

Agenda

Orlando, FL • October 14–16

Monday, October 14

7:00–8:00 a.m.	Registration	
	Continental Breakfast	
8:00–9:45 a.m.	Keynote—Eric Jensen <i>Poverty: What Matters and What Do We Do?</i>	
9:45–10:00 a.m.	Break	
10:00–11:30 a.m.	Breakouts	
11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.	Lunch (on your own)	
1:00–2:30 p.m.	Breakouts	
2:30–2:45 p.m.	Break	
2:45–4:15 p.m.	Breakouts	

Tuesday, October 15

7:00–8:00 a.m.	Registration	
	Continental Breakfast	
8:00–9:45 a.m.	Keynote—Alex Kajitani <i>Owning It: Proven Strategies to Ace and Embrace Teaching Students in Poverty</i>	
9:45–10:00 a.m.	Break	
10:00–11:30 a.m.	Breakouts	
11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.	Lunch (on your own)	
1:00–2:30 p.m.	Breakouts	
2:30–2:45 p.m.	Break	
2:45–3:30 p.m.	High-Impact Talks	
	Session A • 2:45–3:00 p.m.	
	Session B • 3:15–3:30 p.m.	

Wednesday, October 16

7:00–8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	
8:00–9:30 a.m.	Breakouts	
9:30–9:45 a.m.	Break	
9:45–11:30 a.m.	Keynote—Sharroky Hollie <i>Separating Circumstances from Culture: Being Culturally Responsive to Students Who Live in Poverty</i>	

Agenda is subject to change.

Day 1 Breakout Sessions at a Glance
10:00–11:30 a.m.

Aaron Hansen	
Students as Partners in Reaching Next-Generation Rigor	
Eric Jensen	
Secrets to Building Grade-Level Cognitive Capacity	
Martha Kaufeldt	
The Stress Mess: Improving Learning from Inside-Out	
Sharon V. Kramer	
But We're a Title 1 School! What's More Powerful Than Poverty?	
LeAnn Nickelsen	
Teach So They <i>All</i> Get It to "Got It!"	

Agenda is subject to change.

Day 1 Breakout Sessions at a Glance

1:00–2:30 p.m.

Aaron Hansen	
It's All About Relationships! Advisors + Relationships = Success	
Eric Jensen	
Why and How to Build Social Emotional Students	
Martha Kaufeldt	
The Motivated Brain: Engaging All Students	
Sharon V. Kramer	
Learning for <i>All!</i> How to Turn Challenges Into Opportunities	
LeAnn Nickelsen	
The Best Vocabulary Strategies that Make Words Stick and Make Words Fun!	

Agenda is subject to change.

Day 1 Breakout Sessions at a Glance

2:45–4:15 p.m.

Aaron Hansen	
Commitment, Persistence, and Re-Inspiration	
Eric Jensen	
How to Get School Change to Happen Faster	
Martha Kaufeldt	
Cultivating Student <i>Mindsets</i> for Learning and Life in the 21st Century	
Sharon V. Kramer	
Learning for <i>All</i> Requires Differentiation	
LeAnn Nickelsen	
Strategies That Stick: Memory Tricks for Retention and Transfer	

Agenda is subject to change.

Day 2 Breakout Sessions at a Glance
10:00–11:30 a.m.

Aaron Hansen	
Literacy, The Way Up and Out of Poverty	
Alex Kajitani	
Connecting Math and Literacy: Get Students Reading, Writing, and Speaking in Math Class	
Martha Kaufeldt	
The Power of <i>Play</i> to Enhance Learning, Build Social Connections and Help Students Flourish	
Sharon V. Kramer	
The Top Ten Ways to Become a More Credible Leader	
LeAnn Nickelsen	
Bump Up Literacy Skills Quickly With These Three Steps: Read, Discuss, Write	

Agenda is subject to change.

Day 2 Breakout Sessions at a Glance

1:00–2:30 p.m.

Aaron Hansen	
School Change Is Evolutionary not Revolutionary ... <i>Usually!</i>	
Alex Kajitani	
Teach. Lead. Repeat. Five Essential Skills Every Teacher Leader Needs	
Martha Kaufeldt	
Finding Each Student's Sweet Spot: Optimizing Engagement and Learning	
Sharon V. Kramer	
Learning for <i>All</i> Requires Differentiation	
LeAnn Nickelsen	
Reaching the Reluctant Learner by Empowering Them: Student Voice	

Agenda is subject to change.

High-Impact Talks

2:45–3:30 p.m.

Aaron Hansen	
Efficacy	
Alex Kajitani	
Why Race Matters and How to Talk About It	
Martha Kaufeldt	
Three Mindfulness Practices to Reduce Stress and Maximize Engagement	
Sharon V. Kramer	
Breakthrough Moments	
LeAnn Nickelsen	
What Successful Leaders Did to Achieve Drastic Results in 1-2 Years	

Agenda is subject to change.

Day 3 Breakout Sessions at a Glance

8:00–9:30 a.m.

Aaron Hansen	
Transform Student Culture: Where It's Cool to Be Kind, Cool to Learn, and Cool to Achieve	
Sharroky Hollie	
Culturally Responsive Classroom Management	
Alex Kajitani	
Getting Inspired and Staying Effective: How to Avoid Burnout and <i>Love What You Do</i>	
Martha Kaufeldt	
Change Your Bait! Eight Great Strategies to Get Every Learner Into <i>Flow</i>	

Agenda is subject to change.

Session Descriptions

Aaron Hansen

Students as Partners in Reaching Next-Generation Rigor

Let's aspire to more than merely leading students to pass the state test. Students who own their learning and know that it is meaningful will exceed expectations on high-stakes tests and be empowered to do more. Participants are challenged to get serious about what they really want students to learn to be successful in school and life instead of just on tests. They will learn how to supercharge their PLC practices—the most powerful model for changing schools—to blow through the low levels of thinking on most tests while enabling students to gain attributes, skills, and hope for an even more important test—the test of life.

Outcomes from this session include:

- Using PLC practices to empower kids to own their learning
- Helping kids develop metacognition and self-efficacy for passing the state test and much more
- Being reminded of the “moral purpose” of giving hope to students

It's All about Relationships! Advisors + Relationships = Success

All things related to teaching, leading, and learning are nested in relationships. We all know the importance of students, especially at-risk students, having meaningful and positive relationships with adults. However, schools are rarely systematic about ensuring they exist. Find out how to not only foster positive relationships for your students, but also to intentionally create structures, develop student and staff buy-in, and track data to ensure all students have someone to turn to, who advocates for them and ultimately helps them be successful in school and life.

Commitment, Persistence, and Re-Inspiration

Author and educator Mike Schmoker calls it *the press*—the daily avalanche of reports, lesson plans, grading, parent inquiries, emails, and meetings that add to the enormous pressure teachers and leaders face. It is no wonder that educators often feel frustrated and are distracted from what is important. Aaron Hansen motivates participants through structured activities and stories that reiterate what is crucial: all students learning at high levels. Participants are re-inspired as they develop ways to keep staff members committed, persistent, and motivated.

Participants can expect to:

- Learn how to connect each staff member's personal purpose to the organization's vision.
- Help staff members establish and sustain commitment and persistence to achieve high levels of learning for all students.
- Become re-inspired to make a difference at their sites and in their districts.

Literacy, The Way Up and Out of Poverty

Because all other intellectual powers are dependent upon literacy, it is the most promising pathway to climb up and out of poverty. Learn what it looks like and feels like in a classroom where the key components to authentic literacy instruction are taking place. Get clear about the surprisingly simple ways to plan authentic literacy experiences for your students and grow them intensely this year.

Participants will walk out of the session with a planning template and a plan ready to go for next week.

You can become an instrument of hope and a coach of paramount importance who shows your students what is possible, what they are capable of.

School Change Is Evolutionary not Revolutionary ... *Usually!*

Changing school culture can be rapid when the adults come together around a common purpose.

Learn how to capture the hearts and minds of all adults to collectively commit to change the world of your school. Connecting what Michael Fullan calls individuals' "moral purpose" with the organization's purpose can create a revolution of change. Experience and learn how to replicate the conversations that will start your school culture revolution.

HIGH-IMPACT TALK

Efficacy

The gift worth giving above all others to your students is the gift of hope. Learn how data, motivation, achievement, and success are all interconnected and provide hope when we know what we're doing. Learn how to help your students really believe that they control their destiny, that they are the masters of their own ship, and that it is through their efforts that they can become empowered to say and mean, "Come what may, I can do hard things!"

Transform Student Culture: Where It's Cool to Be Kind, Cool to Learn, and Cool to Achieve

Learn the philosophy one school started and many have followed to go from being a school filled with violence, bullying, disrespect and disengagement to becoming one of the most inclusive, positive, and celebrated school cultures in the country—including being featured on ABC News, CNN, FOX, BBC, and more. Participants learn how to lead their school through conversations that will establish common values as the foundation and self-generated strategies for building their new culture quickly.

Sharroky Hollie

[KEYNOTE] Separating Circumstances from Culture: Being Culturally Responsive to Students Who Live in Poverty

Sometimes, in a willingness to do the right thing, educators confuse a student's economic status with being culturally based versus being circumstantial. Cultural versus circumstantial is a distinction with a difference. The differences are empathy versus sympathy, high expectations versus low expectations, and being culturally responsive versus having a deficit orientation. This keynote address focuses on those differences by highlighting why valuing students through a cultural lens can lead to the validation and affirmation of students who live in poverty.

Participants will:

- Know what cultural responsiveness is.
- Learn to distinguish circumstances versus culture.
- See instructional activities that are culturally and linguistically responsive.

Culturally Responsive Classroom Management

Situational appropriateness is the concept of determining what cultural or linguistic behavior is most appropriate for the situation. Students are allowed to make choices around cultural and linguistic behaviors, dependent on the situation, without sacrificing what they consider to be their base cultures or languages. Participants gain insight into situational appropriateness and will acquire a toolkit of culturally responsive classroom management techniques that will lead to a stronger classroom community and increased achievement.

Outcomes for this session include:

- Learning how to use attention signals strategically
- Acquiring protocols for responding to and discussing these signals
- Gaining a toolbox of movement activities
- Experiencing the use of extended collaboration activities

Eric Jensen

[KEYNOTE] Poverty: What Matters and What Do We Do?

This fast-moving session helps you understand poverty in a whole new way. Discover how school and students are often mismatched. Learn what school indicators matter the most and five steps you can take to help students succeed. You will get actionable tools you can use ASAP.

Secrets to Building Grade-Level Cognitive Capacity

Many students from poverty are street-smart but not academically successful. Learn the core academic skills, that, when taught well, will foster surprising student success. Participants get relevant strategies to use immediately.

Why and How to Build Social Emotional Students

When students have strong self-regulation skills, they often do better academically. This session introduces you to the five most critical skills for student academic and life success. Cut discipline issues and enjoy a well-performing class. Best of all? Each participant gets life-changing tools you can use at home or at work.

How to Get School Change to Happen Faster

Most schools are strong in vision statements and planning activities. The problem is your school must know how to implement the changes that you choose. This fast-paced session will give you five critical tools to empower you and your staff to make changes happen refreshingly fast. Get ready for an exciting new school culture.

Alex Kajitani

[KEYNOTE] Owning It: Proven Strategies to Ace & Embrace Teaching Students in Poverty

Eighteen years ago, Alex Kajitani was a struggling new teacher in one of California's poorest neighborhoods. His students seemed unmotivated, unengaged, and uninterested in what he was teaching. Demoralized and desperate, he set out on a journey to turn his class, and his life, around.

Today, Alex holds the title of *California Teacher of the Year* and Top-4 Finalist for National Teacher of the Year, 2009, and is lauded for his innovation and "real talk" as an educator. His journey—from

frustrated new teacher to being honored at The White House—is one he now shares with educators across the country, to inspire them to new heights and fresh ways of thinking about the students they serve.

Connecting Math and Literacy: Get Students Reading, Writing, and Speaking in Math Class

The abilities to speak, read, and write is now an *essential* part of math class. This session explores high-leverage strategies that are easy to implement and will get students, especially those living in poverty, on the path toward achieving in mathematics.

Specific topics to be covered include:

- Inspiring students to talk about math in a way that is meaningful and relevant to their lives.
- Getting students writing about math, and using math to argue, communicate, and justify their thinking.
- Teaching students to persevere in attempting, evaluating, and solving “word problems.”

Teach. Lead. Repeat. Five Essential Skills Every Teacher Leader Needs

When it comes to the success of a single classroom, nothing is more important than the teacher who leads it. And when it comes to the success of an *entire school*, nothing is more important than the relationship of the adults in the building.

Attendees will leave with practical ideas that can be immediately implemented to elevate teacher leadership at all levels, including:

- Present any issue in a way that gets colleagues to enthusiastically support you.
- Apply simple, high-leverage coaching principles that bring out the best in our colleagues.
- Know exactly what to say and do when a conflict arises between adults.

HIGH-IMPACT TALK

Why Race Matters and How to Talk About It

As a Half-Asian, Half-Jewish kid growing up in southern California, when it came to understanding his ethnicity, Alex Kajitani was *all messed up*. Alex takes participants through his often confusing and sometimes embarrassing journey to understand race and ethnicity, and he examines how educators can use the lessons he’s learned along the way to connect with, motivate, and empower the students we teach.

Getting Inspired and Staying Effective: How to Avoid Burnout and Love What You Do

It’s no secret that teachers leave high poverty schools at an alarming rate. This session explores those reasons and what you can do to help avoid them.

Participants learn how to:

- Build a network that supports you and helps you thrive.
- Pursue balance so you wake up feeling determined and get home feeling empowered.
- Support your colleagues—especially the ones who have just joined the profession—on a journey that is fulfilling, balanced, and makes everyone want to come back next year!

Martha Kaufeldt

The Stress Mess: Improving Learning from Inside-Out

Stress, perceived threats, adverse experiences, emotional upsets, and anticipatory anxiety can minimize the brain's capabilities to think logically, problem-solve, learn, and communicate. Teachers observe high levels of student stress every day! Stress can weaken our immune system and impair executive functions, such as the ability to pay attention, regulate our emotions, and think flexibly. In this session, explore how various stressors impact learning and discover effective strategies to help students learn how to respond rather than react in stressful situations.

The Motivated Brain: Engaging All Students

The brain's natural *seeking* system energizes our behaviors, attitudes, curiosity, and motivation. Neuroscience research suggests that motivation is actually exploratory behaviors that work to promote interest and drive us to pursue and achieve satisfaction. By examining this primary emotional system, we can shift teachers' and students' mindsets to maximize motivation, cultivate effort, perseverance, and tenacity. Learn ways educators can design learning environments and instruction to promote exploratory investigations, to foster sustainable student engagement, and creativity.

Cultivating Student *Mindsets* for Learning and Life in the 21st Century

What will it take to shift educational priorities to cultivate not only content knowledge, but also promote the long-term development and success of all children? Research evidence suggests that mindsets such as perseverance and prosocial dispositions can be just as important as intellectual abilities for student success. Learn strategies for how to help students develop tenacity: positive attitudes about challenges, failures, and setbacks. Provide opportunities for students to develop a sense of altruism: selflessly doing for others, the community, and the planet. Equipping the whole child with the right mindsets will enable them to engage productively with challenging 21st century curriculum and ultimately with life itself.

The Power of *Play* to Enhance Learning, Build Social Connections and Help Students Flourish

Could it be that the need to "play" is hardwired into our brains? What happens to children's brains when more time is spent sitting indoors in front of a screen? Discover how unstructured play activities can help promote brain development, creativity, and our social connections. Learn ways to integrate play and games into classrooms at all grade levels. Orchestrating frequent play breaks may help students pay better attention to academic tasks. Expect to laugh, play, and learn during this light-hearted session.

Finding Each Student's Sweet Spot: Optimizing Engagement and Learning

Each learner's brain is uniquely wired! Recognizing that all students learn differently is paramount to helping them be successful in our classrooms. In this interactive session, learn how to reveal each student's "sweet spot" for learning by surveying prior knowledge, discovering learning preferences, and determining how success was achieved in the past. The "sweet spot" for optimal learning includes: focused attention, high interest, engagement, and positive feelings. Discover how to engage students by addressing the ways each learns best.

HIGH-IMPACT TALK

Three Mindfulness Practices to Reduce Stress and Maximize Engagement

Discover three effective strategies that can help students to *respond* rather than *react* in stressful situations. These evidence-based practices such as core breathing, body scans, and mindful awareness techniques can improve emotional regulation and decrease some adverse effects of stress.

Change Your Bait! Eight Great Strategies to Get Every Learner Into *Flow*

Using Howard Gardner's *Multiple Intelligence Theory*, learn how to create a variety of instructional strategies that address your students' natural intelligences. Put the theory into practice and discover how you can take every task and modify or adapt it to fit the learner's preferences. Students are more likely to try tasks that they think will "fit" the way they think they learn best. Get students into *flow* by matching their multiple intelligence strengths to tasks and activities.

Sharon V. Kramer

But We're a Title 1 School! What's More Powerful Than Poverty?

This session examines the strategies that make a difference regardless of socioeconomic status.

Sharon V. Kramer explores what can be done to improve student learning by highlighting the work of John Hattie and other researchers. This is an opportunity to reflect on the most important strategies and actions that get the best results. Title 1 schools can—and do—increase student learning so that poverty does not define them.

- Examine more than 30 research-based strategies that are more powerful than poverty.
- Learn practical ways to implement these research findings.
- Determine 1–3 action steps that you will implement in your classroom, school, or district to increase student learning.
- Become an engine of hope for the students who struggle the most.

Learning for *All*! How to Turn Challenges Into Opportunities

This session outlines strategies that ensure learning for all. Sharon V. Kramer uses the PLC model to highlight and deconstruct the five challenges to successful and sustainable school-improvement results. Educators who face the unique challenges of serving at-risk youth gain practical solutions to these real-world issues.

Participants in this session learn to:

- Support a culture of success.
- Engage everyone in the right work.
- Establish a shift from what all students need to what each student needs.
- Develop leadership for learning.
- Engage students in owning their learning

Learning for *All* Requires Differentiation

To ensure all students learn at high levels, teachers need to respond to the needs of *each* student. Differentiation is a way to reach all students, but it is difficult for any teacher to do this alone. Sharon V. Kramer demonstrates a collaborative team process for meeting the needs of all learners in a proactive, rather than reactive, manner.

Participants in this session:

- Learn the difference between *proactive* and *reactive* differentiation.
- Understand how a team develops a learning plan that includes differentiation *before, during,* and *after* instruction.
- Identify tools and strategies for differentiation.

HIGH-IMPACT TALK

Breakthrough Moments

Dr. Luis F. Cruz often characterizes educators as an elite team tasked with the arduous work of breaking children free from the cycle of poverty. It is our job to give students stability and structure in a way that allows them to achieve upward mobility. But, how? The answer to this question lies in getting back in touch with our *why*. This high-impact discussion examines the mindsets that are necessary to recognize and create breakthrough moments for students.

Participants in this session:

- Examine mindsets that are key to improving achievement for *all* students.
- Deepen their understanding of how predetermined thinking gets in the way of student success.
- Understand their important daily role in supporting student success.

The Top Ten Ways to Become a More Credible Leader

Many believe that being credible comes from natural, unteachable traits that solely belong to intelligent extroverts. These traits are believed to be innate rather than learned. However, when asked, individuals often describe the most credible, believable people in actions that are completely under one's control—in terms of approachability and positivity, for example. This session focuses on the top ten habits of irrefutably credible people.

Participants in this session:

- Understand the impact of EQ (emotional intelligence) on coworkers.
- Explore the EQ traits that enhance a leaders' credibility.
- Self-assess their EQ to determine specific strategies that will increase the impact of their words and actions.

LeAnn Nickelsen

Teach So They *All* Get It to “Got It!”

Want to double the speed of learning in your classroom? By blending the best in cognitive science, an evidenced-based concept called “formative assessment process,” and differentiated instruction, LeAnn Nickelsen outlines four steps to take in every classroom, every subject, every day to reach every single student. It’s not a program and can be used with any curriculum. Students love when teachers use these engaging four steps and achievement soars!

The Best Vocabulary Strategies that Make Words Stick and Make Words Fun!

Vocabulary = background knowledge. How does a classroom teacher begin and implement vocabulary instruction so that the words stick for a lifetime?

LeAnn Nickelsen helps teachers discover the criteria for selecting words for direct instruction, and participants actively *engage* in the most powerful, brain-researched, evidenced-based strategies and tools to ensure that students truly *own* the important words. These fun, differentiated strategies help your students understand, write, and speak the words daily! You will love the resource packet that has all of the templates and activities ready to go for you!

Strategies That Stick: Memory Tricks for Retention and Transfer

Did you ever ask your students: “Were you here yesterday?” We often get frustrated when our students don’t remember what we taught the day before, but that won’t happen to you anymore if you use these tools that make content stick! LeAnn Nickelsen shares a key learning process so that lessons stick! Participants will get tools and strategies that enhance memory: *receiving*, *reviewing*, and *retrieving content (3Rs)*. Participants will also receive and engage in practical, ready-to-use tools to enhance students’ memory in any subject area.

Bump Up Literacy Skills Quickly With These Three Steps: Read, Discuss, Write

Educators face many challenges to satisfy all students’ literacy needs. LeAnn Nickelsen offers strategies for meeting student needs so they comprehend challenging texts and write in more complex and deeper ways. Students enjoy this three-step process, are fully engaged during the lesson, and grow tremendously in their literacy skills.

LeAnn calls the process the Magic Literacy Triangle: Reading, Discussing, and Writing—an all-in-one power lesson! Teachers receive a resource full of reading tools, discussing tools, and writing tools to enhance reading engagement. They receive student-friendly conversation starters for richer discussions in all content areas. Teachers learn how to approach writing so that students want to write and accomplish the standards at the same time!

Reaching the Reluctant Learner by Empowering Them: Student Voice

What does “empowering every student’s voice” look like and sound like? LeAnn Nickelsen helps participants jumpstart this valuable process in the classroom. One big component is student self-assessment. It can have an amazing effect size of 1.44 according to John Hattie’s research. In fact, by getting students involved in their learning through student self-assessment, there could be 2.5 years of achievement and growth in one school year! Now, that’s huge! Every teacher dreams of students who are intrinsically motivated to master the standards. LeAnn shares research supporting the power of self-assessment and how to jumpstart students to adopt accountability in their daily routines. You will receive strategies and tools for student goal setting, reflection on their learning and behaviors, and specific ways to help them determine where they are with their daily learning goals. You will love the ready-to-go tools.

HIGH-IMPACT TALK

What Successful Leaders Did to Achieve Drastic Results in 1–2 Years

Coming soon!