



STRONGER TOGETHER:

Connecting & Collaborating
for Rural Prosperity

October 13-15, 2016
The Ohio Union
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio



RURAL EDUCATION

*National Forum and 108th NREA
Convention and Research Symposium*

2016 PROGRAM

Hosted by:

Battelle for Kids



In partnership with:

Ohio | Department
of Education



#RuralEdForum #NREA108TH



STRONGER TOGETHER: **CONNECTING & COLLABORATING FOR RURAL PROSPERITY**



Battelle for Kids (BFK) and the National Rural Education Association (NREA) are pleased to host, in partnership with the Ohio and Kentucky Departments of Education, the 2016 Rural Education National Forum and 108th NREA Convention and Research Symposium.

This event is designed to bring together education leaders from around the country to learn, network, and collaborate on the topics at the forefront of rural education.

Hundreds of 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 (formerly known as NREA workshops)

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. 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.



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GENERAL FORUM 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 Guidebook.

WiFi Access

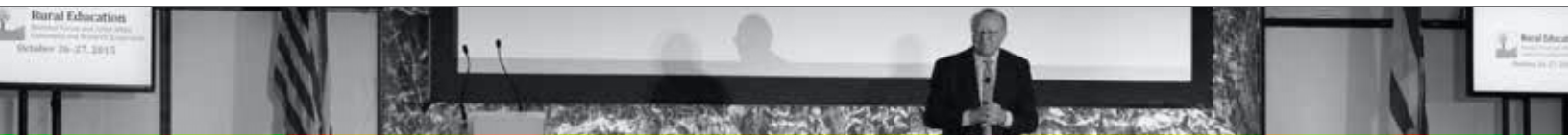
WiFi access is available throughout the Ohio Union.

Join the Twitter Conversation

Tweet about your experience throughout the event by using #RuralEdForum and #NREA108th.

Meals & Refreshments

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



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Please be sure to visit our exhibitors between sessions and during breaks, and enter to win door prizes.

Thursday, October 13

8–9 a.m.	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9–9:30 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Remarks
9:30–10:30 a.m.	Keynote: Andrew McCrea
10:30–11 a.m.	General Session: Implementing ESSA in Rural Schools
11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.	Learning Sessions
12:30–1:15 p.m.	Lunch (provided) Luncheon Remarks: John B. King, Jr., U.S. Secretary of Education
1:15–2 p.m.	Keynote: Cindy Moss
2:15–3:15 p.m.	Learning Sessions
3:30–4:30 p.m.	Learning Sessions
4:30–6:30 p.m.	President's Reception & NREA Foundation Auction

Friday, October 14

7:30–8:30 a.m.	Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:30–9:30 a.m.	Keynote: Robert Putnam
9:45–10:45 a.m.	Learning Sessions
11 a.m.–12 p.m.	Learning Sessions
12:15–1 p.m.	Lunch (provided)
1–2 p.m.	General Session: 2016–2017 Monsanto Fund Rural Teacher of the Year, Virginia Sautner
2:15–3:15 p.m.	Learning Sessions
3:30–4:30 p.m.	Learning Sessions
4:45 p.m.	NREA Delegate Assembly & NREA Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 15

9:30–11:15 a.m.	Keynote: Liz Meredith NREA Awards Breakfast & Closing Session
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9:30-10:30 A.M.

KEYNOTE: STRONGER TOGETHER: FINDING THE 'EXTRA' IN EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITIES

Room: Archie M. Griffin Ballroom, Second Floor



ANDREW MCCREA, AUTHOR AND SYNDICATED BROADCASTER | @ANDREWMCCKREA

Now more than ever, communities have a vital need to produce leaders who can guide and sustain schools, towns, and regions to long-term success. But where do you start? How can you make a lasting difference? Andrew McCrea's travels to 50 states and six continents will give you insights in the 'extra' found in extraordinary communities.

10:30-11 A.M.

GENERAL SESSION: IMPLEMENTING ESSA IN RURAL SCHOOLS

Room: Archie M. Griffin Ballroom, Second Floor

Last year, Congress passed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a comprehensive rewrite of the five-decade old Elementary and Secondary Education Act. As control over K-12 education shifts to states and local school districts under ESSA, rural schools will need to work together to ensure the new law is implemented fairly. Hear from two rural education leaders to get a quick overview of ESSA and the areas of opportunity for rural schools.

11:15 A.M.-12:15 P.M.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

11:15-11:45 a.m.

Rural Students and College Persistence: Have We Missed the Mark?

Presenter: J. Kessa Roberts, The Ohio State University

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

With an ever-growing emphasis on college readiness in current federal and state educational policy, schools are increasingly concerned with how to prepare their students for college. While more rural students are enrolling in college than ever before, they continue to earn degrees at rates lower than their non-rural peers. This session will explore potential disconnects between educational policy and practices in K-12 and higher education and offer recommendations for bridging the gaps.

11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

The Ins and Outs of a Successful College Credit Plus (CCP) Program

Presenters: Janelle Comstock, Belmont College; Jennifer Bohach, Switzerland of Ohio Local School District

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

Learn about the ins and outs of developing and running a successful CCP program within the high school alongside higher education partners. Areas of focus will include how to develop and maintain working relationships with higher education, lessons learned throughout the process, factors to consider when designing and implementing a CCP program, and useful resources.

11:15 A.M.-12:15 P.M.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Introducing the NREA Rural Education Research Agenda

Presenters: Victoria Schaeffer, Hobart Harmon, & John Hill, NREA Research Team; Gerri Maxwell, Scott Turney, John LaPrad, & Shu-Yuan Lin, NREA Diversity Team

Room: U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

Over the past 18 months, the NREA Research Team, through the involvement of various stakeholder groups, has developed a five-year Rural Education Research Agenda. The NREA Research and Diversity Teams will present the findings and implications of their research efforts.

Connecting and Supporting Rural Educators Weekly via Technology

Presenters: Mark Stock, Wyoming Center for Educational Leadership; Jillian Balow, Wyoming State Department of Education; Canyon Hardesty, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Discover how Wyoming is connecting and networking its educators through the E.C.H.O. project. This innovative project taken from the medical field, seeks to connect rural educators with weekly professional development and problem-solving opportunities accessed by computer, tablet, or phone. Training topics and case presentations are scheduled and published for the entire year based on survey results and suggestions from the field. E.C.H.O. communities in education include educational leadership/district level, educational leadership/building level, assistive technology, autism, positive behavioral interventions and supports, and secondary transitions.

Stronger Together: Proven Techniques to Transform Your Community

Presenter: Andrew McCrea

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 3, First Floor

Come and hear “nuts and bolts” answers to how extraordinary communities are finding success in building leaders and supporting their capacity for long-term success. Learn proven techniques that you can put to use in your community.

An Innovative Approach to School Improvement Through Continuous Data Analysis

Presenters: Abbie Combs, Jennifer Carroll, Cheryl Mathis, & Carole Mullins, Kentucky Valley Education Cooperative

Room: Student Alumni Council Room, Second Floor

Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC), in an endeavor to provide leadership and support for educators' effective use of data, has developed and launched the Perpetual Data Analysis System (PDAS). PDAS relies on multiple types of current and real-time data for school decision making. It requires an in-depth data analysis that goes beyond the traditional once-a-year data retreat to provide school and district personnel with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to use data and assessment results to improve next generation teaching, learning, and leading. The session is designed for any educator who is interested learning more about continuous school improvement through effective data analysis.

Report from Washington

Presenter: Leslie Finnan, NREAC/AASA

Room: Ohio Staters, Inc Founders Room, Second Floor

Receive an update on the progress of legislation in Congress and the activities of the U.S. Department of Education. Learn about potential issues and bring your questions. Leslie serves as a lobbyist for the NREAC and AASA.



11:15 A.M.-12:15 P.M.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Impacting Teacher Recruitment and Retention: The Colorado Rural Education Collaborative

Presenters: Denille LePlatt, Generation Schools Network; Jon Reinhard, Share Fair Nation

Room: Senate Chamber, Second Floor

Finding and keeping high quality teachers in rural school districts is a major concern among rural superintendents across the United States. See how a small rural school district in southern Colorado has made the investment as a district to effectively recruit high quality teachers, and what they are doing to retain them. Hear from a successful rural superintendent about key practices.

Engaging Families Through Parenting Education

Presenters: Christine Cox, The Ford Family Foundation; Denise Rennekamp, Oregon State University

Room: Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

Looking for a way to engage with families before their children walk through your elementary school doors? Learn how the Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative has partnered with rural schools to offer parenting classes and other supports. Roughly 40 percent of children in Oregon are at risk for meeting school readiness benchmarks at kindergarten entry. Parents are key to addressing the issue. Evidence-based parenting education is a strategy for improving parenting skills, which in turn, support young children's school-readiness (e.g. social/emotional, self-regulation, and early literacy). With rural schools frequently acting as a community hub, they can be natural hosts for parenting education classes.

Coll"app"oration

Presenter: Liz Meredith, Apple Distinguished Educator

Room: Round Room, Third Floor

In this Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) session, explore a variety of iPad apps that allow for student collaboration. Participate in hands-on exploration of TouchCast, Stop Motion Studio, and Padlet, and learn about other apps that offer collaborative possibilities in the classroom.

Not Your Typical Career Fair

Presenters: Shelly Vaughn, Mercer County Educational Service Center; Jared Ebbing, Mercer County Economic Development; Kelli Tebbe, Auglaize County Educational Service Center

Room: Suzanne M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

How do you get juniors and seniors to make meaningful connections with local businesses? Nearly 100 businesses spent time sharing their stories with more than 1,400 Ohio students who selected a career interest matched to local business professionals. The connections made led to continued mentorship, job shadowing opportunities, internships, and employment from this extraordinary career opportunity.

The Benefits and Challenges of Developing Youth Entrepreneurship

Presenter: Thomas Long, Michigan State University Extension

Room: Hays Cape Room, Third Floor

Learn about the benefits of engaging youth in entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship, including the challenges we face and the possible solutions. Be introduced to best practices for recruiting youth, along with partnerships and organizations to engage with. Also learn about program funding strategies, available resources, and others' success strategies.

11:15 A.M.-12:15 P.M.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Accelerating Student Learning through Personalized Learning Pathways and Dual Enrollment in the Ohio Appalachian Collaborative

Presenters: Paul Hopkins & Charity Dodd, Battelle for Kids; Randy Lucas, Barnesville Exempted Village School District
Room: Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

The Ohio Appalachian Collaborative (OAC) is a group of like-minded school districts that have joined forces to implement educational innovations, share and generate resources, influence local, regional and federal education and economic policy, and build a community that encourages rural prosperity in Appalachian Ohio. Panelists will share strategies and lessons learned overcoming the rural opportunity gap, amplifying the local talent pipeline, and establishing a sustainable collaborative. This session will focus on increasing access to advanced learning and effective instruction through a networked personalized learning pathways system and on driving student success via dual enrollment partnerships. Learn and discuss the strategies developed and implemented across the collaborative to contribute to these significant gains.

ESSA: A State View

Presenters: Brad Mitchell & Jacqueline Burke, Battelle for Kids; Kelly Foster, Kentucky Department of Education; Cindy Hartman, Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools; Brittany Miracle, Ohio Department of Education
Room: Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

With the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), states will face new opportunities and challenges as they work to realize significant improvements in student outcomes, scale up effective system approaches and practices within and across the states and districts, and share effective practices to facilitate learning. Hear from state officials on their implementation of ESSA, as well as work on by the state support network to assist with rollout in each state.

12:30-1:15 P.M.

LUNCH & LUNCHEON REMARKS

Room: Archie M. Griffin Ballroom, Second Floor



JOHN B. KING, JR. | U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION | @JOHNKINGATED

John B. King, Jr. is the secretary of education, a position he assumed upon Senate confirmation on March 14, 2016. In tapping him to lead the U.S. Department of Education, President Obama called Dr. King "an exceptionally talented educator," citing his commitment to "preparing every child for success" and his lifelong dedication to education as a teacher, principal, and leader of schools and school systems. As secretary, Dr. King brings a continued commitment to advancing excellence and equity for every student, supporting educators and elevating the teaching profession, and improving college affordability and completion rates. Before becoming secretary, Dr. King served since January 2015 at the Department as principal senior advisor. Prior to his arrival at the Department, Dr. King served since 2011 as the commissioner of education for the state of New York. Dr. King was one of the nation's youngest state education leaders at the time of his appointment and the first African-American and Puerto Rican to serve as New York State education commissioner.



1:15-2 P.M.

KEYNOTE: USING TECHNOLOGY TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN PROBLEM SOLVING

Room: Archie M. Griffin Ballroom, Second Floor



CINDY MOSS, DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL STEM INITIATIVES, DISCOVERY EDUCATION | @STEMBOSS

See specific examples of how technology is transforming science and math teaching and learning. Learn about STEM competitions, ways to use STEM to grow the capacity of teachers and administrators in your buildings, and ways to fund STEM. Discover resources to use in classrooms, schools, and districts, and be inspired to implement these strategies with students.

2:15-3:15 P.M.



20-MINUTE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

2:15-2:35 p.m.

The National Rural Education Association Diversity Self-Study

Presenters: Gerri M. Maxwell, Texas A&M University, Kingsville; John Hill, Purdue University; Scott Turney, Indiana Small and Rural Schools

Room: U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

Hear about the results of the NREA Diversity committee survey relative to the diversity of the organization in order to inform future growth and expansion.

2:35-2:55 p.m.

Sustaining Special Educators Through Collaboration: Lessons From Rural Areas

Presenter: Ann Berry, Plymouth State University

Room: U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

Research has identified sources of work-related support that have a positive effect on teachers' sense of efficacy and satisfaction. One of these factors is a shared sense of responsibility when educating students with disabilities. Results from a two-year investigation in rural districts will provide insight from the special education and general education teachers' point of view. Implications and future directions to support teachers in a collaborative structure for service delivery will be discussed.

2:55-3:15 p.m.

Democratic Education for Diversity: Three Rural Classrooms in Ontario, Canada

Presenter: Joanne Pattison-Meek, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto

Room: U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

Based on case study research in rural Ontario, Canada, explore how and why three high school social studies teachers selected and taught subject matter, and implemented pedagogies, to facilitate students' expression in relation to various social and cultural differences and conflicts. This study brings to light pedagogical challenges and opportunities for democracy-committed teachers to affirm social, political, and ethno-cultural diversity and justice in predominantly white and rural classroom settings.

2:15-3:15 P.M.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

2:15-2:45 p.m.

Create an Alternative School within Your School

Presenters: Dan Foster, Eastern Pulaski Community School Corporation; Rick DeFries & Karen Bulter, Winamac Community High School

Room: Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

The Warrior Academy was designed primarily as a credit recovery and alternative setting for students who struggle in a traditional setting. In an effort to improve graduation rates and lower dropout rates, the Academy, which is run by a licensed teacher, was created to assist students in catching up on their credits. Learn more about the steps taken to create the Academy within the school.

2:45-3:15 p.m.

Football to Family, Creating a Sportsmanship Culture

Presenters: Chris Sampson, Eric Ulrich, & Amanda Whitlock, Clinton Prairie School Corporation

Room: Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

Learn about the strategy of a middle and high school to instill sportsmanship, positive guidance, and a mentor approach to potential student leaders in grades 10-12. The presentation will provide ways to jump-start a mentor program within your student body along with ways to empower your student leaders throughout their school and community.

2:15-2:45 p.m.

The Promise and Peril of Place-based Education

Presenter: Erin Small, University of Missouri, Columbia

Room: Suzanne M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

Place-based education may offer an opportunity for rural schools to help students connect with their communities and help communities retain their youth. However, creating idealized vision of their community through traditional place-based assignments could instill a feeling of hopelessness in students. Explore critical place-based pedagogy that is action-oriented and designed to help students view themselves as active, long-term citizens in their rural communities.

2:45-3:15 p.m.

Prosperity and Gifted Education's Place-based Investment Model of Talent Development

Presenters: Kristen Seward, Purdue University; Kristina Ayers Paul, Lower Merion School District

Room: Suzanne M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

The Place-based Investment Model of Talent Development proposes investing in the talent development of the gifted people who grow up in specific locales, who may re-invest their talents in the community. Five pathways (enrichment, advanced learning, human connections, strategic thinking, and specialized guidance) and three imperatives (broad academic preparation, development of cultural and social capital, and entrepreneurial skill development) will be discussed in relation to unique rural needs and challenges.



2:15-3:15 P.M.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Partnering in Teacher Preparation to Respond to the Rural Teacher Shortage

Presenters: Barbara Hansen & Rae White, Muskingum University; Jim Mahoney, Battelle for Kids

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

Learn first-hand the process being followed in a pilot project designed to encourage graduates of two-year institutions to enroll in an enhanced teacher preparation program. A collaborative among higher education, K-12 education, and Battelle for Kids is launching this pilot in southeastern Ohio. Features of the project include a year of clinical experience, compacted curriculum, cooperating teacher cohorts, expanded collaboration of higher education faculty with K-12, and more.

Professional Development Partnerships for Paraprofessionals in Rural Districts

Presenters: Catherine Woods & Cary Jenkins, Walters State Community College

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Every educator deserves access to high quality professional learning. Learn how Walters State Community College, Battelle for Kids, and nine rural districts collaborated to provide paraprofessionals, substitutes, and teachers a unique arrangement for skill-set training in Formative Instructional Practices (FIP) and Response to Intervention (RTI). Using a blended learning approach for instruction allowed participants to pace themselves, while increasing participants' confidence that learning can take place in various formats.

Taking "Rural" Advantage of Opportunities in the Every Student Succeeds Act

Presenters: Hobart Harmon & Veronica Tate, Virginia Advanced Study Strategies (VASS), Inc; Paul Nichols, Mecklenburg County Public Schools

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 3, First Floor

How can rural school systems gain maximum benefits from the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)? Learn how to target local planning needs, leverage flexibility in ESSA funding streams, and foster ideas for winning innovation funds. A checklist tool will engage participants in self-assessing district readiness for taking advantage of the opportunities ESSA offers. Presenters include: rural superintendent, recent director of state department of education federal programs, and a leading expert in rural education.

Pre-Kindergarten in Rural America: Finding the Teacher is Key to a Successful Program

Presenters: Cathy Grace & Devon Brenner, University of Mississippi

Room: Student Alumni Council Room, Second Floor

As pre-kindergarten classrooms become more institutionalized in public schools, rural communities may be challenged to meet state and national standards for finding qualified teachers. Explore how rural communities can identify and hire highly qualified early childhood teachers. Strategies for working with area colleges and universities to grow partnerships that produce well prepared early childhood teachers will be shared.

Conquering Tech Grants: How to Make your Proposal WIN

Presenter: Alejandra Sulpizio, ePlus Grant Sponsorship Program

Room: Ohio Staters, Inc Founders Room, Second Floor

Learn about top tech opportunities and grant resources available to help make your application successful. This session focuses on a wide variety of steps to take to ensure you receive a win. We will also look at tools available to help you narrow in on funding opportunities right for your district and how to determine your eligibility as well as a look at resources available to help you apply.

2:15–3:15 P.M.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Fostering Hope for Student Success

Presenter: Jamie Meade, Battelle for Kids

Room: Senate Chamber, Second Floor

When teachers are well equipped with knowledge and skills to foster hope in the classroom, we're leveraging our greatest educational resource: student empowerment! Hope is more than a feel-good emotion. Hopeful students are empowered with the will and the way to achieve their goals toward a better future. Explore the evolving science of hope across two decades of research. Over the past two years, more than 20 rural school districts in the Ohio Appalachian Collaborative have come together to capture and use student feedback to foster hope, engagement, and belonging to empower both students and teachers! Hear about the research, experiences, and insights of fostering hope in the classroom in Battelle for Kids' collaboration with Gallup. Learn more about this collaborative journey to foster hope and why it matters!

Creativity Tools for the iPad

Presenters: Apple Inc.

Room: Round Room, Third Floor

Students need to be able to create and share content which demonstrates evidence of learning. In this hands-on session, explore creativity apps on iPad that let students share their knowledge in compelling new ways. These tools give students and teachers the power to become a filmmaker, have a drawing canvas at their fingertips, or redefine reports with screencasts, books and animations.

- Explore built-in productivity apps on iPad that allow students to produce professional-looking documents, spreadsheets, and presentations.
- Learn how to create images and video using the built-in camera and iMovie on iPad.
- Experience apps for drawing and creating 3D images to help students bring their ideas to life.

Strong Readers=Strong Leaders: Mississippi's Journey to Improving Literacy Outcomes

Presenters: Kymyona Burk & Jill Hoda, Mississippi Department of Education

Room: Hays Cape Room, Third Floor

The Mississippi Department of Education will share the process used to implement its innovative and comprehensive approach to building teacher capacity and increasing student outcomes. Explore the coaching model used to enhance instructional practices; innovative strategies used to recruit, identify, and retain literacy coaches; and approaches to delivering statewide professional development and targeted onsite support. This session will also provide implementation guidance for states regarding 3rd grade reading policies.

Using Technology and STEM to Level the Playing Field

Presenters: Cindy Moss, Discovery Education

Room: Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

Find out specific ways to use STEM strategies to motivate students, improve their academic achievement and connect with the STEM community in workforce development. Leave with valuable data and resources to help use 21st century teaching and learning approaches with students.

2:15–4:30 p.m.

Connecting Research, Policy, and Practice: The Regional Educational Laboratory Program

Presenters: Tori Cirks, REL Midwest at American Institutes for Research; Michael Flory, REL Appalachia; Shelley Billig, REL Central; Jerry Johnson, REL Mid-Atlantic; Sarah Frazelle, REL Northwest; Pam Buffington REL Northeast and Islands; Haidee Williams, REL Southwest

Room: Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

See how research translates into practice and how to unpack data and research to address pressing rural education issues, including college and career readiness, educator recruitment and retention, data use, rural program planning, closing the achievement gap, and continuous improvement in a rural school context.



3:30–4:30 P.M.



20-MINUTE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

3:30–3:50 p.m.

Weatherman, Cow Herder, and Teacher: The Complementary and Competing Roles of the Rural Multi-District Superintendent

Presenters: Erin McHenry-Sorber, West Virginia University; Daniella Hall, Northwestern University

Room: U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

Explore ethnographic research on the multiple roles and time allocation of a rural multi-district superintendent and his ability to engage in place-conscious leadership.

3:50–4:10 p.m.

A Phenomenological Investigation of Rural Superintendents' Experiences in the Application of Principle-Centered Leadership

Presenter: Shelby Davidson, Chance Dissertation Winner

Room: U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

Learn more about this study, which explored rural superintendents' experiences in the application of principle-centered leadership in their districts.

4:10–4:30 p.m.

Principal Leadership and Labor Events: The Impact on Rural School Reform

Presenter: Tena Versland, Montana State University

Room: U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

Using an embedded case study, examine the effects of significant contract events on rural principal behaviors and actions as they seek to implement school improvement processes in rural high schools in Montana. Learn how rural principals who, successfully implemented change initiatives during significant labor events, increased their visibility and accessibility to listen to concerns and communicate support for teachers, as well as how other issues interfered with school improvement.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

3:30–4 p.m.

The Key to Forming Productive Partnerships

Presenters: Dana Pomykal Franz & Devon Brenner, Mississippi State University

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

Creating partnerships that result in productive, collaborative work is essential. This session will identify multiple types of partnerships, including school-university, teacher-teacher candidate-professor, school-political office, etc., that may result in collaborative work that ultimately improves student learning. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss their own partnerships and discuss needs in rural education advocacy to improve partnerships.

4–4:30 p.m.

Leveraging Strategic Partnerships: Maximizing Your Program's Potential

Presenter: Thomas Richardson, Van Buren Technology Center

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

Learn how the Van Buren Intermediate School District in Lawrence, Michigan has developed national and state award-winning educational programs that have secured and leveraged millions of dollars of investments; supporting the district's mission through innovative, intentional strategic partnerships with business and industry, governmental agencies, community, and philanthropic organizations. Learn the fundamental elements of developing strategic partnerships in your school district.

3:30–4:30 P.M.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

3:30–4 p.m.

Can You Hear Me Now? Effective Communication to Engage Community

Presenters: Robin Griffin & Andrea Dagnalan, North Carolina State University's Northeast Leadership Academy (NELA)

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Effective communication drives stakeholder engagement and support for your school. Explore the four A's of communication (Approach, Attitudes, Atmosphere, and Actions) to support intentional and effective interactions with community partners. Discuss creative ways to effectively communicate with parents and community to promote a culture of engagement.

4–4:30 p.m.

Community Schooling: Paving the Way Forward

Presenters: Dakisha Perry & Magnus Hemans, North Carolina State University's Northeast Leadership Academy (NELA)

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Family and community engagement is an essential component of a successful school. Developing strong community partnerships can help strengthen the community while increasing student academic success. Gain an understanding of community schooling. Participants will explore how to form and enhance meaningful collaborative relationships among schools and business partners to positively impact student academic achievement.

3:30–4 p.m.

Making Your Title I School Soar with Teacher and Student Growth

Presenter: Frances Harris-Burke, Department of Public Instruction, North Carolina

Room: Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

This session is designed to provide hands-on interaction and inspiring examples of innovative practices that will cause the Title I school to be successful with teacher and student growth. The strategies provide an opportunity for a positive school climate and enhanced academic achievement. Parent support and engagement will also be highlighted. Leave with a packet of strategies for rural educators to transform your Title I school.

4–4:30 p.m.

The Interface Between Facilities and Student Learning in Rural Schools

Presenters: Jerry Lowe & Velma Menchaca, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Room: Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

Impact of the built environment on perceptual development and human behavior is gradually being recognized by educators as an important variable in the learning process. Consequently, an increased number of individuals and organizations responsible for planning, designing, and utilizing educational facilities are considering them as having significant impact upon the learning experiences of children. Examine the interface between the school building and student learning.

3:30–4 p.m.

Explore Free Online Learning Tools Focusing on Essential Leadership Practices

Presenters: Jim Gay & Don Washburn, Ohio Leadership Advisory Council

Room: Hays Cape Room, Third Floor

The leadership development framework presented in this session offers a set of resources, modules, webinars, and videos of essential practices around systemic efforts to improve leadership practices system wide through the development of highly effective leadership teams. These resources are free, meet the criteria for Highly Qualified Professional Development, and users can receive contact hours.



3:30–4:30 P.M.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

4–4:30 p.m.

Leadership's Magic Wand: Collaborating to Align Resources for Durable Change

Presenters: Bill Clarke, School Turnaround at The Rensselaerville Institute; Cheryll Malcom, Homer Community School District

Room: Hays Cape Room, Third Floor

Most rural schools are expected to do more with less. But when it comes to valuable resources, we often only think in dollar amounts of various funding streams and maybe a little beyond into personnel lines and what's in the supply closet. This interactive session will focus on how to work collaboratively within and outside of school walls to align limited resources to outcomes that matter most. It's time to break out the magic wand and figure out what our schools really need to improve student achievement.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Building and Launching a Rural Collaborative

Presenter: Jon Andes, Salisbury University & Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 3, First Floor

This interactive session will provide a step-by-step model process to create and sustain a rural education collaborative. The major themes that will be addressed include: finding appropriate partner school systems; identifying common needs to be met through a rural collaborative; creating a decision making or governance structure; and sustaining the rural collaborative after the 'original creators' have retired or transitioned to other ventures.

Florida's Rural Consortia Serve as a Catalyst for Collaboration

Presenters: John Selover, Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC); Patrick Wnek, North East Florida Educational Consortium (NEFEC); Debra Elliott, Heartland Educational Consortium (HEC)

Room: Student Alumni Council Room, Second Floor

Learn about the journey of Florida's rural educational consortia who have worked collectively to address common challenges that include the coordination of legislative advocacy, student assessment, professional development, virtual education, IT support, STEM initiatives, and teacher and principal performance, to maximize district effectiveness and student growth.

Connecting Students Globally with Video Everywhere

Presenters: Janet Zanetis & Tami Moehring, Center for Interactive Learning & Collaboration

Room: Ohio Staters, Inc Founders Room, Second Floor

We often hear that we should be teaching our students how to interact and collaborate with their peers across different countries, background, cultures, and practices. Indeed, the global citizens and the workforce of the future require employees that are adept with team problem solving through multi-cultural experience and collaboration skills. Using high-speed bandwidth and cloud-based Interactive Videoconferencing (IVC), students across the globe are practicing these types of skills while covering the national curriculum.

Differentiating Approaches to Working with Low-, Middle-, and High-Income Families

Presenter: Melinda Dalton, Waterford Institute UPSTART

Room: Senate Chamber, Second Floor

This session goes into depth on the sociological and psychological differences in families from low-, middle-, and high-income statuses. Understanding the differences between these groups, especially their priorities and concerns, as well as what patterns are present in their lives, will increase your understanding of what motivates them and how working and communicating with families from the different income levels needs to change to be more effective.

3:30–4:30 P.M.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Everyone Can Code

Presenter: Apple Inc.

Room: Round Room, Third Floor

Learn about Everyone Can Code, a new approach to coding that gives everyone the power to learn, write, and teach code. Hear about Swift Playgrounds, a new app for iPad that makes getting started with coding fun and interactive, and get a first look at the accompanying teacher guide. Explore App Development with Swift, a high school and college curriculum for Mac that shows students how to create apps from start to finish.

Problem-Based Learning: Innovative, Empowering, and an Equalizer for Students

Presenters: Barb Cockroft, Young Entrepreneurs Consortium; Kristi Foss, Osnaburg Local School District

Room: Suzanne M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

Problem-based learning (PBL) is an innovative instructional approach that revolves around the investigation and resolution of messy, real-world problems. It is a minds-on, hands-on process where students drive the inquiry process and delve into a deeper level of learning as they identify what they already know, what they need to know, and how to get there. The Young Entrepreneurs Consortium (YEC) in Ohio is paving the way for districts to engage learners in PBL. YEC educators support and guide the learning process through a comprehensive model approach that includes training lead PBL instructors, using a PBL template and curated resources to create units, and access to a robust library of sample units. Learn how PBL is innovative, empowering, and the equalizer for all students, as well as learn how this student-driven approach to learning promotes creative thinking, teamwork, problem solving, and flexibility.

Supporting Rural Innovation Through Ohio's Straight A Fund

Presenters: Erin Joyce, Battelle for Kids; Susan Zelman, Ohio Department of Education; Tony Dunn, Belpre City Schools; Dan Leffingwell, Noble Local School District

Room: Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

Ohio's Straight A Fund supports ideas from local educators that promote academic achievement and economic efficiencies within schools and districts. Many rural Ohio school districts have successfully applied for Straight A funding, implementing new programs that advance student learning and increase operational efficiency. Learn how Ohio has incentivized innovation and how the program has impacted rural districts across the state.

4:30–6:30 P.M.

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION & NREA FOUNDATION AUCTION

Room: Performance Hall, First Floor

All event attendees are invited to attend and participate in this NREA tradition. Please consider bringing an item for the auction that represents your culture or community. Items can be turned in at registration. Proceeds support the activities of the NREA Foundation.



8:30-9:30 A.M.

KEYNOTE: OUR KIDS: THE AMERICAN DREAM IN CRISIS

Room: Archie M. Griffin Ballroom, Second Floor



ROBERT PUTNAM, AUTHOR | @ROBERTDPUTNAM

The American Dream of equal opportunity is threatened by a growing gap between kids from the upper third of the social hierarchy and their peers from the lower third. Over the last several decades, young people from college-educated homes and those from high-school educated homes have diverged on many factors predicting life success: two-parent homes, parental investments of time and money, test scores, physical health, participation in extracurricular and religious activities, school quality, college entrance and completion. Kids from low-income homes of all races are increasingly adrift from family, school, church, and community institutions, in a perfect storm with multiple causes: economic insecurity and stress, the collapse of the working class family, and the unraveling fabric in low-income neighborhoods. This problem poses serious economic, social, political and moral challenges.

9:45-10:45 A.M.



20-MINUTE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

9:45-10:05 a.m.

College and Career Readiness in Middle Appalachia: Statistics and Perceptions

Presenters: Michael Flory & Patricia Kannapel, CNA

Room: U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

Learn about the current state of college and career readiness in Middle Appalachia through a literature and data review. The presentation points policy makers and researchers toward what we need to know and do next to meet challenges. It is a follow-up to the 2015 *Appalachia Rising* report, focusing specifically on college and career readiness.

10:05-10:25 a.m.

Implementing Dual Credit Programs in Rural Kentucky

Presenters: Dr. Michael Flory & Patricia Kannapel, CNA

Room: U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Appalachia examined dual credit programs in six non-urban school districts in Kentucky. The study provides information about how such districts are responding to a statewide emphasis on increasing dual credit opportunities. Profiles of dual credit programs describe the following for each district: structures and policies/practices; postsecondary partnerships; course offerings; course location and scheduling; instructors and credentialing; student supports; quality assurance; costs and funding sources; and successes and challenges to implementation.

9:45–10:45 A.M.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

9:45–10:15 a.m.

Successful School-Community Collaboration is Key

Presenters: Franco Gallo, Keystone Local School District; Erin R. Murphy, MPH, Lorain County General Health District

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

Districts that work with external partners are better able to build the strengths of their students and staff by looking outside school walls. The Keystone Empowers You Collaborative (K.E.Y.) represents 13 partners, including the local school district, which covers 48 square miles. This session will demonstrate the systematic process the Collaborative uses to enhance the relationship between the school and community to improve health and wellness.

10:15–10:45 a.m.

Rural Districts Collaborating to Provide Opportunities for All Students

Presenters: Patricia Ross, Rebecca Short, & Erik Belcher, Fayette Local Schools; Diana Rogge, Antwerp Local Schools; Brett Green, Liberty Center Local Schools

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

Providing a variety of electives is challenging in rural districts. NOVA is a collaboration that began with 17 districts and has grown to 34 districts working together to offer opportunities to overcome the rural opportunity gap in Ohio and Michigan. Learn how districts joined to provide curriculum, teachers, summer school, credit recovery, support, and professional development through virtual learning. Presenters will share how districts can provide opportunities they never imagined were possible.

9:45–10:15 a.m.

Creating a STEM Culture Through a Leadership Lens

Presenters: Mike Whaland & Todd Lamarque, Lancaster School

Room: Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

Advancing STEM education has become an initiative across the state and country. This session will provide methods to build a culture of STEM through focusing efforts around four major constructs to include systematic program shifts, professional development aligned to Next Generation Science Standards, community partnerships, and student engagement.

10:15–10:45 a.m.

Rural Arts Day: A University/High School Partnership Integrating Music, Writing, and Painting Across STEM Topics

Presenters: F. Todd Goodson, Phil Payne, & Vicki Sherbert, Kansas State University

Room: Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

A team of university faculty members created an arts integration project for rural high schools. Students build cajons (a Peruvian percussion instrument), write lyrics, and perform original compositions. The single-day event integrates the arts with construction techniques and principles of the production of sound. Attendees will participate in several of the activities used by high school students. Presenters will explain how these events are used to compile research data, and will share findings.

9:45–10:15 p.m.

2015 Professional Standards for Educational Leaders: Implications for Professional Development and Administrator Preparation

Presenters: James Freeland & Marilyn Hirth, Purdue University

Room: Hays Cape Room, Third Floor

In 2015, the National Policy Board for Educational Administration (NBPEA) updated their professional standards. This research surveys Indiana superintendents regarding their perceptions of the levels of proficiency of their principals on each of the ten standards. Suggestions for professional development to assist principals in updating their knowledge and skills are offered as well as areas where new or added focus is needed to ensure future school leaders are prepared to achieve excellence.



9:45–10:45 A.M.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

9:45–10:15 a.m.

Appalachian Leadership Lab: Building Shared Leadership Capacity in Rural Schools

Presenter: Jennifer Carroll, Appalachian Leadership Lab/Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative

Room: Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

Meet the Appalachian Leadership Lab, a practitioner-developed clinical professional learning opportunity designed to build shared leadership capacity in rural schools. This session will share how the Lab was designed and how innovative professional learning activities are building and strengthening leadership capacity in rural southeastern Kentucky.

10:15–10:45 a.m.

School Leaders' Perceptions and Knowledge of Neuroscience Findings in Rural Schools

Presenters: Patty Kero & Charity Atteberry, University of Montana

Room: Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

This presentation is a quantitative study examining the perceptions and knowledge of brain research of practicing principals and superintendents in rural Montana. Recently, there has been a vast interest among rural educators in the area of educational neuroscience (or mind, brain, and education). This new frontier is transforming how rural school leaders think about learning. By bringing together the disciplines of psychology, neuroscience, and pedagogy, educators can enrich teaching and learning practices.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Engaging Philanthropy and Community Foundations to Build the Sustainability of Rural Collaboratives

Presenter: Gary Funk, Rural Schools Collaborative

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

Effective rural partnerships acknowledge the importance of public education to rural development. This session will highlight the importance of engaging philanthropy and community foundations as pillar of sustainability for rural collaboratives.

Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis Q&A Session

Presenter: Robert Putnam

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 3, First Floor

Learn more about Robert Putnam and engage in a lively discussion around issues and ideas shared in his keynote.

Developing 21st Century Learning Spaces in Rural Communities

Presenters: Travis Dunlap & Victor Hellman, Education Facilities Clearinghouse

Room: Student Alumni Council Room, Second Floor

How are rural schools embracing the new research on effective learning spaces? Classrooms have long been a place for direct instruction; however, new education research centers on trends like maker-space, project-based learning, mindfulness, the role of nature, and other themes. Explore how to develop learning spaces that ensure our students benefit from the emerging best practices in classroom design.

9:45–10:45 A.M.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Getting to the ‘Work’ in a Rural Network

Presenters: Rob Spriggs & Christina Spriggs, Glens Ferry School District; Ryan Markel, Cusick School District; Mike Siebersma, Education Northwest

Room: Ohio Staters, Inc Founders Room, Second Floor

Networks of educators separated by vast distance, district boundaries, and even state lines work only with deliberate support. Hear how teachers in rural schools from different Northwest states form close personal and professional relationships with job-alike peers and help each other get better at classroom practice. Learn what school administration does to create the optimal conditions for teachers to engage in and benefit from the network and what SEAs do to help in the process.

Where to Find Innovation

Presenters: Bobby Dodd, Neil Gupta, & Craig Vroom, Leading Learning, Inc.

Room: Senate Chamber, Second Floor

Innovation in rural education is really not as difficult as it may seem. Sometimes it is just getting started that is the biggest hurdle to overcome. This session will focus on what is behind innovation and how every educator can be innovative to help their classes and schools. Attendees will learn the key components of innovation, examples of innovative practices and programs that are already in place at different schools, and how to apply innovation in rural schools to make a difference.

GlobalCOLab Session:

Presenter: Liz Meredith, Apple Distinguished Educator

Room: Round Room, Third Floor

Learn about the GlobalCOLab project in which students from multiple socioeconomic backgrounds, cultures, and countries collaborate to investigate and construct scientific investigations. Hear about the power of global learning and why global collaborations are needed to prepare students to solve tomorrow's issues. Participants will gain insights into how to implement GlobalCOLab, creating an asynchronous classroom that allows students to post their work in video format and receive authentic peer feedback. To learn more, visit www.globcolab.com.

Developing Rural Principals through Collaborative District/University Partnerships

Presenters: Bonnie Fusarelli & Lisa Swinson, North Carolina State University's Northeast Leadership Academy (NELA)

Room: Susan M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

Rural districts struggle with recruiting and retaining highly effective principals. The Northeast Leadership Academy (NELA) is a nationally recognized, innovative, research-based principal preparation program that works in collaboration with local districts to prepare school leaders for low-performing, hard-to-staff schools located in rural northeast North Carolina. NELA's approach to principal preparation is uniquely different from traditional principal preparation programs. By bringing together the disciplines of psychology, neuroscience, and pedagogy, educators can enrich teaching and learning practices.

Improving School Engagement for Employees, Students, and Parents

Presenters: Tim Hodges & Joni Booth, Gallup

Room: Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

Effective schools require a high level of engagement from all constituents—the employees, students, and parents. Gallup defines engagement by using the terms “involvement” and “enthusiasm.” Extensive research shows that engagement can be effectively measured and intentionally managed. This session will share highlights from the national research and provide strategies rural school leaders can implement to ensure school engagement.



11 A.M.–12 P.M.



20-MINUTE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

11–11:20 a.m.

A Rural South Texas District in Threat of Closure: Follow-Up Report**Presenters:** Gerri M. Maxwell, C. Lisa McNair, & Alexis Gutierrez, Texas A&M University**Room:** U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

This session provides a progress report on a struggling rural high-needs school district that appears to be reversing a downward spiral. With an unprecedented university partnership, and nearly \$10 million in competitive grant funding awarded to support critical turnaround initiatives, the district is showing progress.

11:20–11:40 a.m.

School/Community Partnerships for Reform: Lessons from Rural and Tribal Schools**Presenters:** Catharine Biddle & Ian Mette, University of Maine**Room:** U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

Examine the power of community-based action research to address pressing local issues in rural and tribal communities and schools, specifically by focusing on the work of one such project on how rural and tribal communities in a Northern state work together to critically examine issues of child poverty, trauma, and racial difference in the context of their school system.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

11–11:30 a.m.

Virtual Leadership Mentoring: Preparing College and Career Ready Rural Students**Presenters:** Matthew Ohlson & Christian Winterbottom, University of North Florida (UNF); Mark Bracewell, North East Florida Educational Consortium (NEFEC)**Room:** Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

The Collegiate Achievement Mentoring Program (C.A.M.P.) is a multi-state, leadership-mentoring program in which collegiate student leaders serve as mentors to K-12 students. To overcome geographic and financial barriers faced by our rural partners throughout the nation, we harness the power of “virtual leadership mentoring” and videoconferencing technology available on the UNF campus to help students become college and career ready. Participants in the pilot program experienced increased standardized test scores and attendance, and decreased school suspensions.

11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

A Small Rural School District's Journey to a PK-12 One-to-One iPad Initiative**Presenters:** Kristin Brown & Eduardo Infante, Lyford CISD**Room:** Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

Discover the journey taken by a small rural school district in implementing a locally-funded, one-to-one technology initiative. Receive an inside look into the logistics and the funding and administrative procedures for establishing a one-to-one program, and gain access to online resources utilized by the district for replication in other districts.

11–11:30 a.m.

Promising Practices for Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention**Presenters:** Tori Cirks, REL Midwest at American Institutes for Research; John Hill, National Rural Education Association; Erin Joyce, Battelle for Kids; Marsha Lewis, Ohio University**Room:** Great Hall Meeting Room 3, First Floor

The Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest Rural Research Alliance has been exploring the topic of rural educator recruitment and retention. Hear lessons learned and what evidence-based and promising practices are helping states and districts find and keep highly effective educators.

11 A.M.–12 P.M.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Pipelines and Partnerships: Coordinating Statewide Rural Education Outreach

Presenter: Megan Quitter, Western State Colorado University

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 3, First Floor

Rural districts face an increasing challenge of securing effective, highly qualified teachers for their schools. To address this challenge, teacher recruitment pipelines must be built that increase awareness and access to rural districts. Building these pipelines requires the development of partnerships between universities, teacher preparation providers, and rural districts. Learn about a current state-funded initiative that is working toward addressing the challenge of teacher recruitment through these pipelines and partnerships.

11–11:30 a.m.

Partnerships, Primary Sources, and Archaeological Digs: Igniting Place-Based Education

Presenters: Grant Miller & Dave Ardrey, Southern Illinois University

Room: Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

Learn how local leaders from the Library of Congress and the U.S. National Forest Service provided a summer course for rural teachers to investigate Underground Railroad sites in Southern Illinois, including an archaeological dig at an African-American ghost town. See ways teachers were able to utilize these experiences and free sources from the Library of Congress to develop local history lessons and assessments aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

You Come Too: University Study-Abroad Meets Middle School Students

Presenters: Jennifer Collins & Lindsay Hollingsworth, University of Wisconsin-Platteville

Room: Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

This session outlines an innovative partnership between a rural university and middle school. Pre-service teachers participating in a short-term study abroad program in England were partnered with middle school “research partners” to explore their identities. Having collectively defined how geography, history, politics, and economic systems intersect to define them as rural Midwesterners, the pre-service teachers gathered similar information from British middle school partners.

11–11:30 a.m.

Does Class Rank Truly Tell the Whole Story for College Admissions?

Presenter: Kim Kaukl, Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance

Room: Hays Cape Room, Third Floor

Why move away from class rank? Because rank is misinterpreted, it can negatively impact students and taint the school atmosphere. Class rank fosters student behaviors that educators view as counterproductive: Avoidance of challenging classes that impact GPA/Rank. Excessive competition. An unwillingness to take an intellectual and academic risk. Increased pressure from students/parents to inflate/change grades. Without reporting rank, colleges are forced to review factors, like rigor of the student’s curriculum, students’ activities and accomplishments, and test scores.

11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

General Knowledge Among the People: Rural Strategy at College Board

Presenter: Jeff Carlson, College Board, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Room: Hays Cape Room, Third Floor

In 2015, the College Board set a goal to provide greater impact to students in the nation’s 7,000+ rural districts. SAT, PSAT, and AP Exams continue to grow over time, but rural students need greater access. Learn about and provide feedback on the College Board’s pilot program in Colorado and Idaho rural schools. Information on partnerships with CTE, Khan Academy, and extension agencies to help rural students own their future also will be shared.



11 A.M.-12 P.M.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Lessons Learned About Student Engagement

Presenters: Julie Sumpter & Pat Smith, Coalition of Country Schools

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

The presenters will share insights and lessons learned about student engagement while working with teachers and administrators in the small rural schools of more than 35 school districts in southeast Colorado. Experience some of the techniques and strategies proven effective for engagement, including how to get students to take ownership for their learning, and leave with a toolkit for engagement.

Dual Enrollment: What Do Students Really Want?

Presenters: Tracy Najera, Battelle for Kids; Molly Kaplet & Debbie Ames, Rolling Hills Local SD

Room: Student Alumni Council Room, Second Floor

Dive into the results of a survey, designed for students in grades 9–12 to listen to students' needs around dual enrollment. Presenters will share strategies Ohio Appalachian Collaborative districts are using in response to the Working and Learning Survey designed to capture high school student perceptions and attitudes toward their dual enrollment experience and learning environment. Presenters will share strategies Ohio Appalachian Collaborative districts are using in response to student feedback to create innovative learning environments that meet student needs.

Leading Networks with Intension

Presenters: Danette Parsley & Matt Eide, Education Northwest

Room: Ohio Staters, Inc Founders Room, Second Floor

What makes a rural network successful? More member autonomy or greater accountability? Pursuing growth or maintaining an intimate community? The answer is both/and. A network is a complex, dynamic human system that requires its leadership to balance tensions like these to optimize the collaborative experience using input from the members themselves. Learn how one rural network's steering committee has managed such tensions over time.

Connecting the Community to Curriculum Through a Problem Scenario Process

Presenters: Tasha Werry, Building Bridges to Careers/Marietta City Schools; Sarah Miller & Nick Arnold, Marietta City Schools

Room: Senate Chamber, Second Floor

Building Bridges to Careers has created a process that directly connects students, teachers, and local business representatives. The process includes four phases: professional development, implementation, reflection, and networking. Learn how this process has impacted all three stakeholders and how this process can be implemented in your district.

Cultivating Higher Levels of Teaching and Learning

Presenters: Apple Inc.

Room: Round Room, Third Floor

Digital content and mobile devices are changing the education landscape. Ultimately, the greatest improvement to learning occurs when educators integrate technology to modify and redefine the learning experience. Through a hands-on approach, participants will engage in activities that demonstrate ways to integrate technology into the learning environment to empower students and increase achievement.

11 A.M.-12 P.M.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Give Students Ownership? We Did, and Here's What Happened

Presenters: Aaron Sitze, Cole Davidson, Valeria Viteri-Pflucker, & Ellen Reckamp, Oregon High School

Room: Suzanne M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

The Open Program (OP) is a third-year initiative in a small, rural high school, created by teachers to empower students to take ownership of their own learning through metacognitive training. OP students enjoy an “open” educational climate across multiple class periods, choosing their own pacing, mastery methods, and community-based projects. The result is incredible growth and wild success. This session is designed for schools looking in-house for innovative progress.

Becoming a Culturally Competent Educator

Presenter: Denise Schares, University of Northern Iowa

Room: Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

As our schools become more culturally diverse, the challenge of serving all students becomes increasingly important to address. This session will focus on understanding the role of school leaders, teachers and support staff in meeting the learning needs of all students. Strategies, conversations, and reflection prompts will be shared to promote a greater understanding of the impact of cultural diversity on learning and potential actions to effectively serve all students.

Student Leadership Development as a Catalyst for Community Growth

Presenters: Patrick Klein, Ben Scragg, & Jordan Moseley, The iBELIEVE Foundation

Room: Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

Learn how the iBelieve Foundation provides opportunities to Appalachian youth to develop 21st century skills such as leadership, communication, and problem solving. Ultimately, iBELIEVE's ambitious goal is to increase collegiate attendance and retention in the Appalachian communities of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Through its unique programming, students develop the locus of control and drive to pursue their goals in higher education, with a focus on their communities.

12:15-1 P.M.

LUNCH

Room: Archie M. Griffin Ballroom, Second Floor

1-2 P.M.

2016-2017 MONSANTO FUND RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Room: Archie M. Griffin Ballroom, Second Floor



Hear from Virginia Sautner, a Nationally Board Certified Teacher from Lake Havasu, Arizona as she receives her award. Virginia teaches 9th grade English Language Arts and Student Government at Lake Havasu High School.



2:15–3:15 P.M.

**20-MINUTE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS****2:15–2:35 p.m.****Rural Educational Attainment in the 21st Century: Current Status and Future Considerations****Presenters:** Sarah Schmitt-Wilson, Jayne Downey, & Ashley Beck, Montana State University**Room:** U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

This interactive research session will provide an updated perspective on the educational attainment of rural students by utilizing data from the Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002 (ELS: 2002). Presenters will show how the most recent data aligns with previous findings and also sheds new light on this generation of rural youth. Discuss various factors influencing educational attainment among students from rural communities.

2:35–2:55 p.m.**Rural High School Students' Barriers to Tuition-Free Community College****Presenters:** Marcus Green & Jeff Fleckenstein, North Carolina New Schools/Breakthrough Learning**Room:** U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

Despite the current commitment and funding of tuition-free community college for high schoolers in North Carolina, discrepancies exist in the number of students who are eligible for this opportunity and the number of students who are utilizing the program who are eligible. This session will highlight findings on the obstacles limiting rural students' access to free community college and also share ways NC rural high schools are working to overcome these obstacles.

2:55–3:15 p.m.**College and Career Decisions of Students in a De-industrialized Rural Community****Presenters:** Tena Versland, Montana State University; Lynne Scalia, Livingston Public Schools**Room:** U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

This study describes the complexity of factors as rural students in a de-industrialized community move from high school into college and work. Students identified economic uncertainty, lack of adult mentoring, and doubts about the benefits of a college degree as factors influencing post-secondary decisions. Rural high schools can ease these transitions by increasing career counseling, offering dual credit courses in vocational and academic subjects, and by creating real-world experiences that better prepare students for adult life.

2:15–2:35 p.m.**National Writing Project: Effective Professional Development for Rural Teachers of College-Ready Writing****Presenters:** Laura Stokes, Inverness Research; Teresa McCaffrey, SRI International**Room:** Suzanne M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

The National Writing Project's College-Ready Writers Program served teachers in high poverty rural districts in 10 states over two years. A randomized, controlled trial showed positive impacts on a rigorous measure of academic argument writing. Presenters will describe features of the program that made it particularly effective for rural educators. Discuss implications for rural efforts to prepare students for college and careers.

2:35–2:55 p.m.**Self-perceptions of Reading Among Rural and Urban Elementary Students****Presenters:** Jennifer Chambers, Jason Creekmore, Shannon Deaton, & Jennifer Simpson, University of the Cumberlands**Room:** Suzanne M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

Dive into the results of an interest survey concerning reading perceptions among rural and urban students across regions of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Ohio. Review relevant literature and methodology, including a summary of study results and implications for practitioners. Following a discussion of findings, share how your own experiences with P-12 students compare to research findings.

2:15–3:15 P.M.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

2:15–2:45 p.m.

Always Listen to Your PALS: Promising Appalachian Leaders in Service

Presenters: Mary Gibson, Partners for Education; Michael Hughes, Berea College

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

The mission of Partners for Education (Pfe) at Berea College is All Appalachian Youth Succeed in School. A piece of our work impacts students' lives outside the classroom. This session highlights our regional high school leadership team that has shared the stage with nationally known educators, state politicians, and hometown heroes. They share their stories to bring attention to myriad issues they believe impact high school students and today's Appalachian rural families.

2:45–3:15 p.m.

Inspiring Regional Commitment for Student Success

Presenters: David Branch, Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center; Christopher Keylor, Ohio Valley Educational Service Center

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 1, First Floor

Learn the story of Appalachian Ohio P–20 Council's formative stages, its challenges, and strategic plan. Founded in 2013, the 90–100 member council represents nine Appalachian counties (40,000+ students, 79 buildings, etc.). Representatives from higher education, business, workforce, K–12, philanthropy, and elected officials meet quarterly to identify challenges and share solutions and resources. A network of 50 influencers champion the council's vision and advocate for its work. Watch video clips of various meetings and receive sample communications and documents.

2:15–2:45 p.m.

Impacting the Lives of Expelled and Suspended Students in South-Central Colorado

Presenters: Denille LePlatt & Ashleigh Valentine, Generation Schools Network; Victoria Stone, EARSS Advocate, South Central BOCES

Room: Ohio Staters, Inc Founders Room, Second Floor

Through funding from the state administered Expelled and At-Risk Student Services (EARSS) Grant in Colorado, Generation Schools Network (GSN) has provided support to the South Central BOCES and nine of its districts to launch a rural advocacy program. The program makes possible a regularly scheduled site visit by a trained itinerant advocate who provides social/emotional, academic, and family support to the 15 percent of students facing the most significant challenges to completing their education. The initial results of the strategy are promising. Student attendance, engagement, and parent involvement have all increased and advocates can point to individual wins like internships or agency referrals that have kept specific student's from dropping out. Learn about the structures, objectives, lessons learned, and strategies for replication.

2:45–3:15 p.m.

Rural Gifted Education: Building a Culture of Enrichment

Presenters: Heather Clark & Jaime Scott, Northridge Local School District

Room: Ohio Staters, Inc Founders Room, Second Floor

This session will showcase the four-year journey taken to bring back gifted and talented programming in a small rural district with limited funds. Using a step-by-step process, enrichment became a priority by providing high quality professional development, communicating with parents, encouraging acceleration, increasing advanced course offerings and College Credit Plus programming, creating STEM opportunities, etc. Leave with impactful ideas and strategies that maximize your resources for supporting students.



2:15–3:15 P.M.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

2:15–2:45 p.m.

The Irreplaceables: Building Tomorrow's Irreplaceable Today

Presenters: Sandra Byrd & Lemondre' Watson, North Carolina State University's Northeast Leadership Academy (NELA)

Room: Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

Ignite the fire in educators to become irreplaceables. Leave with strategies to support and retain highly effective teachers, and explore how to motivate teachers in your building to become irreplaceable life changers who are committed to impact, support, and moving education forward by being irreplaceable.

2:45–3:15 p.m.

Online Mentoring for Teacher Effectiveness and Retention

Presenter: Diana Richie, New Teacher Center

Room: Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

Struggling to retain STEM, special education, or other new teachers? Join this session to learn more about a research-based system of support for new teachers with proven results. Learn more about e-Mentoring for Student Success (eMSS) through a case study in Kansas where retention went from 40 to 80 percent.

2:15–2:45 p.m.

Round Up Time! Informing Statewide Policy and Practice Through Research Partnerships

Presenters: Haidee Williams & Vicki Dimock, AIR; Susan Pinson, Oklahoma State Department of Education; Kathren Stehno, Oklahoma Office of Educational Quality and Accountability

Room: Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

How can a research team round up practices in the field and deliver a herd of promising ideas to the Oklahoma Corral? Learn how a research organization teamed up with state education agencies to analyze the challenge of professional development approaches in rural schools. This collaborative partnership is leveraging research with current and potential strategies to brand promising ideas statewide.

2:45–3:15 p.m.

Hybrid Teaching and Learning for Rural Populations and Beyond

Presenters: Ketal Patel, Mary Schneider, & Jeff Schneider, PAST Foundation

Room: Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

The PAST Team is proud to share the Hybrid Teaching and Learning Model its been refining and growing over the past five years in rural South Dakota. This session will share the practical iterations we have gone through as a team to develop a model that hones in on best practice and leverages the strengths of our educator team to design relevant transdisciplinary problem-based learning opportunities that are best for students.

2:15–3:15 P.M.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

From Caterpillar to Butterfly: The “Nature” of Change

Presenters: Vivian Franklin & Nancy Dishner, Niswonger Foundation

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 2, First Floor

A group of teachers, principals, supervisors, or superintendents come together and discuss education. But how does that group discussion go through a metamorphosis to form more than association? How does this group become a consortium that collaborates to lead the education practice in a rural setting? Learn about the changes that can build relationships, capacity, and quality so that through training, support, and action educational, practice can be transformed.

5 Impact Strategies for Student Growth

Presenter: Bobby Moore, Battelle for Kids

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room 3, First Floor

Some rural schools in Ohio out-perform suburban and urban districts in student growth by implementing five specific strategies for success. Learn the research and hear from rural educators on how they are accelerating student learning.

Epic Outdoor Adventures: See What Rural Schools Can Do

Presenter: Scott Jordan, Cuba-Rushford Central School

Room: Student Alumni Council Room, Second Floor

Welcome to Cuba-Rushford Central School (CRCS)—a rural public school located in western New York. CRCS, where the outdoors comes first, has a fish hatchery, research pond, log home wildlife research center, captive deer herd, collared animals, and provides annual field trips to New Zealand, Alaska, South Africa, Canada, Florida, Texas, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania. CRCS also has its own national television show featuring students hunting and fishing around the globe. Learn how middle and high school students are involved in real scientific research, and how educators are making scientific principals relevant and fun!

Closing the Achievement Gap in Rural Districts: Success Stories From Multiple States

Presenters: Shelley Billig, REL Central; Tina Goar, Colorado Department of Education; Tonya Rodwell, Cheraw School District; Jeff Durbin, Stratton Schools; Jon Habben, Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

Room: Senate Chamber, Second Floor

Hear from local superintendents and staff about the instructional and organizational practices they used to close the achievement gap between free and reduced-lunch (FRL) students and non-FRL students and keep it closed for at least four years. Presenters will provide the research base and examples from successful rural districts.

Give Them Hope—Teach Them to Read

Presenters: Kristi Hall, David Chambers, & Mike Jones, Fentress County Schools

Room: Round Room, Third Floor

The ability to read well is a foundational skill required for success. Fentress County Schools in Jamestown, Tennessee has adopted a goal that 90 percent of its students will be reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade. The school district will share the reading system they are using and how they are engaging parents and the community.

Leveraging Technology to Personalize College and Career Readiness

Presenters: Kevin Jacka, Mary Walker School District; Tyler Sussman, Summit Public Schools; Jerry Dyar, Rural Alliance for College Success

Room: Hays Cape Room, Third Floor

See how every student can have a strong personal vision of his/her future and develop the academic and supporting 21st century skills to make that dream attainable. Gain hands-on experience with Basecamp—a powerful, free personalized learning program—and hear from practitioners about their successes and challenges in using the latest technology to customize learning for each individual.



2:15–3:15 P.M.

60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Developing Industry Partnerships and Innovative Pathways in Advanced Manufacturing

Presenters: Allen Pratt, Marion Co Schools/TNREA; Renee Murley, University of Memphis

Room: Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

This session will focus on the process of creating partnerships with local government and industry in the area of advanced manufacturing. Marion County Schools is creating multiple delivery options for students to obtain nationally-recognized credentials while in high school. These options align with the local industry needs. Marion County Schools will share how these partnerships led to being able to significantly increase the number of high school students receiving postsecondary credit. Different options for providing a blended, personalized approach will be discussed, as well as the funding options to implement the program.

3:30–4:30 P.M.

20-MINUTE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

3:30–3:50 p.m.

UPSTART: Using Technology to Achieve Kindergarten Readiness in Rural Utah

Presenters: Haya Shamir & Claudia Miner, Waterford Research Institute

Room: U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

UPSTART is a home-based, technology-delivered kindergarten-readiness program that couples software with parent training and support. With an i3 grant, pre-kindergarteners from 18 rural districts were randomly assigned to reading or math/science software. A computer-adaptive test was administered at the beginning and end of the program to assess gains in early literacy skills, and the i3 external evaluator used Brigance and PELI. Usage fidelity and parent satisfaction were also measured. Analysis revealed significant differences between groups due to higher gains for students using reading, indicating strong empirical evidence that UPSTART successfully helped children develop early literacy skills with improvement across ethnicity, SES, language, and preschool attendance.

3:50–4:10 p.m.

Online STEM Education Content Modules: An Ongoing Success Story

Presenters: Lee Allen & Stephanie Ivey, University of Memphis

Room: U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

A team comprised of rural West Tennessee master teachers has developed, and continues to develop and disseminate Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education high school level content modules and online resources accessible to all teachers in Tennessee via a web portal. These virtual STEM education components have been designed to meet the needs of rural teachers and students who often lack access to resources of higher level STEM instruction.

4:10–4:30 p.m.

Motion Virtual Manipulatives and Elementary School Mathematics

Presenters: Adam Feldhaus & Sarah Diesburg, University of Northern Iowa

Room: U.S. Bank Conference Theater, First Floor

Motion virtual manipulatives (MVMs) are a new toolset that transforms an ordinary classroom wall into an interactive manipulative space through the use of a projector, a motion-sensitive camera, and virtual manipulative software developed by researchers. MVMs utilize an emerging technology for providing enriching mathematical experiences and opportunities for mathematical collaboration to elementary school students. MVMs are also an affordable solution when compared to other existing technologies.

3:30–4:30 P.M.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

3:30–4 p.m.

Developing the Workforce Talent of the Future Through STEM K-12 Education

Presenter: Anne Seifert, Idaho National Laboratory

Room: Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

This presentation showcases how STEM literacy has evolved through a teacher STEM professional development initiative and how stakeholders (government, workforce development, education, business and industry) come together to enhance K–20 STEM education. The initiative, led by a national lab in partnership with higher education, industry, and government agencies, builds a unified statewide STEM focus and educators’ capacity and confidence to transfer STEM knowledge and skills to students; thus, enhancing the students’ ability to become informed and involved citizens, solution-oriented decision makers, and competitive and innovative contributors to the 21st century global workforce.

4–4:30 p.m.

Learning From the Past: Creating Citizens for the Future

Presenter: Heather Hawk, A+ College Ready

Room: Tanya R. Rutner Room, Third Floor

There is a growing achievement gap in citizenship and social studies literacy due to a number of factors, including the focus on STEM education. Yet, social studies is the only core discipline essential to civic competence and the maintenance and enhancement of a free and democratic society. This session will examine the success of a social studies and civics initiative in the state of Alabama that is bringing civic literacy back to the forefront, while integrating social studies with STEM education.

3:30–4 p.m.

An Ecological Leadership Approach for School Counselors in Rural Communities

Presenters: Tameka Oliphant, Bethany Poole, Meaghan Rolle, & Jennifer Voyles, The University of Georgia

Room: Hays Cape Room, Third Floor

Through this interactive presentation, discover a new framework that will help school counselors support students’ emotional, academic, and career development more effectively. The innovative Ecological School Counseling model considers the way school counselors can connect and collaborate with school and community members to make a significant impact in their community. Brainstorm ecological solutions to concerns impacting rural education, including burnout, and leave with a next-steps action plan.

4–4:30 p.m.

Beyond Compliance: School Safety is More Than Just an Emergency Operations Plan

Session sponsored by West | SchoolMessenger Solutions

Presenter: Gary Sigrist, Jr., Safeguard Risk Solutions LLC

Room: Hays Cape Room, Third Floor

Many schools believe they are in compliance with state and federal guidelines and laws, simply because they have an Emergency Operations Plan. School safety is not just ‘one’ thing. School safety is many layers and schools cannot do it alone. School safety is a cooperation between schools and first responders. School safety means training and exercises to test plans. And most important, schools need to realize school safety is a never-ending task.



3:30–4:30 P.M.



30-MINUTE EXPLORE SESSIONS

3:30–4 p.m.

College in Rural High Schools: Experiences of Dual Enrollment Teachers

Presenters: Marsha Lewis, Daniel Kloepfer, & Margaret Hutzel, Ohio University; Julie Haines, South Webster Jr/Sr High School; Robert Krauss, Manchester Local School District

Room: Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

Explore findings from two studies of rural high school collaboratives (involving 40 districts) offering dual enrollment courses in small, rural high schools. Hear teacher perspectives on the credentialing process, working with colleges and universities, and balancing rigor and support to high school students as they transition to college students. Presenters include teachers at different stages of experience teaching dual enrollment courses who will share their experiences.

4–4:30 p.m.

Doing More for Rural Students Together Than Alone

Presenters: Alicia Sells, iLEAD Academy; Rob Stafford, Owen County Schools; Bill Hogan, Carroll County Schools; Tim Abrams, Henry County Schools

Room: Cartoon Room 2, Third Floor

Five small, rural school districts in Kentucky came together to create the state's first regional high school. iLEAD is a Career Academy preparing students for the fastest growing, highest paying jobs in their region. Learn how these districts have immeasurably expanded opportunities for students by sharing resources and breaking the mold of high school education.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Teacher Leadership: An Important Resource for Rural Education

Presenter: Tami Fitzgerald, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

Room: Student Alumni Council Room, Second Floor

Teacher leadership has created a burst of energy in the field of education. As we advance from a predominantly industrial era into a knowledge-based economy, the U.S. educational system must leverage the power and potential of teacher leaders as agents of systemic change. Teachers have the expertise to drive improvement and reform in our schools. During a time when teacher recruitment, retention, and career satisfaction are topics of concern, especially in rural areas, teacher leadership can be a game changer. Learn how you can best utilize the human capital of teacher leaders to maximize system advancement.

Focused Professional Development: An Inclusive Model in a Rural District

Presenters: Heather Clark & Jaime Scott, Northridge Local School District

Room: Ohio Staters, Inc Founders Room, Second Floor

How do you provide professional development that applies to everyone in the district? Learn about one district's struggle, and hear about the systems developed over the past four years for planning, receiving feedback, technology integration, and the overall strategies for making professional development relevant to every teacher, every time!

Creating a Pre-K Through Post Graduate System for All Students

Presenters: Dennis Recker & Craig Hurley, Upper Scioto Valley Local Schools; Sybil Truster, Mid-West Regional Educational Service Center; Doug Durliat, Rhodes State College

Room: Senate Chamber, Second Floor

This session will demonstrate how a small, rural district was able to re-establish itself as a positive change agent for an entire community. Learn about the actions taken, based on locally-developed models, including those that were grant funded. See evidence of what worked and what didn't work, their approach to community engagement, and process for industry-based credentialing.

3:30–4:30 P.M.



60-MINUTE LEARNING SESSIONS

Successful School Readiness Strategies: Partnering with Parents and Preschools

Presenter: Tennant Kirk, Berea College Promise Neighborhood

Room: Round Room, Third Floor

Research shows that children who start school behind tend to stay behind, and struggle to learn at the same rate as their peers. Their teachers struggle to help them catch up and to balance their needs with those of the whole class. Patterns of disruptive behavior often emerge during these early school years as children are frustrated by expectations they are unable to meet. However, children who enter school with age appropriate functioning across developmental domains thrive in kindergarten. Learn how three rural school districts increased school readiness by partnering with parents and preschool teachers.

Dropout Prevention: Implementing Early Warning Systems in Rural High Schools

Presenter: Amy Peterson, American Institutes for Research

Room: Suzanne M. Scharer Room, Third Floor

Learn the specific strategies rural high schools can utilize to develop and implement early warning systems (EWS) to support students at risk of dropping out. Find out how to build on rural district characteristics, such as lower student enrollments, smaller teacher-to-student ratios, and stronger ties with the community to support EWS implementation.

The Power of 17: Harnessing Tomorrow's Workforce Today

Presenter: Kirk Koennecke, Graham Local Schools

Room: Cartoon Room 1, Third Floor

Problem-based learning = “real world” for rural teenagers. Explore the barriers to the growth mindset we need in place, along with examples that prove “why” schools need this movement now. The audience will be asked some value-based questions challenging the fixed mindset of contemporary media, business, and educators, when it comes to the adolescent workforce.

4:45 P.M.

NREA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY & NREA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Room: Student Alumni Council Room



9:30-11:15 A.M.

KEYNOTE: THE COLLABORATIVE STEP STOOL

Room: Great Hall Meeting Room, First Floor



LIZ MEREDITH, APPLE DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR | @MEREDITHEDTECH

Liz Meredith will share her journey through the multiple stages of collaboration, learning to take it one step at a time. This lively session will illustrate ways to create a collaborative approach to education in the classroom, the school, and across the world. Gain an understanding of the benefits of collaboration and new ideas to incorporate in your own schools. The future of education depends on our ability to work together, preparing students to be successful in a globally interconnected world.

BREAKFAST SERVED AT 9:30 A.M. WITH PROGRAM TO FOLLOW

NREA Awards
Ray Drage Awards
Brzeziwski Award
Chance Award
Best Research Award

Passing of the Gavel
2015-2016 Accomplishments
2016-2017 Goals and Aspirations

Introduction of the New NREA Executive Director

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING

Join us on Saturday morning to be eligible to participate in the raffle for more than \$500 in door prizes.

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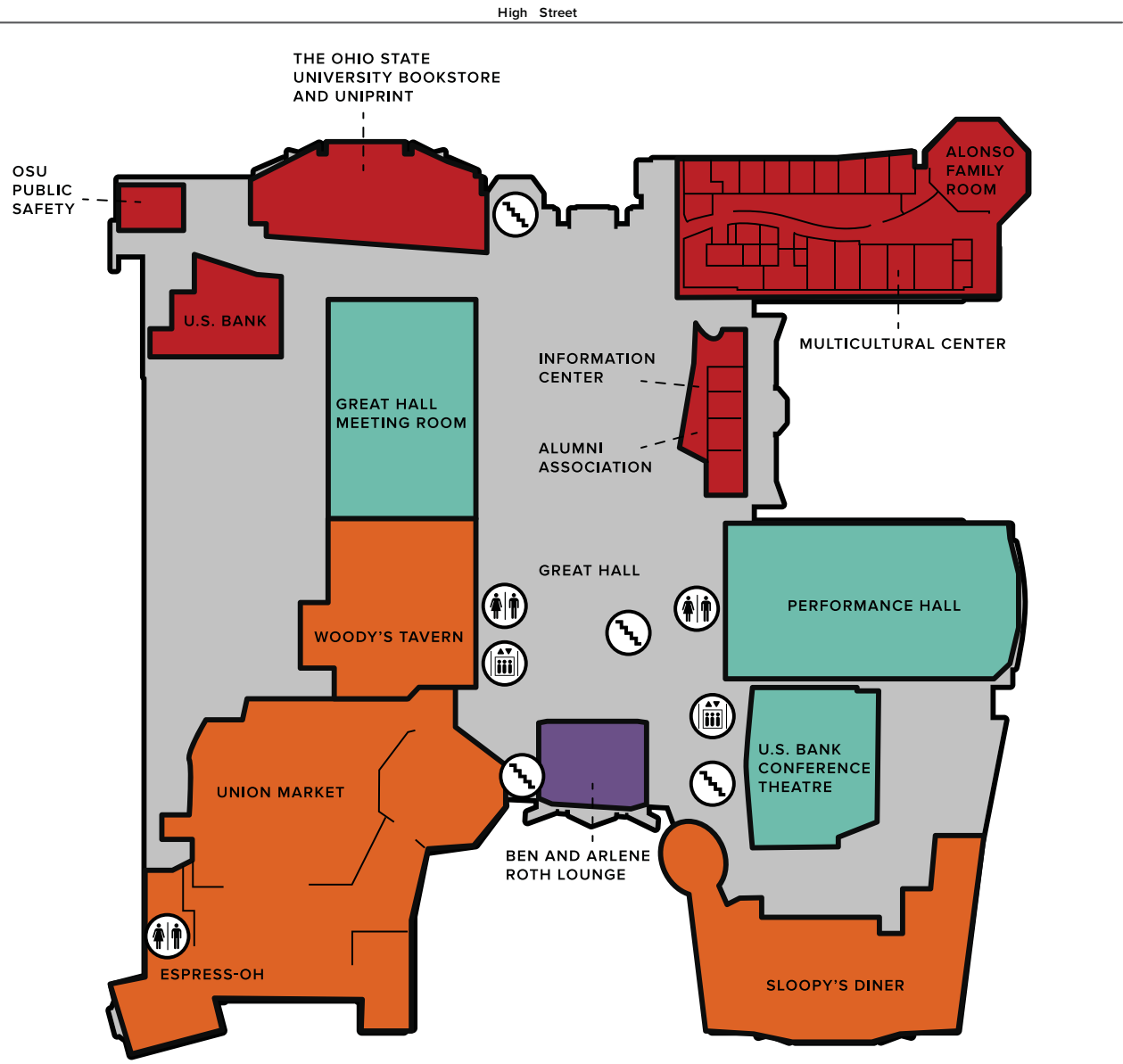
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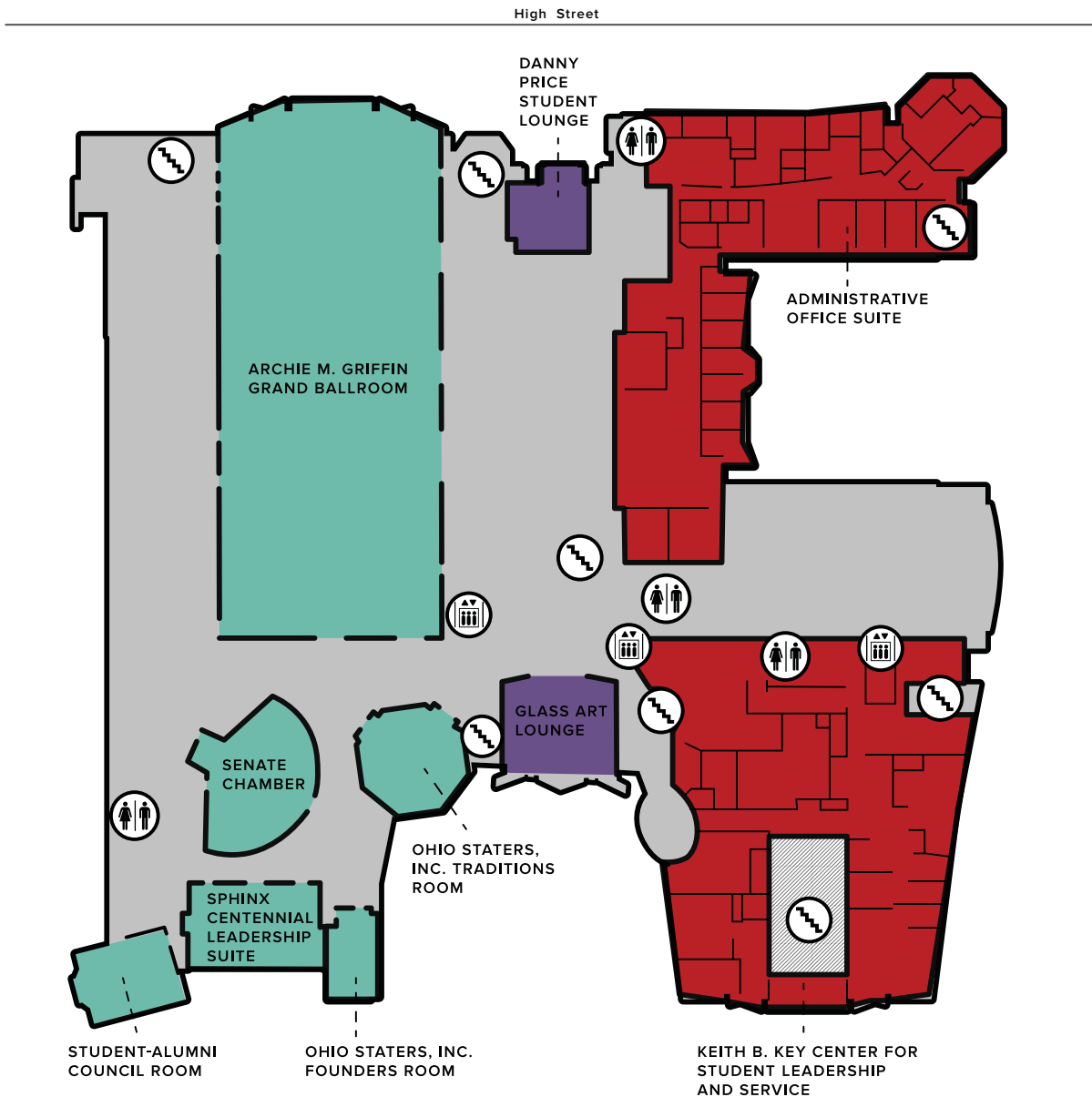
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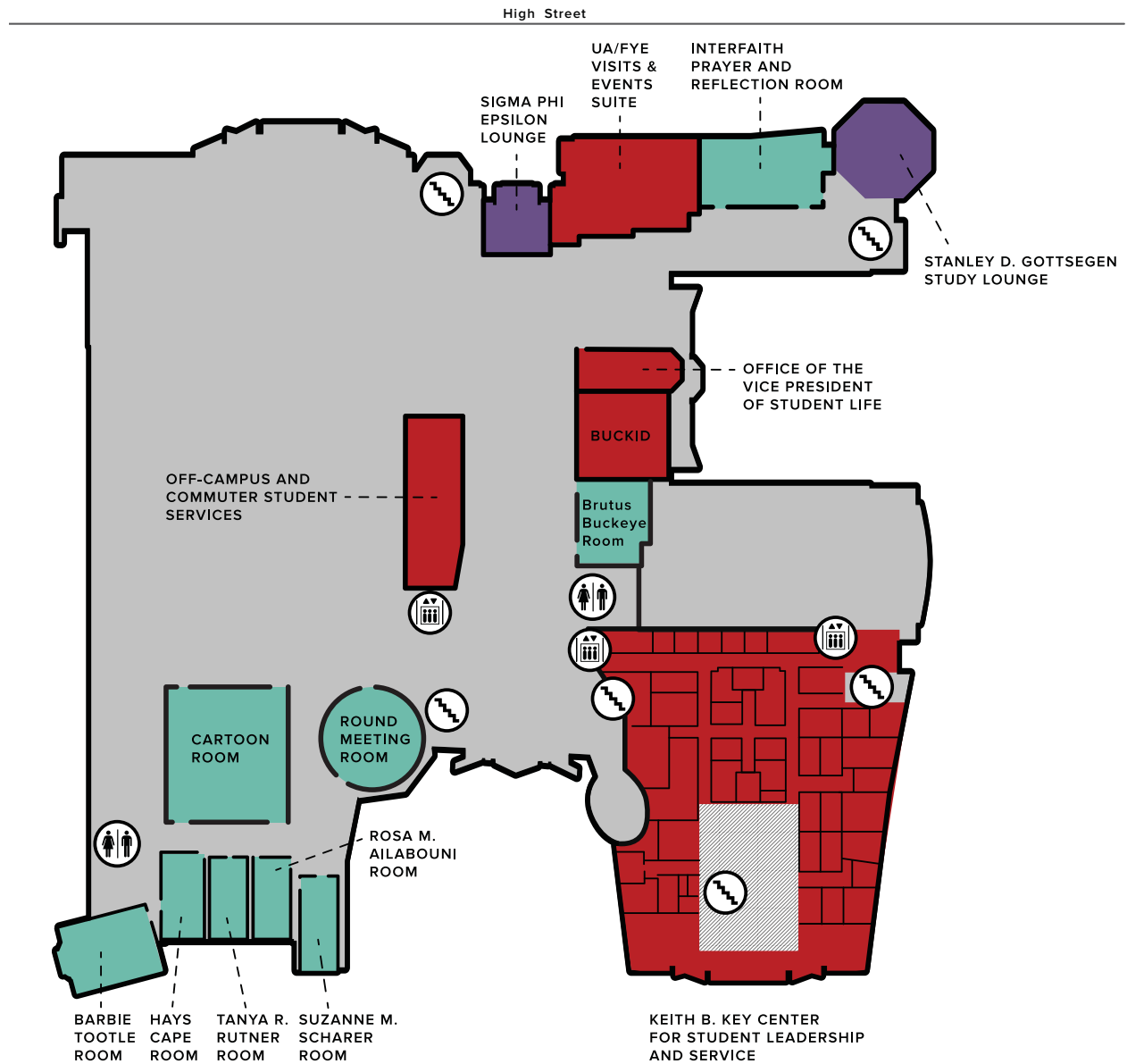


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ABOUT THE EVENT HOSTS

Battelle for Kids

Battelle for Kids is a national, not-for-profit organization dedicated to moving education forward for students by supporting the educators who work with them every day. Our mission-driven team of education, communications, technology, and business professionals provides innovative services, solutions, and products that empower teachers, leaders, and school systems to advance educational equity and opportunity for all students. Learn more at www.BattelleforKids.org.



NREA is the voice of all rural schools and rural communities across the United States. In an increasingly confusing system, we are at your service to help rural educators find and use the resources you need to educate today's students. Whether you need to know about the current legislation that affects rural communities, have completed important research that needs to be published, or are looking for help with the specific education needs you face within your community, our national organization can help. We are your advocates – your voice – in education.

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 www.NREA.net.

ABOUT THE EVENT PARTNERS



The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is a service agency of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Department provides resources and guidance to Kentucky's public schools and districts as they implement the state's P-12 education requirements.

Ohio | Department of Education

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) 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 childcare programs, and private schools.



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