



National Forum to Advance Rural Education

PROGRAM

October 12-14, 2017

The Ohio Union at The Ohio State University

1739 N. High Street | Columbus, Ohio

Hosted by:

**Battelle
forKids**



In partnership with:

Ohio | Department
of Education



TN Department of
Education



GROWING SUCCESS

More than 40 percent of all American schools are in rural areas, and close to one third of all students in the country attend rural schools. For most rural school districts in this country, collaboration is not a choice, it is a necessity. Collaboration helps to elevate the voice of rural districts, uplift and empower isolated educators, administrators, and students, and leverage limited resources to tackle big issues.

Battelle for Kids and the National Rural Education Association, in partnership with the Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee Departments of Education, are pleased to host the 2017 National Forum to Advance Rural Education.

This year's event theme is *Growing Success*, which will focus on connecting education and work, strengthening the profession, and supporting the whole child. Hundreds of rural education leaders and practitioners will share powerful examples of rural investment, innovation, and practice that positively impact teaching, student learning, and community collaboration.

SESSION TYPES



20-MINUTE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

These sessions are for the purpose of sharing research about rural education issues. Three 20-minute like-topic presentations will be included within a one-hour session. Presentations will provide a summary of the research that addresses: (a) purpose/rationale of study; (b) method (including data sources); (c) findings; (d) conclusions; and (e) references.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

These TED-talk style sessions are intended for attendees to explore topics on innovative or promising practices in rural education in a brief, 30-minute format, including a 25 minute presentation and 5 minute transition. Each presentation is matched with one other presentation on a similar topic.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

These sessions are intended to go into more depth around innovative or promising practices in rural education in a 60-minute format.



30-MINUTE GRADUATE ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

These 30-minute, discussion-based presentations provide graduate students the opportunity to present their research in progress, receive feedback from professionals in the field, and network with others.



GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

Registration and a name badge are required for all events. When you arrive, stop by registration to pick up yours.

GRADUATE CREDIT AND CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

One hour of graduate credit will be available to attendees who participate in both days of the Forum. Credit is available through Muskingum University for \$130/semester hour. Visit the registration area to pick up the graduate credit paperwork. Certificates of Attendance will be provided to attendees who complete the Conference Feedback survey which can be accessed through the event app.

WIFI ACCESS

WiFi access is available throughout the Ohio Union.

JOIN THE TWITTER CONVERSATION

Tweet about your experience throughout the event by using #RuralEdForum.

MEALS & REFRESHMENTS

Morning refreshments, lunch, and afternoon refreshments will be provided to all attendees on Thursday–Friday. Breakfast will be served on Saturday.

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Advance Rural Education" app

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event information



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

8–9AM	Registration & Morning Refreshments
9–9:30AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks
9:30–10:15AM	Keynote: Mara Casey Tieken
10:30–11:30AM	Learning Sessions
11:45AM–12:15PM	Lunch (provided)
12:15–1PM	Student Panel: Equity, Connectivity, and Prosperity: Viewpoints from Today's Students
1:15–2:15PM	Learning Sessions
2:30–3:30PM	Learning Sessions
3:30–3:45PM	Afternoon Refreshments
3:45–4:45PM	Learning Sessions
5–5:30PM	Mentor Sessions
6–7:30PM	President's Reception & NREA Foundation Auction Location: Marriott Hotel 3100 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43202

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

7:30–8:30AM	Registration & Morning Refreshments Mentor Sessions
8:30–9:30AM	Keynote: Brad Fountain
9:45–10:45AM	Learning Sessions
11AM–12PM	Learning Sessions
12:15–12:45PM	Lunch (provided)
12:45–1:05PM	General Session: 2017–2018 Monsanto Fund Rural Teacher of the Year: Scott Jordan
1:05–1:15PM	NREA Awards
1:15–2PM	Luncheon Remarks: Doug O'Brien
2:15–3:15PM	Learning Sessions
3:15–3:30PM	Afternoon Refreshments
3:30–4:30PM	Learning Sessions
4:45PM	NREA Delegate Assembly & NREA Annual Membership Meeting

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

9–9:30AM	Breakfast
9:30–11:30AM	Keynote: Jon Smith Closing Session Location: Marriott Hotel



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

9-9:30AM

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Room: Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom, Second Floor

9:30-10:15AM

KEYNOTE

Toward a Geography of Justice: Rural Sustainability and the Promise of Public Education

Room: Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom, Second Floor



MARA CASEY TIEKEN

Author, *Why Rural Schools Matter*; Assistant Professor, Bates College

The recent election has brought new attention to rural America, yet media and policymakers continue to overlook the important role that rural schools play in ensuring the vitality of rural communities. The future of rural America depends upon its schools. Drawing upon extensive research in rural Arkansas, Mississippi, and Maine and years teaching in rural Tennessee, Tiekens will explore why rural schools matter: how they define, shape, and sustain rural communities. This current political moment offers a critical opportunity to build upon the strengths of rural communities and schools and further educational opportunity across lines of race, class, and geography.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

10:30–11:30AM

 **30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS**

10:30–11AM

Using a Restorative Discipline Approach to Increase Instructional Time and Decrease Chronic Discipline Issues

Presenter: Michael Edwards, West Muskingum Middle School
Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Learn how a restorative discipline approach increases instructional time, decreases frustration in students and teachers, and creates a schoolwide climate of respect, responsibility, and relationships.

11–11:30AM

The Heart of a Rural Educator: Inspiring Student Success

Presenter: Julie Samuels, Pittsburgh State University
Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Hear an inspiring message for educators on the importance of building relationships with students through the use of intentional, meaningful feedback. Educators' greatest contribution to education is their enthusiasm for education and joy of learning. Learn from an educator who aspires to be a lifelong learner and how she listens and guides students on their life-long educational journey.

10:30–11AM

Measuring Workforce and Higher Education Outcomes in Rural High Schools

Presenters: Erin Joyce, Ohio Education Research Center; Kristin Harlow, Ohio Education Research Center; Paul Hopkins, Battelle for Kids
Ohio Staters, Inc. Founders Room, Second Floor

Understanding the paths that students take after graduation allows school leaders to better design programs that prepare students for success. Learn about how a group of rural school districts in Ohio partnered with a university research center to get a clearer picture of their students' college and career outcomes. Hear about the partnership, the data systems that supported the project, and the outcomes of the study.

11–11:30AM

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS): Establishing a P-16 Support Network for Rural School Implementation

Presenter: Brian Reid, Central Illinois Rural School Collaborative
Ohio Staters, Inc. Founders Room, Second Floor

There is a shift from the Response to Intervention (RTI) framework to a systemic, prevention-focused MTSS model in Illinois. Local discussions between a teacher education program and schools identified a need for regional MTSS support due to the state fiscal crisis, which has led to reduced capacity in rural schools and teacher preparation. This session will discuss a framework for MTSS and the progress of a regional P-16 support network as a part of a new rural school collaborative.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Better Together: How Rural Districts Can Network for Improved Achievement

Presenters: Allison Carter and Nicodemus Ford, Pivot Learning
Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

Learn about the Rural Professional Learning Network model and have the chance to investigate specific model components, practice tested processes, and take away resources that you can use to potentially start and/or improve cross-district collaboration. Example activities include considering how to launch a rural district collaboration and/or engaging in a process for cross-district data analysis and shared problem of practice identification.

Policies, Practices, and Pedagogies for Rural Sustainability

Presenter: Mara Casey Tieken, Bates College
Great Hall Meeting Room 3, First Floor

The challenges confronting today's rural schools and educators are myriad: low college-going rates, threats of school consolidation and closure, class- and race-based disparities in resources and opportunity. Yet strong, responsive, equitable rural schools are essential to rural sustainability. Tieken will examine the root causes and current manifestations of these challenges and outline some promising practices schools and communities are adopting to address them. This session will also engage audience questions and discussion on these challenges and opportunities, as well as other topics raised in Tieken's keynote address.

Innovation Implementation in a Rural Middle School

Presenters: Jason Bell and Ryan Goodman, Tennessee Rural Education Association
Ohio Staters, Inc. Traditions Room, Second Floor

In order to compete for future jobs, it's essential for every child to have access to technology and STEM education. Learn more about the successes, challenges, and best practices of school/district innovation. Hear how a rural school district was able to initiate 1:1 technology in its middle schools with the support of Digital Promise. Explore specific information about initial onboarding, professional learning for teachers, IT support, and community involvement.

Intro to Research Sessions: Tips for Working in Rural Districts and Schools

Presenters: Linda Friedrich, National Writing Project; Hobart Harmon, Virginia Advanced Study Strategies, Inc.; Clarissa McKithen, Westat; Andrea Phillips, RAND Corporation; Susan Savell, Spurwink Services, Inc./BARR Center; Victoria Schaefer, NREA Chair
Research and Higher Education Committee/Westat
Round Room, Third Floor

The U.S. Department of Education's Investing in Innovation (i3) Program funded grantees under a priority dedicated to rural education. Grantees working with rural schools and districts under that priority have assembled a guide for researchers that offers key recommendations for designers, implementers, and evaluators of innovation in rural areas. Learn about their work, consistent with four major themes: relationship-building with rural districts, establishing and maintaining partnerships, sustaining the innovation, and scaling-up the innovation.

Reaching All Learners: Apple Tools for Special Needs

Presenter(s): Apple

Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

See how Apple devices are helping students with special needs learn and engage like never before. Discover key features built into Apple products for students with special needs and see how iPad and Mac offer a rich set of accessibility features that can be customized to help diverse learners succeed.

Increasing Support for High Potential, At-Risk Learners

Presenters: Cori Paulet, Minnesota Department of Education/Project North Star; Diane Heacox, Consultant

Rosa Ailbouni Room, Third Floor

Project North Star is a federal research grant preparing rural elementary teachers, administrators, and communities to support traditionally underserved, high-potential learners. Hear about the project's goals and progress, initial findings, educational resources that will be available nationwide, and have the opportunity to provide input on future resource development.

Building Community Partnerships to Provide Health and Wellness Options Through a School-based Telehealth Clinic

Presenters: Chris Daughtry, Elwood Community School Corporation; Sarah Thompson, Managed Health Services; Hayley Ready, Indiana Rural Health Association

Suzanne M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

This session will highlight a telehealth approach to providing healthcare and mental health support to the students of Elwood Community Schools. Hear about how the need was assessed and the process of building community partnerships to provide these services through the school. Learn what a telehealth clinic is, the benefits to small rural communities, and ideas on who to work with to bring it to your school district.

The Student-Centered Accountability Program: Making State Data Systems Work for Rural Communities

Presenters: Lisa Yates, Bree Lessar, Rob Sanders, Robert Framel, Robert Webb, and Christina Larson, Colorado Rural Education Collaborative

Hays Cape Room, Third Floor

When your "n" size is small and state accountability systems are largely designed to report on the outcomes at big urban districts, how can small rural districts translate school accountability data into local strategy that makes sense to their stakeholders? In Colorado, the five founding districts of the Student-Centered Accountability Project (SCAP) worked together as a network improvement community to design a system that provides valuable feedback through site visits (System Support Reviews) conducted by their peers.

Creating a Collaborative Pathway for Professional Growth

Presenter: Wendy Sadd, Center for the Collaborative Classroom

Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

Learn how a principal and coach from Red Oak Community Schools worked together with 15 other small Iowa districts to develop a collaborative professional learning network that significantly impacted teacher development and student growth. In partnership with Center for the Collaborative Classroom, coaches, principals, and teachers came together across the year in person and virtually to plan, observe, and reflect on lessons integrating best practices in literacy instruction with social skills development.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 | 10:30-11:30AM

Regional Rural Revitalization

Presenters: Jessie Cannon, Nationwide Children's Hospital; Marsha Lewis, Ohio University Voinovich School; Tasha Werry, Building Bridges to Careers; Brad Mitchell, Battelle for Kids
Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

Learn how Battelle for Kids and the Ohio Appalachian Collaborative (OAC) are working with partners at Ohio University (Voinovich School), Building Bridges to Careers, and Nationwide Children's Hospital on coherent, cross-sector, and community-based approaches to advance well-being, education, and economic viability across Southeast Ohio.

11:45AM-12:15PM

LUNCH

Room: Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom, Second Floor

12:15-1PM

STUDENT PANEL: EQUITY, CONNECTIVITY, AND PROSPERITY: VIEWPOINTS FROM TODAY'S STUDENTS

Room: Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom, Second Floor

Student Panelists

Matthew Benson, Sophomore, Ohio University

Bayley Collins, Senior, Belpre High School

Katie Exline, Sophomore, Otterbein University

Jared Lumbatis, Senior, Shenandoah High School

Sophia Marolt, Senior, Crooksville High School

Jordan Moseley, Junior, The Ohio State University

Facilitator

Brad Mitchell, Battelle for Kids



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

1:15–2:15PM

 20-MINUTE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

1:15–1:35PM

A New Texas Model for School Turnaround

Presenters: Gerri Maxwell, Alberto Ruiz, C. Lisa McNair, Alexis Gutierrez, and Stephanie Mosqueda, Texas A&M

University: Kingsville

Round Room, Third Floor

In 2011, Texas A&M University: Kingsville and the Premont Independent School District formed an unrepresented alliance approved by the Texas Education Agency as an innovative option to allow the high-needs rural school district to avoid closure by the agency. Since the initial alliance formed, the university has supported Premont assisting it to remain open in fall 2016 by the district meeting standard according to state accountability ratings.

1:35–1:55PM

Does How We Define Rural Matter?

Presenter: Erin McHenry-Sorber, West Virginia University

Round Room, Third Floor

Explore the practice and discourse of rural superintendents in two particular, yet common, rural community types that have experienced economic and social change—boomtown and economically depressed. Learn more about the ways in which these superintendents, as community insiders or outsiders, lead their respective districts through community change and fragmentation. As a consequence of the analysis, researchers argue the need for a new conceptualization of the rural superintendency given contemporary realities of rural communities.

1:55–2:15PM

Rural Youth and Educational Attainment: Elevating the Conversation

Presenters: Jayne Downey, Sarah Schmitt-Wilson, and Ashley Beck, Montana State University

Round Room, Third Floor

Using the most current, nationally-representative data available on rural students' educational attainment, examine contextual factors influencing the educational attainment of rural students. Participants will engage in a conversation exploring perceptions of rural students' educational attainment and factors we should be considering when defining success for students from rural communities.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

1:15-1:45PM

Set Your GPS on College Success: Navigating Around the Barriers of Postsecondary Education

Presenters: Karen Wright, Maleia Thomas, and Steve Jones, Berea College Partners for Education

Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Berea College GEAR UP will emphasize the importance of building relationships with students, parents, and institutions of higher education to ensure a successful student transition to college. Discover strategies for helping students navigate the barriers that come with pursuing higher education with a proactive approach to intentional communication and relationships built on trust.

1:45-2:15PM

Examining Rural Students' Transitions to College

Presenter: J. Kessa Roberts, The Ohio State University

Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Drawing on interviews of current undergraduate students at a large Midwestern university, this presentation explores rural students' perceptions of their transitions to college. Using students' own words, this presentation examines factors that aided or impeded these students' college enrollment and persistence to examine if our efforts to support them are aligned with their needs. This presentation will provide recommendations for K-12 rural educators, as well as higher education faculty and student support staff.

1:15-1:45PM

Refocusing Teacher Education: Meeting the Needs of Rural Schools and Communities

Presenters: Brian Reid, Central Illinois Rural School Collaborative; Douglas Bower and Jeanne Okrasinski, Eastern Illinois University

Ohio Staters, Inc. Founders Room, Second Floor

Rural schools and communities in central Illinois are facing an uncertain future. The state has not had a budget in years, universities are currently unfunded, and a new school funding formula is in development. Over the past several years, enrollment in teacher education across the state has dropped leading to a looming teacher shortage. Hear about a local effort to develop rural partnerships between EIU, schools, and stakeholders in central Illinois.

1:45-2:15PM

Promising Practices in Rural Field Experiences for Pre-Service Teachers

Presenter: Paul Adams, Fort Hays State University

Ohio Staters, Inc. Founders Room, Second Floor

A Rural Field Experience, in which pre-service teachers are totally immersed in the rural school setting and rural life, has been successful in attracting and retaining mathematics and science teachers in rural schools. Hear about a week-long Rural Field Experience that is having a lasting effect on recruiting and retaining teachers. Receive strategies for building partnerships that support this program and approach.

60-MINUTE **LEARNING SESSIONS**

Federal Policy and Rural Schools

Presenters: Leslie Finnan, AASA; Robert Mahaffey, Rural School and Community Trust
Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

This session will cover the current state of federal education policy as it relates to rural schools. The session will dive into the priorities of the new administration and new Congress, the state of education funding, and updates on key rural programs, including REAP and Secure Rural Schools, as well as broader education policies, such as ESSA.

Strengthening Rural Education Through Professional Networking

Presenter: Linda Carrier, Plymouth State University
Great Hall Meeting Room 3, First Floor

To close the gap between school and community, school, and district leaders require high-quality professional development that is grounded in the development of transformational leadership practices. The development of a professional network that is dedicated to the learning needs of its members provides the support needed for rural educational leaders to develop their practice as individuals and as a group. Discover the development of New Hampshire's Rural Educational Leaders Network.

Ready, Set, Learn: A Rural Education Service District's Trauma-informed Approach to Helping Students and Schools

Presenters: Jeneen Hartley, The Ford Family Foundation; Alison Hinson and Pat Sublette, Douglas County Education Service District
Ohio Staters, Inc. Traditions Room, Second Floor

Responding to a dearth of behavioral health supports throughout the community, the Douglas Education Service District in rural Oregon developed the Ready, Set, Learn trauma-informed program to help students and families with immediate behavioral health needs, and educators learn actionable skills to help students stay ready to learn. Explore the regional delivery model that brings essential supports to a network of rural schools and experience tangible techniques to bring back to rural districts and communities.

Everyone Can Code

Presenter(s): Apple
Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

Coding is an essential skill that teaches students how to solve problems and work together in creative ways. Learn about Everyone Can Code, a program designed to give everyone the power to learn, write, and teach code with Swift. Explore Swift Playgrounds—a free iPad app for first-time coders with fun and interactive lessons—and the accompanying teacher guides. Learn more about App Development with Swift, a curriculum for high school and college on Mac that shows students how to create apps from start to finish, and explore ways your district can integrate coding into your curriculum.



Quality Teachers in Rural Schools: Lessons Learned in Oklahoma

Presenters: Haidee Williams and Pia Peltola, REL Southwest, American Institutes for Research; Susan Pinson, Oklahoma State Department of Education; Kathren Stehno, Office of Educational Quality & Accountability; Megan Toby, REL Southwest - Empirical Education

Rosa Ailbouni Room, Third Floor

Join a discussion with the Regional Educational Laboratory Southwest (REL Southwest) and practitioners in the Oklahoma Rural Schools Research Alliance about their research focused on two areas of high need in rural schools: teacher recruitment and retention, and professional development. This informal discussion with the researchers and Oklahoma practitioners will focus on how you can use the information from these studies in your own state and school district.

Hooked on Education: Snag Student Interest Through Personalized Learning

Presenter: Domenic Paolo, Fairport Harbor School District

Suzanne M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

Be introduced to a model of personalized learning that can be replicated in countless small towns across Ohio. By tapping into the talents and interests of students and teachers, Fairport Harbor has created a model of personalized learning that creates a degree of relevance and impact that cannot be approached by the traditional classroom experience.

Growing Success in Parent and Community Engagement: A Technology Solution

Presenters: Veronica Tate, Virginia Advanced Study Strategies, Inc.; Gabie Frazier and Hobart Harmon, VASS, Inc.

Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

Learn how the Rural Math Excel Partnership i3 project evolved new strategies to address low parent participation in the family math night and the community STEM careers event. This session will reveal how video and other technology are being used to help parents accomplish their role in the model of shared responsibility for student success in math.

Scaling Up Rural Innovation

Presenter: Brad Mitchell, Battelle for Kids

Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

There is growing evidence that educational innovation in rural schools can be amplified and accelerated through networking frameworks such as research and practice partnerships and networked improvement communities. Hear how the Ohio Appalachian Collaborative, Colorado Rural Education Collaborative and other networks diffuse innovation and scale impact.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

2:30–3:30PM

 **20-MINUTE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS**

2:30–2:50PM

Illinois Rural Student Attendance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Presenter: Marci Rocky, University of Illinois

Round Room, Third Floor

An analysis of enrollment data finds that from 2003 to 2013, Illinois rural student attendance declined by 41% at the state's land-grant, Research 1 institution. Significant increases in costs during this time period suggest that the University may no longer be accessible to qualified rural residents of the state.

2:50–3:10PM

Pre-service Teachers' Interest in Teaching in Rural Schools

Presenter: Matthew Irvin, University of South Carolina

Round Room, Third Floor

Teachers are vital to educating our youth. Rural schools often have difficulties recruiting teachers, but few studies have examined this issue. Learn how one university has collected self-report data about pre-service teachers' interest in and factors related to teaching in rural schools (e.g., experience living in rural areas, perceived value of rural teaching, importance of rural/urban amenities; n = 35, 94% participation). Explore results and implications from this research for rural education.

3:10–3:30PM

Examining Teacher Education in an Era of Technology Integration

Presenter: Jerry Stout, Southeastern Oklahoma State University

Round Room, Third Floor

Hear from teacher educators from three universities engaged in a two-phase investigation of technology integration by teachers in their service areas. Data showed 80% of teachers in the study employed a variety of technologies, but 39% or less used technology at the highest levels. Also noted was a lack of understanding by administrators regarding characteristics of teachers who integrate technology proficiently. Suggestions for teacher educators and administrators are made to address these findings.

 **30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS**

2:30–3PM

Recruiting and Retaining Quality Teachers in Oklahoma

Presenters: Kathren Stehno, Office of Educational Quality & Accountability; Megan Toby and Haidee Williams, REL Southwest, American Institutes for Research

Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Learn about research conducted in partnership with the Regional Educational Laboratory Southwest (REL Southwest) and practitioners in the Oklahoma Rural Schools Research Alliance. The research identified teacher, district, and community characteristics that are predictors of successful teacher recruitment and retention in rural Oklahoma which can inform future policy and practice. Join the researchers and alliance members who guided the research and discover how you can use the information in your school district.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 | 2:30-3:30PM

3-3:30PM

Recruiting and Hiring the Best and Brightest to Teach in Rural School Systems

Presenter: Jon Andes, Salisbury University and Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium
Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Recruiting young people to work in rural school systems is a significant challenge, especially in areas with teacher shortages. Learn more about practical strategies to recruit, hire, and retain the best and brightest teachers to teach in rural school systems. From 'grow your own' to 'retired re-hires' from other school systems, this session will identify teacher recruitment and retention programs that work. Leave this session with information about low-cost strategies to take and implement in your school systems.

2:30-3PM

Can I Send My Robot to School for Me Today?

Presenters: Bryan Auxier, Paintsville Independent Schools; Libby Auxier and Andrew Castle, Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative
Rosa Ailbouni Room, Third Floor

Hear about the story of how an elementary school student diagnosed with cancer attends school remotely using a robot to travel and communicate with her classmates and teachers.

3-3:30PM

Preparing for the Unexpected: Cybersecurity in Today's Digital Learning Environments

Presenter: Simon Weller, Education Networks of America
Rosa Ailbouni Room, Third Floor

Cyber security threats can wreak havoc on an unprepared school district. Hear about the latest cyber security threats facing schools and discover steps that can be taken to protect a school district's network, data, and students. From moving your data to a secure cloud computing platform to boosting network security, you will learn the action items you should consider implementing as part of your district's data governance plan.

60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Let's Do What Works: Three Winning Strategies to Lift Up Our Kids

Presenters: Megan Stockhausen, Giselle Lundy-Ponce, and Shital Shah, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

Many have heard the terms early childhood education, community schools, and bilingual education, but what do they really mean? Why do they work so well? What does the research say? What are the essential components for each of these proven strategies to succeed? How do you advocate for these strategies in your communities? Learn more about the merits, research, and evidence, and outcomes of these three long-term strategies for school improvement, be introduced to community schools as a strategy for success and learn what it takes to set up and maintain a community school, and get the latest research on bilingualism and the benefits of a bilingual program in schools.

You've Been Upgraded: Enhancing Educational Learning with Opportunity Culture

Presenters: Cassandra Haddock and Brittany Rose, North Carolina Leadership Academy
Great Hall Meeting Room 3, First Floor

Get ready to upgrade rural education with new waves of innovative practices. Growing success through the creative use of technology provides growth opportunities for teachers and students. E-Learning and Opportunity Culture are two impactful approaches that strengthen excellent teachers and develop leadership skills in students. These collaborative initiatives develop the whole child and increase student achievement by connecting education and technology.

Coherent State-Level Policies and Practices for Rural Education in Ohio

Presenter: Shaun Yoder, Ohio Department of Education

Ohio Staters, Inc. Founders Room, Second Floor

Of Ohio's 612 school districts, 231 serve more than 280,000 students in rural areas across the state. In many cases these districts face unique challenges—including geographic isolation, high rates of poverty and depressed economies—increasing the importance of thoughtful and coherent state-level policies that are flexible enough to accommodate local needs, yet focused enough to provide the most effective supports. To that end, the Ohio Department of Education, in conjunction with the State Board and Ohio legislature, is developing a comprehensive, forward-thinking *Strategic Plan for Education*. Yoder will discuss how the Department is engaging educators, parents, higher education representatives, business leaders and community members—particularly from rural Ohio—in the process to develop the five-year plan, how the plan builds on the state's recently submitted Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) proposal, and how the plan will likely impact rural education. When it is done, Ohio's *Strategic Plan for Education* will articulate an aspirational vision and a roadmap for student success—with clear goals, strategies and measures. The audience will have an opportunity to engage in a Q&A about the plan development process and its expected outcomes.

Hope for Student Motivation

Presenters: Alea Barker, Kevin Smith, Mary Ann Headley, and John Toeller, Crooksville Exempted Village Schools

Ohio Staters, Inc. Traditions Room, Second Floor

Crooksville Schools will share its efforts surrounding hope and student motivation, which began in the elementary school with a positive behavior system, entitled "Step-Up to Blue." These efforts continue through high school, which employs interest-based clubs on a bi-monthly basis for student choice. The collective efforts are measured using The Student Experience Survey® with growth being shown in each of the four constructs as measured by the survey. Teachers have participated in monthly, embedded professional development to discuss data findings from the survey, develop next steps, and review the latest research on hope and motivation!

Everyone Can Code

Presenter(s): Apple

Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

Coding is an essential skill that teaches students how to solve problems and work together in creative ways. Learn about Everyone Can Code, a program designed to give everyone the power to learn, write, and teach code with Swift. Explore Swift Playgrounds—a free iPad app for first-time coders with fun and interactive lessons—and the accompanying teacher guides. Learn more about App Development with Swift, a curriculum for high school and college on Mac that shows students how to create apps from start to finish, and explore ways your district can integrate coding into your curriculum.

Engaging Elementary Students with Agriculture and Hands-on STEM

Presenter: Becky Hines, North Carolina Leadership Academy

Suzanne M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

Agriculture is the #1 industry in the United States and many rural communities. Learn how to engage your students with curriculum based, hands-on STEM lessons that are easy to implement. While students are learning core instruction they will also be learning about where their food, fiber, and fuel come from.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 | 2:30-3:30PM

Outdoor Education Center: From Dream to Reality

Presenters: Chad Lensman and Chad Miller, Graham Local Schools

Hays Cape Room, Third Floor

Graham Local Schools (GLS) has worked with its community partners to develop a Land Lab on approximately 46 acres located behind the elementary and middle schools. GLS has committed to providing students with a positive culture through innovative learning opportunities. Students are immersed in rich outdoor STEAM activities through the Outdoor Education Center. Listen to Graham's journey from dream to reality!

Career Tech Pathways Lead to Hope and Purpose

Presenters: Andrea Zaph and Carrie Hess, Collins Career Technical Center

Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

The STEM Academy of Lawrence County at Collins Career Technical Center (CCTC), located in a socioeconomically depressed area of Southeastern Ohio, offers career pathways to 11th and 12th grade students in an effort to break the cycle of poverty. Industry credentials connect purpose to students' high school courses through immediate eligibility for gainful employment. Students access dual credit career tech and college courses on the CCTC campus with hope of completing a postsecondary degree.

3:45-4:45PM

20-MINUTE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

3:45-4:05PM

Female Rural Superintendents? Yeah, We've Got That!

Presenter: Claudia Coughran, Claudia Coughran Consulting

Round Room, Third Floor

It's hard enough to be a superintendent in a rural school district regardless of your gender. Discover the similarities and differences in leadership between male and female superintendents in rural school districts; the good, the bad and the ugly, and how to work together for students.

4:05-4:25PM

Trust, Leadership, and Focus: Three Small Words with Huge Implications

Presenter: Mark Miller, State Support Team Region #12

Round Room, Third Floor

Southeast Ohio, with its deep river valleys, small town values, and scenic beauty, has long attracted many tourists and homesteaders. Unfortunately, changes to Ohio's economy, federal mandates, and an inadequate school funding structure have negatively impacted this once proud, vibrant, and self-sufficient slice of rural Ohio. Examine a qualitative case study conducted utilizing face-to-face interviews, examinations of district report cards, collective bargaining agreements, district finances, and cultural influences of four rural southeast Ohio school districts implementing the Ohio Improvement Process in an attempt to identify why each had varying levels of success.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 | 3:45-4:45PM

4:25-4:45PM

Learning College: An Exploration of West Virginia Women's Transitions from Rural Places to an Urban College Campus

Presenters: Katlin Swisher and Erin McHenry-Sorber, West Virginia University
Round Room, Third Floor

To help meet the gap in which gender, class, and place intersect to inform students' transitions to college, this research explores the experiences of Appalachian women at a large metropolitan university. Understand the ways in which these different identities influence perceptions of college access, the transition to college, and their postsecondary experiences in a new urban environment. Beyond examining these influences as isolated constructs, this research uses intersectionality to explore the ways in which these multiple identities together influence such experiences.

30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

3:45-4:15PM

Public School Systems: The Economic Engine of Rural Communities

Presenter: Jon Andes, Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium
Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Sharing the results of an economic impact study of rural public school systems on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, this session will provide documented evidence that public school systems are the economic engine of rural communities. Receive an overview of the results of the study, as well as an online dashboard that clearly illustrates the economic impact or return on investment. Discover a greater understanding of the economic value of rural public school systems, explore tools to potentially replicate the study in your area, and how to use the results for public engagement to sustain or leverage support of rural public school systems.

4:15-4:45PM

Education for Settlement

Presenter: Thomas Butler, Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8
Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Rural communities rely on the school system to give students the skills to be productive in a global society. Schools must also give students skills to be successful in their hometowns. Through restructuring the school systems, schools can equip students to "settle" in their home communities. Mass Customized Learning is an emerging philosophy to systemic change in schools which creates structures that connect students to skills that allow them to succeed as adults in their communities.

3:45-4:15PM

Ohio UPSTART: Expanding Access to Kindergarten Readiness in Rural Ohio

Presenter: Claudia Miner, Waterford Research Institute
Ohio Staters, Inc. Founders Room, Second Floor

UPSTART is a home-based, technology-delivered kindergarten readiness program provided by the non-profit Waterford Research Institute. The program has been proven successful in Utah and studied extensively in rural areas, including an i3-funded RCT. During the past year, the program was piloted in several other states, including Ohio. The program's focus was rural Ohio, including a number Appalachian counties. Learn more about program outcomes, including feedback from parents participating in the program.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 | 3:45-4:45PM

4:15-4:45PM

Building the Foundations for School Success: Children's Literacy In Rural America

Presenters: Cara Schrack and Patrick Iannone, Save the Children
Ohio Staters, Inc. Founders Room, Second Floor

Education is a ladder out of poverty, but that ladder is out of reach for many children living in poverty in rural America. The ability to read is essential for success in school and life. Eighty percent of lower-income children do not read proficiently compared to 49 percent of higher-income children. Learn about literacy programs that Save the Children implements in the United States focused on early literacy.

3:45-4:15PM

Elementary Gardening in a Food Desert

Presenters: Jeff Herzberg and Kelsey Upah, Gilmore City-Bradgate CSD
Rosa Ailbouni Room, Third Floor

Learn about an elementary gardening program that is producing amazing passion and learning connections for students. The school has a huge outdoor garden and recently completed a greenhouse so that learning can continue through the cold Iowa winters. Join the presenters and grow their learning by sharing your ideas, gardening stories, and questions during this interactive session.

4:15-4:45PM

Creating a Healthy Foodservice Department Creates Healthy Kids

Presenter: Dana Rosacker, myONcore
Rosa Ailbouni Room, Third Floor

When thinking about supporting the whole child, the importance of a healthy food service department is vital to students' success. Rural school food service departments struggle outside the lunch line for reasons, including staffing and federal regulations. myONcore has developed an innovative practice of working with food service departments through registered dietitian consulting. Explore examples of how registered dietitian consulting has improved food service operations and meals, leading to healthier, smarter kids.

60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Black Belt Teacher Corps: A Classroom-to-Career Placement Program

Presenters: Jan Miller, Susan Hester, and Jodie Winship, University of West Alabama
Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

Teacher shortages have become rampant in American rural communities. Explore the University of West Alabama's initiative to address recruitment, preparation, and retention of teachers throughout the Black Belt region of Alabama. The Black Belt Teacher Corps prepares student teachers for the unique challenges found in poverty-stricken rural communities. Learn about funding sources, program commitments, leadership training, and service project requirements for the Black Belt Teacher Corps scholarship recipients.

Cultivating Potential in Appalachian Youth: Planting the Seeds for Success by Nurturing a Growth Mindset

Presenters: Connie Miley and Stefani Murray, iBelieve Foundation
Great Hall Meeting Room 3, First Floor

Discover how The iBELIEVE Foundation utilizes experiential learning to help instill a growth mindset, a key factor in personal success and leadership. Participate in hands-on activities that promote new ways of thinking and the value of maintaining healthy perspectives. This brief glimpse into the Foundation's programming will shed light on its success in its mission to instill Appalachian youth with a belief in their own potential, and the mindset to act on that belief.

Design and Teaching Practice in Federally-funded, Just for Rural Teacher Development

Presenter: Patricia Hardre, University of Oklahoma
Ohio Staters, Inc. Traditions Room, Second Floor

Explore the design, development, implementation, and teacher transfer-to-practice of a rural-specific RET project funded by NSF. The presenter will share design challenges, strategic reasoning, and results in program design. The end goal of transferring to teaching practice will be illustrated in classroom transfer projects by some of the program's participating teachers.

Reaching All Learners: Apple Tools for Special Needs

Presenter(s): Apple
Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

See how Apple devices are helping students with special needs learn and engage like never before. Discover key features built into Apple products for students with special needs and see how iPad and Mac offer a rich set of accessibility features that can be customized to help diverse learners succeed.

Leveling the Playing Field: Local Economic Competitiveness for Schools and Communities

Presenter: Jasen Jones, ACT Work Ready Communities
Suzanne M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

Discover how local school districts help drive economic growth for rural communities by aligning workforce supply and demand through ACT's Work Ready Communities (WRC) initiative. Moving in the same direction, stakeholders can improve local investment and job creation to generate resources for schools and other public agencies. The program unifies educators, employers, workforce/economic development, and community leaders on common goals that boost outcomes for all involved using ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate.

Personalize Learning with Online Courses

Presenter: Chuck Kokiko and Mark Masloski, Jefferson County Educational Service Center
Hays Cape Room, Third Floor

Jefferson County Educational Service Center works with other educational service centers and districts across the country to create online opportunities for students. The user-friendly learning management system, providing the online component of blended learning, supports synchronous and asynchronous learning. Supplement with online courses, or create an online program of your own. A great introduction to supplementing traditional courses with online courses. K-12 courses in core curriculum and electives, including gaming, theatre, music, and technology. Courses are suitable for students across the spectrum.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 | 3:45-4:45PM

Quality Professional Learning Opportunities in Rural Settings

Presenters: Paul Hopkins, Battelle for Kids; Trent Kreischer, Crestview Local Schools; Carrie Kratzer, Georgetown Exempted Village School District

Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

Engage with colleagues in a peer-to-peer learning discussion focused on strategies to support quality professional learning in rural settings. Learn how to leverage virtual coaching or cross-district collaboration to facilitate professional learning in rural/isolated schools that may have “singleton” grade or subject matter teachers. Discover how districts are moving beyond one-off professional learning experiences to design coherent and aligned professional learning, despite lack of district infrastructure, staffing, or resources to support planning and implementation. Hear about successes and lessons learned from implementing these strategies on the ground.

Incorporating STEM in Every Classroom: A Countywide K-12 STEM Challenge

Presenters: Wendi Moorman and Karen Rose, Mercer County ESC

Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

The Mercer County Educational Service Center has partnered with local schools and businesses to coordinate a countywide STEM challenge. The vision for the challenge started with local administration looking for ways to incorporate STEM into every classroom. Hear about their planning, financing, and implementation.

6-7:30PM

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION & NREA FOUNDATION AUCTION

Location: Marriott Hotel, 3100 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43202

All attendees are invited to attend and participate in this NREA tradition.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

8:30–9:30AM

KEYNOTE

Climate Change in Schools Is Real: New Resources for Creating a School Culture of Success

Room: Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom, Second Floor



BRAD FOUNTAIN

Director of Instructional Implementation, Discovery Education

School leaders know how important a healthy climate and culture in classrooms are to student success, and how they play a central role in shaping and managing that culture. How do as school leaders protect, nurture and adjust school culture to create the environment we know leads to engaged, successful teachers and students? Explore tools and strategies school leaders can immediately implement at their school that will help create a climate that supports the success of all learners.

9:45–10:45AM

20-MINUTE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

9:45–10:05AM

Perceptions of Classroom Inclusion Skills by Rural Black Belt Administrators

Presenters: Kimberly Griffith, Kevin Jones, Esther Howard, and Jodie Winship, University of West Alabama

Round Room, Third Floor

Schools have unique challenges in meeting the needs of diverse learners in today's rural inclusive classrooms. An online survey and face-to-face interviews were conducted in the Black Belt region of Alabama and Mississippi to collect data on the perceptions of rural administrators on classroom inclusion skills needed by regular and special educators working collaboratively within the inclusive classroom. Data are being used to help prepare future educators to become leaders using the 3N1 degree program.

10:05–10:25AM

A Study of Social Influences on Students' Self-Perceptions as Readers

Presenters: Jennifer Chambers, Jason Creekmore, and Shannon Deaton, University of the Cumberlands

Round Room, Third Floor

While there are numerous studies that focus on reading perceptions of young students, there are minimal data which focus specifically on rural Appalachian teacher education candidates. Researchers from University of the Cumberlands conducted surveys with undergraduate teacher education candidates. Key questions included how students view themselves as readers, what they enjoy reading, and what role social influences played in developing these perceptions. Findings will inform instruction toward implementing strategies that motivate students to read.



10:25-10:45AM

The Impact of Inclusion on General Education Students

Presenters: Scott Addison and Teresa Wallace, University of the Cumberlands
Round Room, Third Floor

Inclusion, educating students with disabilities along with their non-disabled peers in the regular classroom, has been determined to be the most appropriate setting for the successful social and academic development of students with a disability. Research findings from a recent study in rural Virginia sought to compare the impact of inclusion on general education students in the co-taught classroom versus their peers in the non-inclusive, general education classroom.

30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

9:45-10:15AM

Building Effective Internal and External Collaborations to Advance Rural Education

Presenter: Cynthia Blitz, Center for Effective School Practices, Rutgers Graduate School of Education
Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Collaborative structures, such as professional learning communities (PLCs) and research-practitioner partnerships (RPPs) can be effective mechanisms for teacher professional development and school improvement, but are challenging to implement and evaluate in rural districts and schools. Learn about emerging best practices for forming and sustaining effective internal and external collaborations in rural education and pick up a number of useful tools for evaluating their efficacy and impact.

10:15-10:45AM

The Valley Network: Embarking on New Horizons

Presenters: Jennifer Anderson and Janel Vancas, Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8
Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Two rural school districts in Pennsylvania are redesigning the educational ecosystem of students and teachers. Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8, one of 29 service agencies in Pennsylvania, is helping to transform a traditional approach to professional learning to one that is more customized. Through face-to-face workshops and asynchronous learning through IU 8's Eduplanet21 Online Learning platform, teachers are experiencing results-oriented learning through professional learning communities and collective problem-solving.

9:45-10:15AM

ABC's of Grant Writing: Essential Skills for Rural Educators

Presenter: Leslie Paige, Fort Hays State University
Ohio Staters, Inc. Traditions Room, Second Floor

Decreased funding and increased competition for grants poses significant challenges for rural educators. This session is designed as an introduction for beginners and a refresher for those interested in seeking external funding. Receive an overview of federal and non-federal funding sources, the basics of proposal development, and tips for developing competitive proposals.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 | 9:45-10:45AM

10:15-10:45AM

Building Out a Distance Learning Network to Expand Educational Opportunity

Presenters: Lance Ford, Educational Consultant; Jeff Mann, ePlus Grants Team
Ohio Staters, Inc. Traditions Room, Second Floor

Discover the tools needed to support a successful distance learning program. Get a hands on look at the current technology available on the market, discuss educational resources available to support students, and discuss grant opportunities to fund projects. Presenters will share case studies of NREA schools who have received grant funding to implement distance learning programs.

9:45-10:15AM

Rural Education in the Land of Enchantment: 69 School Districts in the Wide Open Spaces

Presenter: Charles Waggoner, Eastern New Mexico University
Rosa Ailbouni Room, Third Floor

Rural schools in New Mexico are unique in the sense that many are exceptionally small and are so scattered about that further consolidation is financially unfeasible. With the state of New Mexico in a financial crisis and with a declining population, how can small rural school districts hope to survive?

10:15-10:45AM

Engaging Paraprofessionals in Professional Learning

Presenters: Laura Barrett, B.J. Peters, and Jadie Beam, Educational Service Unit #13
Rosa Ailbouni Room, Third Floor

Paraprofessionals are often the first contact students have on a daily basis, yet receive little professional development. Learn how Educational Service Unit #13 collaborated across multiple program specialties to offer one hour topical trainings. Explore the process for choosing topics to meet a variety of needs and how presenters utilized distance learning technology to reach a 15,000-square mile service area.

60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Entrepreneurial Education for Enhanced Careers

Presenters: Faith Knutsen, TechGROWTH Ohio; Tasha Werry, Building Bridges to Careers; Marsha Lewis, Voinovich School of Public Affairs, Ohio University; Michael Thompson, Lawrence County Economic Development Corporation
Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

Discover ways that entrepreneurship education and engaged learning can enhance the career development and college preparatory environment in a disadvantaged rural region. Two examples will be briefly presented: 1. The Building Bridges to Careers Epicenter of Marietta Ohio, its history, and its mission to offer incubation for startup companies in proximity to student intern assistance; and 2. The locally-supported, two-year-old, 250-student tri-state high school pitch competition in the Ohio/West Virginia tri-state area.

Be the Change You Want to See

Presenter: Brad Fountain, Discovery Education
Great Hall Meeting Room 3, First Floor

Why should the kids have all the fun? Great instruction is engaging, interactive, exploratory and thought provoking. Why can't your building-level professional development be that way too? It's time to explore ways to enhance building-level professional development and staff meetings with activities that also model engaging instructional strategies. Get ready to open your mind, your digital device, and a world of possibilities!



Career Gears at Graham: How a District is Attacking the 3 E's (Enlistment, Enrollment, and Employment)

Presenters: Kirk Koennecke, Ryan Rismiller, and Don Burley, Graham Local Schools Ohio Staters, Inc. Founders Room, Second Floor

Learn how the Graham Local Schools and its community partners have devised a system of K–12 career and college readiness programs that are flexible, nimble, and relevant to the region's industry and college demands for future employees. Expect challenges to the status quo, methods, and scheduling formats of schooling for today's learners.

Changing Culture through the Implementation of an Early College High School

Presenters: King Roy Davis, Sheldon Independent School District; Tina M. Herrington, Wharton Independent School District Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

This session will highlight a rural school district that has successfully partnered with a junior college to implement an Early College High School as a school within a school model. Wharton ISD ROAR Academy, located 60 miles southeast of Houston, consists of 100 students. Success stories shared by the students will inspire participants to transform their own rural schools.

National Panel on Rural Education Policy

Presenters: Jerry Johnson, University of Central Florida ARIP-RE; Hobart Harmon, Institute for the Advancement of Research, Innovation, and Practice in Rural Education Suzanne M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

A panel of rural school district leaders and state policymakers in a national workshop on rural education policy discuss involvement in a semester-long virtual workshop that culminates in December with a two-day colloquium in Orlando at the University of Central Florida (UCF) campus. Learn about this new initiative, developed by the UCF Institute for the Advancement of Research, Innovation, and Practice in Rural Education and collaboration with the National Rural Education Association.

Why Won't You Stay?

Presenters: Danette Parsley and Mike Siebersma, Education Northwest Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

Rural schools are full of opportunities and rewards. There are some unique challenges, including lean resources and professional isolation that can make it difficult to attract and keep educators. However, there are some promising ways to overcome these challenges. Hear how educators from small, rural schools in the Northwest U.S. are combating isolation while increasing their human and social capital through meaningful collaboration across school, district, and state lines.

Why Rural Matters

Presenters: Robert Mahaffey, Rural Schools and Community Trust; Allen Pratt, National Rural Education Association; Brad Mitchell, Battelle for Kids Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

Hear about patterns and findings from *Why Rural Matters* 2015–2016, the eighth in a series of biennial research reports analyzing the contexts and conditions of rural education in each of the 50 states. Learn more about where states are related to five key indices regarding the status of rural education in America.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 | 9:45-10:45AM

💡 60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

The Shifting Role of the Teacher in 21st Century Rural Schools

Presenters: Leesa Huntington and Jacque Burke, Battelle for Kids
Hays Cape Room, Third Floor

As educational environments are transforming to meet the needs of the 21st century learner, the role of the classroom teacher is also shifting. Participants will explore the foundational shifts in teacher practice from delivery of academic content to facilitator of 21st century learning opportunities to ensure today's students are future ready! Explore how teachers are effectively integrating the 4Cs (communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity) with academic learning standards to cultivate authentic, purposeful, lifelong learning experiences. Join us to engage in discussion and share insights from your own school's transformational journey!

11AM-12PM

🔍 20-MINUTE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

11-11:20AM

Coaching Principals to Improve Teaching and Learning

Presenters: Lora Wolff and Georgie Koenig, Western Illinois University
Round Room, Third Floor

Learn about the perceptions of superintendents and principals related to the coaching of principals as part of the evaluation process. The extent, content, and impact of the coaching will be discussed along with the findings, conclusions, and recommendations for practitioners and researchers.

11:20-11:40AM

The Rural Superintendent/Principal Position: Purgatory or Heaven?

Presenters: Lora Wolff, Western Illinois University; Michael Curry, Abingdon-Avon School District
Round Room, Third Floor

Explore the roles and responsibilities of the superintendent/principal combined position. Both are typically full-time positions, but rural and/or small districts often combine them to save money. As a result, the superintendent/principal position is what could be considered by some as being in purgatory and by others as being in heaven. Perceptions of board of education presidents, teachers' union presidents, and practicing superintendents/principals in the 102 Illinois school districts will be discussed.

11:40AM-12PM

Turning Your Presentation Into an Article

Presenters: Dana Franz, Anastasia Elder, and Devon Brenner, Mississippi State University
Round Room, Third Floor

Learn about a framework for turning your NREA presentation into a manuscript for submission to *The Rural Educator* (or another journal). Discover how to develop manuscripts that match the mission of the journal, and learn the most common reasons manuscripts are not being accepted. Presented by the editors of *The Rural Educator*.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

11-11:30AM

Engaging STEM Strategies: Pathway for Rural Students to STEM Professions

Presenter: Reenay Rogers, University of West Alabama

Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

From crime scene investigations to Shark Tank challenges, STEM competitive events engage rural high school students in authentic STEM learning experiences. Research indicates that these STEM events are effective in increasing students' knowledge of STEM fields and interest in pursuing STEM undergraduate majors. Learn more about Project Engage, the collaboration with rural high school teachers, and its success in inspiring students from rural West Alabama to pursue STEM majors in college.

11:30AM-12PM

Students vs. Sharks: A Shark Tank Entrepreneurship Event

Presenter: Amy Wolford, John Glenn High School

Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

John Glenn High School held the school's first annual Shark Tank entrepreneurship event where 46 students showcased their innovations. The top five students who received the most "investments" were called to the stage where community business people served as "Sharks." The finalists gave product pitches and the Sharks questioned them to determine a winner. Learn how the event was planned and executed, and hear from the students about their experience.

11-11:30AM

Information Overload! Taming Your Ever-Increasing Workload with Digital Tools

Presenter: Dean Phillips, Beyond the Chalk

Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Today's educators suffer from information overload. They are constantly bombarded with requests for information and struggle to keep up with the demand. One way to help alleviate this burden is to "efficiency" workflow with digital tools. Explore many different tools being used by teachers around the world to help increase efficiency and provide more time to work with students and leave with a new set of tools.

11:30AM-12PM

Virtual Education: The Future for Rural Schools

Presenters: H. Michael Brown, Grandview R2 School District; Charles Wolfe, K12, Inc.

Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Discover the benefits of virtual courses to enhance and expand your academic programs. Grandview R2 has used virtual education as a part of their course offerings for 10 years. Working with K12, a national leader in virtual education, Grandview has developed a year-round virtual program that includes Career Technical Education (CTE) courses, enrichment courses, and remediation courses. Take advantage of the opportunity to engage and discuss how you can develop a virtual program to boost your educational offerings for all students.

11-11:30AM

The Rural Medical Education Pathway: Encouraging Rural Youth to Careers in Healthcare

Presenter: Michael Appleman, Northeast Ohio Medical University
Ohio Staters, Inc. Traditions Room, Second Floor

This session will provide rural educators and stakeholders with: 1) information on the health challenges of rural communities, 2) a description of rural pipeline to practice efforts at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), and 3) knowledge of medical education opportunities for rural students. A discussion of Ohio's primary care physician workforce shortage will also be included.

11:30AM-12PM

Preparing Rural Students for Success in STEM Fields: A Medical Student's Perspective

Presenter: Laura Yeater, Northeast Ohio Medical University
Ohio Staters, Inc. Traditions Room, Second Floor

This session will be led by a medical student in Northeast Ohio Medical University's Rural Medical Education Pathway. The main themes of this session will be college readiness and ways to provide educators with the resources to support rural students' success in STEM fields. The program utilizes didactic sessions and mentorship to support rural students' career goals. Additionally, a tool box for rural educators will be described.

11-11:30AM

Teach the Whole Child and Close the Achievement Gap

Presenter: Wendy Sadd, Center for the Collaborative Classroom
Rosa Ailbouni Room, Third Floor

In July 2015, the American Journal of Public Health published a study directly linking children's social emotional competencies with college and career success. Deepen your understanding around the SEL competencies, explore teaching practices that support the development of these competencies, and consider ways to integrate SEL across the school day to foster equity of academic success for all students.

11:30AM-12PM

SOLE Work is SOUL Work

Presenter: Sarrah Grubb, Alice Lloyd College
Rosa Ailbouni Room, Third Floor

Teacher education students took a risk to collaboratively design their learning using a Sugatra Mitra-based (2013) Self-Organized Learning Environment (SOLE) to implement course curriculum. Using Carol Dweck's growth mindset research and an interest in connecting at a deeper level, learn more about experimentation using class as field work. Walk away with ideas on how to collaborate and share resources with colleagues while diving deep into conversations about learning.



💡 60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Giving Students and Families Instructional Choices Through Direct Student Services Under ESSA

Presenter: Mike Magee, Chiefs for Change
Great Hall Meeting Room 3, First Floor

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) includes a new provision championed by Chiefs for Change that provides states with resources to support Direct Student Services and addresses the access gaps that exist in far too many schools, including rural schools. This is possible through a 3% discretionary state reserve of Title I funding. If all states take advantage of this new provision, over \$425 million annually would be available to involve families in choosing personalized, outcomes-driven education services for their children.

Getting Personalized: Khan Academy Practice and AP Computer Science

Presenters: Jeff Carlson and Aya Takemoto, College Board
Ohio Staters, Inc. Founders Room, Second Floor

In 2015, the College Board partnered with Khan Academy to create world-class, personalized SAT practice available for free. In 2016, College Board launched its Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) course with 2,500 classrooms nationwide, making it the largest new AP course launch in history. Learn how schools and educators can bring personalized learning to life through Official SAT Practice and student-focused performance tasks in AP CSP.

Teacher Preparation Responding to Rural Teacher Shortage by Partnering

Presenters: Rae White, Muskingum University; Mike Thomas and Jacqueline Burke, Battelle for Kids
Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

Learn first-hand the process that has been developed and is in early implementation stages to respond to the rural teacher shortage through a fellowship. This collaboration of higher education, K-12 education, and Battelle for Kids has joined forces to encourage high school students interested in a teaching career to apply for an educator licensure program. The Ohio Appalachian Teaching Fellowship Program is a recruitment approach that also enriches teacher preparation with a year of clinical experience, some compacted curriculum, and cooperating teacher cohorts that will serve as mentors. The fall 2017 fellows will also be joining the session to answer questions from the audience.

Connecting Teacher Preparation to Partner Rural District

Presenter: Renee Murley, University of Tennessee Chattanooga
Suzanne M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

The University of Tennessee Chattanooga and Marion County Schools in rural Eastern Tennessee, work to develop and strengthen partnerships to better prepare new teachers as they gain employment in rural schools. The partnership worked to create memorandums of understanding and primary partnership agreements, implement programmatic changes, and participate in shared decision-making. The work took place over the 2016-2017 academic year. The established relationship continues through advisory board and taskforce participation for ongoing improvement.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 | 11AM-12PM

Measuring What Matters: User-Centered Design Principles for School Improvement

Presenters: Steve Amstutz, Institute for Research & Reform in Education; Jeneen Hartley, The Ford Family Foundation; Julie Smith, The Chalkboard Project

Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

Education data are widely available, but are they useful and do they measure what really matters? A research-practice partnership in a rural region of Southern Oregon is helping schools use data in new ways and apply principles of user-centered design to map and navigate school transformations. Districts ranging from 200 to 5,700 students are bringing together the experts—classroom teachers—to examine, design, test, and learn what strategies work best in their school communities.

Promising Strategies for Rural Teacher Recruitment: Immersion Experiences, Bus Tours, Pipeline Efforts, and More

Presenters: Denille LePlatt, Colorado Department of Education; Megan Quitter and Harvey Rude, Colorado Center for Rural Education

Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

Colorado's rural teacher shortage is acute in many places with some schools going without teachers for core instruction for multiple years. In the wake of the challenges, multiple efforts funded by various sources, including the legislature, the Colorado Department of Higher Education, the Colorado Rural Education Collaborative, and others have launched efforts to meet the need. Learn about what's working and how similar efforts could impact teacher shortage in your community.

12:15-12:45PM

LUNCH

Room: Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom, Second Floor

12:45-1:05PM

2017-2018 MONSANTO FUND RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Room: Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom, Second Floor



SCOTT JORDAN

Hear from Scott Jordan, a middle and high school, and college science educator, from rural New York as he receives his award.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

1:05–1:15PM

NREA AWARDS

Room: Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom, Second Floor

1:15–2PM

LUNCHEON REMARKS

The Future of Your Rural Place: Why a Student Chooses to Stay Home

Room: Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom, Second Floor



DOUG O'BRIEN

Executive Vice President of Programs, The National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International (NCBA CLUSA)

The election of 2016 caused a lot of people on the coasts to finally pay attention to their rural neighbors—attention that had been well overdue. But the overriding narrative almost always featured rural challenges. We know that is not the whole story. As leaders in rural communities, school administrators know that rural is not a place of deficit; it's a place of assets. Most people know about the natural assets—a place rich with natural amenities and the right set of ingredients to produce food and energy, not only for the U.S., but for so many around the world. Yet the most important asset is the people; and the only way to capture the potential of human resource is to invest in children. This presentation will focus on how people in rural communities tap their entrepreneurial spirit to create an economic future. It will explore how rural people can again feel empowered in their community and economy. And most importantly, it will consider how to create the conditions so our students see a future in their home town so their is a viable choice for their future.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

2:15–3:15PM

 20-MINUTE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

2:15–2:35PM

A Shared Role: A Multi-case Study of Rural Teachers

Presenter: Meredith McCool, Sweet Briar College

Round Room, Third Floor

Learn ways in which two teachers conceptualize and enact their role as teachers in a rural school division. Hear about findings from an activity system (Cole & Engestrom, 1993) analysis of these teachers' classroom practices and how those findings inform recommendations for supporting pre-service teachers placed in this school division for their teaching internship. Engage in brainstorming and discussion connections to your own educational contexts.

2:35–2:55PM

Literacy Innovation Through Rural Education Collaboration

Presenters: Victoria Schaefer and Annette Zehler, Westat

Round Room, Third Floor

The two-year Literacy Innovation through Rural Education Collaboration (LIREC) project worked with high-poverty rural schools and their local communities to improve literacy skills for preschool and early elementary students from fall 2014 through spring 2016.

2:55–3:15PM

Teacher Professional Development in Rural Schools: Building Connections

Presenters: Susan Pinson, Oklahoma State Department of Education, Kathryn Stehno, Office of Educational Quality & Accountability; Haidee Williams and Pia Peltola, REL Southwest, American Institutes for Research

Round Room, Third Floor

How does research focused on professional development practices in Oklahoma inform state policy and practice? How does this information spark change in the provision of equitable professional learning opportunities across the state? Research conducted in partnership with the Regional Educational Laboratory Southwest (REL Southwest) and practitioners in the Oklahoma Rural Schools Research Alliance provide data that are generating a shift in professional learning delivery. Discover how this information can be used in your state.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

2:15-2:45PM

Pathways to Success: Creating Partnerships with Industry and Postsecondary Institutions

Presenters: Dallas Saunders and Damon Buente, Western Reserve High School

Ohio Staters, Inc. Traditions Room, Second Floor

Learn how Western Reserve High School collaborated with local industry and postsecondary institutions to create a workforce advisory board that provides our community with a highly-skilled workforce. Western Reserve students have opportunities upon graduation ranging from being workforce ready to earning college credit. Western Reserve's Pathway courses give students a greater depth of knowledge and skills and prepare students for more meaningful career options upon graduation.

2:45-3:15PM

A Rural Research Practice Partnership

Presenters: Lia Sandilos, University of Virginia; Mary Fant Donnan and Dianne Garcia, The Alleghany Foundation; Melinda Snead-Johnson, Covington City Public Schools

Ohio Staters, Inc. Traditions Room, Second Floor

This session describes a collaboration involving partners at University of Virginia, the Alleghany Foundation, and two rural school districts in Virginia. University, foundation, and school district representatives will describe their roles in this partnership, the key goals of measuring and evaluating school improvement efforts, and the benefits and challenges of engaging in ambitious school change in a rural community. Recommendations emerging from the initial 18 months will be shared.

2:15-2:45PM

Social Justice in Rural Schools: A Key Toward Revitalizing Democracy

Presenters: Greg Wickenkamp and Douglas Wieczorek, Iowa State University

Rosa Ailbouni Room, Third Floor

The varied issues society faces: environmental, violence, inequality, and anti-democratic tendencies; have shared underlying causes broadly hinging on privatization and colonization. Though seeming tensions between urban and rural communities can hide these common causes, rural schools hold incredible promise for remedying them. Synthesizing pedagogies around critical theories, decolonization, and place-based education, explore opportunities for research and practice that might precipitate transformations allowing our society to more holistically address these underlying issues.

2:45-3:15PM

Engage Rural K-8 Learners in Social Justice Topics with Picture Books

Presenters: Sara Hartman and Lisa Harrison, Ohio University

Rosa Ailbouni Room, Third Floor

Explore the use of relevant picture books to engage students in sometimes challenging discussions about social justice topics, such as race/ethnicity, sexuality, gender stereotypes, exceptionalities, and poverty. View more than 40 picture books and leave with practical ideas about how to utilize picture books to engage rural learners in social justice topics.

60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Helping Rural Schools Collaboratively Succession Plan to Grow Leadership Pipelines

Presenters: Erika Hunt, Illinois State University; Jill Reis, Regional Office of Education #1; Michaela Fray, Quincy Public School District

Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

Through the Illinois Partnerships to Advance Rigorous Training (IL-PART), three universities/district partnerships have collaborated to pilot an intensive full time/full semester long internship model that provides a longer duration of full-time, job embedded experiences that is a more cost effective and replicable strategy involving the costs of substitute teacher. Hear lessons learned and presenters will share data results as well as practical strategies for rural districts interested in replicating this model.

Cultivating Shared Leadership for Thriving 21st Century Rural Schools

Presenters: Paul Hopkins, Battelle for Kids; Jeffrey Greenley, Switzerland of Ohio School District; Suellen Coleman, Wolf Creek Local Schools

Great Hall Meeting Room 3, First Floor

Leading purposeful change toward thriving 21st century educational environments requires school leaders to cultivate a shared vision and collective ownership within the school community. When school leaders, teachers, parents, and community members work together to envision, collaborate, and design innovative learning opportunities, meaningful, sustainable school transformation can take root. Join this interactive session to explore and share collaborative design processes and communication strategies that enable school leaders to build shared ownership and sustainable school transformation.

Supporting Collaborative School Cultures

Presenter: Jim Gay, Ohio Leadership Advisory Council

Ohio Staters Room, Inc. Founders Room, Second Floor

The Ohio Leadership Advisory Council's (OLAC) mission is to provide educators with the structures and resources to develop effective leadership at every level. The centerpiece of OLAC's work is the Ohio Leadership Development Framework, which promotes the use of collaborative structures to lead schools and share the responsibility for improving student achievement. Attendees will learn how a rural school district is using these free online resources to support a collaborative school culture and to develop a professional growth plan. Many of these leadership resources can be used in any state or district.

Adding Student-Based Teams to the 5-Step Process

Presenters: John Maynard and David Ashworth, Ironton Elementary

Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

Ironton Elementary created student-based teams to help with the instructional solutions in the building. Learn how the teams serve as a leadership team that performs dynamic community-based services and provides teachers with valuable feedback on instruction.



Student Voice in Rural Education Research, Policy, and Practice

Presenters: Patricia Kannapel and Lu Young, CNA; Rachel Belin, Pritchard Committee for Academic Excellence; Sahar Mohammadzadeh and Zacgariah Sippy, Pritchard Committee Student Voice Team
Suzanne M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

Students are the subjects and recipients of education research, policy, and practice, but are seldom agents in crafting those efforts. In this session, a student voice team will share its research and policy work on education equity issues, along with information about an emerging research partnership that substantively involves students. Presenters will facilitate a discussion of challenges and opportunities for authentically engaging students in rural education research and policy.

A Learning Experience Partnership Among K-12 Education, Higher Ed, and Industry

Presenters: Judy York and Charlene Simpson, Education Service Center Region 12
Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

A collaborative research partnership consisting of Baylor University, ESC Region 12, and Huckabee Inc., is in place within the Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative (BRIC). The Learning Experience Laboratories (LEx Labs) partnership's overall goal is to identify systems, structures, and processes that increase student engagement in public school classrooms through avenues such as teacher professional development and/or classroom design. The initial research focus is in-depth evaluations on interactions among flexible environments and classroom pedagogical practices.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 | 2:15-3:15PM

GRADUATE STUDENT **ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS**

2:15-2:45PM

Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

Rural Students' Perceptions of Admission in an R1 Doctoral University

Presenter: Phillip Grant, Jr., Educational Administration and Policy

Students from rural areas experience unique challenges when they choose to attend a large research university. This phenomenological inquiry explored rural student perceptions of their chances of admission as an undergraduate at an R1 Doctoral University. This study takes place at a large R1 Doctoral University in the Deep South, where the context of place, race, and gender affect all aspects of students' lives. The ongoing results of this study show that rural students either need help from an adult who has attended college, or must be an adept researcher to understand admission.

Using Recreational Reasoning to Support Rural Students' Comprehension of Unfamiliar Content

Presenter: Courtney Hattan, Educational Psychology

The purpose of the current study is to investigate the effectiveness of traditional and novel knowledge activation techniques for supporting rural students' understanding of texts dealing with unfamiliar subject matter. In this quasi-experimental study, rural middle-school students were assigned to one of two treatment conditions—knowledge mobilization (traditional) or relational reasoning (new)—or to a control condition. With relational reasoning ability and topic knowledge as covariates, the effects of knowledge activation techniques on rural students' comprehension of unfamiliar content will be examined, and implications for research and practice forwarded.

We Are All the Same: Conceptualizing Diversity to Promote Inclusion in Wisconsin's Rural Schools

Presenter: Katie McCabe, Special Education

Despite the problems rural schools may face, they have characteristics that could have the potential to promote inclusive schools and more equitable opportunities for students. It is important not to generalize diversity by the larger group and rather dive deeper and acknowledge the diversity within the community (Gutiérrez & Rogoff, 2003). It may be perceived of rural communities that there is not a wide-range of diversity. Scholars such as Corbett (2006) have reflected on this myth claiming that may not be entirely true of rural schools and in fact they may have similar amounts of diverse differences as urban communities. These diversities, which may be like those seen in urban areas, will play out within the different contexts (Tuters, 2014). By reflecting and examining the diversity in rural areas, schools will be better able to create an inclusive school environment for all students.

Professional Identity of School Counselors in Rural Communities: A Grounded Theory Study

Presenter: Tameka Oliphant, Counselor Education

Literature on school counselor professional identity often raises the question of whether school counselors most identify as counselors or educators (Cinotti, 2014; Brott & Myers, 1999). This interactive roundtable will explore this ongoing debate with an examination of preliminary data from a grounded theory study exploring the factors impacting rural school counselor professional identity development. Attendee participation will be encouraged.



GRADUATE STUDENT ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

2:45-3:15PM

Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

Our Grass is a Special Shade of Green: Asset-Based Community Development Focused on Youth

Presenter: Lori Langlois, Rural Education

This roundtable will explore the question of whether youth from rural communities are influenced by parents, teachers, and adults in the community as they form their impressions of the community and how this correlates with future residency aspirations. If adults reinforce the idea that the “grass is greener” elsewhere, are our rural communities destined to diminish to the point of no return?

Growing the Language and Literacy of English Language Learners in Rural Schools

Presenter: Emily Sherwood, Literacy Studies

English Language Learners (ELLs) are a fast-growing segment of the school population. In many rural schools, there are major challenges related to educating English Language Learners, such as lack of teacher training, availability and scheduling of English as a Second Language services, and lack of resources to help English Language Learners succeed. This roundtable, from a former rural ESL teacher and Reading Specialist, gives participants information about how to help ELLs succeed and grow in their language and literacy skills, through collaboration among classroom teachers, interventionists, and other school staff.

A Lesson from Rural Electrification: Improving Internet Connectivity in Rural Regions

Presenter: Michelle Rasheed, Curriculum & Instruction/English Education

Whether the scope is K-12 or post-secondary education, insufficient WiFi infrastructure limits the opportunity for students in rural areas to get an education which inhibits growing success. Specifically, for secondary and post-secondary students, who often need to work to support themselves and their families, there is either no internet access or the cost is many times higher in rural areas versus suburban/urban areas, although online classes have the potential to be an efficacious, logistical option (Dulgerian 2016; Halley & Harrington 2014). This is especially ironic for Virginia, since it is the state where the internet started (Galuszka 2017). While the voices of rural America have been increasingly heard since the onset of the 2016 presidential election, the educational needs of rural America are far from being met. With a look at the success of F.D. Roosevelt’s Rural Electrification Act, which equipped rural areas with electricity through electric co-ops, a similar innovative option may help those regions today with WiFi connections.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

3:30–4:30PM

 20-MINUTE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

3:30–3:50PM

Context Matters: The Advocacy Practices of Rural School Librarians

Presenter: Ann Dutton Ewbank, Montana State University

Round Room, Second Floor

This study investigates the advocacy practices of rural school librarians. Despite evidence that a school library program headed by a credentialed librarian positively impacts student learning goals, school library and librarian eliminations continue across rural regions of the United States. Through the stories of 18 rural school librarians, the role of community context and its impact on advocacy for effective school libraries is explored. Implications for the leadership role of rural school librarians are discussed.

3:50–4:10PM

An Examination of Informal STEAM Learning Opportunities in Rural Early Childhood Settings

Presenters: Sara Hartman and Jennifer Hines-Bergmeier, Ohio University

Round Room, Second Floor

As high-stakes testing in the early years places emphasis on reading and math, often to the detriment of science learning, informal learning settings offer valuable opportunities to support classroom science learning. Yet, rural teachers face unique challenges in accessing rich informal learning experiences. Learn about findings from a research project that examined the challenges associated with accessing informal science learning opportunities in rural early childhood settings, as well as the benefits of embracing a STEAM (STEM + Arts/Humanities) philosophy.

4:10–4:30PM

Music Education in Rural Schools: the Agony and the Ecstasy

Presenter: Laura Artesani, University of Maine

Round Room, Second Floor

The challenges and rewards experienced by music educators in rural settings will be identified and solutions presented, including the effective use of technology. Case studies and reflections from current music educators in rural schools will be shared, as well as with strategies for those who administer, teach and promote the arts in rural schools.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

3:30-4PM

Connecting STEM Professionals and Schools

Presenter: Brandolyn Thran, Nevada STEM Coalition

Rosa Ailbouni Room, Third Floor

In Nevada, outside the population centers of Reno and Las Vegas, there are districts separated by hundreds of miles. The STEM Ambassador Programs' purpose is to provide authentic STEM learning experiences through interactions with STEM Professionals. The Next Generation Science Standards provide the foundation from which to build a coherent system to maximize STEM expertise and dissemination of resources to strengthen relationships and productivity between STEM professionals, teachers, students, parents, and community members.

4-4:30PM

Planting Seeds of STEM on a Limited Budget

Presenters: David Quattrochi, Matt White, and Stephanie Glasure, Carrollton Schools; Rob Smith; IST Ohio

Rosa Ailbouni Room, Third Floor

Interested in incorporating STEM into your curriculum with a limited budget for resources? Discover free and low-cost ways to introduce students to hands-on, engaging STEM activities, including robotics and coding. Attendees will also learn money-saving tips on how to turn laptops into Chromebooks to make them last longer.

60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Combating Absenteeism in the Rural Community

Presenters: Emily Kicklighter and Rommy Woodley, North Carolina State University Leadership Academy

Ohio Staters, Inc. Founders Room, Second Floor

Chronic absenteeism sounds like a disease, and in too many schools, it is. Chronic absenteeism has become a national concern, especially in rural areas, where absenteeism rates are often the highest. Learn more about the negative effects of chronic absenteeism and innovative strategies teachers, administrators, and parents are using to combat this illness.

Want to Change Your Prepared for Success Measures? Think RTI

Presenter: Marcy Raymond, Educational Service Center of Central Ohio

Ohio Staters, Inc. Traditions Room, Second Floor

There is a unique set of challenges for rural schools focusing on college readiness strategies, such as academic underperformance and poor motivation. Discover how Response to Intervention (RTI) can help address these chronic concerns while integrating systems of alerts to the college environment with your College Credit Plus partners.

The National Rural Education Demographic Survey Year Two

Presenters: Gerri Maxwell, Texas A&M University: Kingsville; Scott Turney, Indiana Small Schools; Jim LaPrad, Western Indiana University; Allen Pratt, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; Shu Yan Lin, Idaho State University; Cindy McIntee, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

Explore the results of the revised NREA diversity committee second year survey relative to the diversity of the organization in order to inform its future growth and expansion.

Building a Network of Collaboration Through a Cohort Model to Build Capacity Across Geographically Isolated Schools

Presenter: Barbara Burrington, Grand Isle Supervisory Union

Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

Presenters will describe and share an innovative system of providing professional development to teachers with shared learning goals. This Vermont Supervisory Union has joined Professional Learning across five schools to address identified needs (i.e., systemic, student based, teacher identified and data driven). Administrators and contracted professionals work together to deliver meaningful content to teachers through Learning Cohorts that meet once a month.

GRADUATE STUDENT ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

3:30-4PM

Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

Connecting Students to the World: Using Performance Assessments to Connect to Place

Presenter: Erika Nicholas, English Education

Opportunity gaps for rural students exist due to geographic isolation, lack of resources, decreased funding, and limited access to out-of-school educational resources (Azano, Callahan, Brodersen, & Caughey, 2017). To mitigate these gaps, performance assessments are effective in assessing students' higher order thinking skills, problem solving skills, and use of knowledge in real world settings (Callahan, 2002; VanTassel-Baska, 2008). Using a place-based approach, performance assessments can provide a personal context and make it more meaningful for students (VanTassel-Baska & Hubbard, 2016). This roundtable will include examples open-ended writing prompts that connect to students' communities, which can be adapted to various rural communities. Using students' values and providing a way to use their knowledge in real world setting, performance assessments can contribute to students' growing success. This roundtable serves as a discussion in developing place-based performance assessments for a range of rural settings.



Using Individual Instructor Collaboration to Increase College-Level English Composition Preparedness in Rural High Schools

Presenter: Zachary Garrett, English

Students in rural high schools are often poorly prepared for the expectations of college writing, resulting from a lack of college experience among family and peers, a de-emphasis on writing instruction in resource-strapped high schools, and more family responsibilities shouldered by high school juniors/seniors and college freshmen. A survey of students confirms that many freshmen believe they were unprepared for the expectations of college writing. Research indicates that collaborations between high school and college instructional staff have the potential to increase student preparedness. Rural communities can be an advantageous place to experiment with collaborative programs because the high schools often cover a wide geographical area where virtually all local students attend, and rural high schools often have a strong existing partnership with district-based community colleges and regional public universities.

Growing Success in Literacy: Rural Adolescent Struggling Readers Perspectives of Self-Efficacy and Identity

Presenter: Zoe Cassady, Literacy Education

While there are numerous literacy-related studies on adolescent self-efficacy and identity, there is limited research about struggling adolescents from rural communities. Understanding these students' feelings about their education, reading abilities, and situation in a rural community may provide insights into designing programs to help them "grow in success" (Pajares & Schunk, 2001). The purpose of this roundtable is to share initial results derived from analysis of a pilot study of rural adolescent students in a Title I reading program utilizing a photo elicitation interview (Rose, 2014; Tinkler, 2013). Explore the following questions: 1) What are rural adolescent struggling readers' concepts of literacy? 2) What are the identity and self-efficacy beliefs of struggling adolescent readers in a rural high school with regard to literacy? 3) How can digital narratives be used as a methodological tool to illustrate and illuminate rural adolescent struggling readers' conceptions of literacy, identity, and self-efficacy?

Promoting Democratic Education through Discussion in Rural Schools

Presenter: Jason Williamson, Social Studies Education

This literature review seeks to better understand how teachers in rural classrooms use discussion and deliberation to challenge stereotypes and the status quo as part of promoting democratic education. Rural teachers often worry about opening up spaces for dialogue in their classrooms, fearing statements of bigotry from students, but fostering these discussions in ways that force students to confront their preconceived ideas is necessary for them to grow in their civic life. Although there is a rich tradition of scholarship focusing on democratic education, citizenship and discussion, much of this work neglects or misses rural communities. So, this project attempts to create a synthesis of the literature on discussion to gain a better understanding of discussion as a teaching strategy to promote democratic education in rural classrooms.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 | 3:30-4:30PM

GRADUATE STUDENT **ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS**

4-4:30PM

Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

School District Test Score Variation Across the Rural Continuum, 2009-2013

Presenter: Jason Sellers, Education, Quantitative Methods and Evaluation

Studies of student achievement often neglect to account for the social and economic differences that complicate a simple binary definition for rural areas. Using data from the Stanford Educational Data Archive (SEDA) linked by census tract with the ten primary Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) codes, this study seeks to begin to fill this gap by examining economic and demographic characteristics related to rural school district academic performance using a more nuanced method of classification. This work has implications for the measurement of inequality in rural students' access to academic resources, offering preliminary results that underscore the need for greater differentiation when examining rural districts in statistical models.

Growing Readers with an Uncommon Core: No Summer Slide for these Rural Readers

Presenter: Erik Borne, English

Inspired by Gallagher (2004), Miller (2009), Wilhelm (2014), and Allington (2013), an English teacher who moved from a high school of 3000 to one of 300 shares his application of these gurus' research not only to motivate non-readers to plea for frequent Silent Sustained Reading, but also to fan the fire of avid readers to surpass reading goals. Abandoning a one-size-fits-all extensive canon of core texts, the practitioner will share how he promotes student choice, provides consistent class-time for reading and one-on-one conferencing, creates authentic experiences for students to demonstrate learning, and encourages students to apply literacy skills. Teacher spoon-feeding is replaced with student cover-to-cover reading. The teacher will share how he maintained student momentum with a new summer reading challenge and fostered a culture of reading, such as developing a student-facilitated book club and creating opportunities for students to talk about and recommend their recent reads to peers.

The Role of Professional Networks in the Development and Retention of Rural Teachers

Presenter: Erin Small, English Education

Teachers in rural areas are often the only teacher in their department. This means that sometimes the only time they have a chance to collaborate with others in their discipline is through teacher professional networks. This study looks at who rural teachers are going to for support, what information would be helpful to them in their content areas, and how local, state, and national professional organizations can help fill in any gaps that might occur. This roundtable will talk about preliminary observations as well as a review of current literature.

4:45PM

NREA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY & NREA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Room: Ohio Staters, Inc. Founders Room, Second Floor



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

9-9:30AM BREAKFAST

Location: Marriott Hotel

9:30-11:30AM KEYNOTE & CLOSING SESSION

The World Is My Audience

Location: Marriott Hotel



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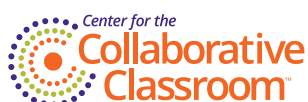
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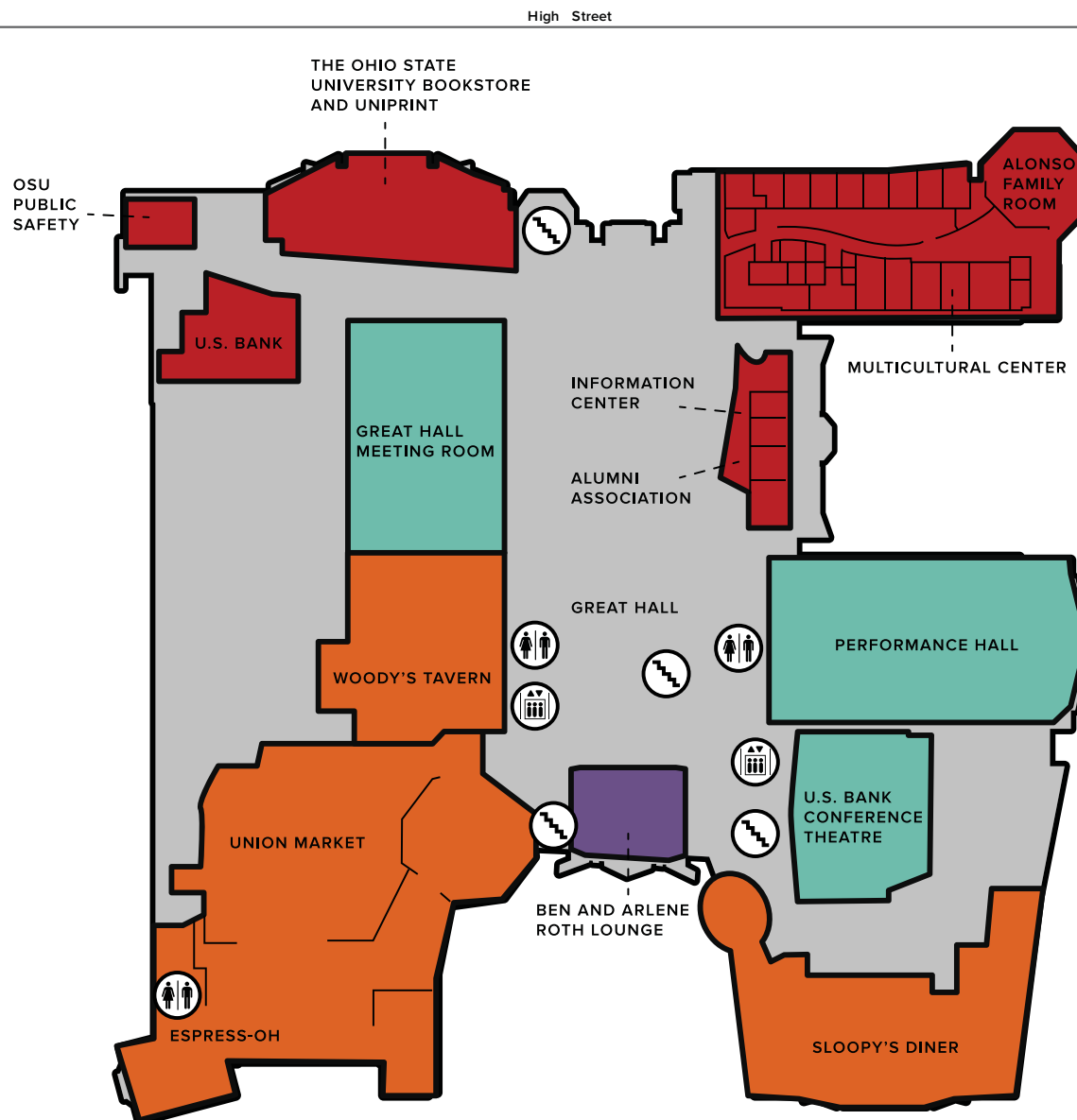
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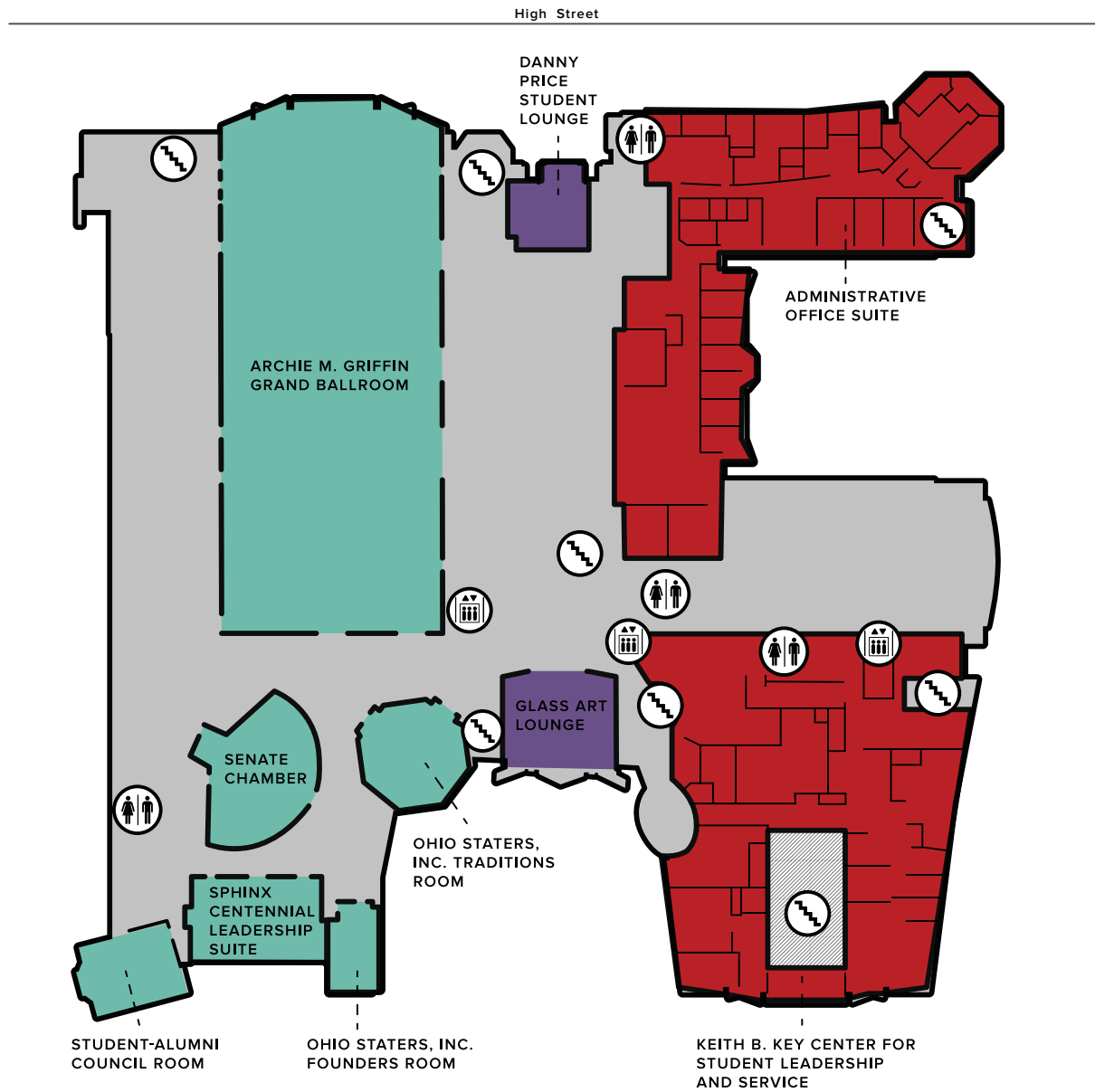
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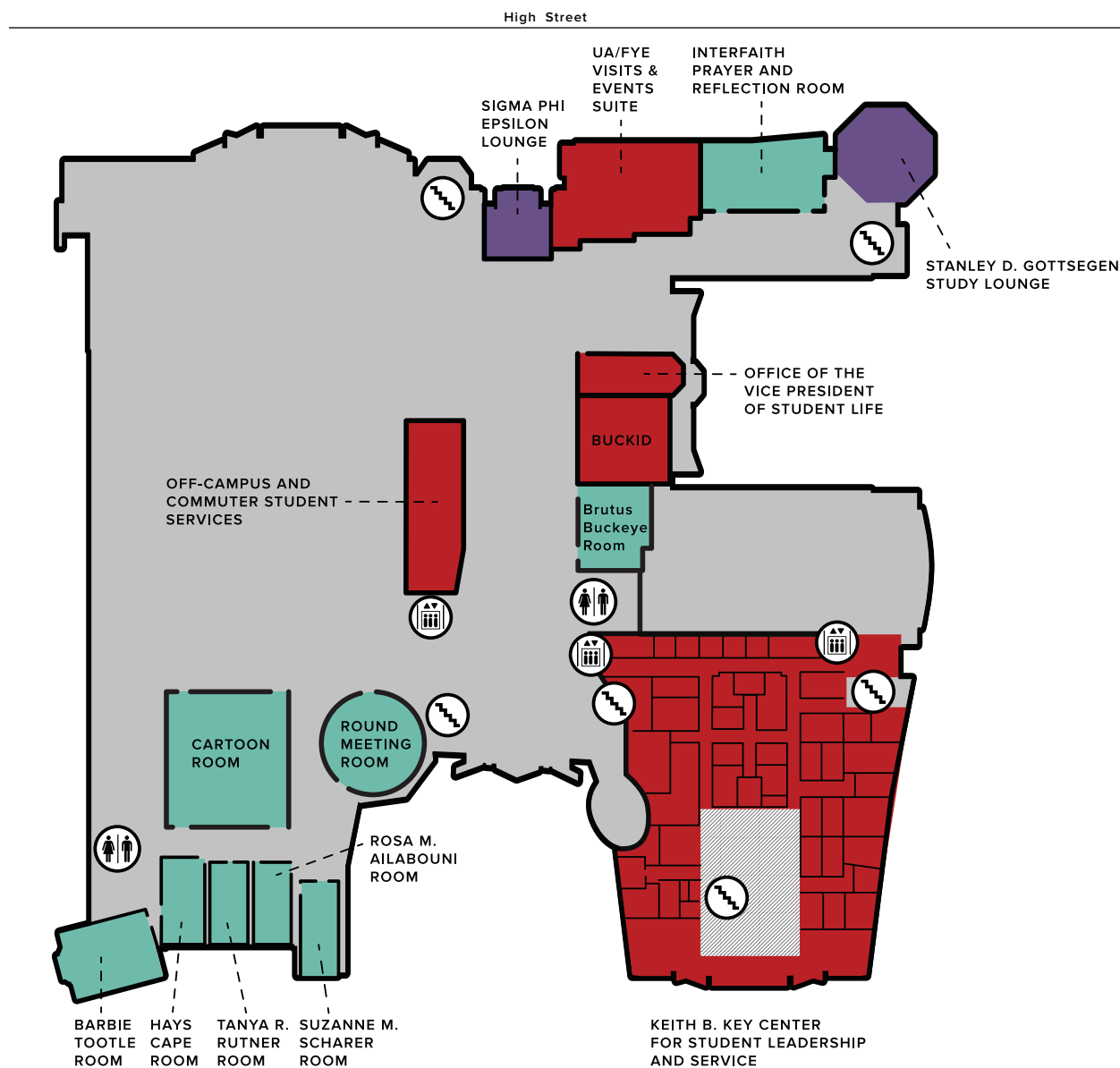
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ABOUT THE EVENT HOST

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Learn more at bfk.org.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (NREA)



NREA is the voice of all rural schools and rural communities across the United States. NREA was originally founded as the Department of Rural Education in 1907. It is the oldest established national organization of its kind in the United States. Through the years it has evolved as a strong and respected organization of rural school administrators, teachers, board members, regional service agency personnel, researchers, business and industry representatives, and others interested in maintaining the vitality of rural school systems across the country.

Learn more at NREA.net.



ABOUT THE EVENT PARTNERS

ABOUT OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



The Ohio Department of Education oversees the state's public education system, which includes public school districts, joint vocational school districts and charter schools. The Department also monitors educational service centers, other regional education providers, early learning and child care programs, and private schools.

Learn more at education.ohio.gov.

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The Kentucky Department of Education is a service agency of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and part of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. The department provides resources and guidance to Kentucky's public schools and districts as they implement the state's P-12 education requirements.

Learn more at education.ky.gov.

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Tennessee enrolls approximately 998,000 students, and is divided into 146 districts with both significant urban and rural populations. Academically, our students still perform below the national average, and this is compounded by significant gaps by income and race. As a department, we are dedicated to the goal of dramatically improving student achievement, and committed to the belief that children from all backgrounds can succeed when given the opportunities they deserve.

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