

GACTE Fall Conference 2023

In collaboration with GADA, GFDA,
GELFA, USG, GAICTE, and GaPSC

Educators: The Original First Responders

**OCTOBER 25-27, 2023
PEACHTREE CITY, GEORGIA**



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GACTE Past Presidents

2022-23	J. Fidel Turner, Jr.	Clark Atlanta University
2021-22	Joe Peters	Georgia College and State University
2020-21	Loleta Sartin	Mercer University
2019-20	Karynne Kleine	Georgia College and State University
2018-19	Dee Greer	Columbus State University
2017-18	Eugene Williams	Brenau University
2016-17	Sharon Hixon	Dalton State College
2015-16	Tom Koballa	Georgia Southern University
2014-15	Arlinda Eaton	Kennesaw State University Brewton-
2013-14	David Moffett	Parker College
2012-13	Cathy Moore	Georgia Gwinnett College
2011-12	Don Livingston	LaGrange College
2010-11	Wil Campbell	Albany State University
2009-10	Beth Roberts	Oglethorpe University
2008-09	Phil Gunter	Valdosta State University
2007-08	Carl Martray	Mercer University
2006-07	Linda Irwin-DeVitis	Georgia College and State University
2005-06	Mary Gendernalik-Cooper	Georgia Southwestern University
2004-05	Laura Jossey	Brewton Parker College
2003-04	Cindi Chance	Georgia Southern University
2002-03	Paul Beare	Armstrong State University
2001-02	Bill Ware	Brenau University
2000-01	Bob Michael	University of North Georgia
1999-00	Ron Collarusso	Georgia State University

October 25, 2023

Greetings Colleagues,

We are extremely excited to welcome you to the Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (GACTE) Fall 2023 Conference in Peachtree City, Georgia. The conference planning committee reflected significantly about the current context of the education profession, from both a state and national perspective, as we developed the conference theme, structure, and projected outcomes of the conference. Our theme, *Educators: The Original First Responders*, captures the essence of the mission of our state and national organizations. GACTE aims promote the learning of all PK-12 students through high-quality, evidence-based preparation and continuing education for all school personnel. We accomplish this by engaging in collaborative leadership with member institutions on critical issues that directly impact the education profession. Our hope is that you experience this mission while actively engaging in the conference.

In our state and across the nation, there are many socio-political dynamics that are directly impacting the education profession broadly. It is our responsibility as professional educators to collaboratively work with key stakeholders to steer our profession onto a productive trajectory for our communities. There are a lot of wonderful education related programs, activities, partnerships, policies, research, and other innovative initiatives occurring within our institutions of higher education and in our birth through grade 12 schools. Many of these strategic and intentional efforts aim to address and resolve the numerous challenges and threats that the education profession is currently facing. The key is that WE, collectively and collaboratively, continue to explore practical and innovative approaches to tackling each area of concern within the profession. We know that many of these challenges will require long term effort to attain resolution. However, there are also many challenges that can be broached, navigated, and appropriately resolved in the immediate term. WE can do this!

During the conference we hope that you find the opportunity to collaboratively engage, contribute, and connect with others on the variety of discussions that will occur over the time together at the conference. Thank you for taking the time to attend and actively participate in the sessions and professional development opportunities, and meetings during the three days. Once again, we welcome you to the GACTE Fall 2023 Conference!

Sincerely,



Adrian L. Epps, Ed.D.
Dean, Bagwell College of Education
Chantal and Tommy Bagwell Endowed Dean Chair

President GACTE



82 College Circle
Newton Oakes 127
Dahlonega, GA 30597

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Dear GACTE Colleagues,

First, I want to say how excited I am to serve you as the President-Elect of the Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (GACTE). I could not ask for a better Past-President, Dr. Fidel Turner, and President, Dr. Adrian Epps, from which to learn. As noted on our website, “GACTE provides leadership on issues to professional education, promotes effective public policy, and enhances and improves professional education programs at member institutions.” Moreso than ever before, in our current climate, we have a responsibility and an opportunity to address critical issues in our state as a group—and there is power in groups. Historically, GACTE has been a strong organization, but we are primed to become even stronger in terms of our overall footprint and impact. The AACTE “is the leading voice on educator preparation,” and GACTE should be the same for our state. With this in mind, I look forward to helping lead these efforts.

And our annual conference provides a space for this leadership to grow, for innovative ideas to develop, and for collaborations and partnerships to be created and cultivated. This year’s theme, “Educators: The Original First Responders,” addresses the idea that educators are at the crux of our communities—they are the lifeblood of our communities and should be recognized as such. We are excited to provide a range of workshops, dialogues, and presentations this year addressing the need to create safe, welcoming, responsive, and inclusive environments, as noted in the call for proposals. We hope that you will find this year’s conference revitalizing and affirming and we encourage you to share ways that we can continue the conversations started here, take ideas back to our institutions, and develop connections that can expand opportunities for preservice and inservice teachers, leaders, and educational professionals across our state. We welcome your feedback and we are glad to have you with us in Peachtree City.

Sincerely,

Sheri C. Hardee, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Education
University of North Georgia

GACTE President Elect

Blue Ridge Cumming Dahlonega Gainesville Oconee

82 College Circle | Dahlonega, GA 30597 | 706-864-1998 | Fax 706-867-3226 | ung.edu/college-of-education

The University of North Georgia is designated as The Military College of Georgia® and as a State Leadership Institution.

GACTE Fall Conference Schedule

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

***Meals Provided:**

- *Tickets for lunch for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday are behind your badge in your lanyard. Lunch is in the hotel restaurant.*
- *Dinner is provided Wednesday and Thursday (no tickets needed, locations on schedule).*

8:00 AM

Conference Check-In & Registration

West Wing Foyer

9:45 AM - 10:30 AM

Concurrent Session A

Session 1: Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) Updates

Anne Marie Fenton – Director of Rules Management and Educator Assessment

Melina Ljuljanovic – Certification Supervisor

Dr. Penney McRoy – Director of Educator Preparation

Dr. PaQuita Morgan – Director of Program Approval

Location: Room 127

Session 2: Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) Updates

Kimberly Creagh – Senior Program Manager, GSLA Teacher Academy, and Induction Support Programs

Location: Room 129

Session 3: A Journey to Inclusion

Strand: Diveristy, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Gayle Ramirez and Barbie Radcliff

Inclusion creates an environment where all members are an integral part of the community regardless of factors including, but not limited to class, race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, or socioeconomic status. This session will take a look at navigating the roadblocks imposed by institutions on LGBTQ+ pre-service teachers.

Location: Room 122

Session 4: Music in the Journey: How to Use Music to Enhance Literacy Engagement and Comprehension

Strand: Literacy

Shelley Sanderson

Have you ever noticed how naturally children take to music? How easily they move to the rhythms and memorize nursery rhymes? Why can't learning how to read be that easy? Come join a Music Education specialist as she guides you through two elementary lessons that converge music and literacy. No musical skills needed, just a willingness to try something new.

Location: Room 123

GACTE Fall Conference Schedule

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Session 5: Narrative Inquiry for Educational Equity

Strand: DEI

Kristain Douglas, Demetrius Dove, and Maya Brady Ngugi

This presentation seeks to accomplish two things: (a) highlight narrative vignettes of two student teachers and one teacher educator and center them as a tool of inquiry for equitable change in elementary learning contexts; and (b) uplift equity-centered instructional approaches that stand to increase student academic success while also tending to the whole child, inclusive of their cultural background(s) and heritage. The presentation-- a derivative of a forthcoming book chapter-- will present dialogues of experience from reflective journal excerpts through the prism of narrative vignettes while sharing identified themes between them.

Location: Room 124

Session 6: Teaching Professionalism for Student Success

Strand: Positive School Climate and/or School Safety

Amy Cribbs, Janet Johnson, Ryan Hoffpauir, Savannah Cecil, and Nour Issa

The interactive workshop aims to prepare attendees to create a development day to address professionalism. During this interactive workshop, attendees will participate in activities related to conflict resolution, communication, professional dress and team-building and gain access to the materials used for a successful Professionalism Day at Dalton State College School of Education. In addition to working through sample scenario-based discussion and a hands-on categorical sort, attendees will use the GooseChase app, Jamboard and Nearpod during the session. Attendees will also leave with materials and directions for a team-building STEM challenge.

Location: Room 128

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Break & Visit Vendors

West Wing Foyer

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM

Concurrent Session B

Session 1: Georgia Association of Educators

Strand: Teacher Candidates

Demetrius Dove

Becoming an educator is a transformative journey, and aspiring educators are key players in shaping the future of education. This presentation, "Inspire, Educate, Advocate: Your Role as an Aspiring Educator," is designed to empower those on the path to becoming educators, with a special focus on those interested in the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE).

The session will explore the power of inspiration, the evolving educational landscape, and the importance of advocacy. It offers insights into the educational journey, provides practical advice, and highlights the role of aspiring educators in advocating for students and the profession. Attendees will discover the benefits of GAE membership and opportunities for networking, leadership development, and community-building.

This presentation equips aspiring educators with the knowledge and support they need to excel in their roles, inspire others, and advocate for positive change in education. It's an opportunity to find purpose in the work, connect with peers, and understand the vital role aspiring educators play in shaping the educational landscape.

Location: Room 122

GACTE Fall Conference Schedule

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Session 2: Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) Updates

Anne Marie Fenton – Director of Rules Management and Educator Assessment

Melina Ljuljanovic – Certification Supervisor

Dr. Penney McRoy – Director of Educator Preparation

Dr. PaQuita Morgan – Director of Program Approval

Location: Room 127

Session 3: Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) Updates

Kimberly Creagh – Senior Program Manager, GSLA Teacher Academy, and Induction Support Programs

Location: Room 129

Session 4: Fostering Pre-Service ESOL Teacher Candidates' Understanding and Appreciation of the Funds of Identity Approach

Strand: DEI

Brian Hibbs, Mario Coria, and Abby Warren

This session explores the introduction of the funds of identity approach to pre-service elementary education ESOL teacher candidates. The session provides an overview of the approach and describes the rationale and logistics for including the approach in teacher preparation courses along with sample activities that exemplify the approach.

Location: Room 123

Session 5: Teaching 411

Strand: Teacher Wellbeing and Retention

Kim Foster

Between 30% and 50% of new teachers leave the profession in the first five years. Most planned a career in teaching, so what changed? What are they experiencing that they did not expect? We talked to novice teachers to find out what they wish they had known or understood when they started out. We're not talking about instruction; we're talking nuts and bolts about how public schools operate and how it impacts a teacher's experience on the job. Because sometimes knowing what to expect is half the battle.

Location: Room 124

Session 6: What Are Learning Trajectories?

Strand: Innovative Field and Clinical Experiences

George Boggs and Blake Tenore

Teachers who have deep understanding of the conceptual tools and disciplinary practices of their content areas are positioned to support student's learning on a trajectory that exceeds expectations of minimum standards. Our session presents teacher preparation instructional methods that support preservice and inservice teachers' knowledge of the relationship between concept development and participation in meaningful academic practices.

Location: Room 128

11:30 AM - 1:10 PM

Luncheon (Ticket Required)

201 Restaurant

11:30 AM - 1:10 PM

GACTE Board Meeting

Room 231



GaPSC Updates

GACTE – October 25-27, 2023

- Implementation of **Foundations of Reading, Literacy, and Language** (Rule 505-3-.03) is underway. GaPSC staff are reviewing your Readiness Assessments and Action Plans and plan to provide you with reflective, formative feedback by December 8, 2023. For more information, see the [Implementation Guide](#).
- Amendments are proposed for the **Educator Preparation Rules** listed below. Details of these and other proposed Certification and Ethics rules are available on the [GaPSC Rules webpage](#). In addition, a new Educator Preparation rule is proposed, 505-3-.70, Speech-Language Associate Program, to prepare individuals at the baccalaureate degree level to support certified Speech-Language Pathologists. The public comment period for the proposed amendments and the new rule closes November 24, 2023.

• 505-3-.01, Requirements and Standards for Approving Educator Preparation Providers and Educator Preparation Programs	
• 505-3-.02, Educator Preparation Provider Annual Reporting and Evaluation	
• 505-3-.63, Curriculum and Instruction	• 505-3-.92, K-5 Mathematics Endorsement
• 505-3-.71, Speech and Language Pathology	• 505-3-.104, Teacher Leader Endorsement
• 505-3-.72, Teacher Leadership	

- Please remind your candidates and P-12 partners to utilize the [GaPSC Certificate Upgrade Advisor](#) prior to enrolling in an advanced degree program for a certificate level upgrade.
- If you offer **Curriculum and Instruction**, please consider adding a certification-only option. As the Conversion Mechanism is no longer available, educators who complete out-of-state programs that do not result in certification will be required to complete a certification-only program to add the field and earn an upgrade. Contact your GaPSC Education Specialist for more information.
- Candidates completing **clinical practice** in a Georgia school must hold a **Pre-Service Certificate** before beginning field and clinical experiences, unless they hold a valid Professional, Induction, Provisional, Permit, or Waiver certificate. A candidate that is employed as a teacher of record while holding only a Clearance Certificate must also hold a Pre-Service Certificate, otherwise their clinical practice may not be accepted for certification. Updated guidance is in development.
- GaPSC's support of transitioning **military veterans and their spouses** continues with staff specifically devoted to recruiting, counseling, and supporting these individuals, working with five of Georgia's seven military bases. Opportunities for in-person recruitment briefings at bases are increasing this year.
- The **2023-24 Georgia Code of Ethics for Educators** (COE) presentation, available under *Presentations* on the [Ethics Resources webpage](#), includes common violations, scenarios, and takeaways for each of the ten COE standards. It is designed so that school districts, EPPs, and others can customize the presentation to meet their needs.
- Please remind pre-service candidates and in-service educators to carefully answer the **Personal Affirmation Questions** (PAQs) to ensure accuracy each academic year. A new and growing [GaPSC Video Series](#) is available to help educators answer PAQs, navigate MyPSC, and more.

Please watch for our communications under [News and Announcements](#), frequently visit our website as we continue to add new resources, and follow us on [Facebook](#) and X (formerly [Twitter](#)).

GACTE Fall Conference Schedule

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

1:15 PM - 2:00 PM

Concurrent Session C

Session 1: *What is Equity and Why Do All Children Deserve It?*

Strand: For Teacher Candidates

Rodney Robinson

Rodney will define what equity means in education today. He will give concrete examples of inequities and how educators can play a solid role in ensuring all students receive an equitable education. Participants will leave speech energized with practical solutions to help end education inequities.

Location: Room 127

Session 2: *Schooling in Finland: Proactive First Responders*

Strand: DEI

Sharon Hixon, Valeisha Ellis, Rhonda Tate, and Tarsha Reid

Presenters, educators at HBCUs and HSIs, participated in a funded study abroad experience in Finland. Presenters shared a common learning experience exploring the Finnish early education system. How do the American and Finnish school systems compare? How will this new learning inform practice in their home environments? Learn how there is a team of first responders working for Finnish children.

Location: Room 122

Session 3: *2Gen In Action: A Multi-Generational Approach to Benefitting School Climate*

Strand: Positive School Climate and/or School Safety

Monica Flamini and Kimberly Creagh

Attendees will learn the basics of 2Gen in both theory itself and educational practice. During this interactive session, attendees will learn how to apply 2Gen policies and practices into ongoing and/or potential K-12 school climate improvement strategies. Presenters will share how they have incorporated 2Gen ideas into their work with educators across all levels.

Location: Room 123

Session 4: *Using the Power of Language and Wholeheartedness to Support the Social and Emotional Development of Young Children and Teacher Candidates*

Strand: Social Emotional Learning

Stacy Waller and Olha Osobob

Building on the research about the mental health of college students and on the work of Brene Brown, two education professors describe a course they designed that examines the social/emotional development of young children as well as teacher candidates. The concepts of wholeheartedness and power of language are used to demonstrate effective ways of preparing emotionally aware and responsive teachers.

Location: Room 124

GACTE Fall Conference Schedule

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Session 5: *Responding to the Call: The Student Ambassador Program in Teacher Preparation*

Strand: Teacher Wellbeing and Retention

Raynice Jean-Sigur and the Bagwell Student Ambassadors

Teacher preparation programs are seeking ways of recruiting and retaining teacher leaders into the field education. Presenters in this session will discuss the research on community building and engagement in order to support and retain teacher candidates and teacher leaders. Presenters will share their ideas and experiences in promoting and supporting teaching as a major through their involvement in an educator preparation focused student ambassador program.

Location: Room 128

Session 6: Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education Updates

Dana Rickman, President and Matt Smith, Director Policy and Research

Location: Room 230

2:00 PM - 2:15 PM

Break & Visit Vendors

West Wing Foyer

2:15 PM - 3:00 PM

Concurrent Session D

Session 1: *Using Math to Read Poetry: A Playful Introduction to Transdisciplinary Literacy*

Strand: Literacy

George Boggs, Darrell Skogman, Rob Schoen, and Caitlin Dreher Sloan

Math and literacy teachers explore intersection of mathematics and literary art. Inversion, arcs, focus, and lines are literary analytical tools with roots in mathematics, yet traditional disciplinary silos—and the disciplinary identities that accompany them—hardly allow for “cross-talk” between literary art and the language of quantitative reasoning. This paper demonstrates disruptive potential for transdisciplinary learning that recasts literary analysis and mathematics concept development as creative problem-solving practices.

Location: Room 123

Session 2: *Collaborating for Impact: Leveraging a Community-Based Partnership to Support Teacher Candidates’*

Development of Equitable and Responsive Teaching Practices

Strand: DEI

Jessica Morris and Amy Sneed

Join us in learning about the process and outcomes of partnering with the Boys and Girls Club to support the development of equitable and responsive teaching practices with elementary teacher candidates. We will share “ready to go” resources that include the literacy-based engineering curriculum we worked from and a host of tools for supporting in-depth novice teacher learning and reflection.

Location: Room 124

GACTE Fall Conference Schedule

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Session 3: *Creating Spaces that Invite Students “Whole” Selves into the Writing Experience*

Strand: DEI

Towanda Harris, Awesi-Nyale Keita, Amara Jackson, and Breonna Robinson

In this session, participants will explore strategies to create inclusive spaces that include multiple perspectives and experiences. Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings' work around the importance of literature being “windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors” is a crucial part of students' engagement in the learning. We will discuss ways to make authentic connections of literature to writing in ways that center your students' voices. In this session, we will share strategies and tools that will help to ensure that the learner, not the resource, is driving the daily instruction.

Location: Room 127

Session 4: *Nonviolent Communication: The Missing Piece of Success for Trauma Informed and Restorative Practices*

Strand: Positive School Climate and/or School Safety

Cindy Bigbie and Amy Alvis

Explore and learn about Nonviolent Communication (NVC) for creating peace and connection in your school. We will share results and lessons learned in implementing our award-winning method with incarcerated youth and with Success Academy, where educators trained in our method had on average 80%+ fewer referrals. We will also discuss how to implement this program in your own setting.

Location: Room 128

Session 5: *Strengthening Teacher Retention: A Story of Strategic Partnerships*

Strand: Teacher Wellbeing and Retention

Kimberly Creagh

This session details partnerships between the Governor's School Leadership Academy (an initiative of the Governor's Office of Student Achievement), the RESA network, and P-12 school districts; the goal of which is to collaboratively support educators across Georgia to build individual and collective capacity, improve teacher satisfaction and retention, and increase teacher impact.

Location: Room 129

Session 6: *Deans Hot Topics*

Moderator: Dr. Adrian Epps

Location: Room 122

3:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Break & Visit Vendors

West Wing Foyer



**Seeking Higher Ed. Collaborators
to Build the High School
STEM Teacher Pipeline**

GACTE Fall Conference Schedule

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM

Plenary Session

Aberdeen BC

Opening Remarks - Adrian Epps & Sheri Hardee
Sponsor Spotlights
Introduction of Keynote Speaker

What is Equity, and Why Do All Children Deserve It?



Rodney Robinson
2019 National
Teacher of the Year

Rodney will define what equity means in education today. He will give concrete examples of inequities and how educators can play a solid role in ensuring all students receive an equitable education. Participants will leave speech energized with practical solutions to help end education inequities.

Rodney is a 24-year education veteran working with marginalized black and brown communities in Richmond, Virginia. He has received numerous awards for his accomplishments in and out of the classroom, most notably the 2019 National Teacher of the Year. His current role is as a senior policy advisor with Richmond Public Schools in charge of Teacher Pathways with a specific focus on the RVA Men Teach Program to recruit and retain male teachers of color in Richmond Public Schools.

5:30 PM - Until

GACTE Night at the Movies Party & Welcome Dinner

McIntosh Ballroom

*For Faculty, Staff, Administrators, and Education Professionals

5:00 PM - Until

Candidate Mixer & Welcome Dinner

Tara



*Sponsored by GAE for Teacher Candidates
Demetrius Dove, GAE Aspiring Educators President

Don't forget: Before you leave, please tell us what you think! Please complete this survey for the Fall 2023 GACTE Conference using the following QR code:





TOGETHER. A STRONGER VOICE.

Together we're stronger. Together we're heard.

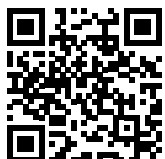
Being an educator is one of the hardest jobs in the world and it's never been harder than right now. With more members like you, we'll have a stronger collective voice that can help educators live better lives, so our students get the best education possible.

Who is GAE?

Uniting public school educators in Georgia for over 150 years, the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE), is the state affiliate of the NEA. With over three million members, GAE and NEA work together to ensure that educators like you have a stronger voice.

Stronger together, a voice for ALL!

- We regularly advocate for higher salaries and improved working conditions.
- We meet with lawmakers from both political parties to make sure our voices are being heard and respected.
- We work hand in hand with school administrators and school boards to improve our daily lives as educators.
- We make sure that educators have the resources we need to give students our best.



joingae.org

GAE Works With Educators to Deliver Real Change.

IMPROVING OUR DAILY LIVES

GAE delivers for all educators: classroom teachers and education support professionals (ESPs) alike. We proposed pay increases for all educators, and we delivered. Classroom teachers have seen \$7,000 in permanent salary increases in the last four years. ESPs have received pay raises and bonuses in each of the last three years. And GAE is working to develop a state salary schedule for ESPs.

GAE delivers on protecting TRS – the Teachers Retirement System – and improving benefits for education support staff, whose retirement is provided by the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS).

IMPROVING OUR WORKING LIVES

GAE is fighting to improve the lives of our educators by eliminating career-ending and unfair and subjective evaluations and ensuring planning time for teachers in all grade levels. GAE is leading the way to stop school districts from exceeding state-established class sizes and to preserve fair dismissal rights.

BENEFITS

GAE members receive comprehensive benefits like:

- Liability insurance and legal representation to protect us from false or unfair accusations.
- Professional learning opportunities and resources.
- Resources to help us navigate student loan forgiveness.

GACTE Fall Conference Schedule

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Self Care Run, 6:30AM (Meet Sheri Hardee in front of the Crowne Plaza. We will leave promptly at 6:30.)

8:00 AM Conference Check-In & Registration West Wing Foyer

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Poverty Simulation Aberdeen BC

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM Lunch (Ticket Required) and Visit Vendors 201 Restaurant and West Wing Foyer

12:45 PM - 1:30 PM GACTE Business Meeting & Future Educators Town Hall Aberdeen BC

Future Educators Town Hall: Conversations with Candidates

Dr. Diane Vautrot, Facilitator
Chair and Professor Department of Education
Young Harris College

Young Harris College

Sarah Mati Teague

Clark Atlanta University

Awesi-Nyale Keita
Breonna Robinson
Amara Jackson
Maya Brady-Ngugi
Demetrius Dove

Kennesaw State University

Brenda Villa
Kaci Queen
Vi Tran Huynh
Brooke Patton
Mariyah Richardson
Ashley Williams
Brittni Bivins

Mercer University

Devon Barnes
Mya Donnelly
Christina Hale
Abby Longgear
McKayla Mayer
Conley Moore
William Paulk
Mary Margaret Smith
Florence Thompson
Venicia Twymon

Dalton State College

Savannah Cecil
Abby Warren
Mario Coria
Nour Issa

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Plenary Session Aberdeen BC

Opening Remarks - Adrian Epps & Sheri Hardee
Sponsor Spotlights
Introduction of Keynote Speaker

GACTE Fall Conference Schedule

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Personal Climate and Culture...It's Up to You



Gerry Brooks

Veteran teacher and administrator
Author of *Go See the Principal*

Gerry uses his videos to develop a strategy for making the workplace a pleasant place where faculty, administrators, and support staff all maintain mutual respect, regardless of personal differences, resulting in more efficient and fulfilled workers. Gerry will share policies that he has incorporated that promote a healthy respectful working relationship even when opinions differ. He will also share ideas that maximize opportunities to get to know staff members and create camaraderie, taking advantage of 15 seconds here and there throughout the day.

Gerry Brooks has been an educator for 25 years, beginning as a third-grade teacher in Palm Bay, FL. He earned his master's in administration and has been an elementary principal for 12 years. Originally using humorous videos to encourage his staff, Gerry has become a national encourager for teachers through social media and speaking events. He is a voice for teachers, but his passion is leading others to be responsible for their own personal climate and culture in the workplace. His book, "Go See the Principal," outlines strategies for taking on this responsibility. Gerry and his wife, Kelly, have 3 adult children and live in Lexington, KY.

2:30 PM - 3:15 PM

Concurrent Session E

Session 1: *The Road to Positive Personal Climate and Culture*

Strand: Teacher Candidates

Principal Gerry Brooks

Gerry continues his theme of positive personal climate and culture in his breakout sessions by using object lessons to help remember key points in improving relationships between parents, co-workers and students.

Location: Room 127

Session 2: *Legislative Updates*

Margaret Ciccarelli

PAGE Attorney & Director of Legislative Services

Location: Room 122

GACTE Fall Conference Schedule

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Session 3: Collaborative Teams: Learned Skills for Teacher Leaders

Strand: Teacher Wellbeing and Retention

Gale Neal and Susan Lynn

Session will begin with a review of literature on how leadership skills can be taught and learned, as opposed to being an innate skill. Facilitator will discuss how this supports the concept of teaching teacher leaders how to build and lead productive collaborative teams. Teacher leadership programs need to ensure that these team building skills are overtly taught, as they are part of the Georgia Teacher Leadership Standards, and in the GACE performance assessment for Teacher Leaders.

Location: Room 123

Session 4: Educating in the Margins: Continued Explorations on the Persistence of Neoliberal Ideologies in Social Justice Education Courses

Strand: DEI

Kelly McFaden and Jameson Brewer

This work explores the unique challenges of engaging in social justice education in a teacher preparation program at a predominantly White institution in the foothills of the Appalachian region in the southeastern United States.

Location: Room 128

Session 5: Children's Literature: The Innovative Response for Teacher Candidates

Strand: Innovative Field and Clinical Experiences

Jessica Morris

Children's books are a pathway of opportunity for PK-5 educators to respond to students. This presentation will give examples of how you can provide aspiring educators opportunities to apply children's books as an interdisciplinary tool in the classroom to 1) enhance clinical experiences 2) provide representation of classroom populations and 3) empower teacher candidates in demanding classroom environments.

Location: Room 129

Session 6: Responding to Educator Vacancies: Triaging the Concerns of Job-Embedded Placements

Paige Tompkins, Sara Kajder, Anna Hiers, and Maureen Bishop

Many Georgia districts face high volume vacancies. Implementing innovative job-embedded practices and placements can address the need to have educators in each classroom who are prepared to meet the needs of students. This roundtable is a professional learning dialogue where participants are encouraged to share and listen, offer and receive feedback, and collaborate on this shared problem of practice.

Location: Room 230

GACTE Fall Conference Schedule

Thursday, October 26, 2023

3:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Break and Visit Vendors

West Wing Foyer

3:45 PM - 4:30 PM

Concurrent Session F

Session 1: Mentor Teacher Panel

Location: 127

Session 2: Identifying Systematic Adaptions and Modifications to Literacy Programs: One EPP's Journey

Strand: Literacy

Sharon Hixon, Brian Hibbs, Janet Johnson, and Mellanie Robinson

This session explores the journey of School of Education faculty at Dalton State College in identifying and documenting the logistics of incorporating the Georgia Professional Standards Commission's (GaPSC) Foundations of Reading, Literacy, and Language guidelines. Attendees will learn about best practices in establishing a logistical yet feasible plan for implementing these guidelines in their own respective contexts.

Location: Room 122

Session 3: 911 a Balancing Act: Rigor of a Job-Embedded Graduate Initial Teaching Certification Program Needed Now

Strand: Teacher Wellbeing and Retention

Susan Hagood, Susan Lynn, Katie Meissner, Shannon Wood, and Lindsey Wingate

The purpose of this presentation is to discuss balancing rigorous graduate program requirements with the complexity of job-embedded teaching expectations required of tomorrow's first responders. Session objectives include potential solutions for balancing program rigor with job reality, developing ideas to increase communication between educator preparation programs and districts, and enhancing and supporting job-embedded teacher candidates to grow the teaching profession.

Location: Room 124

Session 4: Bringing About Positive Change

Strand: Innovative Field and Clinical Experiences

Elizabeth Phelps and Erik Elakman

Examine the process to bring about positive change to field experience. How can new dispositions instrument can better prepare teacher candidates to step up and be the first to respond to their students' needs. Presenters and participants will share ideas in a relaxed and collaborative environment.

Location: Room 128

GACTE Fall Conference Schedule

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Session 5: *Help is on the Way: STEM Preservice Teachers Call to Action*

Strand: DEI

Sharlonne Smith and Nour Issa

This session will explore instructional methods, strategies, and activities adapted by secondary teacher candidates in STEM classrooms. Through a process of unpacking systemic disparities, personal bias, and misconceptions, teacher candidates discuss the complicated process of advocating for the removal of inequitable barriers for historically underrepresented groups in STEM.

Location: Room 129

Session 6: *Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education*

Dana Rickman, President and Matt Smith, Director Policy and Research

Location: Room 230

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Georgia Outstanding Mentor Teachers' Awards Dinner

Aberdeen BC

***All registrants invited to attend.**

Don't forget: Before you leave, please tell us what you think! Please complete this survey for the Fall 2023 GACTE Conference using the following QR code:



GACTE Fall Conference Schedule

Friday, October 27, 2023

Self Care Run, 6:30AM (Meet Sheri Hardee in front of the Crowne Plaza. We will leave promptly at 6:30.)

8:00 AM Conference Check-In & Registration West Wing Foyer

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Dialectical Skills Training Room 127

Joy and Will Schofield, Hall County School System

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Meetings

*University System of Georgia Education Regents Advisory Committee
Location: Aberdeen BC*

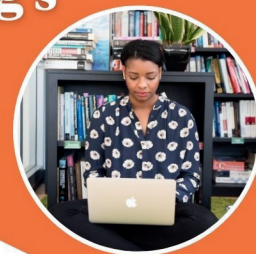
*Georgia Association of Independent Colleges of Teacher Education
Location: Room 123*

*Georgia Field Directors
Location: Room 122*

*Georgia Assessment Directors Association
Location: Room 124*



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Contact

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Strategic Partnerships Manager
parker@240tutoring.com

GACTE Fall Conference Schedule

Friday, October 27, 2023

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Closing Session

Aberdeen BC

11:30 AM

Luncheon (Ticket Required)

201 Restaurant

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