

Conference Program

Speakers: Chestnut Booth	CS Practitioner; former Dean of Students, Principia College
Sholto Bowen	Principal, Huntingtower School, Melbourne, Australia
Traci Fenton	Founder and CEO, WorldBlu, Inc.
Makengo Ma Pululu	CS Practitioner and Educator, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
Joan Franklin Smutny	Founder and Director of The Center for the Gifted at National Louis University

Workshops/Seminars:

Discovering World Culture Through Art

Using actual art created by talented young artists from around the world, workshop participants will be turned into cultural detectives. We'll delve beneath each painting's subject matter to discover the cultural ideas and values they reveal, including the importance of traditions and history, the role of the family, gender roles, how education is valued, respect for the environment, popular games, etc. We'll tell you how your class can be part of our international ArtLink exchange program so your students can share art with their peers from over 25 countries. We'll also give you access to our free website archive of hundreds of pieces of insightful youth art, enabling you to turn your students into cultural detectives.

Workshop leader: Alan Steckler

Handling Student Discipline Challenges More Effectively

Christian Scientists have the same challenges with student behaviors as other teachers do, but we have an opportunity to work from a spiritual standpoint. This session should provide both novices and veterans with metaphysical and practical tools to address common issues of classroom management and student discipline. We'll begin with a spiritual foundation and then discuss several practical approaches that teachers at all levels have found successful. The third segment will be a brief Q&A geared to the specific needs of the participants, drawing on the experience of our veterans. A final part of this session will be spent in small groups, role-playing different scenarios and presenting them to the whole group.

Session leader: Bill Cheney

Human Development from a Practical and Spiritual Standpoint

Are you looking for ways to help your students deal with the challenges of human development, including countering the influence of the media in promoting sensuality? Our school has developed a comfortable, clear, and character-driven curriculum to teach human development (including sex ed) in a comprehensive way. This session is designed to give you ideas from our positive experience teaching 4th-8th grade students. First, we'll consider spiritual guidance from the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy's writings. Then we'll discuss the character standards on which the curriculum is based, including sharing resources and materials that support our standpoint. We'll also provide feedback from our students.

Session leaders: Melanie Fisher & Mike Hufstader

The Importance of Teacher Expectations

What is the most important factor in whether or not a child is successful in school? You are probably not surprised to hear that the quality of the teacher is the prime factor. However, that should not scare an educator. Learn how you can improve your teaching by raising teacher expectations.

Session leader: Alice Stanley

Leadership for Developing and Implementing Shared Vision For School Transformation

Children and young people, as well as their families, depend on schools to prepare them for life and work in a rapidly changing world. To meet these demands many schools must be transformed, and such transformation requires vision and leadership. As a Proverb in the Bible reminds us: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." This hands-on, "learning-by-doing" workshop will enable participants to experience a process that starts with individual visions for change and improvement and brings those personal visions together into a shared vision for transforming classrooms, schools, and districts. Participants can expect to leave the workshop with new insights and tools for pursuing visions for sustainable educational transformation.

Workshop leader: Scott Thompson

Let's Give 'Em Something to Talk About:

Using writing as a tool to accelerate critical thinking

"The way you select words and organize them into whole compositions depends on the way you see human experience. If you literally do not see anything you will of course have nothing to say." --- Leavitt and Sohn in *Stop, Look, and Write!*

Let's make sure our students always have something to say by teaching them how to use writing for inquiry as well as communication. This session is an exploration of some tried and true exercises to help students get excited about writing-for-inquiry which will then help them get excited – and more confident - about writing-to-communicate.

Session leader: Sandy Clark

Mrs. Eddy's Contribution to Developmental Education

Are educational models of growth and development (e.g. Piaget, Perry, Kohlberg, Bloom, Fowler) a help or a hindrance from the Christian Science point of view? How do they relate to Mrs. Eddy's three-stage models described in her *Three Degrees (Science and Health pp. 115-116)*, *Pond and Purpose (Miscellaneous Writings pp. 203 - 207)*, and *The Way (Miscellaneous Writings pp. 355-359)*. What do you think are the "wheat and tares" of current developmental models and methodology? Explore how Mrs. Eddy's methods can enhance your work as a developmental educator.

Session leader: Chestnut Booth

Ten Ways to Develop Positive Relationships-- with parents, administrators, and peers.

This workshop gives practical, hands-on ideas for improving the relationships that are so important to our work as educators. How can you create positive relationships to support your work? This session will give you some ideas!

Session leader: Alice Stanley

Weaving Character Education into an Academic Curriculum

As the teaching of ethics and values makes its resurgence into schools, discover what true character education is and how it can benefit an entire school population- students, teachers, and parents. Your classroom is the ideal environment for the integration of character education instruction. Participants will be given character-based activities, handouts, and practical ideas that can be put to use immediately in the classroom.

Session leaders: Cathy Mohan & Becky Stecker