

SHAWNEE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

**MONTHLY
PROFESSIONAL
LEARNING SERIES
FOR EDUCATORS | 2024-2025**

MONTHLY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES

EDUCATOR EVENTS | 2024-2025

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 4
8:30-3:30 | Fabulous Fall Friday Conference
with the University of Florida's Center for Reading Research (UFLI), Debbie Anderson of COAD, Dr. Charles Kemp and Dr. Sandra Beam of Shawnee State University, and Jack Spiller of AI Owl |
| Nov. 8
9:00-12:00 | Dr. Austin Raines
What's Driving Your Car? Understanding Student Learning Preferences Using Myers-Briggs |
| Dec. 6
9:00-3:30 | Nikki Baker
Using Sound Walls in Preschool and Kindergarten |
| Jan. 10
9:00-12:00 | Brandi Lust
Self Care Techniques for Combatting Compassion Fatigue |
| Feb. 7
9:00-3:30 | Christina DeCarbo
Changing Lives, One Phoneme at a Time |
| Mar. 7
9:00-3:30 | Dr. Heidi Beverine-Curry
Evidence Aligned Reading Instruction |
| Apr. 4
9:00-3:30 | Conscious Discipline
Creating a Classroom Family Through a Trauma Informed Lens |
| May 9
9:00-12:00 | Gerry Brooks
Leading Change Through Climate and Culture |

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN:





FABULOUS FALL FRIDAY

OCTOBER 4, 2024

8:15 AM - 8:30 AM

REGISTRATION

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

MORNING KEYNOTE

9:35 AM - 11:20 AM

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

LUNCH

12:35 PM - 1:35 PM

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

1:40 PM – 3:10 PM

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

FABULOUS FALL FRIDAY

OCTOBER 4, 2024

MORNING KEYNOTE | 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

INDIVIDUALIZED READING INTERVENTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO NEED EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT

PRESENTER: DR. HOLLY LANE

This session will delve into the critical importance of support for children who need exceptional assistance in their literacy journey. Dr. Holli Lane will share insights into identifying students who may benefit from individualized interventions, explore evidence-based strategies for providing targeted support, and discuss how to create a nurturing, inclusive environment that promotes literacy development for all learners. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of how to implement effective, personalized reading interventions that meet the unique needs of each child, setting them on a path to lifelong success.

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE | 12:35 PM - 1:35 PM

EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE, AND EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND ENHANCED READING OUTCOMES

PRESENTER: DR. HOLLY LANE

This session will provide educators with a deep understanding of how to create classroom environments that are not only inclusive and equitable but also drive significant improvements in reading achievement. Dr. Holli Lane will share research-based practices and innovative strategies for fostering a culture of inclusion, where every child, regardless of background or ability, can thrive. Attendees will learn how to implement effective teaching methods that cater to diverse learning needs, ensuring that all students receive the support they need to excel in their reading development. This keynote will inspire and equip educators with the tools to create more equitable, inclusive, and impactful early learning experiences, ultimately leading to enhanced reading outcomes for all young learners.

FABULOUS FALL FRIDAY

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS | 9:35 AM - 11:20 AM

TIME MANAGEMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

DEBBIE ANDERSON

Discover practical tips to optimize your schedule, and learn to implement a structured time management system tailored to the unique demands of your role. Delve into prioritization strategies to streamline workloads, establish and enforce boundaries for a healthier work-life balance, and recognize the pivotal role of self-care.

Audience: Preschool, Elementary, Paraprofessionals Administrators

DEEP DIVE: UFLI FOUNDATIONS FOR CURRENT USERS

DR. HOLLY LANE

Designed for educators using the UFLI Foundations program, this session offers advanced strategies to maximize teaching impact. Discover scaffolding techniques to support diverse learners and practical tips to enhance instruction and classroom engagement. Refine your skills to ensure all students benefit from UFLI Foundations' rich, research-based instruction.

Audience: Elementary, Administration

EARLY INTERVENTION IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSROOM

DR. CHARLES KEMP

This session focuses on the critical role of early intervention in early childhood education. It provides a comprehensive overview of early intervention and its significance in fostering young children's development and well-being. Participants will gain insights into identifying early signs, understand the impact of timely support, and learn practical strategies for effective classroom practices.

Audience: Preschool, Elementary, Paraprofessionals, Administration

AI FOR EDUCATORS: UTILIZING AI INTRODUCTION

JACK SPILLER

Explore AI's potential in education with this introductory session for educators new to the topic. We'll demystify AI, explaining its basics and applications. Discover how AI tools can support personalized learning, streamline tasks, and foster student engagement. You'll leave with a clear understanding of AI's role in education and actionable ideas for integrating it into your practice. No prior AI experience is required.

Audience: Elementary, Middle School, High School, Administration

FABULOUS FALL FRIDAY

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS | 1:45 PM - 3:10 PM

DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS AMONG COLLEAGUES AND FAMILIES

DEBBIE ANDERSON

Conversations can be difficult for a variety of reasons, whether it's the topic or the dispositions and personalities of those involved. We'll discuss ways you will feel more confident by knowing what to say and how to say it.

Audience: Preschool, Elementary, Paraprofessionals, Administration

IMPLEMENTING UFLI: FOUNDATIONS FOR INTERESTED EDUCATORS

DR. HOLLY LANE

This session is for educators eager to learn about the benefits and implementation of the UFLI Foundations program. We'll highlight its evidence-based approach, how it supports foundational literacy skills, and the advantages of using it to enhance student outcomes. Participants will gain practical tips for getting started and explore strategies to integrate UFLI Foundations into daily routines.

Audience: Elementary, Administration

BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS: EARLY LITERACY ESSENTIALS

DR. SANDRA BEAM

This session will demystify early literacy, highlighting its critical importance in children's overall development and future academic success. Participants will explore key concepts, and discover evidence-based strategies for effectively incorporating literacy activities into the early childhood classroom. The session will feature hands-on activities that can be easily implemented, providing practical, ready-to-use ideas for fostering literacy skills starting the very next school day.

Audience: Preschool, Elementary, Paraprofessionals, Administration

AI FOR EDUCATORS: ADVANCED AI STRATEGIES

JACK SPILLER

This session is for educators with AI experience, focusing on leveraging AI to drive improvements. We'll explore AI applications that optimize decisions, enhance data-driven instruction, and improve student outcomes. Learn to harness AI to effectively analyze state data, streamline processes, and personalize learning at scale. Leave with actionable strategies to implement AI tools that align with your district's goals, making a tangible difference in education through advanced technology.

Audience: Elementary, Middle School, High School, Administration

FABULOUS FALL FRIDAY

KEYNOTE BIOGRAPHY



DR. HOLLY LANE

Dr. Lane is the Director of the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI, pronounced “you fly”) and an associate professor of special education.

Her research focuses on effective reading instruction and intervention and helping teachers develop the knowledge and skills they need to teach reading effectively, especially using evidence-based practices to promote the development of foundational reading skills.

She is author of UFLI Foundations: An Explicit and Systematic Phonics Program. It is currently being implemented in classrooms across the United States and around the world.

Affiliations

- *School of Special Education School Psychology and Early Childhood Studies*
- *University of Florida Literacy Institute*

Education

- *Ph.D. - University of Florida, Special Education*
- *M.Ed. - University of Florida, Special Education*
- *B.A. - University of Florida, Special Education*

Professional Appointments

- *Director, University of Florida Literacy Institute, 2019-present*
- *Director, School of Special Education, School Psychology and Early Childhood Education, 2016-2019*
- *Associate Professor, University of Florida, Department of Special Education, 2006-present*
- *Assistant Professor, University of Florida, Department of Special Education, 2000-2006*
- *Assistant Scholar, University of Florida, Department of Special Education, 1994-2000*

FABULOUS FALL FRIDAY

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



DEBBIE ANDERSON

Debbie Anderson is a dynamic and engaging presenter with several years of experience in education. She currently works at the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development, where she is passionate about empowering individuals through learning and development opportunities. Debbie is known for her enthusiastic and interactive presentation style, which captivates audiences and leaves a lasting impact. With a strong background in education and a dedication to promoting growth and success, Debbie is committed to inspiring others to reach their full potential.



JACK SPILLER, MA.A.

After earning his Master's in Higher Education from Villanova University, Jack began his career in various college and university offices, including Admissions, Alumni Relations, and Workforce Development. Through these experiences, he recognized the need for his work to evolve with AI and AI education in central Ohio. As the Client Success Manager for AI OWL, Jack is committed to making AI education accessible and providing a seamless client experience. Jack's experience in education and accessibility equips him to bring AI training to businesses and individuals across Ohio.



DR. CHARLES KEMP

Charles W. Kemp, EdD, is an Associate Professor at Shawnee State University School of Education in the Intervention Specialist and Primary Intervention Specialist Blended programs. Kemp has over 35 years of teaching and administrative experience (PK-12) in the US and abroad. His passion for inclusive education supports his research in post-secondary transition planning, co-teaching in higher education, and dual-licensure teacher preparation. His state and national presentations reflect his inclusive focus for all students. He is also a published author on these subjects.



DR. SANDRA BEAM

Sandra Beam is a literacy professor in Shawnee State University's School of Education. She also serves as the Program Director for the Primary Education licensure program. Sandra has served in many different literacy-related roles, including being a National LETRS facilitator, an accreditation assessment reviewer, and a literacy consultant. Sandra has led the initiative to rewrite curriculum for the reading core coursework to be reflective of science of reading concepts to ensure all SSU students are well prepared to teach these research based literacy practices.

MONTHLY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES

NOVEMBER 8, 2024
9:00-12:00



WHAT'S DRIVING YOUR CAR?: UNDERSTANDING PREFERENCES TO GUIDE TEACHING WITH MYERS-BRIGGS DR. AUSTIN RAINES

The November installment of the monthly learning series offers educators a comprehensive understanding of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and its practical applications in the educational setting. Participants will explore the fundamentals of personality types, gaining insight into their own MBTI profile and how it influences their teaching style, communication, and interactions with students, colleagues, parents, and guardians.

Audience: Preschool, Elementary, Middle School, High School. Paraprofessionals, Administration

Educators will learn strategies to foster a positive school climate, improve team dynamics, and create a more inclusive and supportive culture by understanding their unique personality type and those of others. The course will cover techniques for leveraging individual strengths, addressing potential challenges, and enhancing collaboration within school teams. Educators will leave with actionable insights to apply daily, contributing to a more harmonious and effective learning environment.

Presenter Biography:

Dr. Austin Raines, a first-generation college graduate from Scioto County, Ohio, embodies the spirit of his Appalachian roots. He earned Social Science and Sociology degrees from Shawnee State University and completed his Master's and Doctorate in Social Work at the University of Kentucky, focusing on Social Work Education and Community Development. A Licensed Independent Social Worker, Austin holds multiple certifications, including Career Services and Chemical Dependency Counseling. His professional roles span Associate Director of Career Services, Adjunct Faculty at Shawnee State University, and Career Navigator for Scioto County Aspire. Dr. Raines has contributed to curriculum development, grant proposals, and published research on topics such as gender roles and occupational choices. His personal life is shared with his educator partner and their pug, Prudence Praline. Austin's guiding belief is that education is transformative, advocating that individuals should pursue careers aligned with their core values to achieve holistic fulfillment.

MONTHLY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES

DECEMBER 6, 2024
9:00-3:30



USING SOUNDWALLS IN ECE CLASSROOMS

NIKKI BAKER

The December installment of the monthly learning series is designed to empower preschool and kindergarten educators with the knowledge and skills to effectively implement sound walls in their classrooms, using strategies from Tools 4 Learning. Sound walls are a powerful tool in early literacy instruction, helping young learners develop phonemic awareness and a strong foundation in reading by connecting sounds to letters and words.

Audience: Preschool, Kindergarten, Paraprofessionals, Administration

Participants will explore the purpose and benefits of sound walls, how they differ from traditional word walls, and best practices for integrating them into daily instruction. The course will provide practical guidance on setting up and using sound walls to support early learners as they acquire essential phonological and phonemic skills. Educators will learn how to make sound walls an interactive and engaging part of their literacy instruction, fostering a deeper understanding of the connection between spoken and written language.

Presenter Biography:

Nikki Baker, M.Ed., is a literacy specialist passionate about empowering educators with the knowledge and tools to ensure all students are successful readers. She earned a BS in Early Childhood Development and a master's degree in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Reading and Literacy, both from the University of Utah. She has been a classroom teacher, literacy coach, curriculum writer, and tutor for dyslexic students. Nikki is a private consultant, national LETRS trainer, and a team member at Tools 4 Reading. She is passionate about professional development and supporting teachers in a classroom application of the Science of Reading.

MONTHLY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES

JANUARY 10, 2025
9:00-12:00



COMBATting COMPASSION FATIGUE: STRATEGIES FOR TEACHER WELL-BEING AND RESILIENCE

BRANDI LUST

Teaching is a deeply rewarding profession, but the emotional demands can sometimes lead to compassion fatigue—an overwhelming sense of physical and emotional exhaustion that diminishes a teacher's ability to connect with students and colleagues. This professional development course is designed to help educators recognize the signs of compassion fatigue and develop strategies to manage it effectively.

Participants will explore the causes and symptoms of compassion fatigue, understanding how it impacts their well-being and job performance. The session will introduce practical self-care techniques, stress management strategies, and resilience-building practices that can be integrated into daily routines. Through reflection, discussion, and actionable plans, educators will learn how to maintain their passion for teaching while safeguarding their mental and emotional health.

Audience: Preschool, Elementary School, Middle School, High School, Paraprofessionals, Administration

Presenter Biography:

*Brandi Lust is the founder of Learning Lab Consulting and the author of *Myths of Being Human: Four Paths to Connect with What Matters*. Through her work nationally as a speaker and consultant, she helps organizations lower stress, build resilience, and create more connection for employees through tools like mindfulness and socialemotional learning. Brandi believes that our common humanity enhances the workplace and our lives; when we bring our whole selves to everything we do, both the easy and the hard stuff, we are more fulfilled and more effective. Brandi has a Bachelor's degree in English from The Ohio State University and earned her M.A.Ed. from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. She has 15 years of experience as an educator and facilitator and maintains a personal mindfulness practice. For more information, visit www.brandilust.com.*

MONTHLY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES

FEBRUARY 7, 2025
9:00-3:30



CHANGING LIVES, ONE PHONEME AT A TIME CHRISTINA DECARBO

Let's celebrate the beauty of neurodiversity and make a lasting impact on our students' reading journeys! In the February installment of the monthly learning series, Christina DeCarbo will guide you through the process of building a supportive classroom environment. Starting with the essentials of phonemic awareness and letter-sound connections, this session will set the stage for advancing up the reading rope, providing you with practical ideas to support learners at every level.

Christina will share a wealth of games, lessons, and strategies that make phoneme-grapheme connections stick, ensuring that all students can thrive. Whether you're working with students at the carpet, in small groups, or during whole-group lessons, you'll leave with quick, effective practices to reinforce reading skills throughout the day. By the end of this session, you'll be equipped with tools and techniques that can be immediately applied in your classroom to support every student's reading success.

Audience: Preschool, Elementary School, Paraprofessionals, Administration

Presenter Biography:

Christina (Miss DeCarbo) is a PreK-5 literacy coach, teacher, national presenter, and curriculum author from Northeast Ohio. She is certified at the Associate Level with the Orton Gillingham Academy. Her research-based sessions are packed with engaging lessons and creative tools to help students succeed as readers, writers, and problem-solvers. Christina loves collaborating with educators on Instagram @missdecarbo. As a mom of two little ones, she enjoys spending time with family and drinking coffee. You can learn more about Christina on her website at www.missdecarbo.com.

MONTHLY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES

MARCH 7, 2025
9:00-3:30



EVIDENCE ALIGNED READING INSTRUCTION DR. HEIDI BEVERINE-CURRY

School change can be challenging, but it is entirely possible—and worth the effort. In the March installment of the monthly learning series, Dr. Heidi Beverine-Curry of The Reading League will discuss what it takes to transform a school's culture of practice to align with the scientific evidence base on reading. Drawing from real-life examples, Dr. Beverine-Curry will share how a single school or even an entire district can successfully transition to evidence-based reading instruction, leading to dramatic improvements in literacy and student outcomes.

Participants will delve into the key components of school transformation, learn about common obstacles and practical strategies for overcoming them, and discover what's possible through The Reading League's work with schools. This session is essential for educators, administrators, and school leaders committed to making meaningful changes in their approach to teaching reading.

Audience: Preschool, Elementary School, Middle School, High School, Administration

Presenter Biography:

Dr. Heidi Beverine-Curry is a co-founder and chief academic officer for The Reading League, where she oversees the professional development department and designs, supervises, and delivers educator learning opportunities for more than 60 partnering school districts. Dr. Beverine-Curry is frequently invited to speak about the science of reading and has presented widely at conferences and events across the U.S. and internationally. Before beginning work for The Reading League full-time in 2019, she spent 21 years working in public schools, where she made use of her certifications in elementary education, K-12 special education, and K-12 reading education. When Dr. Beverine-Curry began her doctoral coursework in reading education in 2006, she became a champion for evidence-aligned literacy instruction and has led several successful reform efforts. For more information visit: www.thereadingleague.org

MONTHLY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES

APRIL 4, 2025
9:00-3:30



CREATING A CLASSROOM FAMILY THROUGH A TRAUMA INFORMED LENS

Join the Conscious Discipline team for an insightful professional development session on "Creating a Classroom Family Through a Trauma-Informed Lens." This workshop will delve into building a cohesive and supportive classroom environment by integrating the principles of Conscious Discipline with trauma-informed care practices.

Audience: Preschool, Elementary School, Administration

Participants will learn how to foster a classroom culture that prioritizes safety, connection, and emotional support, creating a "classroom family" where every student feels valued and secure. The session will cover strategies for understanding and addressing trauma's impact on student behavior, establishing routines that promote stability, and nurturing resilience through compassionate interactions. Engage in interactive activities to apply these concepts and leave with practical tools to enhance your classroom dynamics and support students' emotional well-being.

Presenter Biography:

This session will be facilitated by a Certified Conscious Discipline Instructor.

MONTHLY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES

MAY 9, 2025
9:00-12:00



LEADING CHANGE THROUGH CLIMATE AND CULTURE GERRY BROOKS

Join everyone's favorite principal, Gerry Brooks, for an engaging and humorous session focused on building a positive climate and culture in your school. Known for his relatable insights and entertaining delivery, Principal Brooks will share practical strategies and real-life examples that empower teachers to create a supportive and thriving environment for students and staff alike.

Audience: Preschool, Elementary School, Middle School, High School, Paraprofessionals, Administration

In this session designed specifically for teachers, you'll explore the critical role you play in shaping the culture of your school. From fostering strong relationships with colleagues and students to implementing small changes that make a big difference, Principal Brooks will provide you with the tools and inspiration to enhance the daily experience in your classroom and beyond. Get ready for a session full of laughter, learning, and actionable takeaways that will help you contribute to a positive, productive school culture!

Presenter Biography:

Gerry Brooks is a veteran educator in Lexington, Kentucky. His educational experience includes six years in the classroom, two years as an intervention specialist, and 12 years as an administrator. He is a passionate public speaker whose focus is on encouraging and helping teachers improve their instructional abilities. He also has a desire to help administrators successfully lead their staff. An encouraging speaker, he has spoken to educational groups all around the nation. His focus is on encouraging teachers to improve their instruction through personal climate and culture strategies. He desires to help administrators focus on how to lead all staff in a positive and constructive manner. His following on social media has developed through humorous videos that focus on real-world educational experiences. He is currently followed on these social media sites by over 500,000 people. For more information visit: www.gerrybrooksprin.com



THE SOUTHERN OHIO
Science of Reading
Symposium

SUMMER 2025

at Shawnee State University

For PreK-Grade 12 Educators & Administration

Stay tuned for keynote and session information!