

Inquiry **MATTERS**

Hold Fast to Dreams

Saturday, April 17, 2021

8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Zoom Web Conference

*Sponsored by the UofSC-PDS &
The School District Five of Lexington &
Richland Counties
(PDS-D).*

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Inquiry MATTERS

2021 Conference Theme
Hold Fast to Dreams

Dreams

By Langston Hughes (1922)

*Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.
Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.*

Inquiry MATTERS

Hold Fast to Dreams

Saturday, April 17, 2021 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

AGENDA at a GLANCE

7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Conference Zoom Room Opens
8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Address
8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Transition to Concurrent Session A
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions A
9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Transition to Concurrent Session B
10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions B
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Transition to Concurrent Session C
11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions C
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Transition to Closing Address
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Closing Address

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Saturday, April 17, 2021 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

Conference Zoom Room Opens

Please Sign-in then prepare your heart and mind for an informative and inspiring day with a slideshow and KidTalk podcast.

8:15 a.m. – 8:45

Welcome

Opening Address: *Holding Fast to Dreams Through Inquiry in K-12 Classrooms, and Conference Forecast*

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Transition to Concurrent Sessions A

Explore the power and potential of inquiry to nurture and sustain our dreams for teachers and children through a rich, diverse range of K-12 video vignettes.

Concurrent Sessions A

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

A-1 Connecting to the Present by Establishing Relevance to Students' Lives

Valente' Gibson and Eliza Braden

ELA, Equity and Social Justice

Grades 3-5 (JCES & UofSC)

Culturally sustaining teachers acknowledge the cultural histories, heritage, perspectives, and interests of their students while simultaneously teaching content. In this presentation, Valente' and Eliza share insights from an inquiry into historical and contemporary movements. Additionally, they will share strategies to help young readers and writers go deeper into their understanding of social justice topics. Valente' and Eliza will also provide strategies for engaging families.

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A-2 Genuine Integration Through Collaborative Inquiry

Baraba Reed and Haley Plemmons

ELA, Science

Grades K-5 (DFES)

Third grade teachers Barbara and Haley will share the process of co-constructing and implementing an integrated unit of study that started in their own backyards and ended on a volcano lava field in Hawaii. They will share samples of student work and key engagements to illustrate how the unit unfolded. Then they will zoom in on a moment in time to demonstrate what genuine integration looks and sounds like in an inquiry-based lesson. Across the workshop, they will feature these three key components of genuine integration: strategic use of primary and secondary sources, language of inquiry, and responsive teaching.

A-3 Building A Queen (or King!): A Holistic Small Group Approach

Quinandria Lee

Equity and Social Justice

Grades K-12 (HMS)

This session aims to empower and provide the blueprint for educators to build a small group program that has shown to increase student's resiliency, self-awareness, leadership and communication skills. You will not only learn about how to implement this group at your school site, but you'll also have the opportunity to hear from the Queens who have participated in the program!

A-4 Developing a Shared Vision: Scaffolding Family Involvement & Support

Tiffany Palmatier, Nozsa Tinsley, and Emily Whitecotton

Mathematics, ELA, Families and Communities

Grades K-5 (CFI)

Teachers today find ourselves in a setting that requires us to intentionally collaborate with our students' grown-ups at home more than ever. Our current context is full of daunting challenges, but challenge opens opportunity as well. Join Nozsa, Tiffany, and Emily to think with them about seizing this year's opportunity to encourage, scaffold, and inquire along-side families through an investigation into the learning process with children at the center. Come explore the infinite possibilities of dedicated collaboration with children and families!

A-5 Inquiry into Our Impact

Nicole Bishop, Buffy Murphy, Shannon Fincannon, Tania Turner, Beth White

Professional Development

Grades K-12 (IES & UofSC)

In recent years, Irmo Elementary has engaged in choice professional development. The journey has revealed the process of professional inquiry by questioning practice and being responsive to questions and findings such as the impact on learning and ways to measure that impact. Each presenter in this session will address the evolution of her choice professional development and the shift to question teaching and its impact on learning, including the shifts necessary during COVID.

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A-6 PDS Fellows and Inquiry as Scholarly Practice
PDS Fellows

Professional Development

Grades K-12 (PDS)

This session will showcase the work of PDS Fellows, local practitioners who inhabit the dual role of UofSC EdD students with support from the PDS Network. As a condition of the fellowship, these scholars connect their dissertation research to Professional Development Schools, using various forms of inquiry to explore their unique, context-dependent Problems of Practice.

A-7 Engaging in Scientific Discovery by Empowering Student Experts
Laura Dean

Science

Grades K-2 (CFI)

This session will explore the power of student directed learning through expert projects, scientific experiments, and daily explorations. Focusing on inquiry-based practices used across kindergarten and first grade science units of study, this session will share examples ranging from learning about endangered animals to astronomy that capture the depth kids can go when encouraged to discover and inquire about the world around them.

A-8 Motivation Overhaul
Lucy Bailey

Social Emotional Learning

Grades 6-8 (D5)

Even with the most engaging instructional opportunities, middle level students occasionally need a motivational pep talk. Yet, these pep talks can miss the mark with students, sounding preachy or outdated, and have little impact. This session will target a set of inquiry questions from the research on motivational interviewing that serve to uncover hidden obstacles to motivation and spark renewed interest.

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Transition to Concurrent Sessions B.

Explore the power and potential of inquiry to nurture and sustain our dreams for teachers and children through a rich, diverse range of K-12 video vignettes.

Concurrent Sessions B
10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

B-1 Everyone Has a Story: Diving Headfirst into a Memoir Genre Study with 7th Grade Authors

Mandy Roberts, Emily Whitecotton

ELA

Grades 6-8 (IMS & CFI)

In an educational landscape where the stakes are high for middle school students to demonstrate writing proficiency, ironically, there appear to be far too few opportunities for students to live as authors. Join Emily, Mandy, and her published 7th Grade authors as they share their journey, discoveries, and successes after living a writerly life through a recent memoir genre study.

B-2 How Our Favorite Authors Became Our Writing Teachers

Jennifer Barnes

ELA

Grades K-2 (CFI)

Join Jennifer and her engaging students as they share their writerly lives. In this session, they'll reflect on how individual Author Expert Projects impacted their entire classroom and truly changed the way these young writers worked and lived. Delightful sample projects, the project criteria, and a podcast will be shared. This project beautifully unites reading and writing workshop and is transferrable across grade levels.

B-3 Community Activism as Curriculum in the Elementary Classroom

Chris Hass

Equity and Social Justice

Grades K-5 (CFI)

In this session, second and third grade teacher Chris Hass and his students will detail the advocacy work they've engaged in over the past couple of years - from the School Board to the City Council to the State House. In sharing their stories, they will describe how our classroom curriculum can work as a vehicle for creating positive social change in our communities.

B-4 Persevering During the Pandemic: Woke Work, Critical Love, & Community Care

Jennifer Doyle, Roy Blakeney, Courtney Godwin

Equity and Social Justice, Social Emotional Learning, Families and Communities

Grades 9-12 (DHS)

This interactive session features a panel of 4 presenters--PDS Liaison, Administrator, Teacher, & HS Student--who will discuss how they have been persevering during the pandemic, critically loving and caring for themselves and their community, and promoting "woke work" in their classrooms and in Columbia. Participants will gain strategies and perspectives on how to not only survive, but continue to thrive as we (hopefully) move into a post-pandemic future.

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B-5 Shifting Our School Culture: Aligning our Beliefs with Practice

Lindsay Head and Kristie Smith

Professional Development

Grades K-12 (OPES)

Oak Pointe Elementary seeks to deepen the quality of conversations about teaching and learning from the congenial to the collegial in order to directly impact student achievement. This is done through a collective process of defining school-wide beliefs and reflecting on mis-alignments to practice as we seek to actualize our actions. This presentation will draw upon research and our shared experience in cultivating our belief system while providing an in depth look into the inquiry of aligning our practice through collegial conversations, intentional feedback, and collaboration.

B-6 Implementing Inquiry-based Professional Development

Susan Aplin & Barry Lindler

Professional Development

Grades 6-12 (DFHS)

Teachers need inquiry-based learning just as much as students do. In this session, designed for administrators and instructional coaches, we will discuss the why and how of meaningful choice-based professional development. Choice fosters teacher empowerment and buy-in to larger school goals.

B-7 Learning to Teach Science in Virtual Spaces

Zeluka Jackson-Jones, Aisja Jones, Kimberly Smalls, Stephen Thompson, Shalonya Knotts-Holiday, Tracy Mitchel, D'Leannette Rudolph

Science

Grades K-5 (KES & UofSC)

Our notions of authentic classroom settings have been interrupted. Given that concrete experiences form the core of elementary science teaching, instructional quality in science is likely to suffer from the move to virtual classroom settings. This shift to virtual instruction also interrupts our longstanding efforts to immerse preservice teachers in the everyday work of elementary science teaching. During this session we will share how we are responding to the challenges associated with teaching elementary science in virtual spaces, discuss strategies we are using to mitigate related issues, and seek like-minded colleagues who want to join this ongoing conversation

B-8 I Just Want to Teach: Restorative Practices May Help

Lesli Reeves

Social Emotional Learning

Grades 5-12 (IMS)

If you ever think to yourself, "I just want to teach," and feel like behaviors keep getting in the way, this is the session for you! In this session participants will focus on preventative strategies across all variables (e.g., the physical environment, students' developmental stages, procedures, instructional planning) and hone approaches for addressing behaviors in the least disruptive way possible. Additionally, participants will explore how embedding social/emotional learning and restorative practices into your everyday practice helps build the foundation for a calmer and more collaborative classroom experience.

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Transition to Concurrent Sessions C**
Explore the power and potential of inquiry to nurture and sustain our dreams for teachers and children through a rich, diverse range of K-12 video vignettes.

Concurrent Sessions C
11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

C-1

Hair Love
Nozsa Tinsley

ELA, Equity and Social Justice

Grades K-5 (CFI)

It's not just hair...it's culture. The expression of beauty through hairstyles has been an age-old signature of many cultures. Join Nozsa and her students to discover how they grew as readers, writers, and people through an integrated inquiry into hair and culture. Nozsa will demonstrate how they used personal artifacts and culturally rich, diverse, and engaging literature to create their own pieces of fiction and persuasive essays.

C-2 **Comprehension Conversations: A Weekly Literacy Engagement to Encourage Families to See Reading and Writing as a Process NOT a Task**
Tiffany Palmatier

ELA, Families and Communities

Grades K-2 (CFI)

In this session, Tiffany will share how the unusual circumstances of this academic year forced her to rethink her approach to both teaching reading and writing, and supporting kindergarten parents as they worked to assist their children at home. Participants can expect to see many examples of Comprehension Conversations throughout the year, an outline of the role of the teacher, parent, and student in the process, and video clips showcasing how learning engagements from the classroom are used to frame the Comprehension Conversation focus.

C-3 **Choosing Choice: Implementing Student Choice in English and Science Classrooms**

Brittany Holden and Lauren Gehr

ELA, Science

Grades 9-12 (DFHS)

This session will provide teachers with choice tools and strategies that enable students to take ownership of their learning while promoting rigorous assessment opportunities for teachers. Example student work and practical applications of these assignments in the English and Science classrooms will be discussed.

C-4 Kidwatching: The Heart of Responsive Teaching Across the Curriculum
Kendall Donald

Mathematics, ELA

Grades K-5 (DFES)

Kendall will share insights and strategies that support kidwatching across literacy and mathematics. She will show what kidwatching and responsive teaching look, sound, and feel like via video clips of face-to-face and virtual conferences as well as high impact learning engagements. Kendall will demonstrate the power of making kidwatching a habit of the heart and mind.

C-5 Learning through Lesson Study: Supporting Mathematics and Reading Instruction through Collaborative Reflection and Refinement

Kristin Harbour, Lindsay Head, Malisa Johnson, and Alyssa Powers

Mathematics, ELA, Professional Development

Grades K-5 (OPES & DFES)

Lesson studies are a form of professional development known to support teachers in their reflection and refinement of instructional practices. In this session, presenters will describe how various grade-level teams and teacher candidate cohorts engaged in lesson studies (focused on mathematics and reading), discuss the benefits and challenges associated with the process, and support participants in developing a plan for implementation.

C-6 Induction Support Specific to the School Environment

Melissa Baker & Megan Carrero

Professional Development

Grades 6-12 (FMS)

We know that district induction & mentoring programs as well as Carolina TIP exist to support early career educators but what steps can be put in place to better assimilate our new teachers into one specific school environment. Join us as we unpack one middle school's inquiry process into providing site specific induction support to enhance the transition into teaching.

C-7 Insight into our CarolinaTIP Journey

UofSC CarolinaTIP Teachers

Professional Development

Grades K-12 (PDS)

Come hear from young educators in the Carolina Teacher Induction Program (CarolinaTIP), graduates of UofSC's College of Education who are in their first, second, or third year in their own classrooms. These new professionals will share what it's like transitioning from being a student to being in charge of students, all during a global pandemic. Spoiler alert: They're doing great!

C-8 Strategies to Improve Student Social Emotional Wellness in the Classroom

Jessie Guest

Social Emotional Learning

Grades K-12 (UofSC)

This session assists teachers in understanding child/adolescent communication and strategies to improve connection with students exhibiting disruptive behaviors in the classroom.

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Transition to Closing Address

Explore the power and potential of inquiry to nurture and sustain our dreams for teachers and children through a rich, diverse range of K-12 video vignettes.

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Closing Address: *Sustaining and Growing New Hopes and Dreams Through Professional Inquiry*

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors:

This conference was made possible through The Professional Development Schools Network, The Professional Development Schools-District, and The Center for Educational Partnerships in the College of Education at the University of South Carolina as well as the School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties.

School Key:

CFI	Center for Inquiry
D5	School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties
DHS	Dreher High School
DFES	Dutch Fork Elementary School
DFHS	Dutch Fork High School
FMS	Fulmer Middle School
HMS	Hand Middle School
IES	Irmo Elementary School
IMS	Irmo Middle School
JCES	Jackson Creek Elementary School
KES	Killian Elementary School
OPES	Oak Pointe Elementary School
PDS	Varied PDS Schools
UofSC	University of South Carolina