

Exemplary Practices in Education Leadership Conference:

Focus On Our Valley's Students

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

First Breakout Sessions (10:15 am - 11:15 am)

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SESSIONS

1. Transforming District Culture with a Focus on Organizational Leaders (10:15 am - 11:15 am)

Transforming School Culture with Dr. Muhammad

This presentation brings innovative thinking to the challenges of Transforming School Culture in powerful ways that support the learning of all students. In this first session, Dr. Muhammad will emphasize strategies necessary to address staff cohesion issues and maximize human potential in school districts.

Lead Presenter: Dr. Anthony Muhammad

Audience: District Leaders

Grade Level: All levels

2. Getting Ready for the Common Core: What Teachers, Administrators and Educational Leaders Need to Know Now (10:15 am - 11:15 am)

Improving Teaching and Learning

Too many schools are taking a "wait and see" position about the standards, and we believe that there are practical things that teachers, administrators and educational policy makers can do right now to prepare for significant changes in the educational landscape.

Co-Presenter(s): Jon Dueck, Math Coordinator, FCOE

Charlene Stringham, English Instructional Consultant, TCOE

3. Instructional Rounds: An Experiential Journey in Creating a Network, Implementing Rounds and Doing the Work (10:15 am - 11:15 am)

Improving Teaching and Learning

Instructional Rounds (IR) acquaints leadership teams with a practice adapted from the medical field -- rounds. In this process, developed by Richard Elmore and Elizabeth City from Harvard, practitioners work together to examine current site or district initiatives in order to improve student achievement through a non-judgmental manner. IR networks are changing the discussions surrounding high quality classroom instruction while building collaboration among members of the network. IR is the educational practice that brings a coherent structure to multiple initiatives and sanctions districts and sites are grappling to implement. Additionally, IR provides a system wide process for all stakeholders to engage in a conversation that targets instructional improvement across all grades and content areas. The presenters will share their first hand experiences in implementing IR with five rural superintendents and their leadership teams in California by briefly reviewing the IR process and highlighting lessons learned from implementing an IR network.

Co-Presenter(s): Dr. Connie Tate, Jill Hatanaka, San Joaquin County Office of Education, and Rich Merlo, Corcoran Unified

Audience: All educational leaders with focus on instruction

Grade Level: All levels

4. A District Initiative to Improve English Learners' Student Achievement (10:15 am - 11:15 am)

English Learners

Come and see how one district's full implementation of an English Learner Initiative met all three Title III AMAO goals within one academic year. Kingsburg Elementary Charter School District addressed the needs of English Learners at every level of support. Hear from the Director of Curriculum, a site EL Specialist, and the Fresno County English Learner Coordinator. They will tell the story about how, together with site administrators and teachers, all the goals were met. Everyone has an important role in improving student achievement. Come and see what your role could be!

Lead Presenter: Sam Nofziger with Kingsburg Elementary representatives

Audience: All educational leaders with focus on instruction

Grade Level: Elementary

5. Improving English Language Development through Early Education (10:15 am - 11:15 am)

Early Childhood

Presenters:

- Christie Hendricks, Director, California Preschool Instructional Network
- Sue Gomes, Director, Curriculum and Instruction, Delhi Unified School District
- Melanie Cole, Preschool Coordinator, Merced City School District

The research is clear: investing in quality early care and education programs pays off! Multiple studies have demonstrated that long-term social and educational benefits for students including fewer referrals to special education, higher education graduation rates and less dependence on social welfare systems. In order to be considered "high quality", early care and education programs must prepare all children for success in K-12, including those learning English. Educators will discuss how they raised student learning outcomes through an innovative, well-articulated transition from preschool to kindergarten and quality programs based on research-based best practices of supporting home language vocabulary and concept development in the early years.

Facilitators: Gaye Riggs, Assistant Superintendent, Early Care and Education, Merced COE, and Professor, UCM and Michele Copher, Fresno County Office of Education

Co-Presenter(s): Melanie Cole, Christie Hendricks, Sue Gomes

Audience: All educational leaders with focus on early childhood

Grade Level: Early Childhood

6. Success Factors in Career Education: Bringing Relevance to the Classroom through Community Partnerships (10:15 am - 11:15 am)

Career Education

The Valley Legacy Project challenged three high schools (Corcoran High School, Patterson High School and Sanger High School) to enhance their high school curriculum by introducing new programs that would expose students to emerging careers and high-priority industries. These pioneering teachers will share both the tribulations and triumphs of designing new courses to meet model curriculum standards, engaging students without textbooks, and forging relationships with businesses and community based organizations to inform and inspire their students.

Lead Presenter: Susan Fisher, former Chief Educational Officer at Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) with presenters from Corcoran, Patterson and Sanger High Schools

Audience: All educational leaders with focus on secondary

Grade Level: Secondary

7. Early Start/Early Assessment, Implementing SB 1440 (10:15 am - 11:15 am)

Post Secondary Preparation

Dr. Dennis Nef, Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Assoc. VP of Academic Programs and Resources at CSU, Fresno and David Clark, Dean of Instruction at Reedley College will co-present this session. SB 1440 mandates that community colleges develop 60 unit transfer associate degrees. Students earning such degrees are to be granted priority admission to the CSU. The two systems are working together on implementation. This session will provide an overview of the process and discuss progress to date, lessons learned, and next steps.

Co-Presenter(s): Dr. Dennis Nef, David Clark

Audience: All educational leaders

Second Breakout Sessions (11:30 am - 12:30 pm)

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SESSIONS

8. Leadership to Address the EL Achievement Gap: Secondary Level and Beyond (11:30 am - 12:30 pm) **English Learners**

While more than 59% of high school English Learners in California are Long Term English Learners (LTELs) (CA Dept. of Ed; 2010; *Improving Education of English Learners: Research-Based Approaches*), that percentage is sure to increase as new immigrant students develop from basic English language skills (CELDT 1-2) and low CST or CAHSEE scores to recurring and topped-off CST and CELDT scores of 3 or 4. The challenge that secondary school leaders face is how to address the gaps with the EL achievement while developing a system-wide approach that ensures that all ELs do not become LETLs, but instead achieve redesignation (R-FEPs). Effective leaders at all levels focus on intentional and strategic practices that address these gaps while meeting the needs of students and their teachers.

During this session, presenters from two high schools (Pacheco High and Waterford High) and one adult school (Ceres) will share their effective practices regarding teacher leadership to address the EL instruction gap, student academic leadership to address the expectation and support gaps, and alignment of systems that provides clarity and direction for all stakeholders.

Lead Presenter: Karen Ward of Pivot Learning Partners, with representatives of Pacheco High, Waterford High and Ceres Adult School

Audience: Secondary leaders

Grade Level: Secondary

9. Successful CTE Courses with At Risk Students (11:30 am - 12:30 pm) **Career Education**

This breakout session will explain how career technical courses have engaged students to the point of increased attendance, a desire to graduate, and sense of belonging. Steve Carney who started the program and has also overseen the implementation of career technical courses implemented in Madera County Office of Education court schools will lead the discussion; Alyson Crafton, currently principal for MCOE Alternative Education programs and an original teacher for Pioneer Technical Center, will participate in the conversation and explain the benefit of career technical programs in court schools. Leslie Neumeier, an original Career Technical Teacher with PTC will explain how students improve their desire to learn through career technical courses and the improvement seen in all academic courses. Past graduates will participate and explain how career technical courses re-engaged them and helped them move out of gangs and be successful after high school.

Lead Presenter: Steve Carney, Madera County Office of Education

Audience: All educational leaders with focus on secondary

Grade Level: Secondary

10. Compassion Education for Teacher Training (11:30 am - 12:30 pm) **Improving Teaching and Learning**

How does one become the kind of teacher that can reach the hardest to reach students? This is not a presentation regarding teacher knowledge or skills of various techniques for promoting student success. This is rather a presentation on the disposition of compassion in education, and how the application of its constructs can prove a powerful force for student resiliency, even in the face of the most formidable obstacles.

Lead Presenter: Dr. Glen Green

Audience: All educational leaders

Grade Level: All levels

11. Transforming School Culture with a Focus on Site-based Leaders (11:30 am - 12:30 pm)

Transforming School Culture with Dr. Muhammad

In Dr. Muhammad's second session, he will share **school level strategies** to promote a positive culture that supports the success of all students. Dr. Muhammad will discuss the role of Professional Learning Communities and implementing instructional best practices in a manner that will build on staff assets and positively impact the learning environment.

Lead Presenter: Dr. Anthony Muhammad

Grade Level: All levels

12. Implementation of Transitional Kindergarten (11:30 am - 12:30 pm) **Early Childhood**

Presenters: Dr. Mark Ford, Superintendent
Shirley Esau, Principal
Ying Lee, Teacher
Kingsburg Charter School District

Did you know legislation passed last year essentially creating a new grade level? SB1381. Changed the kindergarten entrance age as well as identified a developmentally appropriate instructional model for the classroom. Every educational leader should be informed about this new innovation. Educators with proven success in implementing essentially the new grade level called transitional kindergarten will discuss how they seized the opportunity to provide high-quality and developmentally appropriate, yet rigorous instruction to “young fives,” effectively providing them the gift of time to enter kindergarten ready to learn.

Facilitators: Michele Copher, Fresno County Office of Education and Marcy Guthrie, Kings Canyon Unified School District.

13. Family Engagement and Latino Student Success (11:30 am - 12:30 pm)

Improving Teaching and Learning

Engaging families to become partners in the education of their children has been demonstrated to reduce achievement gaps for Latino students. Specific attributes of programs that have demonstrated these effects will be discussed. Presenter, Dr. Eugene García is presently Vice President for Education Partnerships at Arizona State University (ASU), a post he has held since 2006. From 2002-2006, he was the Dean of the Mary Lou Fulton College of Education on the Tempe campus of ASU. Before joining ASU, he served as Professor and Dean of the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Berkeley from 1995-2001. He is conducting research in the areas of effective schooling for linguistically and culturally diverse student populations and has chaired the National Task Force on Early Education for Hispanics funded by the Foundation for Child Development. He has published extensively in the area of language teaching and bilingual development authoring and/or co-authoring over 200 articles and book chapters along with 14 books and monographs.

Lead Presenter: Dr. Eugene Garcia, Arizona State University

Grade Level: All levels

14. Academic Articulation with Vertical Teams (11:30 am - 12:30 pm) **Post Secondary**

Preparation

Presenters: Lori Hamada, CPM consultant
Pam McGee, AVID Regional Coordinator
Joan Dallin, Educator
Stephanie Verners, Educator

What is a "Vertical Team"? A group of educators from different grade levels in a given discipline who work cooperatively to develop and implement a vertically aligned program aimed at helping students acquire the skills necessary for success in rigorous coursework in high school and in college. Development and support of Vertical Teams is the way to equip all middle and high school teachers with the strategies and tools they need to engage students in active, high-level learning and ensure that every middle and high school student develops the skills, habits of mind, and concepts required to succeed in college/career. The California Partnership for Achieving Student Success, Cal-PASS, representatives will also be present to share information on the system that develops continuity and alignment of curricula to make instructional improvements that better prepare students as they move from kindergarten to the university.

Lead Presenter: Lori Hamada **Co-Presenter(s):** Stephanie Verners, Pamela McGee, Joan Dallin

Audience: All educational leaders with focus on articulation between K-12 and higher education

Post Conference Sessions (2:00 – 3:00 pm)

1. **Organizational Debriefing and Planning** – Participants will have time to meet with their teams to debrief with each other about what was learned today and to plan next steps for follow-up.
2. **Cradle to Career Partnerships** – Dr. Eugene García, Vice President for Education Partnerships at Arizona State University (ASU) and Dr. Tom Crow, Executive Director, Fresno Compact, will engage in discussion with participants regarding development of Fresno and Phoenix cradle to career partnership efforts based on the Strive Cincinnati model and the National Cradle to Career Network.