



ELEVATE
CELEBRATE. INSPIRE. EMPOWER. *Teach.*

TEACHERS CONFERENCE

JULY 18-19 • HILTON JACKSON



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Tyler Hester (Teacher Wellness)



Founder of Educators Thriving

Dr. Tyler Hester is the founder of the Educators Thriving program. His passion for education was sparked as an undergraduate at Stanford University when he stumbled across a tutoring program that matched undergraduate students with janitors on campus. Tyler went on to work at the U.S. Department of Education and, during the 2008 presidential campaign, on then-Senator Obama's education policy committee. After college, Tyler went on to earn an M. Philosophy at Cambridge University, where he studied Educational Research as a Gates Scholar. Convinced that educational inequity is the civil rights issue of our generation and inspired to make change for young people in California, he became a teacher in 2008. After four years in the classroom, Tyler became the leader of Teach for America in Richmond, California. In 2020, he completed a Doctorate in Education Leadership at Harvard University. After graduate school, Tyler returned to the classroom as a full-time high-school teacher in Stockton, California. Today, in addition to leading Educators Thriving, he is the Vice Principal of a school in Richmond. He's grateful to have the chance to do the most important work there is.

Maranda Joiner (Mindset)



Succeed and Elevate

Maranda Joiner is a Jackson, MS native, brand consultant, author, and speaker who quit her job to help as many entrepreneurs as possible feel connected, seen, and heard. She is the CEO and co-founder of Succeed and Elevate, a nonprofit dedicated to helping small entrepreneurs overcome burnout. With a background of 14 years in radio at WJMI, she has consulted hundreds of business owners on branding and conducts workshops, seminars, and project management for clients. She has been a guest on numerous podcasts and written articles supporting entrepreneurs so they can feel safe, seen, and supported on their way to success. She has also consulted and served as the brand manager for talent, placing them in a position to perform at Essence, on Comedy Central, and TruTV. She is the author of *A Lot A Like, What Every Entrepreneur Should Know About Branding and Purpose*. She was the host of TEDx Jackson in 2019 and currently serves on the MS Museum of Art's Community Advisory Council and the American Advertising Federation of Jackson board. She aims to help entrepreneurs, business owners, and creatives realize their unique brand voice and change the world through their work.

Dr. Tommie Mabry (Student Wellness)



Tommie Mabry Company

I am Dr. Tommie Mabry, founder of Tommie Mabry Company and Best-Selling Author of *A Dark Journey to a Light Future and Perspective! The Secret to Student Motivation and Success*. I am striving to give educators and students a true look at many factors that daunt academic achievement. My platform tackles the experiences and challenges that students face in communities and educational environments. By focusing on real-life topics such as; Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Trauma, Bullying, Homelessness, Life Skills, Classroom Management, and more, I give teachers a positive outlook on teaching and learning, and how childhood adversity affect students' persistence and resilience levels.

Louise Smith (Closing)



2023 Mississippi Teacher of the Year

Louise Smith is currently in her twenty second year as band director for the Pascagoula-Gautier School District. Under her leadership, Mrs. Smith's bands consistently earn superior ratings in concert and sight reading, and her students frequently place in band clinics and the Mississippi Lions All State Band. Mrs. Smith attended the University of Southern Mississippi where she earned her Bachelor of Music Education in 2002 and her Master of Education in 2005. In 2012, she achieved National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification in Music. Mrs. Smith is a Teacher Leadership Initiative alumna and has served as a TLI state coach. In addition, she has worked on several national initiatives such as National Boards Jump Start Initiative, TLI Redesign, and served on committees for NBPTS. In August 2020, NEA Today featured Mrs. Smith in the cover article "Helping Students and Educators Recover from Covid-19 Trauma" and U.S. News and World Report named her one of the "Twenty Professionals Who Made a Difference During the Pandemic." Recently, Mrs. Smith was recognized as the 2023 Mississippi Teacher of the Year. In her spare time, Mrs. Smith performs with Coastal Winds and travels with her husband, Brian.

WIFI NETWORK: Teach

PASSWORD: Teach!

SCHEDULE: TUESDAY, JULY 18

7:30-8:30 a.m.

Registration

Imperial Hall

8:45 – 9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Salon B

Dr. Courtney Van Cleve, Executive Director of The Office of Educator Continuum

9:00 - 9:45 a.m.







Keynote Address

Salon B

Teacher Wellness

Dr. Tyler Hester, Founder of Educators Thriving

Breakout Key

 Joyful School Communities	 Culture Building Through Content	 Mental Health and Wellness	 Teacher Leadership Opportunities	 Teacher Recruitment and Retention	 Work Life Balance
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Breakout 1

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Creating Safe, Manageable and Inclusive Classrooms

Diplomat 1

Tawny McCleon & LaMareshia Johnson- Mississippi State University - Meridian



This session will offer practical, real-world solutions for novice teachers as they serve the needs of students. This presentation will be filled with informative and invaluable strategies that will empower teachers to tackle challenging and nuanced behaviors of students using planning and management techniques.

Target Audience: Novice Teachers (0-3 years), Elementary Teachers

Exploring the Museum-Classroom Relationship

Diplomat 2

Merry Barnes & bech evans- Mississippi Museum of Art



During this interactive session, participants will be guided through a Close Looking conversation with a work from the Museum's collection. Mississippi Museum of Art Education staff members will lead the discussion and model related hands-on activities to extend the learning. This session will include brainstorming effective ways to integrate the museum's offerings into lesson plans, explore the Teacher Resources available on the MMA App, and highlight the various tour offerings developed by MMA.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Behavior Strategies for THAT Student!

Amphitheatre 1

Melanie Wells- Rankin County Schools

How do you motivate THAT student? Do you need help motivating students who are unmotivated and apathetic? Join this session to learn behavior strategies focused on the whole child and their social, emotional, and behavioral needs. Leave with strategies you can implement immediately. Hakuna Matata – it means no worries.



Target Audience: All Conference Attendees, Novice Teachers (0-3 years)

Using Your Teacher Voice to Ensure Strong Public Schools

Amphitheatre 2

Nancy Loomer, Vandria Gaskin & Holly Dean- The Parents' Campaign

More than anyone else, teachers know what schools and children need to thrive! If educators' voices are stifled, children pay the price. Learn how Mississippi's political will is trending toward public education, and how to use your voice effectively to shape the policies that affect our children's - and teachers' - futures.



Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Retaining Top Talent: Lessons Learned from Jackson Public School District's Teacher Recruitment and Retention Efforts

Cabana

Tommy Nalls - Jackson Public Schools

Discover the valuable lessons learned from Jackson Public School District's innovative efforts in teacher recruitment and retention. Explore successful programs, such as mentorship, professional development, and a supportive work environment, leading to improved retention rates and enhanced student outcomes. Apply these lessons to your own education system.



Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Can Educators Thrive? Avoid the 5 Pitfalls and Experience Well-Being

Crown Room

Dr. Tyler Hester- Educators Thriving

Since 2018, Educators Thriving has helped educators across the country learn about and apply strategies empirically-proven to improve their well-being. Come to our session to learn about the five most common pitfalls leading to teacher burnout and how to increase well-being with research-based strategies. Learn how districts, county offices, and teachers unions from across the country have intentionally embedded well-being programming into their educator supports. Practice with two strategies empirically proven to increase well-being and reflect on opportunities to seamlessly integrate programming to improve educator well-being into the supports your school and district provide.



Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

The Joy of TeachingExecutive Suite
(12th Floor)*Kelly Bennett- Mississippi University of Women*

Teaching isn't a job for the weak or lazy, and many times teachers feel unseen or unappreciated. However, teachers are unsung heroes that make lifelong differences in the lives of their students. This session is to encourage you and remind you of how amazing you are!



Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Diversity in Art Education

Port Gibson

Dr. Lynnette Gilbert- Arkansas Tech University

(Penthouse Level)



Let's delve in and discover different perspectives of engaging students through a diverse lens of teaching art skills and practices. This presentation will share various ways students can tap into their own cultures and creativity as they explore and embrace others. This presentation will share lesson plans, concepts and more!

Target Audience: Novice Teachers (0-3 years), Secondary Teachers, Elementary Teachers

Teacher Wellness, Perspective and Emotional Awareness

Penthouse

Melissa Windham & Myrick Nicks- Mississippi State University- Meridian

(Penthouse Level)



This presentation will cover emotional awareness for increasing teacher wellness. Stress management techniques, perspective and preparation will be key features discussed. Participants will have the opportunity to review keys to wellness and evaluate how these can carry over into their schools to additionally increase work/life balance.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Lunch

11:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Keynote Address

Salon B

Mindset

Maranda Joiner, *Succeed and Elevate*

Breakout 2

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Almost Like Being There

Diplomat 1

Vicky Johnson & Emily Dillon- Franklin County School District



Learn how to use digital tools to build PLCs that work! Find easy ways to build community, share best practices, and support each other. We'll share how we shared tips and tricks, got to virtually visit other classrooms, and shared the amazing things we saw our coworkers doing.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Why Getting Your Classroom Outside is Important!

Diplomat 2

Amie Clark & Rachel Bone- Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum



We encourage teachers to take their students outside. We'll discuss the limitations preventing that and ways to work around them, such as identifying the state standards that can be fulfilled while attending the museum and linking nature-based interventions with improving retention of content and improved mental and physical health.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Overcoming Educator Burnout - SEL Strategies for Teachers

Amphitheatre 1

Dr. La'Keisha Opara-Nadi & Dr. Kanisha Bennett- Jackson State University



Post Covid-19 studies have reported that teachers have experienced extreme burnout, an enduring state of mental, emotional, and physical exhaustion. Teachers must be knowledgeable of social emotional coping strategies to recognize their own needs and to continue developing personal social emotional learning skills as educators.

Target Audience: Novice Teachers (0-3 years)

Working Through Conflict and Forgiveness

Amphitheatre 2

Rick Balkin- The University of Mississippi



This presentation is about the process of working through forgiveness. Contextual and cultural aspects of forgiveness are explored with stories, humor, clinical examples, research, and empirical findings. The content of this presentation is presented in such a way as to bridge the educator and the mental health expert.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Thinking & Writing into the Day: Daily Writing Routines that Promote Critical Thinking and Build Classroom Culture

Crown Room

Leslie Hebert- Rankin County School District



This session is designed for any teacher looking to incorporate multi-disciplinary literacy into their course. We will discuss how daily writing routines help build critical thinking, effective teacher-student relationships, AND classroom culture. At the end of the session, participants will have an opportunity to collaborate with other teachers to plan effective writing routines specific to your discipline.

Target Audience: Secondary Teachers

Building the Dream Team

Executive Suite
(12th Floor)

Tremain Johnson- Holmes County School District



This PD will show attendees how to build a dream team within a school. We will discuss the many different members on the team and how to make the teamwork.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

High Quality Instruction in the Sciences

Port Gibson
(Penthouse Level)

Kevin Gaylor- Mississippi Department of Education



Intentional High-Quality Instruction for Science aims to help participants develop a deeper understanding of the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Science and sense-making in science using a phenomenon-based three-dimensional approach to science teaching and learning.

Target Audience: Novice Teachers (0-3 years)

PERS on the Move!

Penthouse
(Penthouse Level)

Bria Wright- PERS of MS



Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Breakout 3

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Cultivating a Lifelong Joy of Learning

Diplomat 1

Monique Ealey- Mississippi Children's Museum



Joy is key to successful education! What moment made you want to be an educator? What teachers made you excited to come to school each day? Children NEVER forget the way teachers make them feel! Join MCM as we discuss how to keep joy in all educational experiences.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Math is Not a Four-Letter Word

Diplomat 2

David Rock- University of Mississippi



Math is not a four-letter word. Unfortunately, when fear and dislike of mathematics resonates from parents or teachers, it leads to student frustrations with math concepts. We need to engage students with "FUN" learning opportunities with MATH inside and outside the classroom. Come have some fun.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions: Why and How to Use with K-12 Students

Amphitheatre 1

Lennie Troughton- The University of Southern Mississippi



Cognitive-behavioral therapy has been widely used with children and adults, with an abundance of research for quite some time. Cognitive-behavioral interventions (CBI) utilize skills and evidence-based practices from both areas (e.g., changing self-talk, problem-solving, modeling, direct instruction, etc.). This session will discuss how to use CBI's to improve student social skills and decrease challenging behaviors.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees, Novice Teachers (0-3 years), Veteran Teachers, Elementary Teachers, Secondary Teachers, Lead Teachers/Teacher Leaders

Education Policy: Let Your Voice be Heard

Amphitheatre 2

Kelly Riley- Mississippi Professional Educators



This session will share the importance of educators' advocacy efforts with state policymakers and present simple steps educators may take to become more engaged in education policy matters. The session will share resources to support educators' advocacy efforts, as well as highlight significant legislation passed during the 2023 Legislative Session.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Creating and Sustaining Effective Mentorship Programs for Teachers

Cabana

Crystal Jackson & Kristin Scott- Teach PLUS



Instituting and refining mentorship programs is one of the most effective ways to retain and support new teachers. This session will focus on best practice and tools already made and available to help each school and district best support their new teachers.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees, Lead Teachers/Teacher Leaders

Elevating Classroom Culture Using STEM Strategies

Crown Room

Michelle Stubbs- Mississippi State University

Dunnam Shirley- Lauderdale County School District



Creating a culture where students are engaged and focused on finding real world solutions is a goal of classroom teachers in today's STEM driven society. This session will build teacher capacity by demonstrating practical strategies that will incorporate STEM opportunities in classroom instruction.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Infusing Culturally Diverse Strategies into the Classroom

Executive Suite
(12th Floor)

Tawny McCleon - Mississippi State University- Meridian

Lakicha Jernigan- Transforming Education and Minds Consulting, LLC



This interactive session will provide training on infusing culturally diverse strategies into the classroom which will inspire teachers to improve their classroom management and instructional delivery skills. Teachers will learn key concepts, develop a deeper understanding of cultural diversity, and discuss culturally responsive teaching strategies.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Do You Really Hear Me? Strategies for Effective Listening

Port Gibson
(Penthouse Level)

Andrea Krell & Donielle Stephens- The University of Southern Mississippi



Learn to navigate potential pitfalls in listening and responding to colleagues, mentees, students, and parents in this engaging and interactive session. Participants will identify “listening traps” as well as strategies to overcome them.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Decision Making Skills for Educators

Penthouse
(Penthouse Level)

Kevin Parkinson- Teachers Decide



Decision-making skills can help educators become happier and more effective. This session introduces a decision-making framework.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Breakout 4

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

Using SEL to Empower Children from Nontraditional Homes

Diplomat 1

Clayton Barksdale- West Mississippi Education Consortium



Research shows that a large percentage of exceptional children are raised in single family homes; specifically, homes where the father is absent. This workshop will teach attendees peer reviewed strategies on how to effectively educate fatherless students using social emotional learning (SEL). Attendees will understand the heavy psychological burden that fatherless exceptional children are bearing. Additionally, educators will learn the many benefits of SEL, once used correctly, it can be an effective tool to help children manage stress and other trauma which will decrease behavioral problems.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Practical, Effective, Active Instruction

Diplomat 2

Jeffrey Byford- University of Memphis

Alisha Milam- Mississippi State University- Meridian




In the 21st century, students need more than a theoretical understanding of content to be successful. They are growing up in an ever changing and vastly diverse environment and students need the appropriate tools to navigate their world. Teachers can support students in this area by creating authentic, deep learning experiences. However, recent research published by the presenters in 2022, revealed that teachers often avoid active learning due to many constraints in the classroom. This session aims to inspire and empower teachers with the tools they need to incorporate active learning opportunities for effective classroom instruction.

Target Audience: Novice Teachers (0-3 years), Veteran Teachers, Elementary Teachers

Adult SEL & Self-Care Strategies

Amphitheatre 1

Kasey Boyd- University of Southern Mississippi REACH


 Participants will learn about the importance of adult SEL and self-care, strategies to implement, and resources for further learning.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Teacher LEADership (Developing Your Future Leaders)

Amphitheatre 2

John Johnson- Jackson Public Schools, Obama Magnet Elementary School


 As schools and districts stretch to meet higher standards for student learning, more administrators recognize the vital role of teacher-leaders. When teacher-leaders are engaged in school improvement, their principals will want to ensure their success. Excellent teachers who take on more responsibility need and deserve training that prepares them to lead, organize, and develop their peers.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees, Novice Teachers (0-3 years), Veteran Teachers

Bridging the Gap by Creating a Positive Learning Environment

Cabana

Carien Anderson, Sunflower County Consolidated School District


 In order, for students to grow you must build a relationship with them. This can create an opportunity for teachers to create a positive learning environment. This would include their favorite as learning games with or without technology.

Target Audience: Elementary Teachers; Novice Teachers (0-3 years); Lead Teachers/Teacher Leaders

Representing Math Problems with Pictures, Tables, and Actions

Crown Room

Sara Scales & Ayana Hudson- Catapult Learning


 A step of problem solving commonly skipped is the representation of problems. Reformulating a problem as a picture, table, or actions can clarify the problem itself and lead to better strategizing. We'll also explore opportunities for increasing learner voice so students can take ownership of their learning.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Elevate Learning by Having an Engaging, Inquiry/Discovery Based, Student Centered Learning Community

Executive Suite
(12th Floor)

Katie Hayes & Kierra Garner- Jackson Public Schools

 Attendees will gain knowledge about the impact of having a student centered and inquiry/discovery-based classroom can have on academic achievement. Attendees will also discover how to have a highly engaging classroom that also promotes rigor. Attendees will obtain strategies on how to create a student-centered curriculum through discovery learning like room transformations and low prep/engaging lessons and center activities.

Target Audience: Novice Teachers (0-3 years); Elementary Teachers

Leading Student-Focused Problem-Solving

Port Gibson
(Penthouse Level)

Amy Marchbanks & Katie Williams- Catapult Learning



When students know how to manage the process of problem solving, a teacher can leverage these skills in multiple ways. Yet some resources water down problem solving, leading to lost opportunities to maximize critical thinking. Come explore how rich problem-solving experiences can foster learner voice, engagement, and motivation.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

There's More to Math: Connecting Content to Culture

Penthouse
(Penthouse Level)

Kanequa Willis & Rufus Hill, Mississippi Department of Education



This session will center around using content and culture to make math relevant to all of our students.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Closing

4:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Salon B

SCHEDULE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.

Registration & Breakfast

Salon B

8:30 - 9:15 a.m.

Keynote Address

Salon B

Student Wellness

Dr. Tommie Mabry, *Founder of Tommie Mabry Company*

Breakout 5

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

The Power of a Positive Classroom: Mindsets and Relationships

Diplomat 1

Kimberly Price- Mississippi Department of Education



In this training, participants will reflect on the role of the teacher in creating a positive classroom culture by identifying strategies for maintaining a positive mindset and building strong teacher-student relationships.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Creating Authentic Knowledge Construction Through Values-Based Decision-Making Activities

Diplomat 2

Alisha Milam & Matthew Blackwell- Mississippi State University- Meridian



This proposal includes practical uses of Robert Stahl's research related to values-based decision making by providing examples of student activities, especially those related to cooperative learning and historical decision making. These activities can be utilized to increase student engagement, interest in the social studies curriculum, and as an effective instructional tool for both new and experienced teachers.

Target Audience: Secondary Teachers, Novice Teachers (0-3 years), Veteran Teachers

The Benefits of Social Media on Mental Health

Amphitheatre 1

Tiffany Ridgeway- University of Southern Mississippi

Tamara Johnson-Crisler- Katy Family Solutions



Did you know that social media can be a valuable mental health resource? Join the celebration! During this seminar we will discuss the ways we can incorporate healthy lifestyle changes surrounding social media.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Conducting a Meaningful IEP Meeting with Confidence and Preparation

Amphitheatre 2

Erin Hendricks- Mississippi Department of Education



Don't be unprepared for the big conversations. In this session, participants will build on their knowledge of conducting a meaningful IEP meeting. Participants will understand their personal role in the meeting and how to be confident and prepared to present stakeholders with equitable, inclusive programming options based on data.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Creating a Classroom Culture of Social Emotional Learning

Crown Room

Dr. Sarieta Pollard- Mississippi Department of Education



The purpose of this training is to help teachers maintain a classroom culture that merges social and emotional. This session covers the Teacher Professional Growth Rubric, Standards 5 and 7 are covered.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Mindfulness as a Classroom Management Strategy

Executive Suite
(12th Floor)

Ashley Segura- Long Beach School District



Many students have difficulty with regulating their emotions and/or behaviors. Mindfulness, along with social-emotional learning, has been found to positively influence students as a classroom management strategy. This presentation will provide insight to how mindfulness strategies could play a role in behaviors, relationships, and the overall classroom environment.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Empowering Math Educators to Improve Equity and Inspire Learning

Port Gibson
(Penthouse Level)

Kandra Wilkins- Mississippi Department of Education



This session empowers math educators to improve equity and inspire student learning. Equity is about high expectations for every student. Math-empowered educators recognize how their math experiences and mindsets impact their instruction and students' mindsets and learning.

Target Audience: Novice Teachers (0-3 years), Veteran Teachers, Elementary Teachers, Secondary Teachers, Lead Teachers/Teacher Leaders

PERS on the Move!

Penthouse
(Penthouse Level)

Bria Wright- PERS of MS



Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Breakout 6

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

ELEVATING Joy in the Classroom and Workplace: A Collaborative Approach to Joyful School Communities

Diplomat 1

Erika Henderson- Center for the Collaborative Classroom



How do we maintain JOYFUL, healthy school communities? Which practices promote affirming learning environments? Which practices promote learning design and instruction? Join the conversation in this interactive, lively session centering and celebrating JOY. We will share meaningful, relevant tips on building and sustaining joyful relationships with students, teachers, and families..

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees, Novice Teachers (0-3 years), Veteran Teachers, Elementary Teachers, Secondary Teachers, Lead Teachers/Teacher Leaders

Infusing Structured Literacy Lessons into the Content Areas

Diplomat 2

Katie Tonore- William Carey University



Structured literacy prepares students to decode words in an explicit and systematic manner. There is substantial evidence that this approach is effective for all readers, including the 15-20% of students in each classroom with symptoms of dyslexia. This session will allow the participants to engage in an actual structured literacy lesson about the Terracotta Army.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Planting SEAD's (Social Emotional Academic Development) for Holistic Education

Amphitheatre 1

Valarie Steele - Brandon Middle School

Heather Rowland- Teach PLUS



For far too long, teachers in Mississippi have struggled with the trauma caused by the pandemic and the increase in school violence. It is time we develop a framework and infrastructure to address the mental health crises among students and teachers. This begins by listening to our teachers. This session will present findings and recommendations to address education for the whole child.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Literacy Leadership- Leading from Your Current Role

Amphitheatre 2

Katie Williamson- Mississippi Department of Education



Discover what leadership is, how it is effective, and ways that you can lead all from the current role that you are in. Leadership is not a title, but an act of loving others.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Mentoring for Success: Empowering Teachers and Students with the JPS New Teacher Mentor Program

Cabana

Janet Wallace & Sholanda Stewart- Jackson Public Schools



Join us to explore the transformative impact of the JPS New Teacher Mentor Program and discover how to foster positive, rigorous, and joyful learning environments through effective mentorship. Empower yourself with practical strategies and tools to elevate teaching excellence and student achievement.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Creating a Co-Teaching Culture in Your School

Crown Room

Kenny Gibson- Mississippi Department of Education



How do you create a strong work culture for your Gen Ed and Special Ed teachers? Join us today as we equip you with resources and strategies for implementing co-teaching in your inclusion classrooms. What are the FIVE ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS of co-teaching? What are SIX APPROACHES you can take? Find out these and other answers today!

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Educational Utopia

Executive Suite
(12th Floor)

Cynthia Williams- Believing Learning Inspires New Goals

★ Creating an environment which embraces the diverse needs of students and teachers while acknowledging their uniqueness will yield high performance from both the teachers and the students. This session will inspire participants to be intentional in their efforts to create a teaching and learning environment that is inclusive, relevant, and supportive.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Shifting from Planning to Preparing using High Quality Instruction Materials

Port Gibson
(Penthouse Level)

Elizabeth Simmons & Dr. Tenette Smith- Mississippi Department of Education

★ When teachers do not have access to high-quality instructional materials, they spend countless hours planning instead of preparing a lesson. This session will discuss shifting from a lesson plan to lesson prep.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

The Power of the Village

Penthouse
(Penthouse Level)

Louise Smith- Pascagoula Gautier School District, 2023 MS Teacher of the Year

★ Raise your hand if you have felt this as a teacher: adrift, lonely, tired, or burned out. Teaching is complex work while being both soul draining and soul fulfilling. Your role within your village carries importance to a variety of people. Find out how your importance influences your village.

Target Audience: All Conference Attendees

Closing

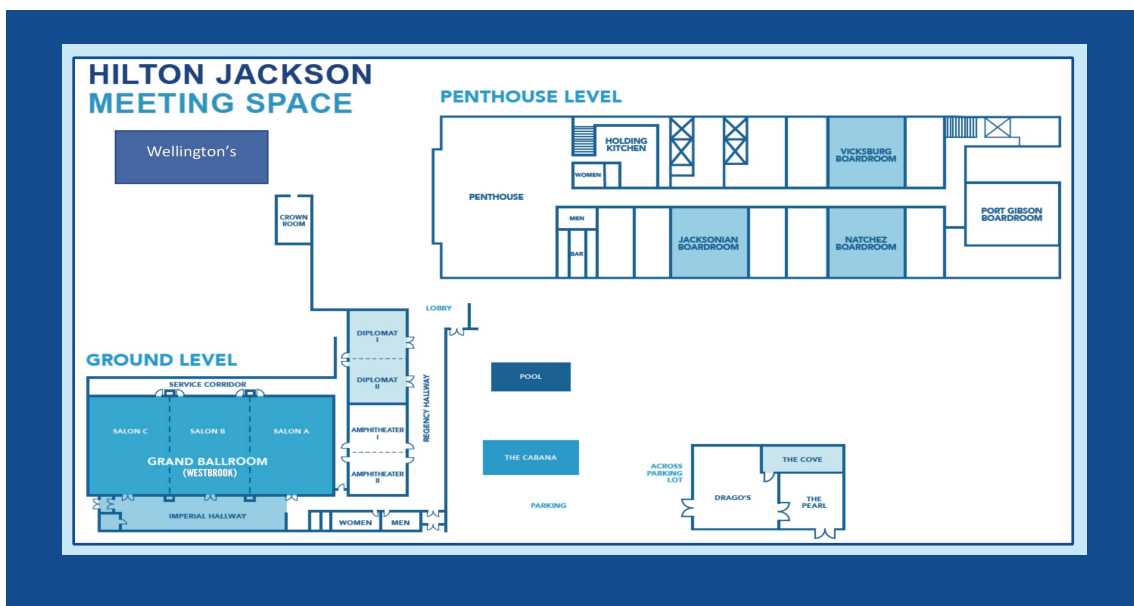
12:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Closing Keynote Address

Salon B

Louise Smith, 2023 Mississippi Teacher of the Year

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. **CEU Credit Processing**



MY AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Write in your session choices from the previous pages to use as a quick reference.

TIME	SESSION TITLE	LOCATION	SESSION CODE
TUESDAY, JULY 18			
Welcome 8:45-9:00			
Keynote 9:00-9:45			
Breakout 1 10:00-11:00			
Lunch Keynote 11:00-12:00			
Breakout 2 12:15- 1:00			
Breakout 3 1:15- 2:00			
Breakout 4 2:15-3:00			
WEDNESDAY, JULY 19			
Keynote 8:30-9:15			
Breakout 5 9:30-10:30			
Breakout 6 10:45-11:45			
Closing Keynote 12:00-12:30			

*Session codes will be given at the end of each session and **MUST** be recorded on the conference survey to receive credit. *

CEU INSTRUCTIONS

- All participants are responsible for recording and tracking all session codes given throughout the conference. Codes will be provided at the end of each session. Participants may earn up to 1.2 CEUs.
- All registered participants will receive a link to the conference survey at the conclusion of the conference. Session codes should be submitted through the conference survey. Credits will not be issued without completion of the conference survey.
- CEU certificates will be emailed to participants. Please allow a minimum of two weeks after the conference for processing. Once CEU certificates are received, participants are responsible for entering earned credits into the MECCA system through the MDE.
- For questions regarding CEUs contact Dr. Christina Liverett, CLiverett@wmcarey.edu

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