

ArATE | SRATE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

EDUCATION MATTERS

Critical Issues. Meaningful Practice. Lasting Impact.



CONFERENCE CHECK IN

VERIZON BALLROOM

5TH FLOOR
ARKANSAS UNION



See You There!



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

ArATE-SRATE Conference Schedule - Wednesday, October 14								
8:00-10:00 am	Task Boardroom 506	SRATE Board Meeting						
10:30-11:50 am	Ballroom	CONFERENCE OPENING						
Time	Room	Capacity	Strand	Session Type	Session Title	Presenter(s)	Session Description	Presentation Slides
12:00-12:50 pm	504	81	Instructional Practice	Paper/Research Presentation	Picture Engagement with Picture Books	Peter Hawkins - Graduate Student University of Arkansas	Engagement can be provided through the simplicity and sophistication of picturebooks, from K-12 and college courses, it's all about the questions you ask of the text and the themes overlaid.	
	514	24	Student Experience & Well-being Teacher Preparation	Roundtable	Making an Innovative Space for Pre-Service Teachers	Kathleen Myers - Assistant Professor Arkansas Tech University	This presentation will include discussion of the innovative MakerSpace I have created at my university. I will discuss the pros, cons, and feedback from students. Participants will be asked to share about their environment and options to have a space (small or large) at their institution. The speaker will ask for participation from the participants while collaborating about ideas and possibilities for pre-service teachers. We have to Maslow before we can Bloom.	
	507-508	108	Instructional Practice Leadership & Policy	Paper/Research Presentation	Every Minute Matters: Classroom Management That Maximizes Learning	Karl B Meridian - Retired Teacher and Professional Educator American Pacific International School,Thailand	Discover practical classroom management strategies that increase student engagement, strengthen relationships, and create learning environments where both teachers and students thrive.	
	509	24	Instructional Practice Teacher Preparation	Roundtable	Curriculum Literacy as Disciplinary Thinking	Aaron Marvel - Assistant Professor Texas A&M University - Texarkana	While HQIM often drives candidates toward rigid compliance, mapping experienced teachers' disciplinary thinking uncovers how to faithfully adapt materials, making curriculum literacy explicit for teacher preparation programs.	
	510-511	108	Leadership & Policy Community & Partnerships	Paper/Research Presentation	Educators, Influencers, and the Law	Brandon Tucker - Director of Human Resources Schley County Board of Education, Georgia	Learns about the ethics of social media, being an influencer, and promoting your program from a former Principal, HR Director, and successful YouTube'r. Participants will learn how to successfully navigate the boundaries of ethics, professional use of social media,and personal use of social media - including use for monetary gain. Join us we explore these topics together!	
1:00-1:50 pm	504	81	Community & Partnership Instructional Practice	Paper/Research Presentation	Tools Not Toys: Implementing Instructional Materials to Increase Engagement in Elementary Settings	Reagan Ellis - Undergraduate Student Jax Carr - K-6 Resident Bonnie King - Assistant Professor University of Arkansas	University of Arkansas Honors students share successes and challenges presenting instructional materials in two elementary schools, highlighting a school-wide STEAM challenge and library-based student regulation tools developed with local teachers.	
	514	24	Leadership & Policy	Roundtable	Connecting Seminar to the Classroom: Designing Residency Coursework Around Candidate's Clinical Experiences	Kenya Brooks - Site Coordinator University of Arkansas Little Rock	Explore how residency seminar coursework can be intentionally aligned with candidates' clinical experiences to strengthen reflection, instructional growth, professional learning, and connections between university coursework and classroom practice.	
	507-508	108	Teacher Preparation	Paper/Research Presentation	Pre-Service Teachers Crisis Response Standards	Pricilla A. Boerger - Professor Regis College Valerie Wright - Professor Saint Leo University Chris Urbine - Assistant Professor Regis College	With a focus on mass school shootings, this presentation will discuss the President's Commission on school safety. The impact, and what we can do to prepare our teachers for safety of themselves and our children will be shared.	
510-511	108	Instructional Practice Teacher Preparation	Paper/Research Presentation	High-Quality Materials, High-Quality Instruction? Examining the Promise and Complexity of HQIM	Diane Keyes - Professor Karen Kleppe Graham - Associate Professor Arkansas State University	The HQIM movement and its related legislation and policies impact teachers, administrators, budgeters, teacher candidates, families, and teacher educators. Join us to examine the history and complexities of this movement.		
1:50 - 2:30 pm	BREAK							
2:30-3:20 pm	504	81	Teacher Preparation	Paper/Research Presentation	The Residency Shield: Reducing Burnout and Retaining Teachers Through Relational Mentorship and a Caring Program Culture	Heather D. Young - Associate Professor Cynthia Covington - Instructor Natalie Edwards - Instructor University of Arkansas Leah Papura - 2nd Grade Teacher Fayetteville Public Schools	Discover how a deeply embedded, year-long residency model leverages relational mentorship and a caring program culture to create a protective "shield" against early-career teacher burnout and attrition.	
	514	24	Equity & Access Student Experience & Well-being	Roundtable	Reducing Disruptive and Distracting Behaviors in the Classroom!	Craig J Boykin - CEO Reset LLC	Educators will learn practical strategies for navigating classroom "crash outs" through safety, communication, de-escalation, equity, and belonging, while developing crisis plans responsive to students' trauma, triggers, and individual needs.	
	507-508	108	Teacher Preparation	Paper/Research Presentation	From Placement to Partnership: How Intentional Mentor Matching Strengthens Teacher Preparation and Student Success	Jennifer Louden - Associate Professor Stacey Stanberry - Assistant Professor Southern Arkansas University	Discover how intentional mentor matching strengthens teacher preparation, improves preservice teacher growth, enhances K-12 student outcomes, and supports teacher retention through research, data, and a university-district partnership model.	
	509	24	Community & Partnership Instructional Practice	Roundtable	When Course Content Meets Community: Bridging Research, Practice, and Lived Experience for Future Educators	Katie Moses - Assistant Professor Rachel Warren - Clinical Assistant Professor Sam Houston State University	Explore how a community-engaged course projects help preservice teachers integrate research, practice, and lived experience while translating developmental knowledge into meaningful, accessible resources for community audiences.	
	510-511	108	Teacher Preparation Student Experience & Well-being	Paper/Research Presentation	Empowered Teachers Empower Students: How Educator Wellness Builds Resilience and Transforms Schools	Kendra Ide - Director of PD Kayla Bryant - Robertson Teacher Development Manager Dannee McChristian - Teacher Development Manager University of Arkansas - Arkansas Teacher Corps	Learn how we prioritized teachers' wellness in our all-cert program to reduce burnout and increase retention. Walk away with strategies to promote the emotional resilience of adults that you support.	
3:30-4:20 pm	504	81	Teacher Preparation	Paper/Research Presentation	The Impact of Mentoring: A Look at Stakeholders' Perspectives	Marcia Imbeau - University Professor Christine Ralston - Teaching Professor Bonnie King - Teaching Assistant Professor University of Arkansas	Using recorded interviews of mentors and candidates, participants will learn about specific mentoring strategies and have access to relevant tools used to support teachers and students in one K-6 program.	
	514	24	Student Experience & Well-being	Roundtable	What is really facing our children in public school? A look at the seriousness of childrens' mental health	Alicia Shaw - Professor Arkansas State University	The study was designed to identify the most pressing discipline concerns reported across diverse public-school settings, examine the legal frameworks connected to those concerns, and identify patterns with implications for leadership practice, district policy, and graduate preparation.	
	507-508	108	Equity & Access	Paper/Research Presentation	You Will Rise: Infusing Hope into Urban Classrooms through Career Exploration	India Robinson-Blansett - CEO/Founder Inspire Aspire Education	An interactive presentation exploring the benefits of career exploration in urban/minority schools, with strategies for integrating it into the curriculum, and information on a vital resource to help jumpstart the process	
	510-511	108	Instructional Practice	Paper/Research Presentation	Authoritative Voices: The Impact of Coursework and Clinical Work on Elementary TCs' Beliefs About Literacy	Megan Chaffin, Ph.D. University of Arkansas	This session shares findings from a study indicating the strong influence authoritative voices had on the development of teacher candidates' literacy beliefs while completing undergraduate coursework and clinical work.	
	504	81	Instructional Practice	Paper/Research Presentation	DOK: Not a Hierarchy or a Wheel!	Bill Morelan - EDLD Program Director, Graduate College Arkansas Tech University	Depth of Knowledge is one of the most misrepresented concepts in education. This session clarifies what DOK is and is not, helping you accurately present DOK to your students.	
4:30-5:20 pm	514	24	Student Experience & Well-being Leadership & Policy	Roundtable	Analyzing Chronic Absenteeism and Student Success After Covid	Rob Williams - Professor Eric Gotte - Assistant Professor Arkansas State University	The presentation discusses a policy and equity-focused analysis of chronic absenteeism, arguing that it should be understood as a systems-level issue rather than an individual compliance problem.	
	507-508	108	Equity & Access Teacher Preparation	Paper/Research Presentation	What Teachers Carry Forward: Textual Lineage as Critical Reflection in Teacher Preparation	Kara Taylor - Assistant Professor Texas A&M University	This session examines textual lineage as a critical-reflection practice that helps teacher candidates interrogate how their textual histories shape teacher identity, curricular authority, and emerging pedagogical decisions.	
5:30 - 7:30 pm	Ballroom	PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION						

ARATE-SRATE Conference Schedule - Thursday, October 15								
Time	Room	Capacity	Strand	Session Type	Session Title	Presenter(s)	Session Description	Presentation Slides
8:00-8:50 am	504	81	Instructional Practice	Paper/Research Presentation	Advancing Reading Comprehension Pedagogies: Collaborative Lesson Study in Action	Megan Chaffin, Ph.D. Heather Young - Associate Professor University of Arkansas	This session focuses on how the Lesson Study process can be used to build teacher candidates' ability to plan intentional, effective comprehension read alouds.	
	514	24	Equity & Access Student Experience & Well-being	Roundtable	Navigating the New 'Normal' called Trauma in the Classroom	Craig J Boykin - CEO Reut LLC	Explore how trauma, instability, grief, and chronic stress impact student learning and behavior. Learn trauma-informed strategies that strengthen relationships, create supportive classrooms, maintain high expectations, and shift from "What's wrong?" to "What happened?"	
	507-508	108	Innovation & Future Direction Teacher Preparation	Paper/Research Presentation	Study Abroad	Allison Freed - Chair of the Teaching and Learning Department Stefanie Sorbet - Chair of the Elementary, Literacy, and Special Education Department University of Central Arkansas	This session explores an international study abroad experience in Northern Ireland, highlighting how preservice and graduate teachers examine peacebuilding curriculum, social-emotional learning, and school visits to transform their practice and develop global competency.	
	510-511	108	Instructional Practice	Paper/Research Presentation	Let's Be Rational: Evidence-Based Math Practices	Mackenna Vander Tuin - Assistant Professor University of Arkansas	Learn six evidence-based math practices: systematic instruction, math language, representations, number lines, word problems, and fluency, to better tailor instruction and interventions to meet all students' needs.	
9:00-9:50 am	504	81	Instructional Practice Equity & Access	Paper/Research Presentation	Translanguaging in an Elementary STEM Makerspace	Gracie Clark - Undergraduate Honors Student Christine Ralston - Teaching Professor University of Arkansas	This research study explores how instructional scaffolding in students' home language influences English Language Learners' use of academic language within STEM makerspace activities in fifth grade.	
	514	24	Innovation & Future Direction	Roundtable	Before You Click Submit: Strengthening Your Manuscript for Peer Review and Publication	Cheryl Lambert - Dean University of West Alabama	This practical session highlights strategies for strengthening manuscripts before submission, including clarity of purpose, scholarly grounding, alignment, contribution, common pitfalls, and preparation for peer review and publication.	
	507-508	108	Leadership & Policy Teacher Preparation	Paper/Research Presentation	Raising the Academic Bar Matters: Emphasizing Rigor and Advocacy and Undergraduate and Graduate Levels	Ryan Kelly - Professor Arkansas State University	Raising the academic bar matters more than ever before. This session will feature examples from undergraduate and graduate teacher education courses where increased rigor enriches learning and elevates advocacy.	
	510-511	108	Student Experience & Well-being Teacher Preparation	Paper/Research Presentation	From Survival to Learning: Trauma Responsive Instructional Strategies for Improving Student Engagement	Tonya Dixon - Consult and Lead Trainer Arkansas State University	Introduce how trauma and chronic stress influence student behavior, regulation, and readiness to learn while gaining applicable, trauma-responsive instructional strategies that strengthen relationships, reduce escalation, and improve student engagement.	
10:00-10:50 am	504	81	Teacher Preparation Equity & Access	Paper/Research Presentation	"You've Got This!" Test Prep Practices to Help Teachers Pass Praxis	Brandon Lucius - Executive Director Whitney Carter - Director of Recruitment University of Arkansas - Arkansas Teaching Corp	Learn more about our approach to Praxis preparation and how we've doubled the percentage of licensed teachers in one year. Walk away with actionable strategies to support test-takers you know.	
	514	24	Innovation & Future Direction Teacher Preparation	Roundtable	Purpose Driven Teacher Preparation: Designing the Inquiry Process Through Collaborative Dialogue	Chris Urbine - Assistant Professor Regis College Blake Beckett - Clinical Assistant Professor University of Florida Lisa Delgado Brown - Assistant Professor University of Tampa Nicole Kircher - Associate Director School of Art Education Academy of Art University	This roundtable shares emerging research from an ATE Inquiry Working Group exploring Purpose-Driven Teacher Preparation Design, examining how teacher educators navigate professional purposes, external expectations, tensions, and intentional program decisions.	
	507-508	108	Teacher Preparation	Paper/Research Presentation	Clinical Coherence Matters: Using Site Coordination to Strengthen the Yearlong Residency Experience	Kenya Brooks - Site Coordinator University of Arkansas Little Rock	Explore how intentional site coordination can strengthen communication, supervision, partnerships, and alignment across university and school contexts to create more coherent yearlong teacher residency experiences.	
	510-511	108	Instructional Practice Teacher Preparation	Paper/Research Presentation	Mentoring Student Teachers with the Gradual Increase of Responsibility Model	Vicki Collet - Professor University of Arkansas	University faculty and school-based mentors share the important work of mentoring preservice teachers into the profession. This workshop examines use of the research-developed GIR model to guide differentiated mentoring.	
11:00 am	Ballroom	AWARDS LUNCHEON						
1:10-2:00 pm	504	81	Innovation & Future Direction	Paper/Research Presentation	Breaking Silos and Building Bridges: Integrating Interprofessional Practice into Educator Preparation	Heather Young - Associate Professor Lisa Bowers - Associate Professor University of Arkansas	Interprofessional coursework is a meaningful practice that shapes the future of education. Discover how integrating MTSS field experiences with cross-disciplinary training develops essential collaborative competencies, and exchange strategies to innovate your own educator preparation programs.	
	514	24	Community & Partnership Teacher Preparation	Roundtable	Support Without Burden: Building Meaningful Partnerships with Mentor Teachers Across Distance	Lundon Pinneo - Associate Professor Laura Langley - Clinical Coordinator Sharonda Lipscomb - Director of Online Learning University of Arkansas Little Rock	Examine a flexible mentor-teacher support model for online and traditional preparation programs seeking stronger partnerships, greater access, meaningful community, and fewer unnecessary demands while effectively supporting geographically-distributed clinical placements.	
	510-511	108	Teacher Preparation Student Experience & Well-being		Preparing for the Profession: Lessons from Pre-Service and Practicing Teacher Well-Being Interventions	Alex Parker - Doctoral Candidate John Hoskins University Cassitt Avenue Elementary School Jordan Amor - Assistant Professor Eastern Illinois University	Drawing on two separate teacher wellness interventions, one with pre-service teachers and one with practicing teachers, we share implementation lessons for pre-service teacher education.	
2:10-3:00 pm	504	81	Leadership & Policy Community & Partnership	Paper/Research Presentation	Don't Wait for the Next Mandate: Creating Responsive and Proactive Programs	Lynze Greathouse - Director of Quality Assurance C. Neelle Dobbins - Dean Southern Arkansas University	Learn how programs can build responsive, adaptable systems that use timely evidence to anticipate policy changes and improve before new mandates require action.	
	514	24	Community Partnership Teacher Preparation	Roundtable	From Student Teaching to Teacher Apprenticeship: Rethinking Clinical Practice Through Earn-and-Learn Pathways	Kimberly Eckert - Head of Instructional Innovation and Apprenticeship Design Raven Harris - Workforce Partnership and Operations Lead Craft Education	Explore how teacher apprenticeship can integrate paid clinical practice, coursework, mentorship, and competency development to strengthen educator preparation and create more accessible pathways into teaching.	
	510-511	108	Instructional Practice Teacher Preparation	Paper/Research Presentation	Literacy Matters: Even Here: Addressing Pedagogy Gaps through Four Semesters of EPP Course Redesign for Literacy in 6-12 Content-Area Classrooms	Emily George - Assistant Professor Arkansas State University	This session traces a four-semester redesign of an educator preparation course EDUC 520, Methods and Materials for Content-Area Literacy, that makes disciplinary literacy practical for areas that are often missing in course texts: technical education, art, and music. Materials from the course and examples from teacher candidate work will be provided to attendees.	
3:30 pm	Off-site	CRYSTAL BRIDGES						

ArATE-SRATE Conference Schedule - Friday, October 16							
8:00-8:50 am	Ballroom		SRATE GENERAL ASSEMBLY				
Time	Room	Capacity	Strand	Session Type	Session Title	Presenter(s)	Session Description
9:00-9:50 am	504	81	Leadership & Policy Student Experience & Well-being	Paper/Research Presentation	Teacher Shortages in Arkansas Rural School Districts: Employed Teachers' Perceptions of the Impact on Teacher Effectiveness	Carlross Guess - Graduate Student Arkansas Tech University	Teacher shortages are more than staffing challenges—they are systems leadership issues. Discover research-based insights and actionable strategies to improve educator effectiveness, strengthen retention, and create sustainable workforce solutions.
	514	24	Teacher Preparation Instructional Practice	Roundtable	What Every Teacher Educator Needs to Know about How Science Works: Considering the Myths of Science	William (Bill) McComas - Professor University of Arkansas	Science instruction must help students understand how science works, how evidence is evaluated, how knowledge develops, and why uncertainty matters. This interactive session challenges common myths and provides practical strategies for teacher educators.
	507-508	108	Innovation & Future Directions	Paper/Research Presentation	The Future of Education: A Thought Experiment	Amanda Rudolph - Professor Stephen F. Austin University	This session will ask teacher educators to think about the future of education. Implications for education in today's world will be explored and investigated.
10:00-10:50 am	504	81	Equity & Access Teacher Preparation	Paper/Research Presentation	Recruiting And Retaining A Diverse, Homegrown Teaching Corp	Brandon Lucius - Executive Director Lizzy Hetherington - Managing Director Whitney Carter - Director of Recruitment University of Arkansas- Arkansas Teaching Corp	Learn how we prioritized teachers' wellness in our alt-cert program to reduce burnout and increase retention. Walk away with strategies to promote the emotional resilience of adults that you support.
	514	24	Equity & Access Community & Partnership	Roundtable	GED TO PhD! Every Broken Story Deserves a RESET!	Dr. Craig J Boykin - CEO Reset LLC	Every broken story deserves a reset. Through his GED-to-Ph.D. journey, Dr. Boykin challenges educators to look beyond data, understand students' stories, build meaningful relationships, foster belonging, and never give up.
	507-508	108	Teacher Preparation	Paper/Reasearch Presentation	Teacher Residencies in Arkansas: Early Lessons From Pioneering Universities	Julie Fitz - Senior Researcher Learning Policy Institute	Findings from a study of two Arkansas EPPs' grant-funded residency pilots highlight practices and identify challenges other EPPs can learn from as they roll out and refine their own residencies.
	509	24	Teacher Preparation	Roundtable	Sharing Best Practices in the Preparation of Mathematics Teachers	Kim McComas - Teaching Professor University of Arkansas	Join a conversation about what's happening in math teacher preparation across our institutions! Best practices? Challenges? Strategies to recruit more students into math teaching? Come prepared to share and discuss!
10:00-12:00 pm	Arkansas Deans and Directors		Special Session - Invitation-only				