

RURAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

schedule

Hosted by the Center for Rural Education

Virtual via Zoom

All times listed in CST

MARCH 19, 2024

Strand I: Technology, STEM & School Climate

8 a.m.

Session I

**Digital Game-Based Learning
and
STEM Teacher Externships: Building Community, Work-Based
Learning & Professional Development**

9 a.m.

Session II

**Transforming Rural Education: AI-Powered Teaching Innovations
for Remote Communities
and
Microteaching Effectiveness in Hybrid Learning Environments**

10 a.m.

Session III

**Great Odin's Raven! ChatGPT Adventures in Teaching and
Learning
and
Exploring Different CTE/STEM Pathways in the Middle Grades**

11 a.m.

Session IV

**Restorative Practices and School Climate: Fostering Student
Leaders
and
Build It and Make It R.E.A.L.**

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Strand II: Students, Teachers & Community

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Session I

**The Rural/Suburban Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together
and
Change is the Only Constant: How to Change When Change is
Hard**

9 a.m.

Session II

**Better Together: How to Partner with Your Local Community for
Big Wins!
and
"I'm Where I'm Supposed to Be": Teachers' Roles in Establishing a
Sense of Community**

10 a.m.

Session III

**Beyond Borders: Examining International Outdoor Education
Initiatives
and
A Phenomenological Investigation of Time to Presentation,
Diagnosis, and Treatment for Farmers with Prostate Cancer**

11 a.m.

Session IV

**Approaches to Professional Learning for Educators in Rural
Districts
and
Rural Futures: How Rural School Leaders View the Future of Public
Education**

CONFERENCE sessions

Digital Game-Based Learning

DR. HUBERT PAUL SCHROER II
UNIVERSITY OF THE CUMBERLANDS

Discuss theories and pedagogy related to the application of gamification and digital game based learning to increase student achievement. We will explore the elements of games, gamification and simulations and how they can be effectively applied in the classroom.

STEM Teacher Externships: Building Community, Work-Based Learning & Professional Development

DR. DONNA SHORT
AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY

HANNAH OGLESBEE
CLARKSVILLE-MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teacher externships are work-based learning (WBL) and professional development opportunities that provide teachers with extended exposure to contemporary work environments and the types of careers their students may pursue. They are hands-on learning experiences that help teachers enrich their classroom pedagogy by using real-world applications of the academic content they teach. By having their own WBL experiences, teachers also can become better equipped to prepare students for WBL activities. Externships involve explicit preparation, reflection during and after the experiences and completion of specific products, such as lesson plans.

Transforming Rural Education: AI-Powered Teaching Innovations for Remote Communities

DR. HANRUI HE, JODI CARRIER, ONYINYE STELLA ANYAMELE
AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY

This presentation seeks to inspire stakeholders in rural education, emphasizing the transformative impact of AI tools like ChatGPT, Diffit for teachers, Eduaide.AI, Brisk Teaching, etc. By harnessing these technologies, we can empower rural educators and enrich student learning experiences. The proposal aims to encourage discussions on the imperative role of AI in revolutionizing rural education, striving towards equitable and advanced learning opportunities for all rural educators and students.

Microteaching Effectiveness in Hybrid Learning Environments

DR. SUSAN WAGNER
LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

Microteaching, a pedagogical approach where teacher candidates present short lessons to peers, proves highly effective in cultivating teaching skills (Allen & Ryan, 1969; McKnight, 1970). Initially conducted in traditional face-to-face settings, the advent of hybrid and online education, particularly in teacher licensing, necessitates the adaptation and perpetuation of microteaching for preservice candidates. This presentation explores the design of hybrid microteaching using a SIMS framework within an education methods course.

CONFERENCE sessions

Great Odin's Raven! ChatGPT Adventures in Teaching and Learning

DR. ERIK KORMOS
ASHLAND UNIVERSITY

Explore the transformative potential of ChatGPT in rural education. Join us for an engaging session featuring an overview of ChatGPT's functions, applications and capabilities. Participants collaborate in a hands-on ChatGPT Quest, exploring practical applications within an educational framework. Gain insights, connect with peers and revolutionize rural education.

Exploring Different CTE/STEM Pathways in the Middle Grades

DR. TOBI KILGORE
UNION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS & LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

How do you create opportunities for students to explore different CTE/STEM pathways in the middle grades? We will discuss how we are creating opportunities for student at Horace Maynard Middle School to explore different CTE/STEM offerings that will give them a sample of what is available to them in high school and beyond.

Restorative Practices and School Climate: Fostering Student Leaders

DR. SARAH LANCASTER
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

In order for schools to experience successful growth and development of academic knowledge they must first cultivate social emotional intelligence and strong relationships among students and teachers. One way to achieve this is through the use of restorative practices.

Build It and Make It R.E.A.L.

DR. TOBI KILGORE
UNION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS & LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

This session will review research based strategies on how to build a safe, all-inclusive learning environment in the middle grades. Attendees will review strategies implemented at Horace Maynard Middle School over the last two school years that have reduced incidents of at-risk behavior and built a positive school culture.

CONFERENCE sessions

The Rural/Suburban Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together

DR. KISHA NAPPER & JESSICA JOHNSON
RUTHERFORD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

This session will delve into the realities and implications associated with educating students from both suburban and rural schools within the same district. Post-pandemic, the intersectionality that exists between suburban and rural settings within one county was brought to the forefront. Issues of educational access and opportunity will be explored.

Change is the Only Constant: How to Change When Change is Hard

BETH NAPLETON
LEVELEDUP LEADERSHIP

Getting pushback any time you're implementing something new at your school? Change is hard, and getting your team on board to successfully implement a change is harder! Join longtime educator and former school founder/leader Beth Napleton to dive deep into improving your effectiveness at implementing new initiatives.

Better Together: How to Partner with Your Local Community for Big Wins!

DR. CATHY BECK
CHEATHAM COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Learn innovative and meaningful ways to partner with your community to create big wins for all stakeholders.

"I'm Where I'm Supposed to Be": Teachers' Roles in Establishing a Sense of Community

HOLLY MARCOLINA
UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

In what ways do rural teachers perceive their extracurricular work contributes to a sense of community (McMillan, 1996; McMillan & Chavis, 1986)? Rural teachers build a sense of community through their navigation of community expectations and traditions. They are agents of change in rural school communities.

CONFERENCE sessions

Beyond Borders: Examining International Outdoor Education Initiatives

JENA COLLINS, ASHLEY KAUTZ, CAVELLE MCGRATH & DR. ANDREA LEE
AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY

This presentation delves into global outdoor education initiatives across four nations. It begins with outdoor education programs in Zimbabwe that are rooted in moral education. Next, the presentation highlights nature-based learning approaches in Jamaica, Germany's forest Kindergartens and programs in South Korea that support holistic learning and mental health awareness.

A Phenomenological Investigation of Time to Presentation, Diagnosis, and Treatment for Farmers with Prostate Cancer

DR. TYLER NOLTING
AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Prostate cancer is the second-deadliest cancer for men in the United States, and farmers are at an increased incidence and mortality risk compared to nonfarmers. This presentation presents qualitative findings about the prostate cancer journey of 11 farmers from Indiana.

Approaches to Professional Learning for Educators in Rural Districts

DR. RACHAEL MILLIGAN
LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

Lipscomb University's Ayers Institute has partnered with dozens of rural Tennessee school districts over the last decade to provide quality professional learning for educators. This session will explore practical strategies and lessons learned from these partnerships and will invite participants to share ideas about how best to support rural educators.

Rural Futures: How Rural School Leaders View the Future of Public Education

MS. KRISLDA CRAVEN & MS. EVELYN ADAMS
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS

Take a look at how rural leaders of one state perceive the present and the future of rural education in the United States. Special focus centers on how the results from research indicate true concerns over the future of rural schools.