



2025



GLOBAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE

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SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
AROUND THE WORLD

**GLOBAL
CHRISTIAN
EDUCATORS'
CONFERENCE**



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**HOSTED BY THE
ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Conference Schedule

7:15 am – 8:00 am	Check-in/Vendor Exhibit – Christ’s Chapel
8:00 am – 8:20 am	Welcome/Announcements Praise and Worship
8:20 am – 9:20 am	General Session 1 – Christ’s Chapel Brad Huddleston “Digital Addiction: What the Neuroscience Shows and Its Effect on Spirituality”
9:20 am – 9:40 am	– Break/Vendor Exhibit
9:40 am – 10:25 am	Workshop Session A – GC 4 th & 5 th
10:25 am – 10:35 am	Break/Vendor Exhibit
10:35 am – 11:20 am	Workshop Session B – GC 4 th & 5 th
11:20 am – 11:40 am	Break/Vendor Exhibit
11:40 am – 12:15 pm	General Session 2 – Christ’s Chapel
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch/Vendor Exhibit
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	General Session 3 – Christ’s Chapel Brad Huddleston “Artificial Intelligence in Christian Education: Blessings or Curse?”
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Break/Vendor Exhibit
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm	Seminar Part 1 – Christ’s Chapel
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Break/Vendor Exhibit
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Seminar Part 2 – Christ’s Chapel



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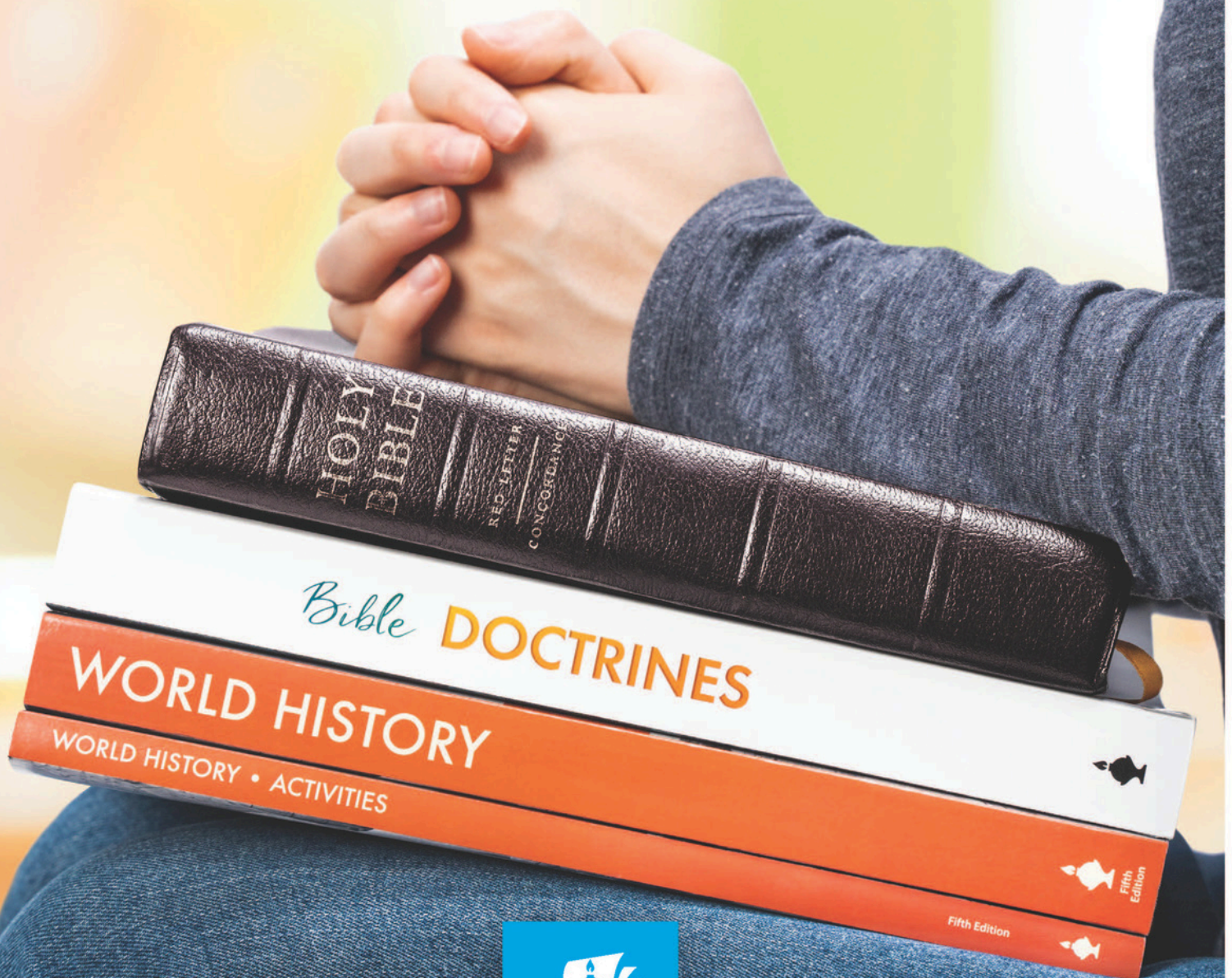


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Dr. Randall Loescher (Domestic): rloescher@oru.edu

Dr. Jenny Fang (International): yfang@oru.edu





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Brad Huddleston



Brad Huddleston is an internationally respected speaker, consultant, teacher, and author on important issues such as technology and culture. He has worked with universities, schools, churches, and law enforcement. He has spoken to hundreds of thousands worldwide on the advantages of well-used technology tools and the dangers of the growing trend toward technology addiction. Brad has an ongoing collaboration with the Bureau of Market Research (BMR)—an independent company—and its Consumer Neuroscience Division at the University of South Africa. Brad has a degree in Computer Science and a Diploma of Biblical Studies. He is a frequent guest on radio and television and the author of *Digital Rehab: Learning to Live Again in the Real World.*, *Digital Cocaine: A Journey Toward iBalance*, and *The Dark Side of Technology: Restoring Balance in the Digital Age*. Brad also hosts the international radio show *Brad Huddleston's Techwise*.

Brad and his wife, Beth, live in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in the United States.

You can find out more about Brad at:

bradhuddleston.com



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remember

use techniques
that are
engaging
&
interactive

help them
fall in love
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GLOBAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE 2025



WORKSHOPS: SESSION A

9:40 am - 10:25 am

Workshop Tracks

Acc - Accreditation Adm - Administration EL - Early Learning Elem - Elementary Gen - General
Mid/High - Middle/High School

Development - Where is the Money

Room - 4112

[Adm, Gen]

Darla Otto - Development Director, Wesleyan Christian School

We know that tuition is not enough to meet the annual budget. So where is the rest of the money? This workshop discusses how to position your school to raise the funds needed to meet your annual budget, periodic major needs, and long-term sustainability requirements. An overview of a capital campaign will be discussed.

Hi, I Am New To Christian Schools. What's This All About?

Room - 4114

[Gen]

Dr. Patrick Otto - Senior Professor, Graduate School of Education, ORU

We've all been there. We've all experienced being new to Christian Schools and most of us were not well prepared for it. If you are coming into Christian schools from the public school system, if you are coming in straight from a secular university, or maybe from the secular work world, you will find that teaching in Christian schools is very different. The issue is not your heart's spiritual condition but your mind. There is a considerable difference between being a Christian educator in a secular setting and being a Christian School educator. Paul reminds us in Romans 12:2 to transform our minds. This workshop will help explain what this process looks like and help put you on the path to grow into a mature Christian School educator.

Professional Development Training: Enhancing Student Learning Through Depth of Knowledge (DOK)

Room - 4116

[Gen]

Amarilys Galindo - Head of School, Vineyard Christian School

This training session explores strategies to increase students' depth of knowledge using Norman Webb's DOK framework. Educators will learn how to design lessons, ask questions, and assess learning in ways that promote higher-order thinking. Participants will engage in hands-on activities to identify DOK levels, revise instructional tasks, and align assessments to deepen student understanding and support critical thinking across all content areas.

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¿Estás listo para la Visita de Acreditación?

Room - 4A36

[Spanish, Acc]

Yair Herrera - School Accreditation Leader, Colegio Boston Internacional SAS

He estado en tus zapatos, orando y haciendo todo lo posible por tener la mejor visita de revisión externa. A través de este taller traigo mi experiencia como miembro de equipo y líder revisión externa para guiarte en todo lo que necesitas hacer.

Josué 1:9

9 ¿No te lo he ordenado yo? ¡Sé fuerte y valiente! No temas ni te acobardes, porque el Señor tu Dios estará contigo dondequiera que vayas.

Building Teacher Self-Efficacy: Empowering Educators for Success

Room - 4A37

[Elem]

Aimee Cozad - Teacher/Assistant Curriculum Director, Lincoln Christian School

This workshop will explore how teachers' beliefs in their ability to positively impact student learning directly correlates with improved student outcomes and motivation. Research-based strategies for building individual teacher confidence, fostering collective efficacy among grade-level teams, and implementing practical techniques that enhance instructional effectiveness are explored. Through collaborative discussions and hands-on activities, participants will develop tools to assess and strengthen their sense of efficacy, ultimately creating more engaging and successful learning environments for their students.

Discovering Differentiation with a Fraction Pizza Party

Room - 4A38

[Elem]

Dr. Missy Bush - Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education, ORU

Discover how to differentiate instruction through the context of a Fraction Pizza Party. This interactive workshop will provide elementary teacher participants with instructional activities that they can use in their classroom.

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WORKSHOPS: SESSION A

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Bible Engagement: Beyond Curriculum, Assignments and Testing

Room - 4A39

[Elem, Mid/High]

Randy Osborn - Walk Thru the Bible

Preparing students for meaningful Bible engagement involves a structured curriculum, assignments, and assessments. Empowering students to retain and utilize their understanding of God's Word can often be overshadowed by the demands of the academic schedule. Explore the interactive methodologies offered by Walk Thru the Bible, designed to enliven the Scriptures and equip students with retention and application of their biblical knowledge.

How Do You Want to be Remembered

Room - 4A43

[Gen, EL, Elem, Mid/High]

Charles Cross - Principal / Education Consultant, Harvest Christian Academy

Helping teachers not to underestimate the influence that they have on children under their care. Topics covered include

1. Why do kids get angry?
 2. Why do kids get depressed?
 3. How can teachers ensure students know they belong and are lovable, forgivable, priceless, and competent?
 4. Why is Self-Esteem so important.
- It's fun, and interactive!

Digital Playbook for Christian Schools: Future-Proof Your Marketing with AI & Automation

Room - 4A44

[Gen, EL, Elem, Mid/High]

Jenani Paul, Digital Consultants

Christian schools face growing challenges in attracting and retaining families, but with the right digital strategies, enrollment and engagement can thrive. In this webinar, we'll explore the Digital Playbook for Christian Schools, a step-by-step guide to using AI and automation to simplify marketing, increase inquiries, and strengthen parent connections. Learn how to automate follow-ups, leverage AI for targeted outreach, and implement essential digital tools while staying true to your school's mission. Discover the latest marketing trends and practical strategies to future-proof your school's growth.

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WORKSHOPS: SESSION A

9:40 am - 10:25 am

Workshop Tracks

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Mid/High - Middle/High School

Do Your Students Have the Character to Serve?

Room - 4A45

[Acc, Adm, EL, Elem, Gen, Mid/High]

Calvin Roso - ICAA Commissioner of Accreditation

This presentation will discuss ways to develop student missions and service-learning projects as part of character training and biblical integration. Some topics include: How to build community relationships for service-learning projects; the purpose and format of short-term mission projects; and how to organize mission and service events.

Why is Sensory Play So Important

Room - 4A46

[EL]

Cathy Lewis - Preschool Director, Eagle Ridge Christian School

Children learn with their senses. By depriving children of sensory experiences, their knowledge of the world is limited. In this session we will explore strategies, and even the adults in the room will get to explore textures, smells and sound!

Connecting the Dots

Room - 4A47

[Acc, Adm, Gen]

Dr. Gwetheldene Holzmann - Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education, ORU

Dr. Mary Lou Miller - Senior Professor, Graduate School of Education, ORU

This hands-on interactive accreditation workshop examines sample evidence for the Learning Capacity Domain. It will connect evidence to specific standards and discuss how to incorporate the evidence into your self-study report.

Your Winning Front of the Class Teaching Persona

Room - 5112

[Gen, Elem, Mid/High]

Rob Akers - Head of School, Covenant Christian School

Classroom management is the first component of a successful, thriving learning environment, and the heart of classroom management is the Teacher Persona. Whether the classroom is listless and boring or disruptive and defiant, the culture changes when the teacher becomes the primary social influence in the room. Developing an authentic, healthy Teacher Persona will empower new teachers to overcome their uncertainties and imposter syndrome. Experienced teachers who struggle to find joy in the classroom can transform their experience with these strategies and professional practices.

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WORKSHOPS: SESSION A

9:40 am - 10:25 am

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Mid/High - Middle/High School

I Am Not a School Counselor, So, What? Part 1

Room - 5114

[Adm, Elem, Mid/High]

Dr. Candra Lomax - Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Education, ORU

As an educator, do you ever feel like you're juggling responsibilities beyond your expertise—expected to be not just a teacher but also a counselor, mentor, and emotional support system for students? If you've ever felt overwhelmed by the academic, social, and emotional challenges your students face, you are not alone. Join us for an inspiring discussion on how faith and evidence-based practices can support you in making a lasting impact on your students' well-being. In Part 1, we will explore how biblical figures can provide insight into the evolving role of school counseling for educators and administrators.

The Science of Reading: What Is It and Why Should We Use It In Our Christian Schools

Room - 5116

[Gen, Elem, Mid/High]

Christina Morrison - Lead Teacher Primary Department/Kindergarten Teacher, Antioch Christian Academy

God uses every personality type to teach in Christian schools. Teachers often struggle with feelings of inadequacy and "imposter syndrome", especially in the early stages of a career in the classroom; even veteran teachers experience burnout and the feeling of being overwhelmed. The building blocks of a successful teaching experience, such as classroom management and effective pedagogy, can be complicated by the need to master relationships both in and out of the classroom. This session will help educators discover the strengths their unique experiences and testimony bring to the classroom and grow in confidence to be all that God has called them to be.

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WORKSHOPS: SESSION A

9:40 am - 10:25 am

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Mid/High - Middle/High School

Global Explorers and Living Legends: A School Cultural Showcase

Room - 5A30

[Elem, Mid/High]

Stephen Land - Geography Teacher, Victory Christian School

Dana Hicks - Curriculum & Accreditation Coordinator, Victory Christian School

What if your school could annually host a missional, cross-curricular, cross-generational event that sparks lasting impact? Let us help you make it happen! In this workshop, we'll walk you through the full journey of creating a dynamic, school-wide event that engages students, families, and the wider community. Drawing on years of experience, we'll share the history of our school's transformative events, how we develop compelling topics, and the practical steps for managing student timelines, research, and classroom and home integration of the projects. Understand how students bring their projects to life with costumes, props, presentation boards, and in-class previews—all culminating in a vibrant and meaningful final showcase to support missions. Leave equipped with ideas, tools, and inspiration to launch your own unforgettable event!

Roles y Responsabilidades En La Educacion Cristiana

Room - 5A31

[Spanish, Gen]

Julio Orozco - Colegio Cristiano Semilla de Vida

Este taller ofrece a los participantes pautas y criterios específicos sobre las tareas, compromisos y responsabilidades dadas por el Señor a la Iglesia, a la familia y a la escuela cristiana respecto a cómo y qué enseñar para desarrollar una educación plenamente bíblica.

Beyond the Bell: Transforming Education Through Hybrid Block Scheduling

Room - 5A32

[Adm, Admin, Gen, Mid/High]

Dr. Libby Adjei - Assistant Professor, College of Education, ORU

Block hybrid scheduling isn't just about rearranging the school day — it's about unlocking new opportunities for deeper learning, maximizing instructional time, and supporting student success. In this engaging session, we will explore how hybrid block models are being used to enhance teaching and learning in both K-12 and higher education. Participants will examine real-world examples from higher ed, discover how extended time blocks foster active learning, reduce transitions, and allow for more meaningful student-teacher interactions, and discuss strategies for making the most of every minute with students. Whether you are an educator, administrator, or counselor, this workshop will equip you with fresh ideas for using time more intentionally to transform student outcomes.

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WORKSHOPS: SESSION A

9:40 am - 10:25 am

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Mid/High - Middle/High School

EchoExam in Action: Flexible Testing for Every Classroom

Room - 5A33

[Gen, Mid/High]

John Ringgold - Abeka

Discover how EchoExam, Abeka's new digital assessment platform, equips teachers with the tools to create, customize, and deliver effective assessments. In this hands-on training session, you'll explore how to build tests using a robust item bank, choose from a variety of question types, and deliver assessments in both digital and print formats. Learn how EchoExam supports secure testing. Whether you're assessing for learning or grading for mastery, this session will give you the confidence to make the most of EchoExam in your classroom.

Establishing a Successful Dual Enrollment Program: Strategies & Insights

Room - 5A34

[Elem, Adm, Mid/High]

Carolyn Stubbs - Advantage Program Academic Coordinator, ORU

Katie Hesser - Advantage Program Enrollment Manager, ORU

Chrissie Belyeu - Advantage Program Academic Coach, ORU

This workshop will provide participants with evidence-based strategies for designing and implementing a successful dual enrollment program. Experienced high school facilitators from existing programs will share key practices that have contributed to their program's effectiveness, as well as challenges encountered and solutions developed. Attendees will gain practical insights and actionable resources to support the launch or enhancement of their own dual enrollment initiatives, with a specific focus on navigating and engaging with Oral Roberts University's Advantage Program.

The Classroom of Tomorrow

Room - 5E03

[Gen]

Dr. Jared Johnston - Chair of Graduate School of Education, ORU

The Oral Roberts University College of Education has partnered with Zoom Technologies to introduce the "Zoom Room." Using breakthrough new technology, residential and virtual students can enjoy a truly immersive educational experience. Bring your device and a curious mind to see how the Classroom of Tomorrow can help your Christian schools reach your residential students AND potential students from around the globe!

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GLOBAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE 2025



WORKSHOPS: SESSION B

10:35 am - 11:20am

Workshop Tracks

Acc - Accreditation

Adm - Administration

EL - Early Learning

Elem - Elementary

Gen - General

Mid/High - Middle/High School

Marketing That Works for Your School

Room - 4112

[Adm, Gen]

Darla Otto - Development Director, Wesleyan Christian School

Your school is a business and can't survive without marketing. But where do you start? What works for Christian Schools? Who is your audience? What needs to be communicated? What are cost effective methods that work? What are common mistakes to avoid? This workshop provides practical, cost-effective, proven methods to promote your school.

Protecting Your School Mission and Culture in Times of Increase!

Room - 4114

[Gen]

Dr. Patrick Otto - Senior Professor, Graduate School of Education, ORU

Almost half of the states in the United States have implemented or have legislation pending for some type of School Choice. This is a victory and a blessing for parents of school-aged children. Overall, it is a good thing for Christian Schools. Generally, the School Choice initiatives have resulted in substantial enrollment growth for Christian Schools. While this is good for the families and the schools, rapid, substantial growth is a challenge to the culture and, eventually, the mission of the Christian School. This workshop will explore the different stages of growth. It will identify "Red Flag" areas and provide both proactive and reactive strategies for protecting your school's culture and mission through the blessing of growth!

Los Tres Cerditos más allá del preescolar

Room - 4116

[Elem, Spanish]

Amarilys Galindo - Head of School, Vineyard Christian School

En esta sesión exploraremos cómo aumentar las destrezas de pensamiento crítico en los estudiantes usando el marco de Norman Webb de los Niveles de pensamiento, usando Los tres cerditos. Los participantes explorarán cómo llevar a los estudiantes más allá de la comprensión superficial hasta llegar al análisis, razonamiento y aplicación de ideas. A través del análisis colaborativo y la planificación, los maestros practicarán el desarrollo de actividades de lectura alineadas a cada nivel de pensamiento.

GLOBAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE 2025



WORKSHOPS: SESSION B

10:35 am - 11:20am

Workshop Tracks

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Mid/High - Middle/High School

Communication & Storytelling

Room - 4A36

[Gen, Adm]

David Wagner - Partner and CFO, Schnake Turnbo Frank

Effective leadership often hinges on strong communication skills - interpersonal, verbal and written. Internal and external communications, storytelling, as well as how you communicate non-verbally with your stakeholders are all at play. In this workshop, we will touch on everything from elevator speeches to formal presentations to communication with prospective donors to storytelling, and your case for support for fundraising. Are you communicating well - with context, authenticity, and inspiration - to your parents, staff, donors, and volunteers?

Fundraising Event and Donor Relations

Room - 4A37

[Gen]

Bethany White - Development Director, Victory Christian School

Fundraising is key to schools' success. In this session we will talk about ideas on how fundraising events and initiatives can help your school's bottom line and increase parent involvement.

Discovering and Informing School Administrator Burnout

Room - 4A38

[Adm]

Dr. Missy Bush - Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Education, ORU

Calling ALL Administrators...

Join us as we discover components of burnout and how we can combat its effects. You will also be given the unique opportunity to be a part of our action research study Christian School Administrator Burnout, Compassion Satisfaction, and Secondary Trauma Stress.

GLOBAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE 2025



WORKSHOPS: SESSION B

10:35 am - 11:20am

Workshop Tracks

Acc - Accreditation

Adm - Administration

EL - Early Learning

Elem - Elementary

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Mid/High - Middle/High School

Visionary School Leadership: Transforming Vision into Reality in a Caring Educational Community

Room - 4A43

[Adm]

Charles Cross - Principal/Education Consultant, Harvest Christian Academy

In the landscape of education, visionary school leaders play a pivotal role in shaping the future by articulating clear, forward-thinking visions that guide schools toward excellence. Topics include:

1. Understanding Vision in Educational Leadership.
2. Turning Vision into reality.
3. Defining clear goals.
4. Developing strategic frameworks.
5. Empowering the community.
6. Monitoring progress and adapting.
7. Creating a caring school community.

Family Discipleship and Professional Development with RightNow Media

Room - 4A44

[EL, Elem, Gen, Mid/High, Acc]

Ryan Rose - RightNow Media

In this workshop we'll reflect on and evaluate schools' current discipleship efforts and consider the impact of the digital age to explore strategies of discipleship, family engagement, and staff development. Learn about new tools to help you engage students, equip families, and resource your teachers. Don't miss this chance to connect with like-minded leaders and explore how RightNow Media can be a catalyst for your school's spiritual growth.

Differentiate Learning is Fun!

Room - 4A45

[EL, Elem]

Joy Losey - Director of Operations, Covenant Schools

What type of learner are you? When you're having fun teaching, your students are having fun learning. How do I reach the hard-to-reach students? Find what those students are passionate about by figuring out the type of learner they are, and make learning fun for them! Having an active role in the learning process creates playful learning and enjoyable education. Come to this class to feel energized and have a BLAST!

GLOBAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE 2025



WORKSHOPS: SESSION B

10:35 am - 11:20am

Workshop Tracks

Acc - Accreditation

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Mid/High - Middle/High School

ADHD in the Classroom - How to Survive, Accommodate, and Empower

Room - 4A46

[Gen, Elem, Mid/High]

Katie Wright - Assistant Administrator, Family of Faith Christian School

Teaching students with learning difficulties can be both rewarding and infuriating. This class will touch on ways to survive in the difficult moments without losing hope. We will discuss techniques and modifications to keep students engaged while finding opportunities to build resilience in your students. You will walk away with an enriched perspective of how to love and teach students with ADHD as well as tools for the difficult days.

The Leadership Domain: Building Your Leadership

Room - 4A47

[Adm, Acc]

Dr. Gwetheldene Holzmam - Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education, ORU

Dr. Mary Lou Miller - Senior Professor, Graduate School of Education, ORU

To be an effective leader you need a firm foundation and supporting structure upon which to operate. Come and learn about the people, policies, procedures, and documentation that will allow you to successfully accomplish your mission of educating the next generation.

Strategies for Difficult Conversations

Room - 5112

[Adm, Gen]

Rob Akers - Head of School, Covenant Christian School

Leaders are rarely more challenged than when needing to engage in difficult conversations. Whether a school leader is addressing an employee or an angry parent, much of a school's success depends on the leader's ability to successfully engage in healthy dialogue in awkward situations. This session will address common themes that confront school administrators and strategies for remaining mission-focused in turbulent circumstances.

GLOBAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE 2025



WORKSHOPS: SESSION B

10:35 am - 11:20am

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Elem - Elementary

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Mid/High - Middle/High School

I Am Not a School Counselor, So, What? Part 2

Room - 5114

[Admin, Elem, Mid/High]

Dr. Candra Lomax - Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Education, ORU

This session builds on the previous workshop. There will be a brief recap of part 1 to ensure that all participants are on the same page. Through a blend of scriptural wisdom and strategies supported by research, we will uncover practical ways to empower ourselves in our multifaceted roles as educators.

The Science of Reading in Christian School Pre-K and Elementary Classroom

Room - 5116

[EL, Gen, Adm]

Christina Morrison - Lead Teacher Primary Department/Kindergarten Teacher, Antioch Christian Academy

Join me as we learn some simple changes you can use this coming year to make your classroom better aligned to the Science of Reading and improve student outcomes. We will discuss phoneme instruction, letter recognition tactics, grammar rules, spelling, the importance of vocabulary acquisition and ways to make learning more fun and impactful for our Generation Alpha students.

Brain-Boosting, Heart-Growing Classrooms: A Toolbox of Activities and Strategies for Engaged Learners

Room - 5A30

[Elem]

Chrissie Belyeu - Advantage Program Academic Coach, ORU

Create a joyful, active, and meaningful learning environment! This workshop offers ready-to-use ideas and activities integrating movement, song, emotional regulation, growth mindset strategies, and more. It is geared for elementary classrooms, but what's effective for young learners can benefit older ones, too. Discover practical tools to build learner engagement and leave with teacher-tested tools for the fall semester.

GLOBAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE 2025



WORKSHOPS: SESSION B

10:35 am - 11:20am

Workshop Tracks

Acc - Accreditation

Adm - Administration

EL - Early Learning

Elem - Elementary

Gen - General

Mid/High - Middle/High School

Estableciendo los fundamentos de una cosmovisión bíblica

Room - 5A31

[Spanish, Elem, Mid/High]

Joshua Vaughn - Principal, Claremore Christian Academy

Las ideas presuposicionales y filosóficas que debemos enseñar para establecer una cosmovisión bíblica. Una perspectiva justa de Dios es esencial en la educación cristiana, y todas las materias deben guiar al estudiante a un conocimiento más profundo de Dios. Hablaremos de los principios fundamentales y una filosofía de la educación y la aplicación práctica para cultivar el amor a Dios en la clase.

Triple Your Bible Teaching Impact

Room - 5A32

[Adm, Gen, Elem, Mid/High]

Patrick Williamson - DeepRoots Bible Inc.

We live in a turbulent culture that no longer holds to Christian values. How do we turn the tide? We need to partner with parents to strengthen families in their faith. Come learn practical tips to equip parents with the tools and confidence they need to become their children's spiritual mentors. And learn the secret of one simple habit that, when adopted, will dramatically improve mental health for you, your parents, and your students. Let's improve our classrooms by reaching out to the home!

Special features: Learn about eight tools you can use in your own classroom to increase parent engagement.

Christian School Administration: Servant Leadership Counts

Room - 5A33

[Admin, Acc, Gen]

Dr. Sarah Morrison - Superintendent, Legacy Christian School

This workshop will outline strategies for servant style leadership in a Christian school environment. We will go over details and options for holding onto being a servant style leader, and not a 'boss' while engaging in instructional strategies to assist teachers and coach them into higher levels of success.

GLOBAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE 2025



WORKSHOPS: SESSION B

10:35 am - 11:20am

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Acc - Accreditation

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Elem - Elementary

Gen - General

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Can We Really Do This? Starting (or Switching to) Classical Education

Room - 5A34

[Gen, Adm, elem, Mid/High]

Jonathan Bellairs - Principal, Abundant Life Classical Academy

Transitioning to classical education is more than a curriculum change—it's a culture shift. How do you bring students into a model that expects attention, virtue, and depth? How do you help parents, teachers, and board members buy in when classical terms and timelines feel unfamiliar or even intimidating? In this honest, story-driven session, a school leader shares lessons learned from launching a classical program with modern students and skeptical families. Come ready to explore what works (and what doesn't) when making the shift—and walk away with tools for building a shared vision and scaffolding students into the beauty of classical learning.

Navigating the Use of AI in the Classroom


Room - 5E03

[Gen]

Dr. Jared Johnston - Chair of Graduate School of Education, ORU

Amonda Matthewman-Isgrigg - Director of Composition Program, ORU

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is here to stay, and educators from all settings must grapple with how to best use AI in the classroom. In this session, participants will learn about and play with the various AI tools that are becoming increasingly popular among students and faculty. We will also discuss how we can implement best practices in teaching composition and other basic academic skills in the age of AI. For this session, come with an open and curious mind to see how we can help our students succeed in this rapidly changing digital world.



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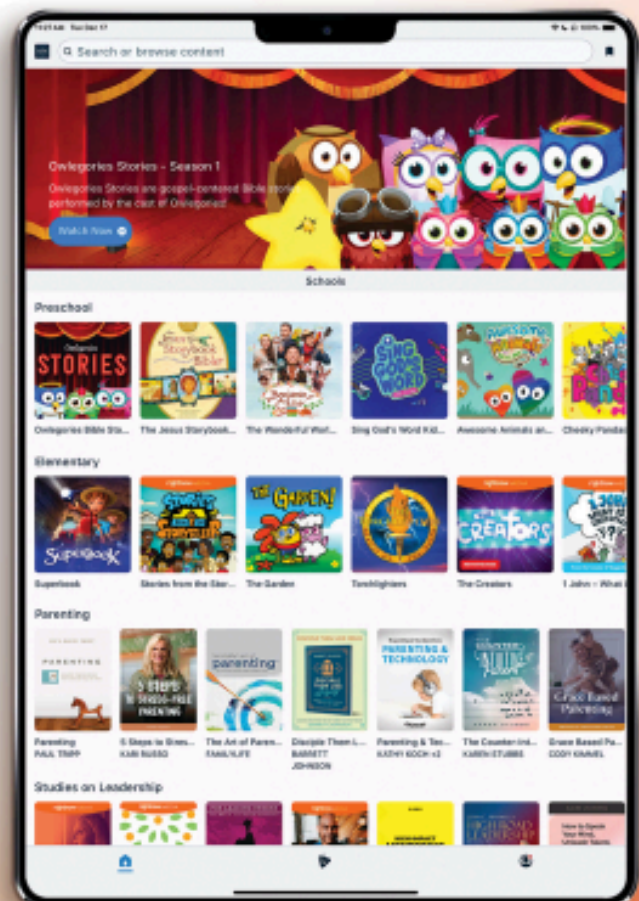
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Seminar Speakers:



Biblical Worldview

Dr. George Barna

Professor at Arizona Christian University, Director of Research at its Cultural Research Center, Sr. Research Fellow at Family Research Council Center for Biblical Worldview, Fellow at the Townsend Institute at Concordia University.

Leadership Seminar Series: Lead Like It Matters: Influence, Integrity, and Inner Work

Dr. Kim E. Boyd, Ed.D.

Assistant to the Provost, Exceptional Teaching and Innovation Dean, College of Education, Oral Roberts University



Leading with Compassion: Helping Students Understand and Manage Emotions Through Brain Science and Co-Regulation

Julie Widman, Ed.D.

Co-Founder of Friendzy

Dr. Theresa Hicks, M.Ed.

Lead Partnership Specialist



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Dr. George Barna

Director of Research at
the Cultural Research
Center at ACU

Creator of ACU
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Meet Your Team!



Julie Widman, Ed.D

Friendzy Co-founder
julie@friendzy.co



Theresa Hicks, M.Ed

Lead Partnerships Specialist
theresa@friendzy.co

Let's Connect!



GLOBAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE 2025



SEMINARS: PART 1

2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

Seminar Tracks

Acc - Accreditation Adm - Administration EL - Early Learning Elem - Elementary Gen - General Mid/High - Middle/High School

Biblical Worldview

Christ's Chapel

[EL, Elem, Gen, Mid/High]

Dr. George Barna

These sessions will unveil groundbreaking research that reveals how few Americans hold a biblical worldview—and why this matters more than ever for the future of the Church and the next generation. Attendees will gain a clear understanding of the cornerstone beliefs that define a truly biblical worldview and how these foundational truths influence every area of life. This will include information about new research on the obstacles students have in accepting these critical beliefs. He will also offer practical strategies for cultivating these beliefs in homes, churches, and schools, equipping leaders to spark lasting transformation. Don't miss this compelling and insightful session that will challenge, inspire, and empower you to take action.

Brain Basics - Understanding the Science Behind Student Emotions

Holy Spirit Room

[EL, Elem, Gen, Mid/High]

Julie Widman, Ed. D., Co-Founder, Friendzy

Theresa Hicks, M.Ed., Partnerships Specialist, Friendzy

Across all grade levels, students are walking into classrooms carrying more emotional weight than ever before. Behind every outburst, shutdown, or emotional overreaction is a brain doing its best to respond to stress. In this interactive session, we'll explore the neuroscience of emotions and behavior and how understanding the brain can transform how we teach, respond, and support students.

Educators will learn how God designed our brains to react to stress and how dysregulation shows up differently in students from kindergarten through high school. Using relatable visuals like the Hand Model of the Brain and engaging examples from real classrooms, we'll uncover how the brain's "alarm system" influences student behavior—and how we, as educators, can help students shift from survival mode to learning mode.

Lead Like It Matters: Integrity, Influence, and the Work No One Sees

Kennedy Chapel

[EL, Elem, Gen, Mid/High]

Dr. Kim Boyd, Assistant to the Provost, Exceptional Teaching and Innovation

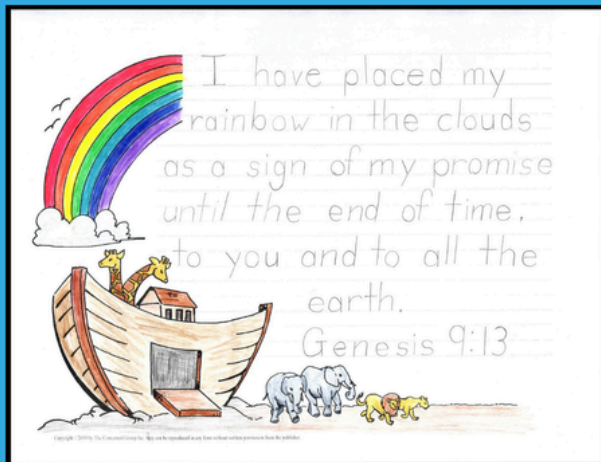
Dean, College of Education, Oral Roberts University

This session explores the personal, often unseen, side of leadership—the values that guide you, the habits that shape you, and the weight of being responsible for others. It challenges leaders to confront hard truths while rediscovering the purpose and joy of leading with integrity.

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GLOBAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE 2025



SEMINARS: PART 2

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Seminar Tracks

Acc - Accreditation Adm - Administration EL - Early Learning Elem - Elementary Gen - General Mid/High - Middle/High School

Biblical Worldview

Christ's Chapel

[EL, Elem, Gen, Mid/High]

Dr. George Barna

These sessions will unveil groundbreaking research that reveals how few Americans hold a biblical worldview—and why this matters more than ever for the future of the Church and the next generation. Attendees will gain a clear understanding of the cornerstone beliefs that define a truly biblical worldview and how these foundational truths influence every area of life. This will include information about new research on the obstacles students have in accepting these critical beliefs. He will also offer practical strategies for cultivating these beliefs in homes, churches, and schools, equipping leaders to spark lasting transformation. Don't miss this compelling and insightful session that will challenge, inspire, and empower you to take action.

The Power of Co-Regulation – Creating Calm in a Culture of Stress

Holy Spirit Room

[EL, Elem, Gen, Mid/High]

Julie Widman, Ed. D., Co-Founder, Friendzy

Theresa Hicks, M.Ed., Partnerships Specialist, Friendzy

When emotions run high in the classroom, students need more than discipline—they need connection. In this session, we'll explore how co-regulation—the ability of a calm, caring adult to help a student settle their emotions—lays the foundation for long-term emotional resilience and classroom success.

Educators will walk away with practical, research-backed tools to become that regulating presence for students, from simple scripts and routines to classroom strategies that reduce chaos and increase connection. This session also introduces Friendzy's Daily Check-In Tool, a resource to help students expand emotional vocabulary and practice daily self-awareness.

Your Voice: How It Feels to Be on the Other Side of You

Kennedy Chapel

[EL, Elem, Gen, Mid/High]

Dr. Kim Boyd, Assistant to the Provost, Exceptional Teaching and Innovation

Dean, College of Education, Oral Roberts University

This sessions focuses on the question –How do others experience you? What climate does your leadership create? Learn how to align your intentions with your impact and develop a leadership voice that inspires trust, safety, and influence.

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