

Inquiry MATTERS



April 22, 2023

7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

Registration, Continental Breakfast, Professional & Children's Books Sales & CFI Impact Projects

8:15 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.

Welcome: Building Bridges Through Inquiry
Heidi Mills, Emily Whitecotton, Liz Baranik, Mikkia Johnson,
Lyn Mueller, Tianna Myers & Special Guests

8:40 – 8:45

Remembering Joan Stevenson and Honoring Jennifer Wilson's Legacy & Conference Forecast
Emily Whitecotton

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions (See descriptions below.)

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Professional & Children's Book Sales, STAND UP Performance & CFI Social Action Projects in Our Gathering Place

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions (See descriptions below.)

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Professional & Children's Book Sales, CFI Sings, & CFI Impact Projects in Our Gathering Place

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Closing Address: Why Questions Matter
Heidi Mills, Emily Whitecotton, Liz Baranik, Tiffany Palmatier, Nozsa Tinsley, Rutland Martin & Tim O'Keefe with CFI Faculty and Students



#InquiryMatters2023

Concurrent Sessions 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



An Inquiry into Inquiry-Based Teaching as a First Year Teacher

Katie Koon (CFI) #204

Successful Early Career Teaching Strategies

K-3

In this session, a first-year teacher reflects on her experience with inquiry-based teaching as she displays the unending possibilities of inquiry for beginners. Through this session she reflects on and demonstrates some of her experiences of incorporating inquiry into daily learning with her students as she continually inquires into the power of language, structure, and authenticity of inquiry in her classroom each day.

The Power of Peer Coaching

Liz LeBlanc Baranik (CFI) #301

Peer Coaching

K-5, Leadership & Coaches

Peer coaching provides our teachers with immediate, practical examples of new possibilities to try out for themselves. Do you see the potential for peer coaching to take hold in your school, but haven't found a way to get it started? Join Liz LeBlanc Baranik, the Reading Coach at CFI, to find out about CFI's inquiry into peer coaching and some possibilities for engaging your teachers in this richly productive and organic process.

What are we Consuming? Viewing the World with a Critical Eye

Nozsa Tinsley & Chris Hass (CFI) #303

Critical Thinking

2-5

Students are consistently consuming information from the world around them, whether that be from games, shows, news, movies, advertisements, or even social media. When consumed blindly these sources can aid in the development of biases or strengthen already existing ones. With strategic planning and practice our kids learn to examine closely what they consume, to help break down and fight against biases and stereotypes.

Guiding Readers towards Agency and Independence through Reflective Practices

Laura Dean, Rutland Martin & Students (CFI) #203

Nurturing Agency in Readers

K-3

This session will examine how classroom structures and discussions can empower readers to improve on their own craft. Through videos and student reflections, this session will support teachers in guiding early readers towards agency and ownership of their own miscues and think deeper about how they can extend their reading ability in a way that is personally meaningful.

Inquiry Through Content Integration

Tianna Myers, Alexis Pressley & Students (CFI) #101

Integrated Units of Study

3-5

Tianna and Alexis will take you through the process of integrating content from different units of study across subject areas. They will demonstrate how children can experience a topic by making connections in reading, writing, and mathematics. Tianna and Alexis will share their passion for thinking deeply about content, and invite you to learn alongside your students as you begin to plan for your own content integration.

Expert Projects and Student-led Conferences: Believing Young Children into Being Researchers and Reflective Learners

Tiffany Palmatier & Students (CFI) #202

Expert Projects & Student-led Conferences

K-2

In this session, Tiffany will share how she intentionally navigates the kindergarten year to scaffold students and parents into their first expert project experience. Tiffany will also share how she prepares students to reflect on their learning across the year as they establish personal learning goals to share with parents during Student-led Conferences.

Writing for Real

Taylor Wuerfel & Students (CFI) #201

Writing Across the Curriculum

K-2

Through integrated units of study and the use of mentor texts and authors, young authors can begin to write for real! Students will share how strategies they have created support their consistent use of proper writing conventions, giving their audiences greater access to the stories they create. Join Taylor and her students in learning about how they co-create curriculum that is meaningful and relevant.

Building Mathematical Reasoning through Board Games

Brandon Foote (CFI) #102

Mathematical Understanding & Standards

K-5

Board games are not only an excellent way to build community in the classroom. Used intentionally, teachers can use their design to unlock new mathematical understandings that can uncover, and even go beyond, the math standards. In this session, we will discuss strategies for using board games as a launching point for deep mathematical discussions. Board game suggestions for the classroom will also be shared.

Small Group Instruction: A Journey Towards Kidwatching and Improved Teaching Practices

Beth White, Margaret Nickerson,

Angie Morvay & Emily Cates (IES) #104

Kidwatching

K-5 Teachers, Coaches & Administrators

The school's professional development focus this year is on small group instruction. The staff came together to define their beliefs and practices. Through this process, they discovered the need for kidwatching, which involves observing students to improve instructional practices. This exciting journey involves ongoing discussions and reflections, providing opportunities for growth and improvement. Get ready to delve into the world of small group instruction and learn about the importance of kidwatching!

The View is Green: Growth Through Inquiry

Michelle Floyd, Karah Brown, Amber McQueen & Students (LGE) #304 Book Clubs & Biographies 3-5

Curious about how to nurture readers, writers, and inquirers through book clubs and biographies? Join Michelle Floyd, her students, reading coach, and CRT to see the impact of choice, ownership, and authentic, culturally relevant literacy experiences on children's identities and sense of agency. Students will share lessons they learned from book clubs and biographies they composed about their classmates. Michelle, Karah, and Amber will highlight beliefs and practices that made a significant difference in growing invested readers and writers while also showing progress on formal and informal assessments.

The Power of Book of the Month & Family Literacy Nights

Shelley Williams (LE) #302 School-wide Literacy Rituals K-5 Teachers, Coaches & Administrators

Shelley Williams will demonstrate how she and her colleagues in the Richland One Literacy Project implemented the book-of-the-month structure in K-5 classrooms. She will illuminate how this powerful structure fostered professional inquiry around culturally responsive teaching, mentor texts for reading and writing workshops, and family literacy night celebrations. Shelley will engage participants in the process and share example books, children's responses, photos, and videos to show the impact of this rich school-wide literacy initiative.

Mindful Leadership: A Centered Scaffold for Inquiry

Emily Whitecotton (CFI) #Media Center

Leadership

Coaches & Administrators

Mindfulness matters. The decisions we make as leaders protect and nurture the space for inquiry. It is vital we ensure that our decisions are made with mindful awareness. Join Emily to explore leadership rooted in self-awareness, social awareness, and compassionate honesty that generate the strong foundation for inquiries.



Concurrent Sessions 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.



Utilizing the Past to Ignite the Future! Creating Curriculum with and for Students

Brooke Fonder, Lane Chappell, Lynne Trowbridge & Students (SFE) #201 Expert Projects K-3

This presentation will showcase how a partnership between the reading coach and a grade level team encouraged teachers at Satchel Ford to step out of their comfort zone and begin creating meaningful, authentic, and impactful curriculum with and for their students through Long Ago Projects. Participants will have the opportunity to see the evolution of the curriculum, their end of the integrated unit celebration, see and hear from students involved in the learning experiences, and explore how content and standards were addressed authentically and purposefully.

Liberating Writer's Workshop: Creating Loving Writing Spaces for Elementary Students

Eliza Braden, Kamania Wynter Hoyte & Valente' Gibson (USC & JCE) #302 Writer's Workshop K-5

Writer's workshop is an opportunity to invite young writers to tell the stories of their lives in a supportive and affirming space. In this session, attendees will learn how to create loving writing units that center students' interests and identities. Presenters will provide attendees with a list of minilessons, high quality literature, and questions to consider to guide their own curriculum planning.

Our CarolinaTIP Journey: Novice Teacher Stories of Growth & Support

*Melissa Klosterman, Kathia Rivera de Guzman, Lindsay Hall
Taylor Like, Kristen Girnv, X'Avier Douglas, Chelsey Counts
& Wanda Frederick (CarolinaTIP & Partners) (USC) #204 Teacher Induction Support 4K - 12*

Designed for anyone wanting a glimpse into the experience of new(ish) teachers, this presentation focuses on stories from the field as recounted by educators who student-taught just a few years ago. The teachers will share their beginnings, their growth, and what's on the horizon for them. The session will include an overview of the Carolina Teacher Induction Program and its proven support of novice educators.

For the Sake of Humanity (and teacher sanity)! Setting Up and Stepping Back: Empowering Students with a Solutionary Lens

Teresa Randolph, Jennifer Layton & Students (CES) #103 Community & Management 2-5

Team Landolph is a peek into what is possible when teaching and learning strategies align with the real world. From daily routines to a year-long classroom government simulation, Teresa Randolph, Jennifer Layton, and their students will share how they co-create a culture of inquiry across all content areas using a solutionary focus to inspire students to take charge of their own learning behavior and communities.

Creating a Culture of Culturally Responsive Literacy

Kavon Barger & Felicia White (LGE) #101 *Culturally Responsive Literacy Across the Curriculum* 2-5

A classroom teacher and literacy coach will share how professional inquiry around culturally responsive teaching, mentor texts for both reading and writing workshops, and literacy across the curriculum have been transformative for their students and teachers. The presenters will share videos from reading and writing workshops, samples of literacy growth, and a song Kavon's 3rd graders composed to showcase their learning as mathematicians.

Nurturing Passionate Writers in an Early Childhood Classroom

Michelle Kimpson (LGE) #202

Writing Workshop

K-2

Writing Workshop is an essential part of a literacy framework. It is also a curricular structure that lifts literacy and learning across the curriculum. This session will explore ways to engage, motivate, and grow young writers and inquirers. Participants will follow a first-grade class as they grow as writers of their own identities. Participants will leave with a vision of how to teach writers as well as how to foster writing as a tool for learning across the day and curriculum.

The Power of Peer Coaching

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What Zone are you in? Learn how The Zones of Regulation can impact your school's climate and culture.

Cassy Paschal and Kimberly Luthren (PWES) #104

School Climate & Culture

K-4

Piney Woods Elementary School began implementing The Zones of Regulation schoolwide during the 22-23 school year. The Zones is a visual tool created to help students communicate what they are feeling. In this session participants will receive an overview of The Zones of Regulation and how it has been successfully implemented schoolwide at Piney Woods this school year.

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Using Mentor Texts in Reading and Writing Workshops

Retoisha Dallas (LE) #203

Mentor Texts in Reading & Writing Workshops

2-5

The presenter will share with teachers how to use mentor texts when teaching reading and writing strategies. She will share examples that will allow teachers to get the most out of their reading and writing workshops in order to help students grow and change. Come see how to teach readers and writers in ways that show growth on formal assessments as well as through authentic literacy experiences.

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Science(s) of Reading

Cathy Jones Stork, Robin Cox, Kendra Lynn, Latarsha Cleckley & Emily Whitecotton

(R1, R2, Lex.2 & Lex/Rich 5) #Media Center

Literacy Leadership

Coaches & Administrators

This special session reflects a collaboration between literacy leaders across the midlands. The presenters will feature success stories and instructional moves that are making a difference at the school and district levels. Literacy leaders understand teaching readers and writers is a complex, comprehensive process that reflects research in phonics, comprehension, knowledge building, vocabulary development, writing process, and culturally responsive teaching. Participants will learn about students uncovering sounds of the day directly from their own conversations, multi-sensory inquiry into sounds, explicit phonics instruction, structured literacy, using knowledge of how words work to make new words, making connections between book clubs and word work, word study within reading and writing instruction, and how teachers and interventionists are using student data to plan intentional lessons and differentiate instruction.

School Key:

CFI: Center for Inquiry

CE: Chapin Elementary

IES: Irmo Elementary School

JCE: Jackson Creek Elementary

USC: University of South Carolina

LGE: Lewis Greenview Elementary

LE: Logan Elementary

PWES: Piney Woods Elementary School

SFE: Satchel Ford Elementary



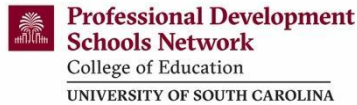
Notes

Please use the space below to capture brilliant ideas from this year's conference!

#InquiryMatters2023



Exhibits, Social Action Projects, Conference Sponsors & Hosts



Special thanks to Richland School Districts One and Two, USC-PDS, Center for Educational Partnerships, and College of Education at the University of South Carolina for sponsoring this informative and inspiring conference.



*Thank you to Heinemann Educational Books for offering a conference discount and GG's Library for donating 10% of all Inquiry Matters sales to **A Chance Through Literacy** in memory of our dear friend and colleague, Jennifer Wilson. We appreciate Panera Bread for partnering with CFI to offer breakfast.*

*We are grateful to the fifth graders from the Center for Inquiry for showcasing their **IMPACT PROJECTS**. This rite of passage is a CFI capstone experience that unites genuine problem-based inquiries with social action. Their investment, expertise, awareness, and actions illustrate why it is critical to strive for what is possible, rather than settle for status quo.*

*Deepest gratitude to the Center for Inquiry for hosting the 2023 **INQUIRY MATTERS** conference. This professional development experience beautifully exemplifies CFI's Mission:*

The students, parents and staff of the Center for Inquiry, a genuine collaboration between the University of South Carolina and Richland School District Two, are responsible for developing ourselves as more thoughtful, caring and intelligent people who delight in learning and are committed to creating a more compassionate, equitable, knowledgeable and democratic world!

We hope you will join us next April when Richland School District One hosts this very special event.

