



2024 Fall Conference

Tuesday October 29th

Morning Keynote: What Does S of R Mean for Content Area Teachers?

Presenter: Dr. Katherine McKnight, CEO and Founder Engaging Learners

Target Audience: Curriculum Directors, Instructional Coaches, Lead Teachers, Administrators

Session Description: The term “Science of Reading” has gained traction in recent years, particularly as it relates to the raising of adolescent reading comprehension in the content areas. But the ideas behind it are not new. In fact, the Science of Reading is built on an interdisciplinary body of research that has been conducted over many decades. This research identifies that literacy involves a complex set of skills that needs to be taught explicitly and systematically. By combining explicit instruction with systematic modeling and scaffolding, middle school and high school teachers will be better equipped to help their students develop the skills needed to comprehend and analyze complex, content-specific text. Session attendees will be provided easy-to-implement strategies that will yield big results.

Afternoon Group Session: Do This, *Not That* to Develop Reading Comprehension

Presenter: Dr. Katherine McKnight, CEO and Founder Engaging Learners

Target Audience: Curriculum Directors, Instructional Coaches, Lead Teachers, Administrators

Session Description: There's no denying the importance of reading in student success. As a result, it's only right to make sure that education programs are based on the most up-to-date Science of Reading principles. What works for an elementary student won't necessarily work for those slightly older – and specific adjustments may be necessary. This session aims to look at the “do's and don'ts” when teaching reading in grades 4-12 within the context of scientific research. We'll go through key considerations for classroom instruction to improve reading comprehension in all students, by reviewing what we should do.

Afternoon Group Session: Academic Round Table

Presenter: Various School Districts

Target Audience: Curriculum Directors, Instructional Coaches, Lead Teachers, Administrators

Session Description: We will have several different districts sharing information about programs, issues and other topics that are happening in their districts. These will be timely, and each table will be only 10 minutes each so you can get more information.



Wednesday October 30th

Session I & II Breakout Options

A. The Power of Words - Vocabulary Development

Presenters: Mollie Bolton, Chief Officer of Teaching, Learning, and Accountability, Special School District

Target Audience: Curriculum Directors, Classroom Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Administrators

Session Description: This presentation will highlight the research around vocabulary development and the impact that it has on reading comprehension in the content areas. We will learn how to target and choose key vocabulary terms for explicit instruction and highlight teaching routines from both Marzano and Archer as well as give some quick and easy strategies that you can implement in your classroom tomorrow.

B. Preparing Your Educators for Literacy at the College Level

Presenter: Dr. Lindsay Uhlmeier, Assistant Professor of Education, Culver-Stockton College

Target Audience: Curriculum Directors, Classroom Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Administrators

Session Description: Learn from a literacy instructor at Culver-Stockton College how your future teachers are prepared for literacy instruction in the future classroom. What can you expect from them? Where will their weaknesses be and how can you support them? Tips and suggestions will be provided.

C. Supporting Literacy Through AI and Beyond

Presenter: Rhett Oldham, Director of Social Studies, DESE

Target Audience: Curriculum Directors, Classroom Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Administrators

Session Description: AI has so many phenomenal uses but if it is not grounded in strong pedagogy and proven teaching practices, it is akin to a shiny penny. Fun to look at, gets our attention, and we quickly lose interest. In this session, Dr. Rhett Oldham will not only provide some great AI tools to introduce in the classroom but also provide resources and strategies to implement them.