



**FIRST**  
**Educational Resources**

POWERFUL • AFFORDABLE • SUSTAINABLE



**FIRST**  
**2025**



University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh

# Advancing The Future of Education

7:30am - 4:00pm



July 30-31, 2025

# Institute Agenda

July 30–31, 2025

FIRST 2025: Advancing  
the Future of Education

JULY  
30

- 7:30am > Registration and Coffee
- 8:30am > Opening and Welcome
- 8:45am > Keynote with Myron Dueck
- 9:45am > Break
- 10:00am > Breakout Sessions
- 11:45am > Lunch (on your own)
- 1:15pm > Breakout Sessions
- 3:15pm > Day 1 Social

JULY  
31

- 7:30am > Networking and Coffee
- 8:30am > Opening and Welcome
- 8:45am > Keynote with Rufus Lott, III
- 9:45am > Break
- 10:00am > Breakout Sessions
- 11:45am > Lunch (on your own)
- 1:15pm > Breakout Sessions
- 3:00pm > Team Planning Time

# Session Details

# JULY 30

**7:30 - 8:30 am Registration and Coffee**

**8:30 - 8:45 am Opening and Welcome with  
Garth Larson**

**8:45 - 9:45 am Keynote with Myron Dueck**



**CH-CH-CH-CHANGES (202?) – Deeper Learning,  
Generative AI and the Road Ahead**

David Bowie offered a timeless warning to all educators. When speaking about our students, and the inevitability of change, he suggests they may ‘be immune to your consultations...they’re quite aware of what they’re going through.’ Education gets a little more complicated with each passing year. With the aftershocks of a global pandemic reverberating, overnight artificial intelligence (or AI), most notably Chat GPT, has dominated the headlines and many of our educational conversations.

How are educators and schools supposed to adjust to the reality that computer platforms and robots can perform tasks typically reserved for intelligent beings – us! How might we need to adjust our purpose for learning? Could AI help teachers engineer environments rich with inquiry? How do we stay relevant? Perhaps we need to rewind a little through history to look for clues as to how to manage change and adapt to new technologies, all the while striving to deliver what students and communities need (and want). With a clear sense of who we are, the service we provide, and the quest to model adaptability, perhaps we can look at technology and change with a little less trepidation and a lot more confidence.

**9:45 - 10:00 am**

**Break  
and Networking** 

# Session Details

JULY  
30

## 10:00 - 11:45 am Breakout Sessions

### **MYRON DUECK - Generative AI is Here... Now What for the Future?**

With the introduction of ChatGPT, Bard, and other generative AI platforms, educators are faced with adapting our instructional and assessment practices. In this session we will examine ChatGPT, Magic SchoolAI and a few other AI tools while we tackle a few key questions:

- How can educators use AI tools in their practice to save time and devote energy to other things such as assessing student learning?
- What are some critical shifts in assessment occurring at post-secondary and elsewhere that can guide our decisions?
- How might the existence of AI impact grading practices and homework?
- What are some effective approaches to instruction and assessment in an AI world?
- How can we increase student voice, engagement, and personalization through planning instruction with AI?

### **DENNIS GRIFFIN, JR.- The Future is Seeing Me**

TBD

### **DANICA LEWIS - Coaching for Innovative Teaching**

Even when presented with compelling reasons that change is needed, most folks will continue doing things the way they always have. Why is this true? Simply put, change is hard. If we want teachers to be innovative in their practice, we must provide the embedded support they need to take risks and try new strategies. In this workshop, we will explore coaching strategies designed to support innovative teaching and to ensure teachers are able to make the moves they need to make in their classroom for the benefit of student learning.



# Session Details

# JULY 30

## 10:00 - 11:45 am Breakout Sessions (*continued*)

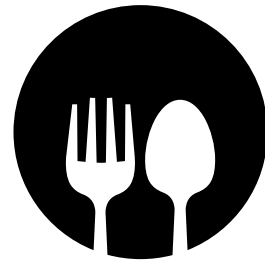
### BECKY PEPPLER - Driving Grading Change for the Future of Learning

Grading reform is a crucial step toward advancing the future of education, yet it often meets resistance rooted in traditional views on assessment. This session will address the complexities of implementing grading changes, including common challenges and misconceptions. Participants will learn effective communication strategies to emphasize how innovative grading practices lead to learning-focused, accurate, and future-ready assessments of student learning. Through real-world case studies of successful reforms, we will uncover key lessons, identify potential obstacles, and explore strategies for creating buy-in from educators, students, and families. Attendees will gain practical strategies and actionable ideas for navigating resistance, fostering collaboration, and ensuring grading practices support student growth and learning. This session is a step toward reimagining assessment systems that reflect high standards, enhance student achievement, and prepare learners for success in an ever-changing world.

### DON SMITH - Now is the Time to Focus on Building Collective Teacher Efficacy

Collective Teacher Efficacy continues to remain at the top of Hattie's list of influences. At the same time, the misinformation about what it really is and how it impacts student learning continues to increase. The idea that a school or district can "do" Collective Efficacy needs to be a thing of the past. Join this session to focus on the sources of Collective Efficacy and how to use them to move you and your teams forward into the future.

## 11:45 - 1:15 pm Lunch (*on your own*)



### Restaurants within walking distance:

- Parker Johns (BBQ, Pizza)
- Big Apple Bagels
- Jimmy Johns
- Bangkok Thai Cuisine
- Subway
- Papa John's Pizza
- Mama's Noodle Bar (Asian)
- La Patrona (Mexican)
- Polito's Pizza (by the slice)
- Niko's Gyros

# Session Details

# JULY 30

## 1:15 - 3:00 pm Breakout Sessions

### **MYRON DUECK - Throwing the Laptops in the Lake\* – Making the future of learning visible through Lego, Play-Doh, and other avenues of authentic human interaction**

According to the most recent research, globally the average person spends around 7 hours per day looking at a screen. For Gen Z (ages 11-25) tack on an extra two hours. If current trends continue, this group will soon surpass 10 hours a day! If screen time was an issue before COVID, it was exacerbated by the pandemic through remote learning, Zoom sessions, and other ways we were forced to connect digitally. While it's clear that technology plays an integral role in learning, perhaps it's worth exploring ways to periodically 'switch off' the screens and explore other avenues. In this session, we'll explore a variety of ways to introduce face-to-face conversations, movement, the outdoors, and 'old school' stuff like Lego, Play-Doh, and art into our instruction and assessment routines.

### **DENNIS GRIFFIN, JR.- TBD**

TBD

### **DON SMITH - Creating the Conditions to Move Collective Teacher Efficacy Forward**

We will explore the five enabling conditions for fostering collective efficacy as identified by Donohoo, O'Leary, and Hattie (2020): Empowered Teachers, Embedded Reflective Practices, Cohesive Teacher Knowledge, Goal Consensus, and Supportive Leadership. Grounded in their groundbreaking research, participants will examine how these conditions can transform schools into environments where educators thrive and students excel. Through interactive discussions and activities, we will delve into actionable strategies that educational leaders can use to create and sustain these critical conditions. Join us to discover how collective efficacy can shape the future of education and amplify student success.

# Session Details

# JULY 30

## 1:15 - 3:00 pm Breakout Sessions (*continued*)

### **DANICA LEWIS - Literacy for All Learners: Bridging Gaps Through Asset-Based Planning and Inclusive Practices**

Our students come to us with varying background experiences and varying strengths in the area of literacy. These variations have been laid bare in the post-COVID instructional era. This session will focus on creating asset-based, equitable literacy instruction that meets the diverse needs of all learners. Participants will explore strategies to support struggling readers, English language learners, and students with disabilities, ensuring that every student has access to quality literacy education.

Participants will:

- Identify barriers to literacy for diverse learners and develop strategies to overcome them.
- Learn to plan through an asset-based lens.
- Collaborate with peers to design instruction for students, with assets and challenges similar to those faced in many classrooms, that supports literacy development for all students.

### **BECKY PEPPLER - Assessments Reimagined: Personalizing Learning for the Future**

What if assessments could inspire rather than discourage? In this session, we challenge the conventional one-size-fits-all approach, emphasizing personalized assessments tailored to each student's unique needs and potential. Explore how innovative tools, including AI, can enhance our ability

to create assessments that truly reflect each student's individual journey. Discover strategies for leveraging technology to identify strengths and growth areas, ensuring assessments are both supportive and effective. Learn how these personalized assessments can serve as powerful motivators, instilling a love for learning and guiding students on their path to success. This session is a call to action for educators to embrace new approaches, transforming their assessment methods. Leave empowered with insights and tools to change assessments, making them beacons of hope in your students' learning journeys.

## 3:15 - 4:30 pm

# Day 1 Social

CULVER'S FAMILY WELCOME CENTER

# Session Details

# JULY 31

**7:30 - 8:30 am Registration and Coffee**

**8:30 - 8:45 am Opening and Welcome with  
Garth Larson**

**8:45 - 9:45 am Keynote with Rufus Lott, III**



**Shaping the Future: Building Meaningful Relationships for  
Tomorrow's Classrooms**

In a world reshaped by COVID-19 and an ever-evolving digital landscape, the role of a teacher has transformed. As we move into the future of education, it's not just about adapting to technology—it's about embracing the human connections that truly empower students. This keynote will explore the disruptions caused by the pandemic, the impact of technology on teaching and learning, and why building strong relationships with students is more crucial than ever. Join us as we discuss how to create classrooms

that foster growth, cultivate trust, and set the foundation for student success in the 21st century. Together, let's explore how to cultivate environments where kids not only survive—but thrive—both academically and personally.

**9:45 - 10:00 am**

**Break  
and Networking**





# Session Details

JULY  
31  
JULY

## 10:00 - 11:45 am Breakout Sessions

### **SHELLY DAUN - Unveiling the Power of Thoughtful Task Design in Mathematics Education Moving Forward**

In this exploration, we delve into the pivotal role of well-crafted tasks in shaping mathematical understanding. Task design goes beyond mere exercises; it becomes a conduit for mathematical discovery and growth. By thoughtfully selecting and crafting tasks, educators—working with AI as a thought partner—can unlock new perspectives and innovative approaches. This collaboration provides opportunities for students to engage in deep thinking, problem-solving, and real-world application. Carefully designed tasks, enriched through the partnership with AI, lay the foundation for a robust mathematical understanding while fostering a mindset where challenges are embraced as opportunities for learning. Join us as we uncover the transformative impact of thoughtful task design, supported by AI as a thought partner, in cultivating mathematical fluency and empowering students to become confident problem solvers ready to tackle the complexities of the modern world.

### **GABE HACKETT- AI-Powered Collaboration: Revolutionizing PLCs for Efficiency and Clarity**

Discover how generative artificial intelligence (AI) can transform collaboration within Professional Learning Communities, making your team's work more efficient, focused, and impactful. This breakout session explores how AI tools can streamline data analysis, enhance communication, and support decision-making, all while keeping student learning outcomes at the forefront. Participants will engage in hands-on demonstrations of AI-driven tools and explore practical strategies for integrating them into PLC practices. Learn how to leverage AI to clarify goals, simplify tasks, and ensure that your team's energy is directed toward what matters most: improving student learning.

### **NICOLE MASHOCK- Neuro-Education for the Future: Leveraging Neuroscience and Co-Regulation for Student Success**

This workshop will explore the cutting-edge field of neuro-education, examining how the brain's functions influence behavior and learning. Participants will discover the power of co-regulation as a tool to foster emotional intelligence and academic achievement. By understanding the neuroscience behind behavior, educators can develop innovative strategies to create supportive and engaging learning environments. This session will equip participants with practical techniques for implementing co-regulation strategies in the classroom, empowering them to advance the future of education.

# Session Details

# JULY 31

## 10:00 - 11:45 am Breakout Sessions (*continued*)

### **GARTH LARSON - Tackling the Future of Education Through Connection and Reflection**

Connection and reflection is not a single act, it's a mindset. During this session, Dr. Garth Larson will emphasize the vital role of authentic connections in enhancing school improvement and along with making embedded reflective practice a part of what you do daily. Drawing insights from his book, "Simplifying School Improvement," this session explores the multifaceted benefits of fostering strong relationships among educators, students, and caregivers. Participants will discover strategies for building trust and empathy, creating an inclusive and supportive school environment. By prioritizing reflection and connection, educators can better understand and meet the diverse needs of their students, leading to a more personalized and impactful learning experience as well as a higher rate of job satisfaction. This session aims to equip attendees with the tools to cultivate meaningful connections and reflective practice that drive growth, learning, and success for all stakeholders.

### **RUFUS LOTT, III - Unlocking Your Potential: Disrupting Your Teaching for Growth and Impact**

What does it take to become the best educator you can be? This breakout session will guide you through the mindset and growth strategies that will help you evolve as a teacher or education leader. Through real-life experiences and thought-provoking stories, we will explore how self-reflection and introspection can lead to powerful transformation. You'll walk away from this session feeling empowered and equipped to challenge the status quo, rethink your approach, and make impactful changes that benefit your students and classroom for years to come. Get ready to disrupt your own teaching and ignite your passion for continuous growth!

## 11:45 - 1:15 pm Lunch (*on your own*)



### **Restaurants within walking distance:**

- Parker Johns (BBQ, Pizza)
- Big Apple Bagels
- Jimmy Johns
- Bangkok Thai Cuisine
- Subway
- Papa John's Pizza
- Mama's Noodle Bar (Asian)
- La Patrona (Mexican)
- Polito's Pizza (by the slice)
- Niko's Gyros

# Session Details

JULY  
31  
JULY

1:15 - 3:00 pm

**Breakout Sessions**

## **SHELLY DAUN - Equity, Access, and Achievement: A New Vision for the Future of Math Education**

Improving student outcomes in mathematics can be challenging and complex, yet it is a vital journey. Achieving sustainable change requires knowledge, persistence, and a collaborative approach to transform classrooms steeped in traditional methods of teaching mathematics. By focusing on access and equity, we can empower educators to embark on a learning journey that creates highly engaged learning spaces where students thrive through rigorous and meaningful content. Let's explore strategies to support teachers, foster student success, and stay the course even when faced with roadblocks and challenges. Together, we can reimagine math education and ensure lasting impactful change.

## **GABE HACKETT- Collaboration Reimagined: The Future of PLCs for Student Success**

In many of our schools and districts, PLCs have become stale and repetitive. Discover how to elevate your Professional Learning Communities to meet the demands of our current and future education landscape. PLCs have the potential to help collaborative teams drive observable improvements in student learning outcomes. In this breakout session, we'll explore collaborative tools that lead to impact in the classroom and create a vision for effective collaborative teams. Participants will engage in interactive activities and gain hands-on experience with proven strategies that can be immediately implemented into their PLCc setting.

## **GARTH LARSON - The Opportunity in Front of You for the Future**

Every day, educators face countless challenges—from navigating evolving expectations to addressing the unique needs of their students and communities. Yet, within every challenge lies an opportunity to make a lasting impact. In this empowering workshop, Dr. Garth Larson invites educators to embrace the possibilities that lie before them, even in the face of adversity on a personal and professional level. Drawing from his diverse experience as a teacher, principal, district leader, and global consultant, Dr. Larson will share stories, insights, and practical strategies to inspire educators to recognize and seize the opportunities embedded in their work every day. Through a lens of optimism and resilience, attendees will discover how to see every situation in front of them as an opportunity to create positive outcomes for students and colleagues alike. Join Dr. Larson in exploring how, no matter the circumstances, the opportunity to make a difference is always within reach. Walk away re-energized, with a renewed commitment to the transformative power of education and the belief that every day brings new chances to shape the future.

# Session Details

# JULY 31

**1:15- 3:00 pm**

**Breakout Sessions (*continued*)**

## **RUFUS LOTT, III - Rewiring Minds: The Power of Neuroplasticity in Building Better Classrooms**

New research in neuroplasticity is changing how we understand the brain and its incredible ability to break habits and form new pathways. In this interactive session, we'll explore how this cutting-edge science can transform the way we think about teaching, learning, and leadership. Participants will engage in real-time teamwork exercises designed to shift perspectives and spark new ways of thinking. Together, we'll learn how a shift in mindset can not only enhance our personal growth but also reshape the environments we create for students. This session will leave you empowered to cultivate classrooms and schools where the brain's potential is maximized, and both educators and students can thrive.

## **NICOLE MASHOCK- Healing the Past, Building the Future: Addressing Trauma and Behavior in the Classroom**

This session will explore the impact of trauma on student behavior and provide practical strategies to create a supportive and healing classroom environment. Participants will learn to recognize the signs of trauma, understand its impact on the brain and behavior, and implement trauma-informed practices to promote student well-being and academic success. By addressing the root causes of behavioral challenges, educators can create a brighter future for all students.

**3:00 - 4:00 pm**

**OPTIONAL Team or Individual  
IMPACT Planning**



 **FIRST Educational Resources**  
POWERFUL • AFFORDABLE • SUSTAINABLE

*Come Learn With Us!*

Through a collaboration with your school or district, we will provide customized services tailored to meet the unique needs of your learners, educators and administrative team.

**LEARN MORE** 

 Scan QR code

 [www.firsteducation-us.com](http://www.firsteducation-us.com)  [info@firsteducation-us.com](mailto:info@firsteducation-us.com)