

Teaching the Gifted and Talented to Think Smarter

Jeni Giedd

Sessions 4 and 5

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Higher level thinking skills can connect to any classroom in any topic area. These skills aid every student, but those identified as gifted and talented can take them to a whole new level. Guaranteed to raise reading levels for all students involved.

Muslim Students in the Classroom: Culturally Responsive Teaching

John Emery

Sessions 1 and 2

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers

This session will cover the fundamentals of Muslim religious practices and their impact on the lives of students in the classroom, including logistics of prayer and fasting. Topics covered will include First Amendment issues, culturally sensitive teaching practices, parent relations, and challenging Islamophobic bullying in the classroom.

Four Mindsets to Motivate Learners

Heather Mielke

Sessions 4 and 5

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Getting students motivated to learn is one of the most important aspects of creating a culture of positivity and self-advocacy. This session focuses on four mindsets that can help motivate learners, the research and background on why each of them works for students and provides activities and plans for incorporating the development of the mindsets into your curriculum.

S.T.R.E.A.M.: Using Art to fill S.T.E.M. Gaps

DJ Huddleston

Sessions 4 and 5

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Participants will visit several integrated life science activities that promote the development of stronger communication skills by utilizing basic art techniques to make and use more quantifiable observations. Some of the topics covered include: bio glyphs, ceramic death masks, body proportion documentation and analogy, and microscopic photography using personal technology.

Student Centered Learning

Nathan Ugoretz

Sessions 1 and 2

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Student centered learning allows students to be involved and engaged in the learning process. Participants of this presentation will gain new methods of instruction that will enhance their students' critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills. Participants will leave the presentation with activities and lessons that they can incorporate into their classroom lessons immediately.

Exciting Board Games in the Classroom

Bryan Milz

Sessions 1 and 6

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

During this hands-on presentation, participants will play a variety of new and popular board games with applications in the classroom. See how you can utilize games to improve social skills, critical thinking, and expand your knowledge.

How to Make an "All School Lip Sync"

David Doering

Sessions 3 and 6

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Mr. Doering has been making All School Lip Sync (or lip dub) videos with Bayfield school students for the past three years. Working with his video production class, students plan, shoot, and edit the video. These videos are great for school publicity and 10,000+ views on your school social media site. Further, this event creates a school culture and identity for students, staff, parents, and community members. This presentation will provide some planning information if you want to make one of these wildly popular videos at your school.

Community Schools: A Comprehensive Success Model

Sarah Smith and Jamie Racine

Session 2

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers, Community School Coordinators, Community Schools Program Support

Community Schools are the hub of the neighborhood, providing access to programs and services for children and adults. There are thousands of community schools nationwide including five school districts in Wisconsin. Learn more about the success two school districts have seen and how you can bring it to your community.

Community Schools: An Equity Strategy for School Success

Gavin Luter

Session 3

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers, Community School Coordinators, Community Schools Program Support

The Community Schools model is rooted in best practices of what works for students, but what exactly comprises a "Community School" is not always clear. Recently the Learning Policy Institute identified Community Schools as "an evidence-based strategy for equitable school improvement" because of its connection to family and community engagement, additional supports for struggling learners, and emphasis on high-quality curriculum linked to real-world problem-solving. Hear from members of the Wisconsin State Coalition for Community Schools about the overall Community Schools strategy, how this work is growing in Wisconsin, examples of schools using the model, and opportunities to advocate for public Community Schools.

Evaluating Community Schools

Gavin Luter

Session 4

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers, Community School Coordinators, Program Support

Find ways to better understand your Community School partnerships from a social justice and critical equity-lens. A growing number of Community School partnerships embrace community-driven leadership and comprehensive, holistic services and supports to meet the needs of families, communities and educators. Building on tenets of Culturally Responsive Evaluation, this presentation strives to both continue and radically extend considerations for evaluating Community School partnerships.

Proper Care and (Emotional) Feeding of Your TCs: Supporting Self-Care and Mentorship while in Teacher Prep Programs and Beyond

Samantha Meister and J. Scott Baker

Sessions 2 and 3

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

In today's world of living your best life, self-care for teachers means more than bubble baths and Wine-down Wednesdays. Join us in an interactive exploration of meaningful ways to build positive self-care habits through journaling, poetic exploration, and tips to build and sustain supportive mentorship networks with plenty of laughs included.

The Holocaust Shoe Project

Alan Morawiec

Sessions 1 and 2

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

When the allied armies liberated German concentration camps at the end of World War II, they found towering piles of prisoners' shoes. Each pair of these shoes was a mournful representative of the men, women, and children who lost their lives during the Holocaust. Mr. Morawiec is a Richland Center middle school educator and the youngest son of a Holocaust survivor. The Holocaust Shoe Project teaches students, faculty, and our communities about the horrors of the Holocaust and to help those in the world who are less fortunate.

3 Ways to Support the LGBT+ Community (Pending her membership paperwork)

Lisa Koenecke

Sessions 2 and 3

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Somewhere over the rainbow should be a safe place for all. Come and learn three ways to create a safe space for those identifying as LGBT+. Discover how you can create inclusive policies, start a GSA, and have some fun. Includes take home resources.

Teaching for Black Lives

Angela Harris and Sequanna Taylor

Sessions 3 and 4

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Education Support Professionals, Teachers

This workshop highlights ways educators can make their classrooms and schools sites of resistance to institutional racism and white supremacy. Explore the ideas and lessons from the newly published book by Rethinking Schools, *Teaching for Black Lives*. Race and social justice are hot topics now, however transparency and ability to learn from one another are often left out of the conversation for fear of how it will be perceived.

What's Next?

Carole Vande Walle

Sessions 3 and 4

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Standardizing kids, teachers, schools, states and countries with "for profit" curriculum that dumbs down and deskills kids and educators is a concern. This workshop will share the presenter's work and seek ideas for improving curriculum requirements at the state level.

ABC: The Anti Bullying Campaign

Kathy Chapman

Sessions 1 and 3

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers

ABC, The Anti Bullying Campaign, is in its sixth year, providing colorful handmade scarves for Oshkosh Public School fifth graders to wear as symbols of cooperation and kindness. ABC relies totally on volunteers to knit or crochet these creative scarves; fifth graders were asked to participate because they are the oldest in our elementary schools, thereby offering leadership skills. Teachers are encouraged to link this project to the existing lessons.

Autism, Mental Health and Inclusive Supports

Heidi Weisensel

Sessions 5 and 6

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Participants will learn about autism and mental health disorders, and there will be a discussion of inclusive supports for students.

Practices & Positive Impacts of Increasing Democracy in Urban High Schools

Kirk Cunningham

Sessions 5 and 6

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Sharing and discussion of specific practices of increasing democracy and documented impacts of these implemented strategies on both internal and external students. This work has shown to improve student achievement both behaviorally and academically.

Transactional to Transformational ~ Developing Awareness of How We "See" Ourselves, Our Students, and Our Work

Joanna Rizzotto and Hallie Schmeling

Sessions 1 and 6

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Joanna and Hallie have uniquely designed systems, structures, and strategies that meet the needs of high school students who are traditionally underserved. With a focus on regulation and developing an awareness of conditioned thoughts and responses, teachers, students, and the school community can transform their school experiences and collectively contribute to overall balance and well-being.

Citizen Science . . . Making Learning Both Real & Meaningful

DJ Huddleston

Sessions 2 and 6

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

In this session, educators will practice techniques that will help them promote authentic student learning both in and out of the traditional classroom. Participating in citizen science endeavors allows both students and teachers to develop and use valuable life-long learning skills.

Project-Based Learning: How to Make it Work for You

Alexandra Agar-Pratt

Sessions 5 and 6

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

My team has been on an ever-evolving project-based learning (PBL) journey. This session tells the story of how we progressed from single-subject, teacher-led PBL to multi-age, interdisciplinary, student-led, STEM-infused PBL. Project documents, examples, and assessment rubrics will be shared, as well as ideas for bringing PBL to your classroom.

How to Survive on a New Educator Salary

Alexandra Agar-Pratt and Molly Walsh

Sessions 3 and 4

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Set up a customized system that will help you budget and save! Learn about some of the strategies, tips, and tricks that have helped young educators prepare for the future while also enjoying the present.

I've Got This: Transforming "I Can't Do This" into "I've Got This and Can't Wait to Show You How"

Barb Anderson, Gary Anderson, Heather Weik and Amy Miicke

Sessions 1 and 2

Target Audience: Teachers

Find out how our students transformed from "I can't do this" to "I've got this and can't wait to show you how!" With technology (iPads and Chromebooks) students tackle the standards with voice and choice, and, with a growth mindset, drastically improved test scores and made our school a High Achieving School in the State of Wisconsin.

Set the Stage to Engage on a Budget!

Tanya Wiitala and Amy Miicke

Sessions 4 and 6

Target Audience: Teachers

Do you feel like each year, it's getting more and more difficult to engage your students and keep them interested and motivated about their learning? By planning and implementing just three classroom transformations a year (on a tight budget) while incorporating tech tools, we have seen engagement SOAR and student test scores improve. We cannot wait to share our experience and tips on how YOU can do this in a budget-friendly, student-centered, low-prep way.

Beyond Differentiation: Structures & Tools to Empower Every Learner

Mike Mohammad and Andelee Espinosa

Sessions 3 and 4

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Supporting the needs of all learners regardless of labels requires moving beyond differentiation to personalization. In this session, we will share how we plan and structure personalization in the classroom, provide participants with tools to help a variety of learners, fulfill specially designed instructional minutes, and share support in place to help learners.

Aspiring Educators 101

Cade Lambrecht, Emily Cramlet and Mackenzie Shay

Session 4

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators

Are you new to Aspiring Educators? Do you want to know more about who we are and what we do as an organization? Aspiring Educators 101 will explore our mission, membership benefits, leadership opportunities, and our organization beyond graduation. Join us in this interactive session to learn more about who we are and what we do.

Strategies for Working with Homeless Youth

Tammy DeGarmo

Sessions 1 and 3

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers

This session will provide educators with an overview of homelessness through the work of Project 16:49. Presenters will share lessons learned, best practices when dealing with homeless youth, and what educators can do to help students and their families. Presented in conjunction with the work of the WEAC Human and Civil Rights Committee.

Engaging ALL Learners: Visual, Auditory & Kinesthetic Strategies for Student Success

Ruth Nyland, Justin Kamp and Jill Prushiek

Sessions 4 and 5

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Participants will be actively engaged in learning strategies to help all students succeed. Presenters will model a variety of successful strategies and techniques they have used working with students in general, special education, and music classrooms. Be prepared to see, listen, and move in this session. All students can learn.

You think behavior, I think . . . “What's missing?”

Strategies and Tools to Decrease Undesired Behavior

Deanna Needham

Sessions 5 and 6

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Let's learn together why kids do what they do and what to do to support them. Strategies, tools, and more to decrease undesired behaviors. Come and learn some ways to help support our students. Targeted toward trauma and autism but can be used universally with all kids.

Autism in the Classroom

Deanna Needham

Sessions 1 and 2

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers

As an educator, have you ever wondered how to support students with autism in your classroom? With strategies and ideas, this presentation will prepare you to support your learners with autism, and you may be surprised as to how some of these may help other learners in your classroom, too.

It's Not Just About Compliance, It's About Student Voice

Andelee Espinosa

Sessions 1 and 6

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Our presenter will share how she guides students to discover and advocate for what kind of learner they are using Universal Design for Learning principles both in the regular education environment and how the Learner Profile can be used during IEP or 504 development. Participants are sure to leave with ideas on how to give all students voice through reflection, videos, FlipGrid or visual resumes during conferences and IEP meetings as well as increase engagement among all team participants.

How to Gain Experience and be an Effective Pre-Service Educator

Sydney Huff, Taylor Schabo and Meagan Zewicki

Session 2

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators

In this session you will hear about opportunities in which you could engage to become a more prepared pre-service educator. This includes volunteering and work experience, as well as making connections with in-service teachers. Additionally, you will hear what teachers value and expect from pre-service teachers that enter their classrooms.

Leaders for Just Schools

Nick Schwei, Kelly Sullivan, Jen Voigt

Sessions 5 and 6

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers

NEA *Leaders for Just Schools* trainers are ready to share what they have learned with fellow educators who also want to advocate for equity and justice in public schools. As leaders for just schools, participants will be asked to reflect on their own practices, how bias impacts equity, and how they are adhering to the visions and actions of a champion for learning environments that respect and celebrate diversity, foster equity for all students, and strengthen the cultural competence of themselves and others.

Having Hard Conversations about Race and Bias in the Classroom

Abie Vang and Jesse Martinez

Sessions 4 and 5

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Based on Teaching Tolerance materials, participants will walk through how to have hard conversations about race, racism and bias in their classrooms with students and with other staff members. Teaching Tolerance is a free resource available to all educators in the country. Participants will learn about resources that are available to them for little to no cost that will transform their classrooms into a safe space for students.

Ancestral Memory: Connecting Students to Art and Truth

Waqnahwew Benjamin Grignon

Sessions 3 and 4

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Creating connections between students and the arts that have been handed down through generations is no easy task. Our presenter will share the successes he has found to work best in his classroom. You will discover strategies to make connections to your own ancestral memory through art. Presented in conjunction with the work of the WEAC Human and Civil Rights Committee.

5 Key Principles of Effective Digital Presentations

John J. Basque

Sessions 3 and 5

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Many educators use PowerPoint or Google slides for presentations, but very few have learned how to design those presentations in an effective manner. You will learn 5 key principles that will change the way you design and use digital presentation software. Please bring a laptop.

How to Use Circles in Teaching a Social & Restorative Justice Class

Kristin Voss

Sessions 4 and 6

Target Audience: Teachers

Circles are a key component in the practices of Restorative Justice. The purpose of the circle will be to explore its value as a teaching tool in general, as well as specifically for a Social & Restorative Justice Studies course. This presentation will benefit educators interested in using Circles as teaching tools, as well as those who are interested in teaching a Social Justice Studies class. This presentation will involve participants in the circle process first hand so they can experience what I describe as the “magic” of circles.

Staying Sane

Barb VanDoorn

Session 4 and 5

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Staying sane isn't easy! Research indicates teaching has become one of the most stressful occupations in the U.S.—affecting burnout, lack of engagement, job dissatisfaction, and some of the highest turnover rates ever. Find out what the educational system needs to stay healthy, and what you can do to take care of yourself.

Introduction to Restorative Practices

Heather Strayer and Anna Schneider

Sessions 2 and 3

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Aspiring Educators, Teachers

Participants will discuss how using restorative practices can improve the culture of learning in their classroom. Utilizing restorative practices can lead to improved outcomes for students and improved job satisfaction for educators. We will discuss the fundamental hypothesis of community building, fair process, the restorative questions, restorative conferences, and circles. We will provide some guidelines for using restorative practices to build a safe and harmonious learning community as well as to restore harmony in the community when disruption has occurred.

Introduction to Social Emotional Learning Competencies

Sandra Michels

Sessions 1 and 6

Target Audience: Teachers

This session will introduce the Social Emotional Learning Competencies. Participants will explore the competencies and develop strategies to integrate social emotional skill development into academic lesson planning.

Introduction to National Board Certification

Valerie Morey

Session 3

Target Audience: Teachers

Give yourself a raise by becoming Nationally Board certified! This presentation is an overview of the certification process. Participants will explore the timeline, cost, expectations, benefits, time commitment, WEAC supports, and other pertinent information related to National Board Certification. We will also have time for questions and offer contact information for future assistance.

Resumes and Hiring Practices (Not Confirmed)

Keith Johnson

Sessions 1 and 2

Target Audience: Aspiring Educators

Designed for those new to the education employment market, this session will provide you resume building suggestions, interview tips, and considerations when accepting employment.

How to Prevent Heart Attacks, Strokes & Some Cancers

Ron Borkowicz

Session 6

Target Audience: Education Support Professionals, Teachers

The primary purpose of this session is to provide the participants with realistic lifestyle modifications for combating hypertension, elevated cholesterol, diabetes, obesity, poor eating habits, and a sedentary lifestyle. Even a moderate change in eating habits and in physical activity can postpone and even prevent heart attacks, strokes, and certain cancers. The difference between exercising for fitness versus exercising for health will also be explained. In addition to increasing the length of an individual's life, a healthy lifestyle can contribute to a higher quality of life.

Post Conference Session

Tara Parkhurst

Off Site @ EAA Museum

The Experimental Aircraft Association invites you to visit our museum and meet our Museum Educator and private pilot, Tara Parkhurst. She is a licensed teacher who taught high school for ten years prior to coming to EAA. Tara will showcase opportunities for teachers on how to utilize our museum on field trips. You will participate in a tour of the museum, which will highlight topics and exhibits that we teach students, followed by an overview of the educational programming that spans all ages. Last but not least, we are excited to highlight upcoming changes to both our museum and educational programs with you.