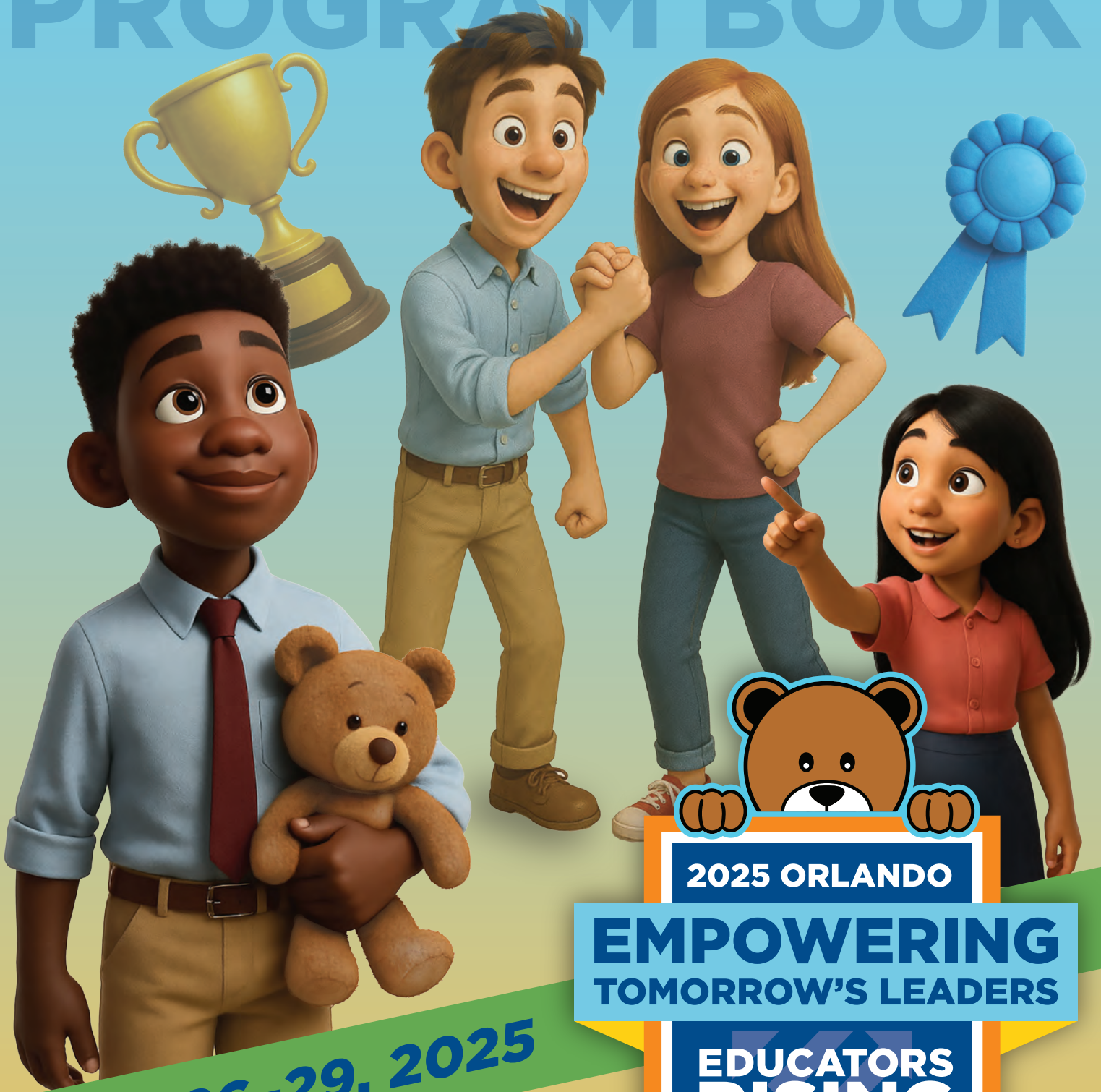


PROGRAM BOOK



JUNE 26-29, 2025

2025 ORLANDO
EMPOWERING
TOMORROW'S LEADERS

EDUCATORS
RISING
NATIONAL CONFERENCE



@EducatorsRising
#EdRising25



10 YEARS AS EDUCATORS RISING
88 YEARS OF HELPING STUDENTS BECOME TEACHERS

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Welcome Letter

Dear Educators Rising Community,

I am so excited to welcome you to the **2025 Educators Rising National Conference**! Each year, this incredible event brings together the nation's top middle and high school rising educators to compete, showcase talent, connect, and celebrate our shared passion for teaching. Whether this is your first conference or your fourth, thank you for being part of the movement. You are the heart of Educators Rising.

Your commitment and passion are what make Educators Rising so special. As the COO of PDK International and Educators Rising, I'm thrilled to be here with you for our national conference. I look forward to being inspired by your energy, your stories, and your dreams of shaping the future through education.

This year, we continue to grow. Since our beginnings as Future Teachers of America in 1937, and especially since PDK acquired the program in 1994, more than 346,600 aspiring educators have participated in our programs—including 155,700 since becoming Educators Rising. What started as an after-school club has evolved into a vibrant career and technical student organization (CTSO), complete with curriculum, competitions, networking, micro-credentials, and more.

At PDK International, our mission is clear: **To inspire and grow current and rising educators to become community leaders and advocates for high-quality education.** Our vision is ambitious: **To eliminate the teacher shortage by reimagining educator pathways.** These guiding principles drive our work every day, and your involvement in Educators Rising brings us closer to achieving these goals. (pdkintl.org)

In 2025, we're poised for even greater growth, thanks to you—our students, teachers, and supporters. I'm so proud of

everything you're doing to strengthen the education profession and inspire the next generation of learners.

The 2025 National Conference promises to be an unforgettable experience, filled with opportunities to learn, lead, and shine. Over the next four days, you'll be able to:

- Compete for national recognition.
- Learn from leading education professionals in more than 70 breakout sessions.
- Connect with colleges, universities, and education associations in our exhibit hall.

We also want to recognize and thank our incredible sponsors who help make this experience possible. The full list is available on page 18 and will be updated onsite.

Thank you for being part of this powerful movement. The future of education is bright because of you.

Have an amazing conference!

Warmly,

Albert Chen



BUILDING EARLY CREDENTIAL PATHWAYS (DUAL ENROLLMENT PANEL)

Presenters: Missy Testerman, 2024 National Teacher of the Year, Christopher Clayton, PA SRC, Dr. Krista Scott, Andrews ISD, TX, Travis Lape, SD SRC
Session Title: Building Early

Join us for an insightful panel discussion featuring leading experts in building local connections to higher education with Educators Rising, as we explore innovative strategies for establishing dual enrollment programs that empower high school students. Moderated by Starr Sackstein, this session will explore

St. John's 30/31: Thursday, June 26, 10:30-11:30 A.M.

effective frameworks for integrating Educators Rising pathways with early credential opportunities.

Panelists Missy Testerman, the 2024 National Teacher of the Year; Christopher Clayton from PA SRC; Dr. Krista Scott of Andrews ISD, TX; and Travis Lape from SD SRC will share their experiences and best practices for fostering partnerships

between secondary schools and postsecondary institutions. Participants will gain valuable insights into curriculum alignment, student support services, and the positive impact of dual enrollment on student outcomes. This session is essential for educators, administrators, and policymakers who seek to enhance Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings and provide high school students with meaningful pathways to successful careers.



PDK International Board of Directors

Katharine Oliver
Board Chair

Deborah Delisle
Vice Chair

Melissa Nixon
Past Board Chair
Foundation Board Chair-Elect

Angela Walmsley
Foundation Board Chair

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Shavonna Holman
Board Member

Rosa Isiah
Board Member

Pat Mikos
Board Member

Lisa Stooksberry
Board Member

Steven Weber
Board Member

Mission and Vision

We share the same vision and mission with PDK International. An organization's vision is what it aspires to accomplish, and its mission captures the daily work it undertakes to achieve that vision.

Vision: To eliminate the teacher shortage by reimagining educator pathways

Mission: To inspire and grow current and rising educators to become community leaders and advocates for high-quality education

PDK International incorporates the following five core values into its work:

- Community
- Service
- Excellence
- Leadership
- Optimism



Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel Map

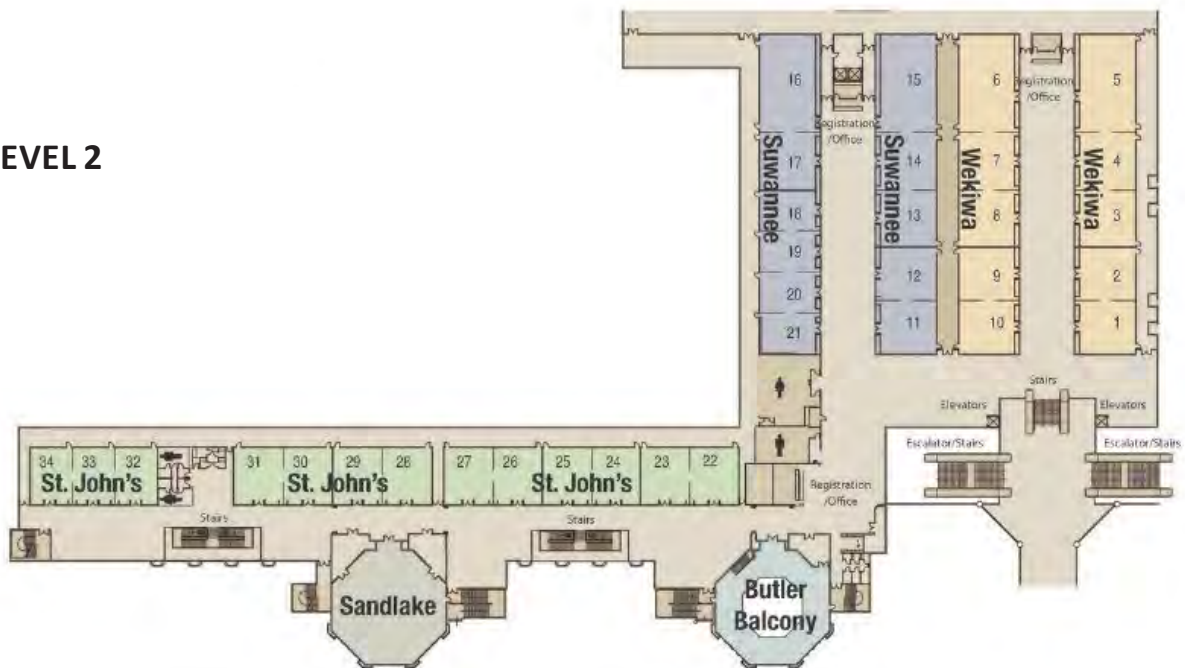


Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel Map

LEVEL 1



LEVEL 2



Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel Map



Educators Rising Conference Agenda

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

TIME	ROOM	EVENT
1-6 p.m.	Suwanee 20/21	Preconference Meeting: State/Regional Coordinators (by invitation only)
1-6 p.m.	St. John's 30/31	State Officer Preconference Summit
3-6 p.m.	Gatlin 1	Registration
3-6 p.m.	St. John's 32/34	Bundle Pick-Up
3-6 p.m.	St. John's 32/34	Educators Rising Store Open

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

TIME	ROOM	EVENT
8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Gatlin 1	Registration
8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Conway	Bundle Pick-Up
8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Gatlin Foyer	Educators Rising Store Open
9 -11 a.m.	Panzacola G1	Competition Judge Training (by invitation only)
10:30-11:30 a.m.	St. John's 30/31	Building Early Career Pathways (adult registrants only)
11 a.m.-12 p.m.	Panzacola G1	Competition Judge Lunch (by invitation only)
12-1 p.m.		Lunch on your own
1-3:30 p.m.	Wekiwa 10	ParaPro Testing (pre-registration required)
5:15-7 p.m.	St. John's 34	Emerging Leaders/Distinguished Educators Meeting (by invitation only)
1-5 p.m.	Gatlin Foyer	College and Innovation Fair
1-7 p.m.	Various	Competition Judging (see page 15 for locations)
1-1:45 p.m.	Various	Breakout Session Block #1 (see page 21 for sessions)
2-2:45 p.m.	Various	Breakout Session Block #2 (see page 23 for sessions)
3-3:45 p.m.	Various	Breakout Session Block #3 (see page 25 for sessions)
4-4:45 p.m.	Various	Breakout Session Block #4 (see page 27 for sessions)
7-9 p.m.	Gatlin Ballroom	Opening General Session

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

TIME	ROOM	EVENT
8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Gatlin 1	Registration
8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Gatlin Foyer	Educators Rising Store Open
8 a.m.-7 p.m.	Various	Competition Judging (see page 15 for locations)
8 a.m.-5 p.m.	St. John's 30-31	Curriculum Training (by invitation only)
8 a.m.-5 p.m.	St. John's 34	Emerging Leader/Distinguished Educators Fellows (by invitation only)
8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Wekiwa 5	Community Service Project/Game Room

Educators Rising Conference Agenda (Continued)

TIME	ROOM	EVENT
8-9:30 a.m.	Wekiwa 10	Praxis Core Math (pre-registration required)
9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Gatlin Foyer	College and Innovation Fair
9-11 a.m.	St. John's 27	Focus Groups: Student
9-9:45 a.m.	Various	Breakout Session Block #5 (see page 29 for sessions)
10-10:45 a.m.	Various	Breakout Session Block #6 (see page 31 for sessions)
10-11:30 a.m.	Wekiwa 10	Praxis Core Reading (pre-registration required)
11 a.m.-1:45 a.m.	Gatlin Foyer	Dedicated Time to Visit College and Innovation Fair
12-2 p.m.	Gatlin Ballroom	Member Recognition Lunch with Keynote
2-2:45 p.m.	St. John's 27	Focus Groups: Adult
2-4:30 p.m.	Wekiwa 10	ParaPro Testing (pre-registration required)
2-2:45 p.m.	Various	Breakout Session Block #7 (see page 33 for sessions)
3-3:45 p.m.	Various	Breakout Session Block #8 (see page 35 for sessions)
4-4:45 p.m.	Various	Breakout Session Block #9 (see page 37 for sessions)
7-8 p.m.	Gatlin Ballroom	National Signing Day Event
8-11 p.m.	Gatlin Ballroom	Lip Sync Battle/Karaoke

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

TIME	ROOM	EVENT
8-11:30 a.m.	Wekiwa 10	Praxis Core Reading Testing (pre-registration required)
8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Gatlin Foyer	Educators Rising Store Open and Help Desk
8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Various	Competition Judging (see page 15 for locations)
8 a.m.-12 p.m.	St. John's 30-31	Curriculum Training (by invitation only; pre-registration is required)
8 a.m.-3 p.m.	St. John's 34	Emerging Leader/Distinguished Educator Fellows
8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Wekiwa 5	Community Service Project/Game Room
9-9:45 a.m.	Various	Breakout Session Block #10 (see page 39 for sessions)
10 a.m.-12 p.m.	Panzacola G1	Delegate Meeting
10-10:45 a.m.	Various	Breakout Session Block #11 (see page 40 for sessions)
11-11:45 a.m.	Various	Breakout Session Block #12 (see page 41 for sessions)
1 p.m.		Time to Explore Orlando on Your Own

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

TIME	ROOM	EVENT
8 -10 a.m.	Gatlin Foyer	Educators Rising Store and Help Desk Open
10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Gatlin Ballroom	Closing General Session and Awards Celebration – breakfast buffet included

2024–2025 Educators Rising National Student Officers

Elected by their peers, the Educators Rising National Student Officer team consists of four trailblazing leaders. They represent the organization from a unique perspective and are committed to leading and serving in education. Throughout this past year, these four student leaders have used their voices to represent the organization, serve different communities, and advocate for education. They also serve as your MCs at this year's conference.

The four Educators Rising National Student Officers accomplished many things throughout the year, included speaking and participating in the following:

- Dr. Miguel Cardona's Bus Tour and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Gulf States Educator Workforce Summit
- Aurora Institute Symposium
- Texas Area Conference
- National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification
- Louisiana Educators Rising State Conference
- Texas Association of Future Educators State Conference
- National Teacher of the Year Committee
- 2025 Rural Summit
- Educators Rising 10th Year Anniversary Celebration
- Contributors to the Educators Rising Student Voices Blog. Read the blog by scanning this QR code:
- Leading the #12DaysofEdRising, EdRising Week, monthly service projects, and multiple social media campaigns



National Student President

Journey Harris | Stephenville, Texas

Journey is a 2023 graduate of Cleburne High School in Cleburne, Texas. She is now a junior at Tarleton State University, majoring in secondary education with an emphasis on English. Her journey in Educators Rising spans five years. Journey has competed all five years and has advanced to nationals each year. Journey has also been awarded the national championship twice, once in creative lecture and once in impromptu speaking. In 2023, she served as a voting delegate representing her home state of Texas.



a new chapter at Tarleton State University, where she has proudly served as president for the past two years. Besides this, Journey became a part of the State TAFE board of directors. She currently serves as the collegiate representative for the state of Texas. Journey has been passionate about education for some time now. She believes that each student's education represents a puzzle, and teachers represent the pieces of that puzzle. Journey can recall many teachers who have influenced her life. She firmly believes that she would not be where she is today without the amazing teachers that she has had throughout her time in public education.

Throughout Journey's time in Educators Rising, she also collaborated with her home chapters in both high school and college. In high school, she served as chapter president for two years. After transitioning to college, Journey helped establish

Besides EdRising, TAFE, and school, Journey enjoys being with friends and family, listening to country music, and public speaking. Journey cannot wait to be a teacher someday. Her favorite part of serving as your 2024-25 president is getting to meet each of you and shake the hands of amazing individuals.

National Student Vice President of Engagement

Alexis Lieb | Athens, Ohio

Lexi Lieb is a 2024 graduate of Gahanna Lincoln High School and the Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical Center. She is currently a freshman at Ohio University.



During her junior and senior years of high school, she participated in a teaching professions program that gave her the chance to participate in Educators Rising. At the time she signed

up for teaching professions, becoming a teacher was just a small possibility. From the moment she started that class however, she fell in love with it and became a leader in her chapter. During her junior year, she competed in the EdRising Moment competition and applied to be an Ohio State Officer for Educators Rising. She got to go to the 2023 National Conference in Orlando with her EdRising Moment speech, and she often returns to it to remind herself what she is working for. As a state officer, she worked with peers who were also pursuing education, many professional educators, and staff from the state education

department. They collaborated to plan the Ohio State conference, choosing guest speakers, organizing competitions, and making it fun for the competitors who work so hard.

The opportunities that EdRising has brought her have allowed her to develop leadership and communication skills, as well as

expand her knowledge of the education field. EdRising has given her a space to share her true excitement for education, and it has been so rewarding.

In her free time, Lexi works as a summer camp counselor and swim instructor.

National Student Vice President of Communications

Shae'Aunna Johnson | Bossier City, Louisiana



Shae'Aunna Johnson is a 2024 graduate of Many High School in Louisiana, where her passion for education first took root. She continued her academic journey by earning an EMT license and an associate degree in General Studies from Bossier Parish Community College. Now, she is pursuing a degree in elementary education at BPC, further expanding her expertise. Currently serving as a leading paraprofessional in a Pre-K-4 classroom, ShaeAunna embraces innovative teaching methods to engage young minds. Her diverse academic and professional experiences reflect her unwavering commitment to shaping a brighter future in education.

For the past five years, Shae'Aunna has been deeply involved with Educators Rising, competing at both the state and national levels. Her dedication and skill have earned her victories each

year, showcasing her relentless drive and passion for educational advocacy. This journey has been both transformational and empowering, reinforcing her commitment to the field. In the 2024-25 term, Shae'Aunna was elected as the National Vice President of Communications for Educators Rising, a role she fulfills with honor and dedication. She also serves as a Louisiana State Officer and proudly holds the title of Miss Educators Rising for Sabine Parish, ensuring that aspiring educators' voices are heard. Through her leadership, she advocates for the needs of elementary students in today's evolving educational landscape.

Beyond her professional and leadership roles, ShaeAunna enjoys baking, reading, shopping, and relaxing, finding balance between her work and personal life. Her passion for education is rooted in the belief that every child needs a champion. She remains dedicated to continuous growth, innovation in teaching, and making a lasting impact in education.

National Student Vice President of Service

Char'Tayvious Edwards | Meridian, Mississippi



Char'Tayvious Edwards, a 2024 graduate of Meridian High School, is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in elementary education at the University of West Alabama. His journey with Educators Rising began during his sophomore year of high school, and over the past four years, he has embraced numerous leadership roles and competitive opportunities within the organization.

Char'Tayvious always knew he wanted to be a teacher, a passion that started in first grade and has only grown stronger over the years. Throughout his four years in Educators Rising, he competed in the Ethical Dilemma competition, earning two State Championship titles and securing fourth place at the national level. His leadership experience includes serving as Vice President

and 10th Grade Representative of his local chapter, State President of Educators Rising Mississippi, and a 2023 National Conference Delegate. Now, he holds the position of 2024-25 National Vice President of Service.

As State President, he played a key role in organizing and leading the state leadership conference. In his national role, he collaborates with fellow officers to develop impactful service projects that benefit local communities, assists in planning the national conference, and actively participates in events across the country.

Beyond his dedication to education and leadership, Char'Tayvious loves being with his family, watching football, and listening to country music. He also enjoys flying and embraces every opportunity to travel. His passion for service and commitment to shaping the future of education continue to drive his efforts within Educators Rising and beyond.

STATE OFFICER PRE-CONFERENCE SUMMIT

Serving as a student leader on any level is no easy task, be it on the local, state, or national level. This year, Educators Rising is hosting an inaugural pre-conference summit for state officers. Led by Educators Rising staff and national officers, this summit is an opportunity for

**St. John's 30/31:
Wednesday, June 25,
1-6 p.m.**

state officers to network, gain important leadership skills, and feel confident to start their year strong to best support

their states. State officers will create leadership philosophies, understand the power of social media, learn how to network, and even understand the ins and outs of planning a conference! The summit will end with an evening social hosted by the National Student Officers.

Educators Rising State/Regional Coordinators

Alabama
Suzanne Clemons

Indiana
Angela Miller

Montana
Sarah Piper

South Carolina
MaryRita Watson

Alaska
Florence Scott

Iowa
Colleen Heinz

Nebraska
Chelsey Greene

South Dakota
Travis Lape

Arizona
Lennon Audrain

Kansas
Idalia Shuman

New Hampshire
Carla Frank

SUNY Plattsburgh
Jean Ann Hunt

Arkansas
Becky McCormick

Kentucky
Camille Overstreet

New Mexico
Christine Reyes

Tennessee
Tommie Leaders

**California
(Central Valley)**
Ana York

Louisiana
Aimee Barber

New York City
TBD

Texas
Monica Oliver

Colorado
Jordan Sveen

Maryland
Elizabeth Wynkoop

Ohio
Joshua Coleman

Utah
Ashley Higgs

Connecticut
Patricia Putnam

Massachusetts
Starr Sackstein

Oklahoma
Cady Lewis

Vermont
Joyce Kemp

Delaware
Michael Shaner

Michigan
Annette Christiansen

Oregon
TBD

Virginia
Heather M. Jones

Idaho
TBD

Mississippi
Kimberly Usry

Pennsylvania
Christopher Clayton

West Virginia
Roberta Goff

Illinois
Lindsey Jensen
Christine Schweitzer

Missouri
Tami Ensor

Rhode Island
Colleen Callahan

Wisconsin
Leah Luke

Wyoming
TBD

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

TIME	ROOM	EVENT
1 – 6 p.m.	Suwannee 20/21	Preconference Meeting: State/Regional Coordinators (by invitation only)

Educators Rising staff will guide the state and regional coordinators through an in-depth day of reflection and planning for the 2025-26 academic year. This is a working session, and attendees should come prepared with laptops and ideas for the upcoming year.





The journey to becoming an accomplished teacher is a marathon. What should the first steps look like?

The Educators Rising Standards are the answer to this vital question. These seven standards define what aspiring educators need to know and be able to do to take their first steps on the path to accomplished teaching. They serve as the anchor for all Educators Rising programs and opportunities, and at the 2025 conference, they guide breakout session programming.

Educators Rising Standards

Standard I: Understanding the Profession

Rising educators learn about the profession to explore career opportunities, develop skills they need, and make informed decisions about pathways to accomplished teaching.

Standard II: Learning About Students

Rising educators learn about themselves and their students for the purpose of building relationships and supporting student development.

Standard III: Building Content Knowledge

Rising educators learn how to build content knowledge for the purpose of creating relevant learning opportunities for their students.

Standard IV: Engaging in Responsive Planning

Rising educators learn how to respond to students' needs through thoughtful planning.

Standard V: Implementing Instruction

Rising educators learn effective instructional strategies to engage students and promote learning.

Standard VI: Using Assessments and Data

Rising educators learn to use assessments and interpret data for the purpose of making decisions that will advance teaching and learning.

Standard VII: Engaging in Reflective Practice

Rising educators learn how reflective practice enables them to advance student learning and grow professionally.

Created in partnership with the National Education Association

Created in partnership with the National Education Association



Using this program book to choose sessions

Use the Conference Agenda as your guide to conference events. The theme of the conference is “Empowering Tomorrow’s Leaders,” and the conference features four different breakout session strands. Strand descriptions are listed below, under their intended audience. Read the strand descriptions to see which sessions are intended for you, then use the session descriptions to determine what interests you. For each period, select a first choice and a few alternatives, because you will need to choose another session if the room is full. (Tip: Arrive on time to ensure you get to participate in the sessions that interest you most.)

STUDENT PATH

Strands that focus on those looking to develop a classroom career. Adults are free to attend these strands as well.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

To help students discover their potential, our rising educators need to know how to be educational leaders in their schools, districts, and at the state and national levels. In this strand, participants will have the opportunity to build their leadership skills.

COLLEGE PREP & SUCCESS

Get the inside scoop on college life! From winning application tips and writing a standout essay to understanding the application process and finding the right place to live, this strand has you covered. Hear real talk from college students about campus life, housing, and what they wish they knew before starting. Whether you're heading to college soon or just starting to think about it, don't miss this chance to get ahead!

CLASSROOM TIPS, TRICKS, AND INNOVATION

Step confidently into your first classroom with tools and insights to lead effectively from day one. This strand focuses on practical strategies for new teachers, including how to plan engaging lessons, build strong relationships with students while maintaining authority, and preventing teacher burnout. You'll also explore ways to develop your unique teaching voice and understand different career paths within education. Whether you're preparing for student teaching or your first full-time role, this session will help you lead with purpose and impact.

ADULT PATH

LIFELONG LEARNING: EMPOWERING EDUCATORS AND LEADERS

Lifelong learning is a necessity. Whether you are a practicing educator, a community leader, or a retiree, continuing your own education can help you promote student success. In this strand, adult participants will have the opportunity to grow their own skills so that they can empower tomorrow's leaders.

2025 Educators Rising National Conference app

Download the 2025 Educators Rising National Conference app to learn more about our sessions and receive up-to-the-minute program changes and announcements. **Scan the QR code** below to download it today.

Apple



Android



Competitions/Contests

Competitions will take place **Thursday afternoon, June 26, through Saturday morning, June 28**. Stop by any that are listed as “open to spectators” to cheer on the competitors. Please enter and exit during the breaks between presentations. The area outside the competition rooms is a quiet zone. Competition and contest winners will be announced during the awards celebration on **Sunday, June 29**. **Scoring rubrics will be available for student download via the competition portal for a limited period within three weeks after the conference ends. Competitors will receive an email when scores are available for download.** Competition rooms are as follows:

- **Children’s Literature – Higher Ed – Hospitality** – Suite 1602
- **Children’s Literature K-3 – Group A – Hospitality** – Suite 1601
- **Children’s Literature K-3 – Group B – Hospitality** – Suite 1602
- **Children’s Literature K-3 – Group C – Hospitality** – Suite 1603
- **Children’s Literature K-3 Spanish – Hospitality** – Suite 1606
- **Children’s Literature Pre-K – Group A – Hospitality** – Suite 1604
- **Children’s Literature Pre-K – Group B – Hospitality** – Suite 1605
- **Children’s Literature Pre-K Spanish – Hospitality** – Suite 1607

*** OPEN TO SPECTATORS***

Sponsored by University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point



- **Creative Lecture – Group A – Level 2** – Wekiwa 8
- **Creative Lecture – Group B – Level 2** – Wekiwa 9

- **Educators Rising Leadership Award – Level 2** – St. John’s 26

*** OPEN TO SPECTATORS***

Sponsored by Study.com



- **Educators Rising Moment – Group A – Level 2** – Wekiwa 3
- **Educators Rising Moment – Group B – Level 2** – Wekiwa 4
Sponsored by Study.com
- **Educators Rising Moment – Spanish – Level 2** – St. John’s 23

- **Ethical Dilemma – Group A – Hospitality** – Suite 1705
- **Ethical Dilemma – Group B – Hospitality** – Suite 1706
- **Exploring Education Administration Careers – Hospitality** – Suite 1501
- **Exploring Non-Core Subject Careers – Group A – Hospitality** – Suite 1502
- **Exploring Non-Core Subject Careers – Group B – Hospitality** – Suite 1503

- **Exploring Support Services Careers – Hospitality** – Suite 1504
- **Inside Our Schools Presentation – Level 2** – St. John’s 24
- **Inside Our Schools Presentation – Spanish – Level 2** – St. John’s 25
- **Interactive Bulletin Board – Elementary – Group A, B, and C – Level 2** – Wekiwa 6
- **Interactive Bulletin Board – Middle/High School – Group A and B – Level 2** – Wekiwa 7
- **Job Interview – Group A – Hospitality** – Suite 1505
- **Job Interview – Group B – Hospitality** – Suite 1506
- **Lesson Planning & Delivery – Arts – Hospitality** – Suite 1401
- **Lesson Planning & Delivery – Career & Technical Education – Hospitality** – Suite 1402
- **Lesson Planning and Delivery – Spanish – Hospitality** – Suite 1402
- **Lesson Planning & Delivery – Humanities – Group A – Hospitality** – Suite 1403
- **Lesson Planning & Delivery – Humanities – Group B – Hospitality** – Suite 1404
- **Lesson Planning & Delivery – STEM – Group A – Hospitality** – Suite 1405
- **Lesson Planning & Delivery – STEM – Group B – Hospitality** – Suite 1406
- **Outstanding Chapter – Level 2** – St. John’s 26
- **Project Visualize Service Project – Level 2** – St. John’s 32
- **Public Service Announcement – Level 2** – St. John’s 22

*** OPEN TO SPECTATORS***

- **Public Speaking – Group A – Level 2** – Wekiwa 1
- **Public Speaking – Group B – Level 2** – Wekiwa 2
- **Researching Learning Challenges – Hospitality** – Suite 1703
- **Teacher Created Materials – Group A – Level 2** – St. John’s 28
- **Teacher Created Materials – Group B – Level 2** – St. John’s 29

Activities



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

At the delegate meeting in 2024, the delegates voted to make the conference service project the collection of school supplies. With this theme in mind, we are partnering with A Gift for Teaching, Central Florida's primary provider of free supplies to teachers for their students, to help gather supplies for students in need!

A Gift for Teaching is looking for the following donations:

- Dry erase markers
- Markers 8-or-10 count
- Notebooks (composition or spiral)
- Colored pencils 12-count
- Loose leaf paper

Supplies will be collected onsite and then sorted and counted by student attendees.

Wekiwa 5: Thursday, June 26, 1-6 p.m.; Friday, June 27, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, June 28, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

CONFERENCE DAILY



Make sure you look for the Conference Daily blog. The Conference Daily is full of information about our conference speakers, education sessions, and other events. You'll see photos of student competitions, the awards ceremony, and more.

EDDY BEAR SPIRIT AWARD

Show your chapter spirit throughout the conference for a chance to be the recipient of Educators Rising's spirit bear, Eddy. Eddy will be awarded each day of the conference to a school that goes above and beyond to demonstrate the spirit of Educators Rising through teamwork, creativity, or service.

The overall winner of our competitions will also get to take Eddy home at the end of the conference!



EDUCATORS RISING GAME AND TEAM BUILDING ROOM

Looking for a place to chill, unwind, and have fun after your competition or to meet new people? Educators Rising has set aside a dedicated space to play games and engage in team-building activities, as well as help with the conference service project, during each competition day of the conference. Play

cards and board games and engage in other fun activities with your National Student Officers, National Student Ambassadors, and PDK International staff along with conference friends from other schools.

Wekiwa 5: Thursday, June 26, 1-6 p.m.; Friday, June 27, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday, June 28, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

LIP SYNC BATTLE/KARAOKE

Do you have what it takes to mouth the words to your favorite song for 90 seconds? Are your dance moves compelling enough to keep the crowd entertained? Watch your fellow rising educators bust out their best moves on Friday night! While you're there, connect with old friends and meet some new ones, too. Enjoy great music as you lip sync on stage or sing along in the crowd — be sure to share your party photos using #EdRising25



Afterwards, there will be karaoke. Make sure to sign up at registration as soon as possible since the list will fill up quickly for this popular event.

Gatlin Ballroom: Friday, June 27, 8 – 11 p.m.

NATIONAL SIGNING EVENT

Cheer on our graduating seniors from across the country as they celebrate their commitment to education or join the festivities yourself in our fourth annual National Signing Event!

Participants will be signing letters of commitment to continue to pursue education at the collegiate level, and we will capture the moment the way high school athletes do! Last year's event was a highlight of the conference, and this year's promises to be even larger.



Gatlin Ballroom: Friday, June 27, 7– 8 p.m.

NATIONAL DELEGATE MEETING

To further cultivate the student leadership of Educators Rising, the organization holds a delegate meeting annually to determine bylaw changes and discuss national programming. While the privilege of making motions, debating, and voting shall be limited to the designated voting delegates and the National Student Leaders, any member may attend the meeting. Come and watch your delegates in action.



Panzacola G1: Saturday, June 28, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Testing and Training

CURRICULUM TRAINING

Our closed-session training will provide teacher leaders who have registered prior to the conference with an introduction to the Educators Rising Curriculum on how to use the lessons and resources to support their rising educators in learning the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to take their first steps on the path to accomplished teaching. Some of the topics will include how the curriculum is organized as well as how to implement a scope and sequence to begin selecting lessons and planning clinical experiences to use in your Educators Rising program. This session is only available to teacher leaders implementing the curriculum who have registered prior to the conference. Registration status of attendees will be verified at the time of the event.

St. John's 30/31: Friday, June 27, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday, June 28, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

PARAPRO AND PRAXIS CORE TESTING

Through a partnership with ETS, PDK International will be giving a number of students a unique opportunity to take the ParaPro and the Praxis Core Math & Reading exams. High school sophomores, juniors, and seniors are eligible. Advance registration is required.

Test Schedule:

- Thursday, June 26, 1 – 3:30 p.m. ParaPro
- Friday, June 27, 8 – 9:30 a.m. Praxis Core Math
- Friday, June 27, 10 – 11:30 a.m. Praxis Core Reading
- Friday, June 27, 2 – 4:30 p.m. ParaPro
- Saturday, June 28, 8 – 9:30 a.m. Praxis Core Math
- Saturday, June 28, 10 – 11:30 a.m. Praxis Core Reading

Wekiwa 10: Thursday, June 26, 1 – 3:30 p.m., Friday, June 27 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Saturday, June 28, 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

BE A STAR! SHARE YOUR STORY WITH TEACHING CHANNEL!

Teaching Channel is coming to the Educators Rising National Conference, and they want to hear from Educators Rising students! Teaching Channel will be interviewing students about their experiences, goals, and what excites them about education. They will also be capturing video from some of our public competitions, breakouts, and our general sessions. This is your chance to be featured on a national platform that inspires teachers across the country. Students who have signed permission slips in advance are eligible to participate.



Teaching Channel



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Thank You to Our College & Innovation Fair Participants!

Meet representatives from colleges, universities, and organizations that can help you get one step closer to becoming an educator! Scan QR codes to help you win the scavenger hunt! Join us in the Gatlin Foyer on Thursday, June 26, from 1 – 5 p.m. and Friday, June 27, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. to learn about:

Blue Mountain Christian College



BranchED



BranchED

Duquesne University

Florida College

George Mason University

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Grove City College

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University of South Dakota

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point



Utah Valley University

Wilkes University

Keynote Speakers

THURSDAY KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Missy Testerman, 2024 National Teacher of the Year

In her rural Appalachian community, Missy Testerman builds bridges between cultures – families who have been in the area for centuries and newcomer families. After

30 years of teaching first and second grade, Testerman took advantage of Tennessee’s Grow Your Own initiative and earned an English as a second language endorsement. As Tennessee’s State Teacher of the Year, she forged partnerships with East Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee to encourage pre-service teachers and give authentic feedback to university leaders about their educator preparation programs.

She considers her greatest contribution to her profession to be the love and desire for learning that she has instilled in countless students over the past three decades. A Tennessee native and first-generation college graduate, Testerman takes great pride in seeing her former students succeed in life and is motivated to ensure the next generation receives a broadened education while living in a rural setting.

Join Testerman on Thursday, June 26, from 7-9 p.m. in the Gatlin Ballroom at the Opening General Session

FRIDAY KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Nicholas “Nick” Moore, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education

Before he was appointed as deputy assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Education, Nick Moore most recently

served as the director of the Governor’s Office of Education and Workforce Transformation (GOEWT) under the leadership of Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey. Moore focused on aligning Alabama’s education and workforce programs, implementing state longitudinal database system, establishing a non-degree credential quality and transparency system, and curating a competency-based education and skills-based hiring system in the state. Under Nick’s leadership, the GOEWT worked to establish a learning and employment record, a skills-based job description generator, and a human-centered public workforce system designed to assist Alabamians with overcoming benefits cliffs and other barriers to entering the workforce.

Moore holds a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University and a Master of Public Policy from Cornell University. Moore is a native of Enterprise, Alabama. He served as a Teach for America corps member in Lowndes County, Alabama, where he taught social studies, government, and economics at Central High School.

Join Moore on Friday, June 27, from 12-2 p.m. in the Gatlin Ballroom at the Membership Recognition Lunch



Breakout Sessions

Thursday, June 26

Session Block 1 1–1:45 P.M.

Passion, Purpose, and a Plan: Enhance Your Teaching as a Profession Program

Jane Luethge
Omaha Public Schools
Room: Gatlin A1
Adult: Professional Development

As teachers and leaders, we get great ideas from other practitioners. Often we work alone and don't have access to this vital collaboration. Join the conversation with other educators from around the country to hear about one Grow Your Own (GYO) model, learn from each other as we share the amazing work taking place right where you are, and make a plan to advocate for new GYO actions in your school communities.

Creating a Student-Led Classroom

Dana Garth
Ms. Garth Tutoring & Educational Consulting, LLC
Room: Gatlin A2
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

Transform your classroom into a dynamic learning environment where students take ownership of their education! In this engaging session, participants will explore practical strategies to foster a student-led classroom, where learners are empowered to make decisions, collaborate, and drive their own learning experiences. Participants will leave with actionable ideas for student-led discussions and peer-to-peer feedback systems. Learn how to shift your role from the “sage on the stage” to a facilitator and guide, ensuring that every student is actively engaged and invested in their own success.

Understanding the College Admissions Process

Angela Walmsley
Interactive College Prep
Room: Gatlin A3
Student: College Prep & Success

Students will leave this session understanding some of the key components of the college admissions process. The Common App will be explained. Students will learn what is needed for college admission, including

strong academics, community service, school and non-school activities, and a strong essay. Students will learn about how and why to consider taking the ACT and SAT exams. Lastly, students will understand the different types of application deadlines and decisions.

Leadership Lessons from Disney Heroes and Villains

Laura Gokey
Livingston High School
Room: Gatlin A4
Student: Leadership Training

This interactive session explores leadership through the lens of beloved Disney characters, highlighting traits that distinguish inspiring leaders from manipulative ones. Using examples from heroes like Simba and Mulan, as well as villains like Scar and Ursula, participants will examine the ethical use of power and influence. The session includes a dynamic group activity where students apply leadership principles to real-world scenarios, fostering critical thinking, collaboration, and self-reflection. By the end, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of leadership styles and leave inspired to lead with integrity and empathy in their own lives.



SESSION BLOCK 1 (CONTINUED)
1-1:45 P.M.

Harnessing AI to Prevent Teacher Burnout

Natasha Berg
O’Gorman High School
Room: Panzacola F1
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

In an era of rapidly advancing technology, it is crucial for educators to embrace innovative tools to enhance teaching practices and prevent potential burnout. This session aims to explore the effective integration of generative artificial intelligence solutions into the education landscape, specifically focusing on reducing teacher workload and preventing burnout. Attendees will gain insights into cutting-edge generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, MagicSchoolAI, Claude, Curipod, and Diffit, understanding how these technologies can revolutionize classroom dynamics and support teachers in their daily tasks.

Test Like the Test Maker: Beating High-Stakes Exams

Albert Chen
PDK International
Room: Panzacola F2
Student: Leadership Training

If you don’t know how test items are constructed and how they are designed, you will fall prey to their pitfalls and traps. To be a great test taker, you must learn how to be a great test item designer.

In this session, you will not only learn how to create great questions and answers but you also will learn the major distractor types and how they are used to weed out the good test takers from the uninformed, and why understanding how to critically think through the exam is often more important than getting a question right. You will then be empowered to use this knowledge to deconstruct them on the fly when you take these exams.

In our profession, we decry the use of standardized tests and multiple-choice exams to the point that we turn a blind eye to them in professional development. However, the SAT, the ACT, the Praxis, and the like are all realities that you and your students must face regardless of your stance on them. Test prep programs themselves are an equity concern for the haves and have-nots, and not all test preparation is made equal. Albert Chen, COO of PDK International and veteran of the standardized test wars, has been working in education for the past 30 years. He has spent 12 of those years at Kaplan Test Prep’s field and corporate offices learning how to deconstruct the exams and taking apart question types to help tens of thousands of students succeed in their dreams despite the biases and inequities of these exams.



SESSION BLOCK 2
2–2:45 P.M.

Teach. Inspire. Conquer: Nationals

Chafony Poole
Fail Me Not Tutoring Service LLC
Room: Gatlin A1
Adult: Professional Development

This workshop will equip educators with the essential strategies needed to teach, inspire, and help students benefit from the opportunity to attend Educators Rising National Conference.

Learn how to create an environment that sparks curiosity and passion, motivating students to aspire towards participating in national competitions. Discover techniques for connecting competition categories with classroom content and student interests, fostering a sense of purpose and excitement.

Empower students to take ownership of their journey to nationals by guiding them through goal setting, action planning, and leadership skill development. Explore strategies for building confidence, resilience, and effective teamwork, essential for success in competitive settings.

Dive into the benefits of motivation and learn how to inspire students to perform at their best during the national competition. From setting ambitious goals to providing constructive feedback and celebrating achievements, discover methods for nurturing a culture of excellence and continuous improvement.

Unlock Your Origin Story to Empower Your Impact

Daniel Bergman
Wichita State University School of Education
Room: Gatlin A2
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

A powerful origin story captures a superhero's entire premise and purpose. A classroom teacher's origin story can be equally significant. What are milestones on your own educational journey? How can these elements empower your career in teaching? In this interactive session, participants will explore common origin elements of superhero stories, with examples from movies, comics, and more. Participants will share and

compare these themes—contexts, catalysts, challenges, connections—with their own personal histories as students, along with potential futures as educators. (No radioactive spider bites required.)

Social-Emotional Wellness for High-Achieving Students

Jessica Daugherty
Randolph School District
Room: Gatlin A3
Student: College Prep & Success

Many high-achieving students struggle with extreme anxiety, self-doubt, and a lack of growth mindset. Because these students usually earn high grades, their mental health struggles are frequently overlooked. Intentional adult modeling and diction choices can influence students to adopt healthy self-talk and mental health practices. This can be modeled in classrooms, one-to-one meetings, small focus groups, via email and written instructions, and more. You will learn strategies to help students emotionally regulate, create a classroom culture centered on learning, and build capacity for social-emotional wellness to prepare students for life after high school.

Getting Started with the Educators Rising Curriculum

Molly Kauffman
PDK International
Room: Gatlin A4
Adult: Professional Development

In this session, educators will examine the components of the Educators Rising curriculum and the resources and materials available to help support Grow Your Own efforts through an Educators Rising chapter or class. Participants will explore the standards, features, and updates to the Educators Rising curriculum and how it can be adapted to meet the needs of the student learners while providing current teachers the tools they need to help students be successful and prepared future educators.

SESSION BLOCK 2, CONTINUED
2-2:45 P.M.

Creating Artists in Early Childhood

Sandra Frederick, Jolene Munson
Grove City College
Room: Panzacola F1
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

To develop artists in early childhood, teachers must blend students' natural curiosity, engagement in materials, and connections with famous artists' techniques. Art is important to the development of a young learner's physical and cognitive skills. This session showcases a current partnership between preschoolers and future educators in which famous artists and their techniques are taught to preschoolers and then preschoolers recreate the artists' work. Future educators create lessons based on artists ranging from Van Gogh to Warhol. These lessons include a developmentally appropriate history of the artist and technique and then a process-based art project focused on what they learned. This session will share the list of artists and techniques. The culmination of this session will allow attendees to create their own piece of artwork based on a selected artist.

Teaching With a Purpose: How to Find Your "Why" in Education

Brooke Hess
University of Wisconsin Stevens Point
Room: Panzacola F2
Student: Leadership Training

Teacher shortage rates are higher than ever and continuously growing. In order to combat the growing numbers, we need to address one of the many roots of the issue, lack of purpose. Many teachers will get into the profession as an alternative, or 'backup plan', but to find your passion, you need to establish your 'why'. In this session, participants will explore the impact of embracing and understanding your purpose by creating a personal 'why' as an educator through reflective and discussion-based practices. With a focus on combating teacher shortage rates, we will discuss strategies to reignite passions for teaching, fostering a sense of purpose, and how important it is to have a clear understanding of your intentions as an educator. Through interactive discussions, and practical exercises, you will not only be able to find your why in education but also leave with a sense of motivation for creating purpose in your classroom.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3
3-3:45 P.M.

**Network with Successful EdRising
Pathway Course Teachers – See What’s
Working and Make Lasting Connections**

Debbie Weaver Barlough and Panelists
PDK International
Room: Gatlin A1
Adult: Professional Development

CTE Pathway teacher leaders and school admins: This session is exclusively for you! Don’t reinvent the wheel—join a dynamic network of teachers and administrators who are leading pre-educator pathway classes and elective-credit teacher preparation courses nationwide! In this interactive session, a panel of experienced EdRising educators will share proven strategies that are making a difference in their schools and districts. From ideal class scheduling guidelines and curriculum selection to setting up dual credit agreements with local colleges and universities – these teachers and admins have done it all. They want you to benefit from what they’ve learned in the process. Bring your questions, share your successes, and walk away with new connections, fresh ideas, and practical solutions to strengthen your program and expand opportunities for your students.

**Building Digital Masterpieces for
Tomorrow’s Classrooms**

Mercedes Parker
V R Eaton High School/ Northwest ISD
Room: Gatlin A2
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

By the end of this session, participants will be able to create interactive instructional materials, such as a card game, using Canva and Adobe Express. Attendees will gain hands-on experience with design features, explore strategies for aligning interactive materials with educational objectives, and leave with a completed or draft version of a personalized instructional tool ready for classroom implementation.

**Know Your Rights: Accommodations
In College**

Amberly Boxley-Davis
New Outlook Academy
Room: Gatlin A3
Student: College Prep & Success

An interactive workshop designed to empower high school students with disabilities as they transition to college. Through engaging activities, students will explore the accommodations available in higher education, practice self-advocacy skills, and learn how to navigate common challenges. The workshop combines fun, teamwork, and practical strategies to ensure students leave feeling confident and prepared to access the resources they need for academic success.

Discovering Your Leadership Potential

Calvin Plante, Elizabeth Santella
Pinkerton Academy
Room: Gatlin A4
Student: Leadership Training

Discover the seven different aspects of leadership from a student perspective and how they interact to forge the future generation of leaders and educators. The hope is that this workshop will be able to take students, whether or not they consider themselves to be leaders, and allow them to discover more about who they are as leaders and changemakers in the world around them.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3, CONTINUED
3-3:45 P.M.

Staying Out of Hot Water: Understanding Legal Rights and Responsibilities

Angela Sandy, John Tovar, Patricia Williams,
Lidia Zatopek
Rice University
Room: Panzacola F1
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

Is corporal punishment in schools allowed in the United States? How do you handle a situation where you suspect child abuse? Are you required to step in to break up a fight between two students? Let's find out about these and other questions during this interactive session.

Using Our Voice for Change: Student Officer Panel

National Officers
Educators Rising
Room: Panzacola F2
Student: Leadership Training

Thinking about taking your involvement in Educators Rising to another level? Educators Rising offers different leadership opportunities as a student officer or ambassador! Our National Student Officers act as liaisons to the organization and showcase what it means to amplify student voices in education. This panel and information session will consist of our current student officers sharing their experiences as leaders, why they became officers, and what it takes to be a student leader.

Breakthrough Thinking: Unlocking Your Greatest Potential (Learning Creative Problem-Solving Strategies for Leadership Effectiveness)

Andre'a Dorsey
University of the Virgin Islands
Room: Panzacola G1
Student: Leadership Training

This session is designed to introduce creative problem-solving strategies to increase leadership effectiveness. Participants will learn how to deliberately increase their creativity by learning the mindset and tool set to apply the "Breakthrough Thinking Process." Participants will learn to reach their greatest potential by developing new ideas and innovative solutions within classrooms or the workplace. This session is intended for anyone in the organization who identifies opportunities or problems to be solved, assists in generating ideas, or participates in creating or implementing plans of action. Through interactive activities, participants will be able to learn and apply strategies for building a diverse, high-performing team. They will learn a common language conducive for fostering creative behavior and creative thinking for the purposes of improving interpersonal skills and team building. As a working session, individuals will learn and immediately apply their newly enhanced creative thinking skills to solve organizational and personal challenges.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 4
4-4:45 P.M.

Creating High-Impact Clinical Experiences & Apprenticeships for Your Future Educators

Debbie Weaver Balough and Panelists
PDK International
Room: Gatlin A1
Adult: Professional Development

Want to take your pre-educator pathway to the next level? High-quality clinical experiences and work-based learning apprenticeships are key to preparing students for success in the classroom—and beyond. In this exclusive national networking session for teacher leaders, you'll hear from a panel of experienced EdRising educators and administrators who are successfully implementing paid and unpaid apprenticeships, field experiences, and hands-on teaching opportunities in their schools and districts. Learn what works best, from structuring partnerships with local schools and districts to securing funding, designing meaningful mentorships, and navigating legal and logistical hurdles. Bring your questions, share your insights, and connect with a national network of leaders who are paving the way for the next generation of educators!

This is Lit! Engaging Learners in Literacy Experiences

Priscilla Spencer
Norfolk State University
Room: Gatlin A2
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

In this interactive workshop, future teachers will engage in collaborative discussions and activities designed to explore methods for engaging young learners in literacy experiences. Participants will explore the benefits of early literacy experiences and engage in active learning experiences that they can tailor and implement with their future students. Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to collaborate with other future educators during a team literacy game.

How Do You Get to the Top of the Pile? Grab Them Hook, Line, and Sink!

Sandra Frederick
Grove City College
Room: Gatlin A3
Student: College Prep & Success

To land your dream teaching job, the first step is securing an interview. However, this is often easier said than done, as you'll likely be competing against many other highly qualified candidates who also aspire to the same position. In a competitive job market, it's essential to stand out not only as someone who is qualified to teach the subject but also as someone who excels in how they teach and engage with students. This session will delve into strategies for crafting a resume that goes beyond simply listing what you teach. Instead, it will focus on showcasing how you teach—highlighting your ability to create dynamic learning environments, foster student engagement, and demonstrate effective instructional strategies. By emphasizing these key elements, your resume will stand out to hiring committees and increase your chances of being selected for that all-important first interview.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 4, CONTINUED
4-4:45 P.M.

Winning Streaks: The Art and Science of Building Confident Learners

Rhet Rowley
Utah Valley University
Room: Gatlin A4
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

A teacher's role is to help ALL their students be successful learners. This can be a challenge. What do you do with students who have struggled for years and now won't engage? In this session we will talk about the art and science behind building confident learners. You will be shown tools and strategies to help those reluctant to engage. Rhet Rowley will share stories, examples, and evidence of getting students on 'learning winning streaks.' He draws on his experience as a K-12 teacher, coach, and administrator to provide insight, research, and evidence-based strategies on what you can do to help resistant learners. You will engage with one another as you explore the science of learning coupled with motivation. When students get on a learning winning streak, it transforms them, their classroom, their school, and their community.

Cultivating Growth Mindset in the Classroom: Practical Strategies for Educators

Sylvia Arellano Macias
Future Educators Academy
Room: Panzacola F1
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

This session will provide current and rising educators with an understanding of growth mindset and how it contributes to a resilient and positive learning environment. Participants will take part in hands-on activities that show how to help students develop a growth mindset. Through group projects, engaging conversations, and real-world examples, participants will leave with practical strategies they can use right away to encourage determination, a love for learning, and an emphasis on progress rather than perfection. This session is designed to be engaging, collaborative, and immediately relevant to everyday classroom practice.

Writing for a Student Publication

Kathleen Vail
PDK International
Room: Panzacola F2
Student: Leadership Training

Tell the story of your chapter, your school, or your own personal experiences through Educators Rising's new digital publication for students and teacher leaders. Let other EdRising chapters across the country know what you're doing. Offer tips and tricks for challenges you've overcome. In this session, we will talk about why stories are important. We will brainstorm about the different ways to tell stories and the information you want to provide.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 5

9–9:45 A.M.

Empowering Tomorrow's Educators: Improving a GYO Teacher Pathway through Partnerships

Corey Breiten, Amira Nash
University of Iowa College of Education
Room: Gatlin A1
Adult: Professional Development

Four years into creating Educators Rising chapters in the state of Iowa, the University of Iowa College of Education and their Aspiring Educators continue to build and strengthen partnerships with school districts and community colleges across the state to strengthen grow-your-own pathways into education. Using EdRising, these partnerships focus on connecting students to the university teacher education program early and supporting students through their college education. This session will provide information on how to create partnerships with local teacher preparation programs to offer high-retention pathways; provide formal and informal opportunities for mentorship between veteran and new teachers; compensate mentor teachers; find sources of funding to mentor aspiring teachers and teacher mentors with coaching and other robust professional, academic, and emotional support as well as collaborative planning time, and seminars.

Rhythms of Learning

Michaela Downs, Maya Harley, Lilliyana Henderson
Portsmouth High School
Room: Gatlin A2
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

Explore how music and movement in early childhood classrooms support development across all domains. Participants will engage in singing and dancing activities, followed by time to reflect and discuss how each song and dance connects to various areas of development. Learning about music and movement in early childhood is crucial because these activities play a vital role in fostering holistic development.

Nailing the Interview: What Principals are Looking for in Teachers

Rhet Rowley
Utah Valley University - School of Education
Room: Gatlin A3
Student: College Prep & Success

What will they ask in an interview? Some questions don't make sense? What are they looking for? What will set me apart? Interviewing can be scary and stressful. This session will go

through what principals are looking for in a candidate and how to best present yourself. We will practice and workshop with real teacher interview questions. Rhet Rowley has many years of experience as an administrator in K-12 schools. He has been a part of hiring over 100 teachers and interviewed over 1,000. Rhet has stories, examples, and antidotes that will help you stand out as a candidate. He will share some of the questions that principals ask that can trip up candidates. Sometimes the question isn't what it seems. Come learn what principals are looking for in their teacher interviews.

Leading the Team: Leadership Lessons from the NFL

Laura Gokey
Livingston High School
Room: Gatlin A4
Student: Leadership Training

In this interactive and engaging session, students will explore the fundamentals of leadership through the lens of the NFL, one of the most team-oriented and high-pressure environments in the world. Using examples from top NFL teams and players, participants will discover key leadership qualities such as communication, teamwork, decision-making, and resilience. This session not only equips students with essential skills but also demonstrates how leadership can be fun, dynamic, and relevant to their everyday lives. Whether you're on the field, in the classroom, or working toward your goals, leadership is about lifting others and guiding the team to success. Get ready to huddle up and unleash your inner leader!

Avoiding AI Plagiarism on Written Assessments

Natasha Berg
O'Gorman High School
Room: Panzacola F1
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

Generative artificial intelligence has been transforming academia for years, yet teachers continue to face the challenge of AI-assisted cheating on written assignments. This session will provide practical strategies to address AI plagiarism at the middle, high school, and collegiate levels. Attendees will explore how to leverage tools like SchoolAI and Revision History to identify and mitigate plagiarism, while also fostering ethical and creative AI use. By the end of the session, participants will leave equipped with actionable approaches to guide students in completing written work responsibly and authentically.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS 5, CONTINUED
9–9:45 A.M.**

Find Your Voice: Launching Your Own Podcast

John Hendron
PDK International
Room: Panzacola F2
Student: Leadership Training

Have a passion, story, or idea to share? Podcasting is an incredible way to amplify your voice and connect with an audience. In this session, you'll learn how to turn your interests into a podcast that educates, entertains, and inspires. We'll cover the basics of recording, choosing the right equipment, and editing like a pro—without breaking the bank. You'll also discover strategies for building an audience, getting your podcast listed on major platforms, and making an impact in the education space and beyond. Whether you want to start a classroom podcast, advocate for important issues, or simply share your creativity, this session will give you the tools to get started.

Teaching Gen Z as Gen Z

Jose Carrillo
PDK International
Room: Panzacola G1
Student: Leadership Training

As a Gen Z educator, you bring fresh ideas, tech-savviness, and a unique ability to relate to students—but how do you balance that with maintaining authority in the classroom? And what about navigating relationships with older colleagues who may see you as “the new kid”? In this interactive session, former Educators Rising Officer

and current educator, Jose Carrillo, will explore how to establish respect with students, set boundaries while building connections, and communicate effectively with coworkers.

**Focus Group: Students
Share Your Opinions as Future
Educators: Help Shape the Curriculum!**

Sarah Heinemeier
Compass Evaluation & Research
Room: St. John's 27
Student: Leadership Training

We are seeking up to 24 adult students (18 years and older) to participate in an Expert Panel session to give us feedback on the Educators Rising Year 2 Curriculum. Specifically, we will review the Educators Rising and IRIS Center materials related to teaching students with disabilities. Light refreshments will be provided to participants. Space is limited so please register using the survey link: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8223751/Educators-Rising-2025-Expert-Panel-Sign-Up>.

Participation is available on a "first come, first served" basis. Your time and insights are valuable — participants will receive a thank-you gift.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 6 10–10:45 A.M.

Chapter 101: How To Grow Your Chapter

Travis Lape, Monica Oliver
TAFE and Educators Rising South Dakota
Room: Gatlin A1
Adult: Professional Development

Join us for an engaging session diving into a comprehensive framework designed to support educators at all stages of their journey, whether you're just starting a chapter or seeking to build upon existing successes. In this interactive session, we will provide practical ideas and strategies that will simplify your planning process for the upcoming year. Through collaborative discussions and hands-on activities, participants will gain valuable insights into effective recruitment methods, leadership development, and community engagement initiatives. Walk away from this session feeling empowered and inspired to implement solutions that will contribute to the growth and success of your chapter. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, connect, and take your chapter to new heights.

Sprinkling Motivation Magic for School Success

Sophie Curtis, Madison Kohlhase, Sophia Therrien
Portsmouth High School
Room: Gatlin A2
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

In this workshop, students are exposed to the tiers of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Pyramid and will be able to connect them to students' needs in the classroom. The workshop will allow future educators the best resources possible to understand a student and their individual needs both in and out of the classroom. Future educators with an understanding of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs will be able to create a classroom environment that makes everyone feel welcome, understood, and respected so that every student can thrive. Participants will be asked to think critically about each tier and how each specific tier can be used by teachers to meet the needs of every student. With the right motivation in early life, kids can grow and develop in a healthy way that can set them up to hopefully be able to reach self-actualization in the future.

Test Success Blueprint: Mastering the ACT and SAT to Open Doors to Opportunity

Andrea Broussard
St. Martin Parish College & Career Readiness Center
Room: Gatlin A3
Student: College Prep & Success

Unlock the secrets to excelling on the ACT and SAT in this exciting and interactive session designed specifically for students. These tests are key milestones on the path to college. Mastering them can open doors to incredible opportunities. Learn proven strategies to tackle tricky questions, manage time effectively, and stay confident under pressure. We'll dive into the structure and scoring of both exams, explore how to avoid common mistakes, and break down challenging questions step-by-step. You'll also discover how to create a personalized study plan that works for your schedule and learning style, helping you maximize your potential. Through hands-on activities and real-world practice questions, you'll gain the tools and confidence to perform your best on test day. Join us to build your confidence, enhance your test-taking skills, and take charge of your future!

The Principles for Success in Service Learning: How Service Learning Enriches the Learning Experience Beyond the Classroom: Student Activities and Clubs

Cyann Lilly, Shannon Swonger
Garrett High School
Room: Gatlin A4
Student: Leadership Training

We will explore how community service leaves a lasting impact on both individuals and society. We will discuss the various ways of volunteering that contribute to personal growth, help to build stronger communities, and help to address social issues. By discussing real-life examples, we will highlight the importance of giving back and help to identify personal strengths that can be used to help serve others. We will provide tools to help participants get involved in their community and help to keep track of progress. Join us to discover how small acts of service can create meaningful change in the world around you.

Charting Your Path: Using Strengths and Weaknesses to Thrive in Your First Five Years

James Flammer
Ridgeline High School
Room: Panzacola F1
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

Navigating the first five years in the classroom can feel overwhelming, but understanding and leveraging your unique strengths—and addressing your areas for growth—can illuminate a clear path forward. In this interactive session, we'll explore how self-awareness can transform your teaching journey from survival mode to thriving. Participants will learn practical strategies for

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS 6, CONTINUED
10–10:45 A.M.**

identifying their core strengths and how to use them to create impactful lessons, foster strong relationships with students, and manage the many demands of the classroom. Equally important, we'll discuss how to recognize and address personal weaknesses, turning potential pitfalls into opportunities for professional growth. This session will include reflective activities to help you map your strengths and challenges, case studies from experienced educators, and tools for setting realistic goals for your early teaching years. Whether you're struggling with time management, balancing relationships, or building confidence, this session offers a framework to help you move forward with clarity and purpose.

Rounding Up College Experts: College Exploration Workshop

Sharonda Demars
Dallas Independent School District
Room: Panzacola F2
Student: College Prep & Success

This session will provide an in-depth analysis of various aspects of universities, helping students identify the institution that best aligns with their academic and personal needs. We will explore key factors such as university type, location, size, and the range of extracurricular opportunities available. By examining these elements, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of how different universities can support their educational and career goals. Additionally, the session will foster collaborative learning, allowing participants to engage with their table groups to discuss and identify potential universities that fit their individual preferences and aspirations. They will explore how each of these factors influences their overall university experience, from academics to campus life. Participants will be equipped with the tools and knowledge to make informed decisions about their university selection process.

Secure the Bag: Making Educators Rising Stand Out in Your Applications

Jose Carrillo
PDK International
Room: Panzacola G1
Student: College Prep & Success

You've put in the work—now it's time to make it count! In this interactive session, learn how to showcase your Educators Rising experience to make your college, scholarship, and job applications stand out. We'll break down how to translate your leadership, service, and competition experiences into powerful resume bullets, compelling essays, and standout interviews. Walk away with concrete strategies to "secure the bag" and leverage your involvement for future success!

Focus Group: Students Share Your Opinions as Future Educators: Help Shape the Curriculum!

Sarah Heinemeier
Compass Evaluation & Research
Room: St. John's 27
Student: Leadership Training

We are seeking up to 24 adult students (18 years and older) to participate in an Expert Panel session to give us feedback on the Educators Rising Year 2 Curriculum. Specifically, we will review the Educators Rising and IRIS Center materials related to teaching students with disabilities. Light refreshments will be provided to participants. Space is limited so please register using the survey link: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8223751/Educators-Rising-2025-Expert-Panel-Sign-Up>.

Participation is available on a "first come, first served" basis. Your time and insights are valuable — participants will receive a thank-you gift.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 7

2–2:45 P.M.

Building Your Bench: Strengthening the Future Teachers Pipeline with Educators Rising

Kala Green, Deborah Shaffer
 Kansas Educators Rising
 Room: Gatlin A1
 Adult: Professional Development

Are you ready to grow the next generation of exceptional educators within your district? This session focuses on building your bench by leveraging the Educators Rising program to cultivate and inspire future teachers directly from your student body. Discover how this nationally recognized initiative can be tailored to align with your district's needs while fostering a culture that attracts, develops, and retains passionate educators. Participants will explore proven strategies for implementing Educators Rising, from establishing a strong foundation to creating meaningful opportunities for mentorship and hands-on teaching experiences. Learn how to build partnerships, secure funding, and promote equity within your pipeline to ensure every student sees a path to teaching success. Attendees will leave with tools, resources, and a strategic framework to start or enhance a future teacher pipeline in their districts and states. Unlock the potential of building your bench and secure the future of education in your community.

Inside Out: Exploring Different Emotions & Learning Methods for Creating an Inclusive Classroom Environment

Mykaila Davis, Tyrone Flenoy Jr., Chloe Flores,
 Kaycee Gabor, Bailey Hoover, Miah Hutchinson,
 Breana Spradlin, Jasmyne Sturdivant
 Ohio Educators Rising State Officers
 Room: Gatlin A2
 Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

Do you want to see your students learn and thrive in the face of emotional and mental struggles? Participate in interactive activities to learn more about students' emotions. Be prepared to engage in a presentation about creating an inclusive and safe environment. Turn your classroom inside out by exploring what different emotions may look like for students; learn effective methods for relieving student stress and regulating their emotions.

Teacher for a Day: Dive into the World of Education

Marisa Hooker, Abbey Poirier, Kirstin Wilson
 University of Louisiana at Lafayette
 Room: Gatlin A3
 Student: College Prep & Success

Join us for an engaging session where pre-service teachers share their journeys in pursuing a major in education and their aspirations to inspire the next generation of educators. This session will provide insights into the academic and personal experiences that shape future teachers, highlighting both their challenges and successes. Attendees will learn about courses and practical experiences that define the path to becoming a teacher. Through our stories and advice, we hope to inspire high school students who are considering a career in education by offering them a glimpse into the rewarding profession of teaching. This session will also encourage reflection on personal motivations to foster a supportive community among aspiring educators.

A Session for the Swifties: Leadership & Legacy

Jessica Wilson
 Bryant High School
 Room: Gatlin A4
 Student: Leadership Training

Join us for an exhilarating session where we explore the leadership tactics and personal branding mastery of Taylor Swift, a true 'Fearless' leader in the music industry. In this 'Wildest Dreams' journey, we'll delve into how Taylor manages her 'Reputation' and captivates audiences worldwide. Participants will engage in an analysis of Taylor's strategies to 'Shake It Off' when faced with challenges and how she builds a 'Love'ly connection with her fanbase. We'll uncover how she turns a 'Blank Space' into a canvas for innovation and influence. Attendees will learn to harness their own 'Style' of leadership and classroom management by drawing inspiration from Taylor's 'Enchanted' approach to personal branding. By the end, you'll have the 'Bewitched' tools to craft a leadership persona that echoes your unique 'Fearless' spirit.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 7, CONTINUED 2–2:45 P.M.

'Be the Change' - Inspiring Students to Be Change Makers through Inquiry-Based Research

Rachel Finney

Nome-Beltz Middle High School

Room: Panzacola F1

Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

"Be the Change" started as an inquiry-based research project that has grown to become a chance for students to learn about careers and programs to create the change they wish to see in the world and in their community. Learn how to take a "boring" research project and make it relevant in a way that empowers students to be change makers!

Shaping Success: Flexibility and Creativity in Leadership and Teaching

Journey Harris

Educators Rising

Room: Panzacola F2

Student: Leadership Training

Flexibility is a cornerstone of effective leadership, teaching, and personal growth. In this interactive session, you'll explore the power of adaptability through a hands-on activity with pipe cleaners. Participants will bend, twist, and shape the pipe cleaners into creative designs, symbolizing how flexibility allows us to build something meaningful, even in the face of unexpected challenges.

Whether you're navigating a classroom, leading a team, or pursuing personal aspirations, the ability to adapt is essential for success. Walk away with practical insights, a tangible representation of adaptability, and renewed inspiration to approach challenges as opportunities for growth. Join us for this creative and empowering session to learn how a little flexibility can lead to building something truly beautiful—both in leadership and in life.

The Next Generation of GYO Teacher Pathways: From High School to Licensed Educator in 3 Years

Jim Martin

BloomBoard Inc.

Room: Panzacola G1

Adult: Professional Development

Discover how BloomBoard's partnerships revolutionize the educator pipeline by enabling high school students to graduate

with dual credit that transfers into our accelerated, on-the-job Bachelor's in Teaching programs. This approach addresses teacher shortages while creating life-changing opportunities for students.

These pathways allow high school graduates to:

- Transition directly into teaching assistant roles in their home district.
- Earn a full-time salary immediately after graduation.
- Complete a debt-free bachelor's degree with no out-of-pocket cost.
- Earn their teaching license in just three years while working full-time.
- Build meaningful careers in their communities.

Learn how this pathway can jumpstart your teaching career. You'll earn a competitive salary while gaining classroom experience and completing your degree — without student loan debt. We'll share stories from recent graduates now becoming licensed teachers through this innovative program.

Focus Group: Adults Curriculum in Focus: Help Refine Special Education Resources

Sarah Heinemeier

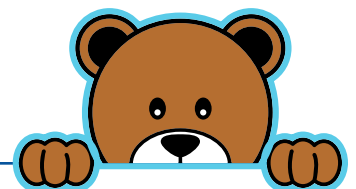
Compass Evaluation & Research

Room: St. John's 27

Adult: Professional Development

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Participation is available on a "first come, first served" basis. Your time and insights are valuable — participants will receive a thank-you gift.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 8

3–3:45 P.M.

Empowering Young Minds: Innovating Early Literacy with AI-Enhanced Engagement

Jim Marggraff, Jeff Piontek
Kibeam
Room: Gatlin A1
Adult: Professional Development

Boosting literacy is essential, and this session unveils a groundbreaking, screen-free approach that helps children fall in love with reading using physical books. Learning to read becomes an exciting journey—filled with audio prompts and interactive questions that spark curiosity, ignite imagination, and empower kids to predict story twists, think critically, and connect narratives to their own lives.

This innovative method builds a richer vocabulary and deepens comprehension skills, aligning seamlessly with the science of reading. By grounding its techniques in evidence-based practices, it reinforces phonemic awareness, decoding, and comprehension—key components proven to boost reading proficiency. Educators and parents will gain valuable insights into a child's reading progress, making every story time a dynamic adventure that not only entertains but also develops essential literacy skills.

The Writing Teacher: Building a Practice of Writing Across All Disciplines

Janet Bisti, Patrice Woods
Poughkeepsie City School District
Room: Gatlin A2
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

The Writing Teacher is both a teacher of writing and a writer themselves. This workshop will explore simple yet effective and fun writing strategies that can be used to support students in thinking and writing across all subject areas and grade levels. Participants will learn about brainstorming strategies for creative writing, using mentor texts, creative writing strategies to explore a topic, and creative writing as formative assessment. They will engage in some writing activities, explore student examples, and reflect on their own learning as a writer as well as how they might adapt and adjust each strategy to their own classroom.

So You Wanna Be an Ed Major? A Guide to Thriving as a Future Teacher

Samantha Fecich
Slippery Rock University
Room: Gatlin A3
Student: College Prep & Success

Are you ready to embark on the journey to becoming an educator? In this dynamic and interactive session, future educators will explore what it means to be a teacher and how to thrive as an education major from day one. Dr. Sam Fecich, author of *EduMagic: A Guide for Preservice Teachers* and host of the EduMagic Future Teacher Podcast, will share practical tips, strategies, and insights to help you slay your freshman year, focus on your “why,” and start building habits of excellence—right now.

Resume Power-Up: Crafting Your Blueprint for Leadership Success

Rhonda Murphy-Johnson, Asiah Scott
Career Development Center/Jackson Middle College
Room: Gatlin A4
Student: Leadership Training

Are you ready to take the first step toward becoming an influential educator and leader? Join this interactive workshop designed specifically for aspiring teachers! Learn how to create a standout resume that highlights your unique strengths, leadership potential, and passion for education. Bring your laptops or devices, as we'll dive into hands-on activities to craft a polished and professional resume. We'll explore strategies for writing compelling cover letters to help you secure scholarships, internships, and teaching positions. This session will provide practical tips, proven strategies, and expert advice to help you stand out in the competitive world of education. Whether you're preparing for your first teaching role or positioning yourself as a future leader, this workshop will empower you to confidently showcase your skills and achievements.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 8, CONTINUED 3–3:45 P.M.

Brain Breaks: Let's Get Moving! Why and How to Implement in your Classroom!

Jodie Tucker, Addyson Yedica

Whitmer CTC

Room: Panzacola F1

Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

What if there was a way to let them get their jitters out in a quick and efficient manner? Brain breaks could be a solution. Brain breaks are quick and fun ways to let kids get their energy out so they feel as though they can participate in their lesson to the best of their ability. Participants will learn about different forms of brain breaks such as dance breaks, file folder games, and calming corners, and why they are so crucial for the classroom. They will also get a better understanding of how and when to use these and will participate in one themselves. Participants will leave with a new sense of what exactly a brain break is. And for those who are stressed about their first year of teaching, tips from the presentations will help limit unwanted classroom behaviors.

How to Become an Education Influencer Starr Sackstein

PDK International

Room: Panzacola F2

Student: Leadership Training

In today's digital age, educators' roles extend beyond the classroom. This interactive session, designed for high school students, will explore the concept of becoming an educator influencer—someone who inspires, engages, and connects with a broader audience through innovative teaching practices and social media platforms.

Participants will learn to leverage their unique perspectives and experiences to create impactful content that resonates with peers and the community. We will discuss the importance of building a personal brand, using social media tools effectively, and engaging in meaningful education conversations. Students will engage in hands-on activities, such as developing a content strategy and identifying their target audience. We will also cover the ethical considerations and responsibilities of being an influencer, including authenticity, accountability, and the positive impact on educational discourse.

Participants will be equipped with practical skills and insights to embark on their journey as educator influencers. They will be empowered to share their voices, advocate for educational change, and inspire others in their learning communities. Find out how you can make a difference in our profession.

A Future Full of Promise: An Inspiring Conversation with Randi Weingarten

Randi Weingarten

AFT

Room: Panzacola G1

Student: Leadership Training

Join AFT President Randi Weingarten for an uplifting and engaging meet-and-greet designed exclusively for Educators Rising's future educators! This is your chance to connect with a passionate advocate for teachers and learn about the incredible journey that awaits you.

Weingarten will share her insights on the power of educators, the importance of collective action, and the vital role you will play in shaping the next generation. She'll offer words of encouragement, answer your questions, and engage in a lively discussion about the challenges and rewards of a career in education.

This session isn't just about listening; it's about building connections and fostering a sense of community. Come prepared to share your aspirations, network with fellow future educators, and leave feeling inspired and empowered to embark on your teaching journey. Don't miss this unique opportunity to gain wisdom and support from a leading voice in education!



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 9
4-4:45 P.M.

It's Only Weird If You Make It Weird: Real Talk with Golden Apple

Kesa Thurman-Stovall, Rozy Patel
 Golden Apple
 Room: Gatlin A1
 Adult: Professional Development

The identities and experiences students bring to the classroom greatly influence how teachers progress through a school year. A transformational teacher understands both their own identity and that of their students. While discussions of identity can feel uncomfortable, they are essential to creating inclusive, supportive learning environments. It's only weird if you make it weird.

Through personal reflection and discussion, we will explore how to create classrooms that serve as windows and mirrors, allowing students to see themselves represented while appreciating differences in others.

This session will provide an overview of both identity-conscious teaching practices and the work of Golden Apple, which inspires, develops, and supports educators —especially in schools-of-need. Through its Scholars and Accelerators programs, Golden Apple is expanding the pipeline of diverse, highly effective teachers prepared to make an immediate impact —ensuring that future educators and their students show up better for each other every day of the school year.

Digging into Trauma: Beyond the Surface

Kelsi Butler, Tylia Irving
 Warren Easton Charter High School
 Room: Gatlin A2
 Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

This session explores how trauma impacts students' emotions, behavior, and learning, and gives practical strategies for creating classrooms where everyone feels safe and supported. We'll talk about how to recognize signs of trauma, use coping strategies, and build an environment that helps students handle stress and grow stronger. You'll create your own trauma stewardship plan to help balance caring for others while taking care of yourself. Teachers and students both need support, and this plan will give you tools to manage the emotional challenges of teaching or learning. This session focuses on seeing students as whole people and understanding how their experiences shape them. By connecting with students and knowing their stories, educators can make a huge impact in their lives. Whether you're an aspiring teacher or just someone who wants to create a better school environment, you'll leave with ideas to build resilience, stronger relationships, and more positive, supportive classrooms.

Building a Meaningful Future Through the College Experience

Jessica Roberts
 New College of Florida
 Room: Gatlin A3
 Student: College Prep & Success

This hands-on session will explore how the college experience builds a foundation for an enjoyable, successful life by understanding the variety of undergraduate college programs, degrees, and pathways, as well as how different majors affect future career possibilities. Participants will create a map of their own skills and interests, build a model five-year plan, identify careers which engage those interests, and see how their dreams might come to life through the opportunities afforded through different components of post-secondary education.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 9
4-4:45 P.M.

Creativity 101: Creativity for Non-Creative people - Problem Solving and Critical Thinking

Albert Chen
PDK International
Room: Gatlin A4
Student: Leadership Training

If you believe you are not creative, this session will open up the possibilities of becoming creative. If you have students who say they are not creative, you can use this lesson to encourage them to think otherwise. Come join Albert Chen, PDK and EdRising's COO, to begin your journey to creativity.

Integrating Technology for Engaged Learning

Grace Denney
University of Mississippi High School
Room: Panzacola F1
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

It's no secret that kids are less engaged now. This is because each student has their own individual learning needs. While it would be impossible to adapt for every child's specific needs without wasting many resources, there are ways to help. Incorporating technology into lessons can make everybody's life easier.

Strengths Unlocked: Discover, Develop, and Lead with Confidence

John Hendron
PDK International
Room: Panzacola F2
Student: Leadership Training

What makes you stand out? Understanding your strengths is the key to building confidence, communicating effectively, and becoming a strong leader. In this session, you'll take a deep dive into identifying your unique strengths through assessment tools and learn how to articulate them to peers, teachers, and future employers. We'll also explore ways to develop your strengths further, build habits

that support your well-being, and leverage your natural talents for leadership opportunities. Whether you're planning a career in education or just want to better understand yourself, this session will help you turn self-awareness into success.

Plant Seeds, Grow Dreams, & Empower Change - #TeachAg

Cameron Earlywine
National Association of Agricultural Educators
Room: Panzacola G1
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

Discover how your interest in education can be a catalyst for change—connecting with students, nurturing their curiosity, and guiding them toward fulfilling careers. Through practical insights, valuable resources, and uplifting success stories, in this workshop, you'll learn how to plant the seeds of knowledge, cultivate potential to grow student's dreams, and harvest a career that truly makes a difference in the lives of students that will forever empower change. Choosing to be an agricultural educator can provide you with the opportunity to do just that. Agriculture may be predominantly seen in fields and in labs—but its true roots start in the classroom through limitless learning! Do you have a passion for educating young minds and a desire to inspire the next generation of young leaders? Join us as we dig into the impact of teaching, mentoring, and advocating for agriculture in urban and rural schools and communities.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 10
9 –9:45 A.M.

Strategies to Bridge the Teacher Recruitment Gap

Kathryn Crews, Rachael Villanueva
 Teach.org
 Room: Gatlin A1
 Adult: Professional Development

This session is designed for educators and education leaders passionate about tackling teacher shortages. Explore cutting-edge research and free resources to strengthen teacher recruitment efforts. Kathryn Crews will share insights from her extensive experience, including her leadership of the TEACHSC initiative, a statewide effort to develop sustainable pipelines for South Carolina educators. Participants will engage in cross-state collaboration, exchanging innovative strategies to attract and retain diverse, high-quality educators. Backed by Teach.org’s national expertise and cost-effective recruitment models, this session will equip you with actionable solutions to ensure all students have access to exceptional teachers.

Resume Writing 2.0: Embracing Hands-On Learning Opportunities

Alisa Ross
 Southern University and A&M College
 Room: Gatlin A3
 Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

Aspiring educators are lifelong learners. What opportunities are you embracing to develop your craft and passion for teaching? During this session, the concept of hands-on learning will be discussed. In addition, the presenter will identify and elaborate on at least three hands-on learning prospects pre-service teachers may want to consider during the upcoming school year. In this session, participants will engage in a mock interview, evaluate a sample resume, and create an interdisciplinary lesson plan. This session will be engaging, practical, and reflective.

Empowering Today’s Students to Engage in Community Efforts from the Classroom

Charlee Stewart
 Perry Central Jr-Sr High School
 Room: Gatlin A4
 Student: Leadership Training

Living in a generation uplifted by technology and better communication methods, today’s generations (Gen Z and Gen Alpha) are more likely to embrace activism and community assistance efforts than any generation before them. Today’s

students are tomorrow’s voices, and teachers everywhere empower and inspire those voices to strive for success and the betterment of the future. Inspired by Perry Central Schools’ efforts to implement community engagement in their curriculums, the purpose of this discussion is to address the importance of community-engaged learning, where both, students and teachers alike work together to make their mark in society – an rising topic that not only brings about a more engaging, inclusive, and positive atmosphere in the classroom. It also raises awareness about the idea of recognizing and helping others. Participants will learn about the positive impact on students’ and teachers’ well-being and how it can bring about better attendance scores and succession in school.

The Educators Vault: A Leadership Escape Room

Izabella Crossett, Aubrey Fisher
 Kingwood High School/ TAFE
 Room: Panzacola F2
 Student: Leadership Training

“The Educators’ Vault” is a fun and interactive escape room where teams race against time to solve puzzles and unlock the vault. Each challenge helps build real-world leadership skills like communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and time management. You’ll work with your team to decode messages, tackle tricky scenarios, and think critically under pressure. You will find out about learning how to stay calm, work together, and lead with confidence. This escape room is the perfect way to prepare for future leadership roles while having a great time with fellow Educators Rising members!



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 11
10–10:45 A.M.

CTE, CTSOs, WBL, Perkins & More: How Your Educators Rising Program Fits into the Broader CTE Ecosystem

Alisha Hyslop

ACTE

Room: Gatlin A1

Adult: Professional Development

Are you new to teaching or leading in the career and technical education (CTE) space? Do you want to better understand how your programs fit into CTE? This session will provide a broad overview of how CTE programs and activities operate and what you need to know to maximize success in this unique space. It will include content on key terminology and initiatives; data, funding and policy considerations; and how CTE systems might be leveraged to support students. We will focus on how Educators Rising chapters and the related courses and programs preparing students for education careers fit into this broader ecosystem, and how professional educators can take advantage of all the opportunities CTE programs offer for their students. Participants will have an opportunity to share how their programs are integrated into CTE in their schools, as well as offer suggestions for tools and resources that would help them become a stronger CTE educator.

Math Adventures: Create and Play Your Own Board Game

Nelli Kim Acejo

San Jose Unified School District

Room: Gatlin A2

Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

This session introduces an interactive and innovative project that combines mathematical learning with creativity: designing a board game. Originally designed for Algebra 1 students, this project can easily be adapted for intermediate elementary or middle school students, focusing on topics appropriate to their grade level. The activity allows students to deepen their understanding of math concepts, apply critical thinking, and engage in collaborative learning.

Supercharge Your School Clubs: Using AI to Boost Engagement and Creativity

Laura Gokey

Livingston High School

Room: Gatlin A4

Student: Leadership Training

Are you looking for fresh and exciting ways to keep students engaged in your school clubs? This session will introduce Chapter Officers and Advisors to practical and innovative strategies for using artificial intelligence (AI) to transform club meetings into vibrant, interactive experiences. Learn how AI tools can help brainstorm ideas, streamline planning, and foster collaboration among members. Through real-world examples tailored to various club types—like Educators Rising, Community Service, and more—you'll discover how to make your monthly meetings the highlight of students' schedules. By the end of this session, you'll walk away with actionable insights, recommended tools, and creative ideas to energize your clubs and leave students eager to participate. Perfect for Chapter Officers and Advisors seeking to maximize their impact while minimizing their workload.

Authentic Student Networking — Connecting Rising Educators Across Our State

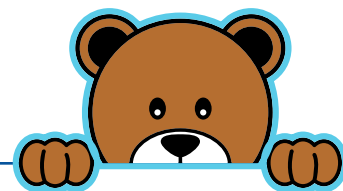
Rachel Finney

Nome-Beltz Middle High School

Room: Panzacola F2

Student: Leadership Training + Adult: Professional Development

At the 2024 Educators Rising Alaska State Leadership Conference, three students from Nome, Alaska, attended a networking session. They remarked that it's a shame Rising Educators do not get to network with each other before or after the SLC, and thus an idea was born! This year, Educators Rising Alaska ran its first Authentic Student Networking program. Students across the state were invited to attend monthly zoom meetings to network with other students. The sessions started with competition tips and reminders and then delved into a monthly topic of discussion for education, such as teacher retention, technology in schools, and mental health support. Find out more about how the program started, challenges we faced, how we hope to grow the program, and how a program like this might work in your district or state.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 12

11–11:45 A.M.

From Budget to Breakthrough: Practical Funding Solutions for Educators Rising Success

Lisa Rollins
PDK International
Room: Gatlin A1
Adult: Professional Development

Tired of limited resources hindering your Educators Rising chapter's potential? This session offers actionable strategies for securing funding to support curriculum implementation, chapter activities, and student conference attendance. We'll delve into grant writing tips, fundraising techniques, and creative resource acquisition methods, providing you with the tools to build a sustainable and impactful program. Leave with a toolkit of funding strategies ready for immediate application.

Charmed With Kindness: Your Words Matter

Lillian Bertsch, Iten Morcos
Eaton High School
Room: Gatlin A2
Student: Classroom Tips, Tricks, and Innovation

We aim to help students and educators understand the true importance of their word. As attendees enter the room, they will draw a number that will later determine their spots in the Circle of Kindness. Attendees will gather in a circle to share heartfelt compliments about one another, thus promoting comfort, a culture of appreciation, and support. Following the Circle of Kindness, we present our statistics and the evidence to back up our breakout room and the passion behind why, what, and how this came to life. Participants will create personalized bracelets using words of affirmation and encouragement, symbolizing their commitment to uplifting others. This hands-on activity reinforces the importance of kindness. It also serves as a tangible reminder of the positive impact we can have on one another. By the end of the session, participants will leave feeling valued and inspired, equipped with strategies to cultivate a supportive environment in an educational setting.

Writing for *Kappan*

Kathleen Vail
PDK International
Room: Gatlin A3
Adult: Professional Development

Educators and classroom teachers have important stories and perspectives about our schools and education system. How can you share your experiences and perspectives with the public? In this session, *Kappan* Editor-in-Chief Kathleen Vail will share tips for getting your work published. Learn how to craft an article that will capture readers' attention. This session will focus on writing articles for *Kappan* and other PDK publications, but the information applies to other publishing venues as well.

Conquering Public Speaking 101

Albert Chen
PDK International
Room: Gatlin A4
Student: Leadership Training

Educators are often asked to speak in public but may not be trained to speak beyond the classroom. In this session, we will learn to embrace public speaking through the mechanics of creating a dynamic presentation and using your nerves to be an even better speaker. Albert Chen, PDK's COO, has trained thousands of speakers at all levels to be the best they can be. Join us and begin your own path as a successful public speaker.

Empower Your Voice: Becoming a Student Advocate

Nicole Dunn
AACTE
Room: Panzacola F2
Student: Leadership Training

AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education) advocates and prepares the next generation of teachers and educators.

This interactive session will translate powerful advocacy concepts into actionable strategies for high school students. You will learn the fundamentals of how policy is made and practical strategies to effectively communicate your perspectives to decision-makers on issues that matter to you most. We will explore ways you can effectively use your voice now to raise awareness and influence change to become not just a great teacher, but also a powerful advocate for future students, and the future of education.

2024-25 Educators Rising Champion Award Winners



Teacher Leader Division

Tracy Kern, Harrisburg High School (SD)

School Leader Division

Karley Picou, Dean of Operations, Washington-Marion Magnet High School (MD)

District Leader Division

Gladys Cruz, District Superintendent of Questar III BOCES (NY)

Higher Ed Division

Janet Kim, University of Hawaii (HI)

State Department Division

John Wilson, North Carolina Department of Education and Teacher Cadet (NC)

Partner Organization Division

Archie McAfee, Texas Association of Secondary School Principals (TASSP), (TX)

Partner Funder Division

Elizabeth Bennett, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MA)

PDK Funder Division

Randall Schmalz, Phi Delta Kappa member (MD)

2025 PDK International Distinguished Educators and Emerging Leaders

PDK International is proud to be continuing the Emerging Leaders and Distinguished Educators program as a fellowship diving into the issues in education today. Seeking innovators, thought leaders, and problem solvers who are making a difference in the field of education, we encourage these fellows to support the organization’s initiatives and contribute to projects that will make a significant impact in the field of education. Selected from a pool of applicants through a rigorous review process, PDK Fellows come from diverse backgrounds from all over the country and share a common desire to make an impact with

the work they engage in. Nearly half of PDK’s Board of Directors came from the previous incarnation of our Emerging Leaders who collectively have gone on to become superintendents, executive directors, renowned innovative thinkers, and luminaries in education. We eagerly anticipate the growth of this program through our impressive cohorts and look forward to offering you the opportunity to interact with like-minded colleagues from different areas to work together as a think tank and to lead and learn through community-driven professional development.



2025 Distinguished Educator Fellows

Dr. Michael Conner
Webster, New York

Dr. Simone Griffin
Chicago, Illinois

Tatum T. Boothe
Rosedale, New York

Dr. Luana Y. Ferreira
New York, New York

Dr. Scott McLeod
Lafayette, Colorado



2025 Emerging Leader Fellows

Karina Lee
Racine, Wisconsin

Dr. Ryan Tauriainen
Washington, D.C.

Regina Digilormo
Bossier City, Louisiana

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

TIME	ROOM	EVENT
5:15 – 7 p.m.	St. John's 34	Emerging Leaders/Distinguished Educators Meeting (by invitation only)

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

TIME	ROOM	EVENT
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	St. John's 34	Emerging Leaders/Distinguished Educators Meeting (by invitation only)

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

TIME	ROOM	EVENT
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	St. John's 34	Emerging Leaders/Distinguished Educators Meeting (by invitation only)



2025 Educators Rising Honor Society Members

The Educators Rising Honor Society is a distinction that recognizes the academic accomplishments of our student members. This honor serves to elevate the image of teaching by highlighting high-achieving students dedicated to a career path in education. To qualify for the Educators Rising Honor Society, students must be a high school junior or senior and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.50 on a 4.0 scale.

Ellie Adams (AR)	Emily Campbell (MS)	Macklaine Easton (AR)	Elyse Grierson (TX)
Natalie Alcancia (VA)	Aleyda Cantu (TX)	Taylor Fann (MO)	Dylan Hagedorn (WI)
Kenadie Andrasic (OH)	Dakota Cardona (TX)	Kennedy Faulconer (KY)	Lauren Hammond (VA)
Sylvia Arellano Macias (TX)	Sarah Carlson (MD)	Hailey Faulkcon (IA)	Cameron Hartman (VA)
Erma Grey Bailey (VA)	Diego Castro-Medina (PA)	Emily Felice (LA)	Camille Hartwig (AL)
Kaili Baker (VA)	Isabella Cessna (OH)	Caden Ferrell (KY)	Kyla Hatton (AR)
Khalil Barnes (TX)	Stephanie Chavera (TX)	Sophia Fisher (VA)	Trevor Heron (PA)
Kayleigh Barr (DE)	Victoria Ciruelos (PA)	Teagan Fletcher (TX)	Xaria Hicks (MO)
Ethan Barriga (TX)	Victoria Clophus (LA)	Brady Ford (OH)	Brianna Higginbotham (IN)
Jakevion Bell (MS)	Layla Coleman (MS)	Felicia Fordjour (OH)	MaKenzie Higgins (AR)
Laila Bellard (LA)	Isabelle Conrad (WV)	Chloe Fortner (IL)	Tirzah Hill (MD)
Steven Berna (AR)	Madison Couch (AR)	Marissa Gabor (IL)	Kaitlynn Hillman (TX)
Abigail Birkhimer (OH)	Abigail Cox (UT)	Renee Gales (MD)	Julia Hinton (VA)
Samantha Blaw (PA)	Loni Cross (IL)	Cody Gamez (TX)	Morgan Holliman (AR)
Emelia Boatwright (MO)	Holly Culotta (OH)	Jordan Garcia (TX)	Matthew Holston (DE)
Macie Bosshardt (UT)	Emily Dalrymple (MO)	Emma Garcia (OH)	Hailey Hoover (AR)
Latia Brantley (MS)	Maycey Davis (WV)	Adi Gardner (PA)	Ashley Hugus (PA)
Taylor Braun (OH)	Brittany Deen (LA)	Kassandra Garza (TX)	Trinity Jackson (IL)
Madelyn Brosius (PA)	Mackenzie DePrest (OH)	Clara Gerhardt (TX)	Shayla Jacobsen (NE)
Kelsey Brueggemann (MO)	Sierra D'Eramo (PA)	Claire Getson (PA)	Elza Jacobs-Zamban (NH)
Kaci Brunkow (WI)	Ciana Diaz (TX)	Taylor Gigliotti (PA)	Elizabeth Jensen (VA)
Kyrsten Buchanan (OH)	Kylie Dillon (MO)	Krishna Gliponeo (VA)	Kayla Johnson (IL)
Alexis Burke (DE)	Emily Doty (TX)	Kaely Godard (VA)	Christover Jones (MS)
Caroline Burns (PA)	Anna Douglas (AL)	Nicole Golden (OH)	Cheyenne Jones (WV)
Madeleine Busch (VA)	Makenzi Downs (KY)	Victoria Gonzalez (TX)	Kiara Jones (IL)
Madison Butler (DE)	Elana Dunn (MO)	Alicia Graf (OH)	Lakayla Jones (OH)
Kennedy Campbell (OH)	Delilah Dwyer (VA)	Logan Grant (MS)	Destiny Jones (SC)

2025 Educators Rising Honor Society Members, continued

Kelsey Jung (TX)	Eliza Mercer (OH)	Eleanor Recinos (TX)	Raven Tyree (IA)
Maureen Kamau (OH)	Kendall Merrill (VA)	Caitlin Reindl (WI)	Liana Vargas (AZ)
Alicia Keever (LA)	Helen Meyer (MD)	Mika Reis (PA)	Gabriel Velasquez (TX)
AnaBeth Keith (WV)	Quandrvious Mixon (AR)	Karyme Reyes (TX)	Sheyli Velasquez (TX)
Zenia Kennedy (SC)	Tela Moffett (MS)	Jack Reynolds (VA)	Olivia Vitrano (WI)
Mallory Kibler (MO)	Quetzal Morales (TX)	Andrea Rico (TX)	Sydney Wade (MD)
Kierstyn Kirk (PA)	Josephine Morehead (KS)	Gabrielle Roberts (TX)	Eliana Waechter (PA)
Bryce Kowalski (SD)	India Motley (DE)	Samantha Rodriguez (IL)	Savannah Waechter (PA)
Abigail Krchmar (PA)	Alexis Nadeau (VA)	Coraly Rodriguez-Rodriguez (CT)	Alayna Wagner (PA)
Lou Lengudi (MO)	Reagan Nicholson (MO)	Rhea Sajja (PA)	Blake Wallace (MD)
Danni Lepard (MS)	Pearl Nimoh (OH)	Emily Samadani (MD)	Evelyn Ward (IL)
Allee Little (AR)	Zoey Noble (MO)	Amber Sanders (PA)	Taylor Watkins (MS)
Lizbeth Lopez-Vazquez (NE)	Erin Noll (PA)	Yesenia Santiago (MD)	Raymond Watkins (VA)
Garrett Ludford (VA)	Sydney Novotny (OH)	Katelyn Sayre (VA)	Sydney Wells (TX)
Lanie Lummus (AR)	Hannah Obermark (MO)	Larkin Scherer (OH)	Macy White (NE)
Myles Macellaro (PA)	Brianna O'Brien (OH)	Alexis Schwartz (OH)	McKenzie Wilbanks (MS)
Natalie Macklin (VA)	Hailey Overbey (AR)	Caitlin Shaw (VA)	Emma Williams (MS)
Luke Makowski (VA)	Sisa Paje (AK)	Virtasia Shepard (MS)	Henry Winslow (IL)
Eva Marquez (WI)	Ryan Pan (VA)	Kendall Shuck (TX)	Lucia Wolfenberger (OH)
Douglas Martin (MS)	Addison Parker (VA)	Madason Snodgrass (WV)	Grayce Wolven (IL)
Jonathan Mathews (OH)	Chase Parker (VA)	Cristian Sosa (TX)	Halima Wood (OH)
Alanna Matthias (MD)	Destiney Patterson (MS)	Sydney Southerland (OH)	Callie Workman (VA)
Kaylee Mazur (IL)	Kimberly Pedraza (TX)	Katherine Streaker (VA)	Sky Xiong (WI)
Madison Mazzola (FL)	Valeria Perez (IL)	Caroline Streling (AL)	Sandy Xu (MD)
Lauren McCann (VA)	Lana Perez (VA)	Hannah Stroh (IL)	Addyson Yedica (OH)
Caden McCardle (LA)	Nathalie Petite (TX)	Alayna Swan (UT)	Reese Yohman (PA)
Brannon McDougale (MS)	Brad Pham (MS)	Hailey Tackett (WV)	Shamia Young (AR)
Samantha McGovern (PA)	Ethan Pier (MO)	McKenzie Thompson (PA)	Sydney Yu (VA)
Olivia McGuire (TX)	Dalayna Poirrier (LA)	Kylee Tomlinson (MS)	Lindsey Zaremba (OH)
Monica McLelland (AR)	Caleb Poniewaz (WI)	Rosalinda Tovar (TX)	Olivia Zeissig (DE)
Makaya McNutt (IL)	Sophia Puleo (PA)	Cassandra Townsend (MS)	
Kayla Medder (MD)	Daisy Qauye (TX)	Hannah Turner (MS)	
Sara Melendez (TX)	Caroline Quick (VA)	Gatlin Tynes (MS)	
Melina Mendonca (TX)	Tra'Nae Rawlings (MD)		

2025 Educators Rising Scholarship Recipients

Educators Rising is a division of PDK International. One of the many ways that PDK supports Educators Rising and fulfills its vision of cultivating great educators for tomorrow is through the PDK Educational Foundation. The PDK Educational Foundation awards more than 100 scholarships a year to individuals pursuing a career in education.

Avery Adams (TX)	Bailey Hoover (OH)	Ali McCormick (LA)
Brooke Applequist (NE)	Natalie Illingworth (PA)	Mackenzie Miller (IL)
Christopher Aquino (CT)	Andie Ingalls (SD)	Addison Morazes (MD)
Siena Beltran (CT)	Spencer Isaacs (KY)	Anna Orner (MD)
Halle Bruss (KS)	Natalia Jacobs (CT)	Nathalie Ospina (CT)
Rachel Casper (WI)	Natalie Jentz (WI)	Colette Pantier (VA)
Bin Chen (MS)	Haylie Johnson (CT)	Savannah Peek (CT)
Georgia Cianessi (TX)	Lakayla Jones (OH)	Caleb Poniewaz (WI)
Kylie Clemens (SD)	Sydney Keelan (WI)	Isias Rodriguez Sanchez (CT)
Midelys Colon (CT)	Rachel Knight (TX)	Brielle Ross (DE)
Mykaila Davis (OH)	Abigail Londt (TX)	Chanty Tep (CA)
Hunter Dean (SD)	Lizbeth Lopez-Vasquez (NE)	Arianna Valentin (CT)
Anna Douglas (AL)	Carter Lord (MD)	Liana Vargas (AZ)
Teagan Fletcher (TX)	Elizabeth Lowry (MD)	Elisabeth Viscusi (PA)
Kamdyn Galey (IN)	Morgan MacKinney (KS)	Niki Zheng (DE)
Madison Gauvin (CT)	Jave Mahoney (CT)	
Audrey Herrell (AR)	Zaniyah Massenburg (DE)	

2025 Educators Rising Conference Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to our 2025 Educators Rising National Conference Scholarship winners.

Bailey Hoover (OH)	Averie Paul (IL)	Rory Watts (WV)
Delaney Ohm (MO)	Amber Sanders (PA)	



2024–2025 National Student Ambassadors

The Educators Rising Ambassador Program allows students to add leadership experience to their college applications or résumés, have their voices heard on a national level, and network virtually with other rising educators and teachers from across the country. Educators Rising student ambassadors represent the organization through social media and at events. Student ambassadors help the national student leaders in pushing initiatives and events to the Educators Rising members.

Laila Bellard (LA)

Laila Bellard is a passionate student dedicated to pursuing a career in education. Currently enrolled in David Thibodaux STEM Magnet Academy, Laila has consistently demonstrated a commitment to academic excellence and leadership within their school community. As a member of Mu Alpha Theta (math honors society), computer science honor society, student council, and more, she has cultivated skills in communication, organization, and teamwork. Outside of the classroom, Laila enjoys dancing, doing math, and having fun with her friends and four siblings, which has allowed her to develop a well-rounded perspective.

Laila is excited to attend Educators Rising Nationals to connect with other future educators, share ideas, and continue to grow in her journey toward becoming a dedicated teacher who can positively impact the lives of students for years to come. This year she will also be competing in PSA Teacher Recruitment video. She placed fifth in state in her division (varsity) with her partner Abigail S.

Trenton Carter (SC)

Trenton Carter is from South Carolina and goes to The Applied Technology Center. He had a blast at nationals last year and looks forward to meeting you all. He has loved bringing awareness to education and building connections through EdRising.

Corynn Coleman (MD)

Corynn Coleman is a dynamic junior at Northwestern High School, where she exemplifies leadership and passion in various roles. As the captain of the cheer team, Corynn demonstrates her commitment to school spirit and teamwork, inspiring her peers through her enthusiasm and dedication. With two years of experience in the Child Development Associate (CDA) program, she has developed a strong foundation in early childhood education, which she passionately shares as the chapter president of Educators Rising.

Owen Elsasser (NE)

Owen Elsasser, a senior at Ralston High School in Ralston, Nebraska, is a dedicated member of Educators Rising. Now in his third year with the organization, he has served as a Chapter Officer, Nebraska State Officer, and National Ambassador. His passion for leadership has allowed him to advocate for future educators and represent our organization at both state and national levels. Owen has gotten the opportunity to attend three National Leadership Conferences, further deepening his commitment to the field of education. Passionate about shaping young minds, he aspires to become a middle school educator. Owen values the opportunities Educators Rising provides to connect with like-minded individuals and inspire the next generation of teachers.

Alexcia Garcia (TX)

Alexcia Garcia is a student at the University of Texas at Austin pursuing a degree in Government & International Relations. As a UT student she currently participates in SEAL, a nonprofit organization that works with Austin ISD to help expand literacy in elementary schools. She also works as the secretary of the Board for Latino Empowerment for Academics and Development Initiative (LEAD) and helps support high school seniors and juniors through the entirety of their college application process including essays and financial aid.

Bailey Hoover (OH)

Bailey Hoover is a dedicated and passionate leader in the field of education, currently in her third year with Educators Rising. She is currently serving as a state officer for Ohio, where she demonstrated her commitment to advancing educational initiatives and empowering fellow students. As the president of Lima Senior's Early Childhood Education program, Bailey has demonstrated her commitment to fostering a love for learning among young children. Her enthusiasm for education and leadership shines through in all her endeavors. Bailey is thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as a national ambassador for Educators Rising, where she aims to inspire others and promote positive change within the educational community.

2023–2024 National Student Ambassadors

Delaney Ohm (MO)

Delaney Ohm is a senior at Washington High School in Missouri. She is also a part of the Four Rivers Career Center where she is involved in Teaching Careers. She is also a national ambassador for Educators Rising. Through Teaching Careers, she was picked as the Rotary Club Student of The Month. She is also involved in wrestling and is the team manager.

Kaylea Patterson (DE)

Kaylea Patterson attends the University of Delaware, where she majors in honors cognitive science with a specialization in pre-professional speech-language pathology with minors in education and disability studies. At UD, she serves as the Public Relations Chair for Educators Rising Collegiate, where she plays an important role in managing communication and engaging with members. In 2024, Kaylea made history as the first student from the University of Delaware to compete at the national level of the Educators Rising National Conference, earning the first-place title in Collegiate Public Speaking.

Kaylea is passionate about supporting students with disabilities, working as both a substitute teacher and paraprofessional in various classroom settings across Delaware school districts. She helps students with diverse educational, physical, and social needs. Aspiring to become a school speech-language pathologist, Kaylea aims to help students overcome communication challenges and thrive in the classroom. Outside of her academic and professional roles, she contributes to her community through educational initiatives and leadership, working to improve public education and create more opportunities for youth.

Averie Paul (IL)

Averie Paul is a passionate and dedicated student from Illinois who has a keen interest in education. With a natural curiosity and love for learning, Averie graduated this May as a junior in high school and will attend college this fall. Outside of school, Averie enjoys spending time with her friends and family, traveling, and trying new things. People describe Averie as supportive and always ready to lend a helping hand. With aspirations of pursuing a career in education, Averie is committed to making a positive impact in the community and inspiring others through the power of words. Balancing academics and personal interests, Averie embodies a well-rounded and ambitious spirit.

Calvin Plante (DC)

Calvin Plante is a secondary education and American studies major at American University in Washington, D.C. He has served in a variety of roles for Educators Rising across his years of membership, including chapter president, chapter spokesperson, state officer, state social media coordinator, and chapter founder. He currently is in his second year serving as a National

Ambassador. In his free time, Calvin loves to get involved directing theater, his most recent show was working under Dr. Karl Kippola to direct "A Game of Love and Chance." He also currently works at the U.S. Capitol Historical Society as their Civic Education Intern, where he develops lesson plans and leads teacher workshops for educators around the country. Originally from New Hampshire, Calvin aspires to be a high school American history teacher after he graduates. Calvin would like to wish you all the best and hopes that you have an amazing time at the Educators Rising National Conference.

Amber Sanders (PA)

Amber Sanders is a 12th-grade student at Upper Merion High School. She was a member of her school's volleyball team and now coaches volleyball for a club called Synergy. Amber has a brother and a sister and enjoys coaching tumbling and babysitting. She will be attending Millersville University to pursue a career in education, with the goal of making a positive impact on children's lives. Additionally, she serves as the social media manager for her chapter at Central Montco Technical High School. She is actively involved in three school clubs: Best Buddies, No Place for Hate, and Educators Rising.

Asiah Scott (MS)

Asiah Scott is a senior at Forest Hill High School, ranked in the top 10 of her class. She is also a sophomore at Jackson State University, where she is majoring in mathematics. She currently serves as the Vice President of Jackson Middle College and holds the title of Miss Jackson Middle College. As a National Ambassador, she is passionate about becoming a transformative educator and has gained valuable experience through her student teaching at Lanier High School.

Asiah is committed to improving the educational experience in Jackson Public Schools, particularly for students with disabilities, and strives to create a supportive environment where all students can thrive. Beyond academics, she values her family and friends as her core support system and enjoys spending time with them. She firmly believes in the power of education to change lives and is dedicated to making a positive impact on her community and the future of education.

Ivy Grace Smith (AL)

Ivy Grace Smith is a freshman at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Although she is originally from Texas, she has adapted to life well in the Heart of Dixie! She has been a member of Educators Rising for four years, and this is her second year as a National Ambassador. During her four years of membership, Ivy Grace has advanced to the Educators Rising National Conference twice and placed third and sixth, respectively.



2023–2024 National Student Ambassadors

Outside of her involvement in Educators Rising, Ivy Grace is very active in on-campus, community, and church events. She is passionate about helping others and strives to be a servant in all situations. Ivy Grace is a firm believer in the power of education and believes education is fundamental to a functioning democracy and a stronger society.

Ivy Grace is majoring in elementary education and minoring in educational policy & reform. Ivy Grace intends to be a licensed classroom teacher then wants to return to school to obtain a professional degree and pursue a career in education law and policy. She is eager to teach and advocate for students every day.

Shifa Soban (TX)

Shifa Soban is a current junior from Kingwood, Texas. She has been a member of Educators Rising and a member of her local chapter for three years, and an officer for two years. As a National Ambassador, she has a strong passion for education and hopes to share her love through her role.

SeAnna Spriggs (KY)

SeAnna Spriggs is a future educator who brings creativity and passion to everything she does, whether it's advocating for public education, painting a new piece of art, or exploring the outdoors. As a national ambassador for Educators Rising and the social media coordinator for Ignite Institute's chapter, she loves finding fun and engaging ways to support future teachers and spark conversations about education. She is especially passionate about shaping public education policy in Kentucky, ensuring that students and teachers have the support they need to thrive.

Rory Watts (WV)

Rory Watts is a senior at Lincoln County High School in Hamlin, West Virginia. She is a proud National Ambassador, as well as a proud State President and State Senator for Educators Rising West Virginia. Rory is deeply passionate about education and learning. She is set to attend Marshall University fall 2025, where she will major in elementary education and earn a certification in administration. With a flair for performance, Rory also plans to audition for the Marshall University Marching Thunder Majorette Line. Rory will also be publishing some children's books that she and her friend Bella wrote and illustrated.

Avery Whitelaw (NH)

Avery Whitelaw is a senior at Kennett High School and is a part of the Mount Washington Valley Career and Technical Center. She has been a part of the Educators Rising chapter in her school since her freshman year. Educators Rising has become such a huge part of her life and has given her so many opportunities to work with students! Last year, Avery competed in Exploring Career and Support Services at the state level and placed third which gave her the opportunity to attend nationals! Her time nationals made her love Educators Rising even more than she already did. She met so many amazing people there and had many impactful learning opportunities. This year she is excited to attend and compete at nationals again. She is looking forward to seeing all the incredible people she met last year and connecting with new people! Avery worked with speech and language pathologists in her school district. Next year she will be attending the University of Connecticut and major in speech, language, and hearing sciences, with hopes to become a speech therapist.



Thank You to Our Conference Judges and Volunteers

Educators Rising would like to extend our gratitude to the volunteers serving as competition judges at the conference this year. These individuals are:

Nelli Kim Acejo (CA)	Ashlyn Green (TN)	Carolyn Peterson (MA)
Isabel Aguilera (CA)	Denise Grove (PA)	Becky Phippen (LA)
Colin Anderson (TX)	Andrea Guevara (CA)	Lindsey Pollock (TX)
Mary Cruz Arellano (CA)	Lisa Hall-Hyman (SC)	Chafony Poole (MS)
Marilyn Barber (MD)	Jason Harrison (AR)	Naome Poppe (SD)
Mary Jane Boynton (VA)	Wendi Hatlewick (SD)	Mikaela Powers (WI)
Lewis Andrea Brownlee (AZ)	Shavonna Holman (NE)	DeShanna Reed (TX)
Suzanne Bryant Miller (GA)	Kari Honea (TX)	Brittany Rhoades (LA)
Primrose Cameron (FL)	Patrice Hunt (NH)	Tiffany Richey (CA)
Kevin Carter (MS)	Austin Ince (TX)	Dimarche Robinzine Khashan (MS)
Glenn Cason (GA)	Tara Jackson Smith (NC)	Ingrid Ruvalcaba Gomez (CA)
Sonya Chapman (MS)	Emma Johnson (CA)	Kaitlyn Sagers (UT)
Katie Cho (VA)	Tracy Kern (SD)	Rebecca Sagers (UT)
Suzanne Clemons (AL)	Natalie Kiesendahl (TX)	Angela Sandy (CO)
Jenna Coffee (GA)	Daniel Kramer (IL)	Idalia Shuman (KS)
Bobi Coleman (MS)	Travis Lape (SD)	Katrinet Sims (AL)
Aleathia Coles-Dixon (TX)	Elecia Lathon (LA)	Amy Smith (SD)
Joni Cordell (ID)	Steven Martinez (CA)	Wendy Stoller (OH)
Lara Crowley (DE)	Robert Mayfield (CA)	Katy Stover (TX)
Ayenna Davis (MN)	Ronda McClain (TX)	Amber Stricklin (AR)
Becca Davis (GA)	Irene Merida Calvo (TX)	Laura Szupinka (VA)
Emily Deinken (SD)	Aura Montanez (TX)	Sandra Thompson (TX)
Shanavia Evans (CA)	Mark Montgomery (TX)	John Tovar (TX)
Jimena Farfan (TX)	Alice Murillo (AZ)	Kristen Walker Authement(LA)
Connie Findley (MD)	Rylee Nantz (KY)	Patricia Williams (TX)
Holli Forrest (TX)	Wilkinson Nestor (AK)	Ashley Wilson (DE)
Amy Friery (NC)	Jessica Ocasio (CT)	Marissa Zapata (TX)
Claudette Garcia (TX)	Jamye Osuna (TX)	Lidia Zatopek (TX)

Unlock Leading Research on The Science of Reading

The Role of Educator Preparation Programs in Preparing Teachers in

THE SCIENCE OF READING



The 'science of reading' has garnered enormous attention among educators and the general public over the past few years. In this report, authors define the science of reading, discuss effective reading instruction and teacher preparation, share voices from the field and provide recommendations for Educator Preparation Programs as well as resources.

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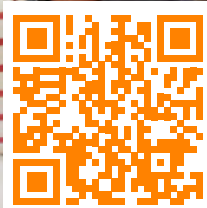
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