

Sessions 2022

Session One-930:10:30

Ballroom B.

Daily Social Emotional Learning Strategies to Support Whole Student Development

Jeff Fuller, Generation Schools

Research continues to demonstrate that a student's overall well-being and development impacts academic outcomes. In this session, you will learn from educators and program creators how they are implementing a daily Social Emotional Learning program to promote the overall well-being and development of their students. Learn about their structures, protocols, teacher supports that ensure value and quality time with students.

Ballroom C.

Building Skillful Teacher Growth Through Instructional Mentoring

Kathy Wiebke, AZ K12 Center

You worked hard recruiting your teaching staff. Not only do you want to keep them, but you want them to flourish. Learn first-hand of the partnership between the Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District and the Arizona K12 Center to retain their beginning teachers through on-going instructional mentoring. Participants will learn about the resources used to advance teacher self-efficacy through well-trained and supported instructional mentors.

Aspen Room

Every Course Rural Students Need. Gearing Up AzSOC

Glen Linbeberry, AzSOC

With funding in hand for 3 years of expansion, AzSOC is increasing class and dual-enrollment offerings while adding CTE, SEI, and college advising. How can we help your students and your schools in the middle of a dramatic teacher shortage? AzSOC programming is free to students and schools; all we ask is your input regarding your needs.

Agassiz

Work Smarter Not Harder: Digital Tools that Bring the Experts to You.

Carol Lippert, GCU

Learn how to use digital tools to promote your school's academic successes and community outreach efforts, how to attract new employees and students, and practical ways to tell your school's story and build its brand on a limited budget. In the age of electronics, a strong digital presence is essential for communicating with the public, especially in rural communities. Learn how to tell your story.

Ponderosa

Living in The Middle of Everywhere

Ben Winchester, University of Minnesota

The notion that we live "in the middle of nowhere" continues a negative narrative that is not based on reality. At the same time, most of our planning is done at an urban or county level. We can better understand this web of regional activity as it varies by age and interest through an Asset-Based Community Development exercise that has some simple, but deep, learning outcomes.

Spruce

Practical Technology, Co-Teaching, and Blended Learning

Amber Morrow, Meg Grothman, John Pothast, ASUPD

Many districts are still grappling with ways to engage and personalize learning. Blended learning strategies are at the forefront of ways to accomplish these goals. In partnership with John Pothast, Humboldt Unified School District's Superintendent in Prescott Valley, ASUPD will explore ways that districts can create a backbone of support that both keeps student mastery and teacher needs at the forefront of strategic initiatives

Session Two-11:00:12:00

Ballroom C.

Drive Your Fleet Towards Electrification – An Experts Overview of the Transition to EV

Scott Wisner, Ben Madsen, VEREGY

Vehicle Electrification is here, but what does that really mean for your district? With the passing of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, school districts now have the dedicated financial resources to transition to clean buses. We will discuss important considerations when planning your transition to EVs, and the infrastructure required to service a full electric fleet.

Aspen

A Free STEM/CS Resource for Arizona Students

Erin Coker, Katie Peyton, Learning Blade

Explore a free, statewide STEM and Computer Science career awareness program. Learning Blade activities support STEM/CS skills development, and reinforces core academic standards for grades 5-9. In addition, Learning Blade now includes a 15-20 hourlong "Intro to Coding" course for middle school to build interest in coding and computer science careers! Also included are project-based learning activities for hands-on learning.

Agassiz

Fair Chances for a Good Life Require the Whole Village

Tracey Beal, School Connect

In this interactive, experiential workshop, participants will develop an asset map of their community, learn how to solve school's problems through design thinking and participate in a community conversation that can be replicated in their school tomorrow. By applying the School Connect Model, rural schools will better understand their community's identity and unleash it's potential to generate meaningful responses to mutual challenges.

Ponderosa

The Forgotten 20 Percent: Achievement and Growth

Brooke Ray, Kellie Shipp, NWEA

Over half of all U.S. school districts are in rural areas. Yet we know very little about achievement, and academic growth in rural schools. NWEA will present new research from the Center for School and student progress, using data from over 2,300 rural schools across the U.S. that provides unique insights into achievement, and achievement gaps in rural schools.

Spruce

Joe O'Reilly ASU Decision Center

Are Your Students College Ready? A New Tool Tells You How Your Students Do in College

The ASU Helios Decision Center for Educational Excellence has developed Postsecondary Feedback Reports showing how your students do in college: grades, majors, GPAs and degrees in Arizona community colleges and state universities. We also include dual enrollment performance. We will share the tool, share how others are using it, and how it highlights the success of rural schools.

Session Three-2:30:3:30

Ballroom C.

Talking to Other Educators About Race?

Dr. Abby Yost, Prescott College

During this both fraught and hopeful time where districts are facing anti-CRT controversies, this presentation will explore how educators tend to respond to PD and training content around anti-racist education. Taken from a Prescott College Study, we will look at common reactions to issues of race, inequity, and Eurocentricity, during teacher training content. What are common responses to the presentation of this content among K-12 teachers?

Aspen

Borderlands Rural Teacher Caucus Panel Discussion

Dr. Melissa Sadorf, ARSA/NREA

Join us for a panel discussion highlighting the advocacy work of seven ARSA teachers during the 2021-22 school year. Five policy issues were addressed, and teachers will present their findings and recommendations to policy makers as a result of extensive field work! Their work is also highlighted in the National Rural Policy Playbook, which will drive federal policy conversations for rural schools.

Agassiz

Level Up Instruction with High Leverage Instructional Strategies

Toni Robinson, Discovery Education

Take learning to the next level with instructional strategies that can be used in-person, remotely, and in hybrid learning environments. This session will focus on research-based strategies you can use in any environment to help students make meaningful connections. Participants will explore practical ways to use Discovery Education's digital resources to create engaging and dynamic learning environments.

Ponderosa

Where it's at: Connecting Rural Schools and Communities for Improvement

Caitlin Howley, Sam Redding, Academic Development Institute

For a family considering relocating to your district, how would you describe what your schools and community will provide for their children? The answer defines the kind of schools and community you want for the people already there. Howley and Redding draw from their book "Cultivating Rural Education" to engage participants with this question.

Spruce

Excellence in Arizona Public Schools: How the Arizona Educational Foundation Can Support Your District.

Dr. Teresa Hill, AEF

Whether you want to celebrate the great things that are happening at your school or you want more support, AEF is there for you. AEF has several programs celebrating public schools. Notable AEF programs that should be on every school's radar are the A+ School of Excellence Award, the Arizona Teacher of The Year Program, and Principals Leadership Academy.

Session Four 3:45-5:00 P.M.

Aspen

Superintendents Round Table

Melissa Sadorf, Sean Rickert, Wes Brownfield ARSA

Join us for a debrief of this year's legislative session and the impact of that legislation on rural districts. Rebecca Bebee, ASA, and Chris Kotterman, ASBA will help us understand the last session and prepare for the next. We also want to hear from members regarding their ideas for the best way to structure ARSA's legislative advocacy efforts. Help us become more effective on your behalf.

Spruce

Inspiring Arizona Students to Colonize the Solar System

Ty White, Wilcox USD

STEM opportunities for rural students are often few and far between, despite them being such a critical component of modern education. Industry Simulation Education is changing that, with innovative events that see students form 'companies' and design a space settlement. Students are mentored by industry professionals, and have the opportunity to experience what it's like to work as an engineering professional

Ben Winchester, Bio

Ben has been working both in and for small towns across the Midwest for over 25 years. He lives in St. Cloud, Minnesota with his wife and two children. Ben is trained as a Rural Sociologist and works as a Senior Research Fellow for the University of Minnesota Extension. His applied research on economic, social, and demographic topics surrounding a theme of “rewriting the rural narrative” is a new way of looking at rural America. He recently received the international Rural Renewal Research Prize in 2021 for this work. Winchester received his B.A. in Mathematics and Statistics from the University of Minnesota, Morris (1995) and M.S. in Rural Sociology from the University of Missouri, Columbia (2001). He was a founding employee at the Center for Small Towns, an outreach and engagement program at the University of Minnesota, Morris and specializes in community development, demographic analysis, data visualization, and moving communities away from anecdotal data.

Caitlin Howley, Bio

Caitlin offers more than 20 years of experience in research, program evaluation, and technical assistance to improve outcomes for young people through the programs that serve them. Her areas of expertise include rural education, education equity, broadening the participation of historically underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); college access and success; and agency and evaluation capacity building.

Her work has appeared in the American Journal of Evaluation; the Journal of Appalachian Studies; the Journal of Research on Rural Education; the Peabody Journal of Education; and Educational Foundations. She also received the 2006 Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Rural Education Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association.

Sam Redding Bio

SAM REDDING is Director of the Center on Innovation & Improvement (CII). A former high school teacher and college dean, since 1984 he has served as the Executive Director of the Academic Development Institute (ADI), and since 2005 he has also been director of the Center on Innovation & Improvement. He received the “Those Who Excel” Award from the Illinois State Board of Education in 1990 and the Ben Hubbard Leadership Award from Illinois State University in 1994. He has been executive editor of the School Community Journal since 1991 and was a senior research associate of the Laboratory for Student Success (LSS) at Temple University from 1995 to 2005. He has edited four books on family–school relationships, written a book on school improvement, edited a book on statewide systems of support, and written articles and chapters in the areas of school management, school improvement, and factors affecting school learning.

