



“Let’s Talk Formative Assessment: Real Time and Ongoing”

Summit Day Descriptors

Friday, October 2, 2026

Marriott Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

Summit Day Begins at 9:00am

Keynote Address: “From Evidence to Action: Making Formative Assessment Matter for Instruction.”

Join us as Dr. Peterson shares her expertise in creating and using assessment to increase the depth of instruction in a whole group setting. Formative assessment can be so much more than an exit ticket, a quiz or a unit test. In order to prepare students for high-stakes assessment, it is the formative “along the way” checks that will reveal the level of student proficiency. With that we can move to the mastery level.

Presenter: **Dr. Kris Peterson**, National Director of Innovation and Data Insights from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Target Audience: District and Building Administrators; Instructional Coaches; Teachers; Support Personnel

Afternoon Study Session One: “Match the Demand: Ensuring Assessment Rigor Matches the Learning.”

In this interactive session, participants will learn a practical, step-by-step process for determining the cognitive demand of a learning expectation and developing formative assessment questions that match that demand. Participants will examine examples of below-level, on-level, and above-level assessment questions; identify common rigor mismatches; and practice strengthening questions without simply making them more difficult. Participants will leave with a repeatable protocol called. “Match the Demand Protocol” for examining the alignment among the standard, intended learning, instructional task, assessment question, and evidence of student understanding.

Presenter: **Dr. Elizabeth McCracken**, Executive Director of C and I, Columbia Public Schools (Retired)
Target Audience: District and Building Administrators; Instructional Coaches; Teachers; Support Personnel

Afternoon Study Session Two: “Do We Really Use Data to Drive Instructional Decision Making?”

Data driven decision making has been around for years, but are teachers trained to use data effectively to make instructional decisions? More importantly, do teachers know what instructional strategies or practices show success in student proficiency? During this session, we will take an assessment sample and show how to determine weak areas for instruction and then strategies that can strengthen that area. This will be an interactive opportunity to learn from the presenter and the participants what strategies work and take away ideas that can be applied immediately in the classroom.

Presenter: **Dr. Gretchen Guitard**, Superintendent, Southern Boon (Retired); **Dr. Shanna Schwarzer**, Dean of Students at Battle High School, Columbia and Adjunct Professor for William Wood University
Target Audience: District and Building Administrators; Instructional Coaches; Teachers; Support Person

GO FORTH AND ASSESS! YOU’VE GOT THIS!