



## 2018 NSSSA Conference Session Descriptions

Oct 9, 2018

**Please Note:** *This is a work in progress. Keynotes will be added to the final program. Times for sessions are posted at the end of this document.*

### **Keynote: Phil Gersmehl**

#### **Title: Geographic Acts of Kindness: Spatial Thinking Pays it Forward**

Two centuries ago, Immanuel Kant suggested that human brains had “a priori” structures that organize knowledge in particular ways—causally, spatially, and temporally. Hundreds of research studies conducted well after Kant’s theory first emerged, reinforce the basic idea that several types of spatial thinking are involved when children learn any subject matter.

Although many educational “isms” reject the idea a brain “hardwired” to organize knowledge in particular ways, modern brain-scanning research offers strong support for such “a priori” structures. This idea is especially relevant when we look at student perception of maps, graphs, and other visual images because we can then draw strong connections between spatial modes of thinking involved in social studies instruction with the learning that takes place in any other subject—particularly in reading and mathematics.

Join Dr. Gersmehl as he shares his findings of the exploration of thousands of brain-scanning research studies and applies his results to a number of familiar educational scenarios. From an eye-opening experience with college freshmen as they studied multiple ecozones of the continent of Africa to a local field trip with early elementary students in a high-poverty school in Harlem, Dr. Gersmehl demonstrates how connecting modes of spatial thinking to *any* subject area will produce successful students across the educational landscape.

General          Supervision/Leadership          Inquiry

#### **Assessment Literacy Standards for Social Studies Supervisors**

The Michigan State Board of Education (SBE) endorsed the Assessment Literacy Standards, developed by the Michigan Assessment Consortium to serve as the foundation to improve assessment practices and systems in the state of Michigan. How can these standards help our supervisors as the C3 Framework is implemented in our schools?

*Presenter: Stan Masters, Coordinator of Instructional Data Services, Lenawee ISD, Adrian, Michigan, stan.masters@lisd.us*

Secondary          Instructional Materials          Literacy

#### **Beyond Checklists: New Instructional Approaches to Digital Literacy**

How can we prepare students to navigate the deluge of information that floods their phones, tablets, and laptops? Explore new curriculum and assessments designed by the Stanford History Education Group to teach students to be discerning consumers of social and political information online.

*Presenter: Joel Breakstone, Director, Stanford History Education Group, Stanford, CA, breakstone@stanford.edu*

Secondary Professional Skills Controversial Issues

**Challenging Times: Exploring Teaching Strategies that Foster Civil Discourse**

Educators have an essential role in creating educational spaces where respect and civil discourse are the norm. This interactive experience highlights Facing History and Ourselves strategies and resources designed to help navigate challenging times and support your students to develop effective skills for civic participation. Fostering Civil Discourse Guide included.

*Presenters: Jennifer Jones-Clark, Program Director, Facing History and Ourselves, Brookline, Massachusetts, Jennifer\_Clark@facinghistory.org; Sarah Shields, Facing History and Ourselves, Chicago, IL, Sarah\_Shields@facinghistory.org*

Secondary Supervision/Leadership Change Leadership

**Compelling Curricular Change: Combining Skills and Content in Grades K-12**

How can a curriculum redesign promote an “Understanding-Focused” Curriculum? Learn how one Maryland district’s teachers developed a viable skills-based PreK-12 Social Studies Curriculum that integrates Essential Questions, UbD, and Performance Assessments. Participants will be given curriculum samples and exposed to assessments, scoring tools, and PD resources.

*Presenter: Kate Long, MS Social Studies Content Specialist, Washington County Public Schools, MD, longkat@wcps.k12.md.us*

General Supervision/Leadership Change Leadership

**Developing a Statewide Social Studies Supervisors Group**

The Michigan Social Studies Supervisors Association is a vibrant group that excels at working collaboratively. We will share strategies, processes, and ideas that will enable other state supervisors to develop, maintain and/or upgrade their state organization.

*Presenters: Roy Sovis, Coordinator for Instruction, Genesee Intermediate School District, Flint, MI, rovis@geneseeisd.org*

Secondary Instructional Materials Controversial Issues

**Diplomacy Simulations: Inspiring Students to Be Informed and Involved in the World**

In a world of global connections and global conflict, students need skills of diplomacy more than ever. Participants will engage in a diplomatic simulation and learn about free classroom resources.

*Presenter: Lauren Krizner Fischer, Education Program Specialist, The U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC, District of Columbia, fischerlk@state.gov*

Secondary Instructional Coaching Controversial Issues

**From Conflict to Civility: Helping Teachers Embrace Controversial Issues in Classrooms**

Differing opinions do not need to become uncivil matters in classrooms. Developed by the Anne Frank House, Free2Choose and Memory Walk help students explore issues of Human Rights and memorialization in communities. Aligned to the C3 Framework, these platforms help teachers introduce sensitive topics relevant to students in a structured environment designed to promote civil discourse and informed action.

*Presenter: Charles Vaughan, Teacher, AC Flora High School, Columbia, South Carolina, cvaughan@usit.net*

K-8 Instructional Materials Inquiry

**GIANT Step Forward**

This interactive session has it all. Free curricular units, online assessments, interactive maps, instructional strategies, and digital textbooks that build geographic inquiry and historical thinking skills for students.

*Presenter: Dave Johnson, Instructional Consultant, Northern Michigan Learning Consortium, Cadillac, MI, david.johnson@wmisd.org*

General            Supervision/Leadership            Inquiry

### **How to Create and Implement a Culture of Inquiry – K through 12!**

Learn how one district implemented a systematic approach for creating a culture of inquiry K-12: the need, vision, buy-in and excitement necessary for success. Allow their journey to help you on yours! Gather ideas to challenge and equip both administrators and educators to support deep and rigorous instruction.

*Presenters: Becky Ryckele, Coordinator of Social Studies and Gifted, Fayette County Schools, Fayetteville, GA, ryckelej.becky@mail.fcboe.org; Sherry Owens, Founder, s3strategies, TX, sherry.owens@s3strategies.net; Steve Beasley, Co-founder, s3strategies, Lubbock, TX, steve.beasley@s3strategies.net*

General            Best Practices            Inquiry

### **Inquiry Made Real: The Inquiry Design Model**

Although the subject of much discussion, inquiry has proven to be a challenge to enact in school classrooms. The Inquiry Design Model (IDM) offers a clear, coherent, and practical approach to develop inquiry-based instructional practices. This session offers educators an overview of IDM and examples of inquiry lessons.

*Presenters: Kathleen Swan, Professor, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, kswan@Uky.edu; SG Grant, Professor, Binghamton University, NY, sggrant@binghamton.edu; John Lee, Professor, NC State University, Raleigh, NC, jklee@ncsu.edu*

General            Supervision/Leadership            Controversial Issues

### **Is Schooling a Mechanism for Racial Control?: Anti-Racist Education Equation**

Schools and educators are brokers of hope. However, systems minoritize people and control their potential. Schooling as a system is a mechanism for racial control. The anti-racist education equation proposed is intended to equip influencers to ensure that schooling isn't debilitating and disenfranchising for entire populations of kids.

*Presenters: Shelley Henderson, CEO & Principal Consultant/Trainer, READY Nationwide, Omaha, NE, shenderson@readynationwide.com; Earl Redrick, e4LS Founder/Consultant, E4 Leadership Solutions' (e4LS), NE, earl@e4ls.org*

General            Supervision/Leadership            Adult Learning

### **Leading Change Through Professional Learning**

Leading and sustaining change is both very exciting and challenging especially with a limited amount of time allocated to professional learning. This session will focus on factors necessary for planning effective professional learning experiences that will both lead and sustain change in your district.

*Presenters: Pamela Gothart, Professional Learning Director, Social Studies School Service, Huntsville, AL, pgothart@socialstudies.com; Aaron Willis, Chief Learning Officer, Social Studies School Service, CA, aaron@socialstudies.com*

General

### **Listening Skills, Journey Scrolls, and Spatial Analogies**

Recent research supports a complex, multi-network perspective of how the human brain "learns" from maps, graphs, and other visual images. This session analyzes implications of this research on students' ability to read and illustrates through skill-building activities how math and reading are geographic acts.

*Presenter: Phil Gersmehl,*

Secondary      Disciplinary Literacy      Literacy

**Literacy: Making Meaning out of Best Practices**

This session tackles the challenge of pairing disciplinary literacy with effective literacy strategies in classrooms. Acquire low-prep/high-yield literacy strategies, participate in a Talk, Read, Talk, Write lesson paired with historical thinking skills, and receive a bibliography of best practices for reading, writing, speaking, and vocabulary.

*Presenters: Pier Larsen, Director of Social Studies K-12, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, Carrollton, Texas, larsenp@cfbisd.edu; Megan Duckworth, Secondary Social Studies Instructional Specialist, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, Texas, duckworthm@cfbisd.edu*

Secondary      Disciplinary Literacy      Controversial Issues

**Making Sense of the News: Teaching Current Events with News Literacy in an age of misinformation**

Never before has the need for News Literacy been more urgent. As news consumers are bombarded with a constant stream of fake news, propaganda, hoaxes, rumors, satire, and advertising — that often masquerade as credible journalism — it is becoming more and more difficult to distinguish fact from fiction. In this session, learn how to actively sort and evaluate media online and discern and identify credible sources of news, and in turn, walk away with resources to help equip your students through in-classroom activities adapted from Stony Brook University's course on News Literacy, being taught in classrooms around the world.

*Presenter: Michael Spikes, Project Director, Educator Training & Digital Resources, Center for News Literacy @ Stony Brook University, Chicago, Illinois, michael.spikes@stonybrook.edu*

General      Disciplinary Literacy      Literacy

**Soaring with Social Studies While Rooted in Reading PK-12**

Our B.O.L.D. Adventure- Come see how we used literacy strategies to boost social studies instruction, and to build a PK-12 Social Studies Literacy Culture. We will share our B.O.L.D. journey, along with successful strategies our teachers are implementing with fidelity in social studies classrooms across our district.

*Presenters: Barbara Vrana, Secondary Social Studies Coordinator, Birdville ISD, Haltom City, Texas, barbara.vrana@birdvilleschools.net; Dawn Fielder, Elementary Social Studies Coordinator, Birdville ISD, TX, dawn.fielder@birdvilleschools.net*

Secondary      Disciplinary Literacy      Change Leadership

**Strategies for supporting ELL language and content learning in History Social Science**

Creating schools where content teachers effectively support English Language Learners is challenging. Featuring work with history teachers in a middle school laboratory project, leadership moves that develop skilled lesson planning and delivery for powerful ELL instruction will be featured and participants will learn compelling ELL approaches to motivate teachers.

*Presenters: Elizabeth Fralicks, English Learner Coordinator, Secondary, Fresno Unified School District, Fresno, CA, elizabeth.fralicks@fresnounified.org; Mark Jutabha, Engagement and Services Lead, WestEd, Torrance, CA, mjutabha@wested.org*

Secondary      Instructional Coaching      Controversial Issues

**Tackling Controversial Issues through Deliberation**

Join Street Law in an exploration of the powerful Deliberation discussion strategy. Learn how to prepare and coach teachers through deliberative discussion of controversial issues in their classroom. Receive classroom-ready teaching materials and insight into a wealth of free, online resources for teachers who wish to tackle controversial issues.

*Presenters: Jen Wheeler, Director, Teacher Professional Development & Curriculum at Street Law, Inc., [jwheeler@streetlaw.org](mailto:jwheeler@streetlaw.org); Lee Arbetman, executive director, Street Law, Inc., MD, [larbetman@streetlaw.org](mailto:larbetman@streetlaw.org)*

Middle      Best Practices      Controversial Issues

**Teaching Controversial Issues in a Sharply Divided America**

In these deeply divided times, explore and discuss ideas for social studies supervisors, curriculum writers, and teachers to consider when planning and teaching lessons on controversial topics. The session's discussion will focus on five broad categories (purpose, preparation, process, practice, and perspective) educators can consider to develop meaningful learning experiences that maintain thoughtfulness and civility in the classroom.

*Presenter: Kevin Jenkins, Social Studies Content Development, Discovery Education, Silver Spring, MD, [kevin\\_jenkins@discovery.com](mailto:kevin_jenkins@discovery.com)*

General      Best Practices      Literacy

**Teaching Literacy through History**

Using the Gilder Lehrman Teaching Literacy through History approach, participants will be guided on how to connect seven key literacy strategies tied to Common Core and C 3 into the K-12 classroom. Materials will include textual, visual, and audio documents and several historical periods will be addressed.

*Presenters: Ron Nash, Senior Education Fellow, Gilder Lehrman Institute of America, New York, NY, [ron.nash@gilderlehrman.org](mailto:ron.nash@gilderlehrman.org); Tim Bailey, Director of Education, Gilder Lehrman Institute of America, NJ, [Bailey@gilderlehrman.org](mailto:Bailey@gilderlehrman.org)*

**Wednesday, November 28, 2018**

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| 3:00– 10:00 | <b>NSSSA Board Meeting &amp; Dinner</b> – Regency D – NSSSA Board Members Only |
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**Thursday, November 29, 2018 – Ballroom Level WEST Tower**

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|--|---|---|--|--|
| 7:30 am –<br>7:30 pm   | <b>Registration</b> – Registration Area by Regency D – Ballroom Level WEST Tower  |   |  |  |
| 8:00 – 9:15  | <b>Breakfast/Business Meeting– Hosted by Pearson</b><br>Regency D – Registered NSSSA Members Only   |   |  |  |
| <b>9:30 – 10:30 Concurrent Sessions</b>                                      |   |   |  |  |
| <b>REGENCY A</b>   | <b>REGENCY B</b>  | <b>REGENCY C</b>  | <b>ACAPULCO</b>  | <b>TORONTO</b>   |
| Soaring with Social Studies While Rooted in Reading PK-12                    | From Conflict to Civility: Helping Teachers Embrace Controversial Issues in Classrooms  | Assessment Literacy Standards for Social Studies Supervisors        | Diplomacy Simulations: Inspiring Students to Be Informed and Involved in the World | Strategies for supporting ELL language and content learning in History Social Science            |
| <b>10:45 – 11:45 Concurrent Sessions</b>                                     |   |   |  |  |
| <b>REGENCY A</b>   | <b>REGENCY B</b>  | <b>REGENCY C</b>  | <b>ACAPULCO</b>  | <b>TORONTO</b>   |
| Challenging Times: Exploring Teaching Strategies that Foster Civil Discourse | Literacy: Making Meaning out of Best Practices  | Teaching Controversial Issues in a Sharply Divided America          | Developing Statewide Social Studies Supervisors Group                              | Inquiry Made Real: The Inquiry Design Model  |
| 12:00 – 1:30   | <b>Luncheon/Business Meeting – Hosted by NSSSA</b><br>Regency D – Registered NSSSA Members Only<br>Speaker – Phil Gersmehl – <i>Geographic Acts of Kindness: Spatial Thinking Pays it Forward</i> |   |  |  |
| <b>1:45 – 2:45 Concurrent Sessions</b>                                       |   |   |  |  |
| <b>REGENCY A</b>   | <b>REGENCY B</b>  | <b>REGENCY C</b>  | <b>ACAPULCO</b>  | <b>TORONTO</b>   |
| Listening Skills, Journey Scrolls, and Spatial Analogies                     | How to Create and Implement a Culture of Inquiry – K through 12   | Beyond Checklists: New Instructional Approaches to Digital Literacy | Is Schooling a Mechanism for Racial Control?: Anti-Racist Education Equation       | Compelling Curricular Change: Combining Skills and Content in Grades K-12                        |
| <b>3:00 – 4:00 Concurrent Sessions</b>                                       |   |   |  |  |
| <b>REGENCY A</b>   | <b>REGENCY B</b>  | <b>REGENCY C</b>  | <b>ACAPULCO</b>  | <b>TORONTO</b>   |
| Leading Change Through Professional Learning                                 | Tackling Controversial Issues through Deliberation  | Giant Step Forward  | Teaching Literacy through History  | Making Sense of the News: Teaching Current Events with News Literacy in an age of misinformation |
| 4:15 – 5:45  | <b>Special Session – Let’s Fix Our Democracy - - It’s On Us and It’s Doable</b><br><b>Berto Aguayo and Brian Brady and The American Soapbox Initiative students</b><br>Regency D                  |   |  |  |
| 5:45 – 7:30  | <b>Reception – Hosted by Pearson</b><br>LOCATION– Registered NSSSA Members Only   |   |  |  |
| 7:30 – 10:00   | <b>NSSSA Board Meeting</b> – LOCATION – Board Members Only  |   |  |  |

**Friday, November 30, 2018 – Swissotel – 323 E Upper Wacker Dr**

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| 11:30 AM-1:15 PM | <b>Discovery Education Luncheon</b><br><b>Zurich EF – Swissotel – 323 E Upper Wacker Dr</b> |
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