



MACSA Teachers Conference

Presenters / Topics / Descriptions

Friday, October 13th: Abundant Life Academy, Nutley, NJ

Keynote: Dr. David Schroeder – President, Pillar College

“The Curriculum of Jesus” (Luke 6:40)

Seminar Sessions

Dr. Roger Erdvig: Director of Worldview Education, Author – Summit Ministries

- **Teaching Commitment #1: Shaping Desires**
Are our students’ hapless victims of their own desires? Is there hope for shaping their desires to be aligned with the Kingdom of God? God has designed us so that our desires can change, and we can partner with Him to help shape the desires of our students. Every subject area can become a part of the overall shaping influence in their lives, enjoy learning in our classrooms, AND help their hearts align with God’s Kingdom.
- **Teaching Commitment #2: Processing Learning**
Teachers tend to be very good at presenting content. But there is a “secret sauce” for lasting learning, and that is processing. When we help students process, they are gaining critical worldview formation tools to be used throughout life.
- **Teaching Commitment #3: Engaged Learning**
There is nothing worse than a course that only features lectures! The truth is that students learn best when they are actively engaged in learning. Unfortunately, passivity often rules the day. This workshop will help you catch a vision for having that actively engaged environment for the majority of the time, for the majority of your students.
- **Teaching Commitment #4: Truth Claims**
Biblical truth is usually the first thing teachers think about when they consider Biblical worldview immersion...also the area we tend to struggle with the most. Taking a fresh look at what it actually means, this workshop will you in your life-long journey of seeking out, meditating on, and arranging truth claims related to your subject area in the model of Solomon (Ecclesiastes 12:9)

Prof. Lily Bonilla: Professor of Psychology & Counseling – Pillar College

- **Setting the Example for Frustration Tolerance**
When adults think of children and youth in the school system today, many think of the anger, violence, and impulsivity they exhibit. And they are all correct however, how many of those adults are actually providing the much-needed skills like frustration tolerance? Science tells us today that if adults teach and model frustration tolerance, children and youth will do much better at home, school, and in the community. This workshop is intended for those teaching grades 1 to 12. Attendees will learn the great impact of teaching frustration tolerance from the early years onward, and steps on how to do so in a healthy and collaborative manner.
- **Calling All Teachers: Guiding Students to Discover God’s Divine Purpose for their Lives.**
Can you imagine a world with youth constantly seeking God’s purpose for their Lives, instead of proving to others what they are capable of doing or accomplishing? Living in a proving mode causes a person to become overwhelmed, anxious, and can even set them up for failure when circumstances in life don’t align with their goals. This workshop is intended for those teaching grades 9 to 12. Attendees will be challenged to stand alongside their students as mentors to guide them and help them discover God’s divine purpose for their lives.

Dr. Mayowa Fawole: Teacher Coaching & Mentoring – Pillar College

- *Best Practices for Inclusive Settings*
This workshop is aimed at educators in grades K-12. General and special educators will explore strategies for co-planning in inclusive settings, emphasizing effective collaboration, accommodations, and modifications for students' success.
- *Writing Strategies for Learners in Grades K-12*
This workshop aimed to equip educators across content areas and grade levels with concrete strategies to improve students' ability to write varied, complex sentences and structure their ideas coherently in paragraphs and compositions.

Lisa Hosler: President / Align Life Ministries

- *The Unexhausted Leader*
Teaching students and leading Christian schools can be exhausting. But it doesn't have to be that way. And God doesn't want it to be that way for you. Learn practical ways to experience ongoing replenishment as you and your associates engage together with God; cultivate authentic, life-giving relationships; discern God's will corporately for school-wide mission advancement; and experience personal, student body, and institutional transformation.

Dr. Hilde Dyer: K-12 Teacher, Librarian & Director of Student Affairs

- *The Role of Emotional Intelligence in the Classroom: A Christian Perspective*
Assessing emotional intelligence has been widely accepted in classrooms across the United States. Emotional intelligence is the awareness that emotions impact our actions and reactions to people, the environment and circumstances. Understanding emotions increases awareness. An important distinctive that must be included in our Christian schools is the role of the Holy Spirit in navigating emotional intelligence issues. This determination applies to all grade levels and will be discussed during the workshop.

Gisselle Velasquez: Literacy Coach – Abundant Life Academy

- *Engaging Instruction: Captivating Minds from the Start*
In this seminar, we will delve into the art of launching a lesson in the ever-evolving educational landscape. With so many distractions in today's world, captivating our students' attention is paramount even before we embark on the journey of imparting knowledge. We will be exploring a variety of creative methods to achieve this essential goal. Moreover, we will master the skill of crafting clear and concise objectives, ensuring our students have a strong understanding of the learning outcomes. Building upon this foundation, we will delve into activating prior knowledge, creating an environment of lasting learning. Prepare to discover a repertoire of techniques and strategies that will transform your teaching approach, fostering deeper connection with your students.

Lisa Dyer: Director of Advancement – Timothy Christian School

- *Marketing & Enrollment*
Come and discuss practical tips for the best marketing of your school and increasing enrollment. You will have the opportunity to create a strategy for marketing priorities and steps to implement.
- *Development is Built on Relationships*
God has all the resources we need – people, capital, mission. But how do we acquire them? We will share together how we can connect with donors and receive the resources we need.

David Eckert: Director – Intersect / Access Services

- *What Teachers should know about Mental Health?*
This workshop will equip educators to have a better understanding of mental health issues affecting teachers, students, and the educational process. Practices and resources will be explored for fostering mental wellness in the school and classroom.
- *QPR: Question, Persuade, Refer*
This training will teach participants skills for supporting people considering suicide. Specific

attention will be given to the methods of question-asking, persuasion and referring people to community resources.

Tyrone Williams: Crisis Community Liaison and Trainer – Access Services

- *Supporting Students in Crisis: Creating an Internal System of Care*
This workshop will equip educators in developing an internal process for supporting students impacted by abuse, mental/emotional struggles, self-harm, or thoughts of suicide. Attention will be given to both crisis prevention and response within a school context.
- *Hope for Tomorrow*
This training will educate individuals about mental health and suicide by exploring personal connections to stress and trauma. Participants will have the opportunity to learn skills that bolster their wellness and empower them to ask for help for themselves or someone else. Trainees are engaged in interactive small group activities and polls and will be equipped to provide available resources to those in need of support.

Suzanne Bruno: ACSI Field Director – Northern New Jersey, Former Teacher, MACSA Board

- *Why is Grading a Challenge? Clarifying Your Grading Plan*
Grading is a major concern for many new teachers and a lot of more experienced ones as well. Our perceptions of grading practices are influenced by our own experiences with grades, with our schools' grading policies, with our students' needs and more. Our session will develop our own ideas of how grades should be assigned, and what they should tell us about the student's performance. Thoughtfully reflecting on best practices in these two sessions, increasing formative assessments, adding the philosophy of equity and fairness will not eliminate the stress of grading completely, but it will decrease some and make the process of grading seem less arbitrary as we discuss together. These two sessions will allow for questions and topics challenging you in your classroom. PART I
- *Why is Grading a Challenge? PART II*

Martha Guiza: Kindergarten Teacher – Abundant Life Academy

- *Integrating Technology in the Elementary Classroom*
As educators, we have the opportunity to integrate technologies that enhance student learning. We will explore instances of how teachers can incorporate technology within the educational setting to offer instructional direction and support, captivate every student's involvement, offer options, and foster students' creativity.

Kristi McInerney: Elementary Principal – Timothy Christian School

- *What Teachers Should Know About Creating a Safe Space for Learning*
This workshop will equip educators to have a better understanding of how to communicate well with students and parents to create an environment of learning within the classroom. Practices and resources will be explored for fostering a safe space for learning, creating a classroom family, good classroom management skills, and partnering well with parents.

Todd Mitchell: Head of School – Hawthorne Christian Academy

- *Alphabet Soup: Making Sense of the Acronyms & Abbreviations in the World of Struggling Learners*
This session will provide an overview of the many facets related to programming for struggling learners. We will discuss how a student is classified, accommodations vs. modifications, as well as a few of the most common learning challenges you see in your classroom.



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Friday, October 20th: Lancaster Co. Christian School, Lancaster PA

Keynote: Dr. Peter Teague – President Emeritus, Lancaster Bible College

“Take Courage: Abounding is Our Key to a Successful Ministry” (1 Cor. 15:58)

Seminar Sessions:

Dr. Milt Uecker: Former Dean & Early Childhood Professor – Columbia International University

- ***What is My Calling? Rekindling Purpose***
This session will challenge early childhood teachers with the need to focus on one's purpose and calling as foundational to serving God through Christ-centered education. What is your purpose, mission, vision, and desired outcomes within an early childhood classroom? Who am I to be? What am I to do? How am I to do it? Am I accomplishing my purpose? Am I fulfilling my mission? Join this session to renew clarity and focus for the future.
- ***Difference Between Teaching **from** a Biblical Worldview and Laying the Foundation **for** a Biblical Worldview during Early Childhood.***
Teaching from a biblical worldview and developing a Christ-centered worldview in one's students are not the same thing. Developing worldview during early childhood involves making worldview more explicit. This session will walk teachers through the means whereby a young child can come to know answers regarding the Christian's understanding of reality, Truth, value, and the nature of men, women, boys and girls.
- ***Understanding the Means Whereby Language Arts, Math, Science, Social development, and the Arts Develop a Christ-centered Worldview in Our Students.***
"In Christ all Things Hold Together" is a truth clearly stated by Paul in Colossians. This session will develop an understanding of the means by which a Christ-centered worldview can be made clear within these areas of an early education experience or curriculum.
- ***Validating One's Desired Outcomes.***
*Are you accomplishing your mission and vision? How can you know? Can you back your belief with evidence? This session centers on the difference between doing (purpose) and accomplishing (mission) one's mission. How can you know whether or not your mission has been accomplished? **The key is assessment!** If worldview is primarily in place by age nine, then we best be validating the effectiveness of our instruction within the early childhood program. This session will focus on how this can be done.*

Jonathan Nazigian: Head of School – Wilmington Christian School

- ***Confessions of a Plate-Spinner: A Biblical View of Time Stewardship***
If you're an educator with plenty of time to do all the things you want, then this seminar is not for you. For the rest of us who battle with the stress of a "To Do" list that's way-too-long, and a day that's way-too-short, come join us for some laughs and biblical wisdom. No guilt-trips or quick-fixes here; just plenty of practical strategies, some helpful resources, and, most importantly, a look at some eternal truths from the Creator of time.
- ***Biblical Integration: Motivations, Myths, and Methods for the Christian School Classroom***
At the core of Christian schooling is Biblical worldview integration into every subject. But this process is often misunderstood, even by seasoned educators. This workshop is a perfect starting point for new teachers or experienced teachers who are new to Christian Education. And it is a dynamic refresher for experienced educators and administrators.

Dr. Robin Bronkema: Assistant Professor of Education / Director of Graduate Programs – LBC

- *Propagating Growth: A Botanical Metaphor for Students' Spiritual Formation*
This session will provide you with tools and approaches to nurturing spiritual formation and growth in students through your existing curriculum. We will discuss these tools and approaches and then you will have time to apply them to your curriculum. The goal of this session is for you to leave with at least one completed lesson plan or unit plan that will intentionally nurture your students' spiritual formation through your current curriculum.

David Eckert: Director – Intersect / Access Services

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Dr. Mark Coté: Director – Safe Place Ministry, LLC

- *Trauma-Informed Classrooms*

This seminar previews the TBRI® Caregiver Training with Safe Place Ministry, LLC. TBRI® is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI® uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles for attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors. The heartbeat of TBRI® is connection. The TBRI® Caregiver Training is designed to move from theory into behavioral applications. Such life-on-life connection is foundational to formation through the parent-child and teacher-student relationships in Kingdom Education.
(This seminar will be presented twice)
- *Self-Care in Kingdom Education*
Working and serving in Christian education comes at a cost. While the ministry is worthwhile and carries impact, we bear the wounds. From compassion fatigue to burnout, we know that life in service to others can be draining. How can we serve in such a way that reflects our Heavenly Father, “who delights in the well-being of his servant?” (Ps 35:27). This seminar will define trauma and compassion fatigue from both a clinical and biblical perspective, recognize its impact on the Christian school educator, and begin to explore the biblical foundation in Christ for the value of self and its application.

Dr. Christine Kirkpatrick: Professor of Education – Lancaster Bible College

- **Art in the Early Childhood Classroom: Product vs. Process**
This seminar will consider the differences between process and product art and the benefits of process art in the early childhood classroom. Participants will have the opportunity to participate in both process and product art activities. Ways to include process art throughout the curriculum will be discussed.
- **Draw First, Then Write**
Helping children write stories that are both meaningful and substantial can be difficult at any age but for our youngest learners writing can feel frustrating. In this session, we will consider the power of drawing first and then writing to create meaning. We will explore elements of Kid Writing to produce child-centered stories that are engaging and meaningful.

Barbara Cooper: Chair, Special Education Dept. – Cairn University

- **The UDL Approach to Learning**
Universal Design for Learning is an educational framework based on the scientific insights of how students learn. Participants of this seminar will explore how to encourage all students to take in, digest, and express information in a way that is best for them. These principles will help you build a flexible classroom that anticipates the needs of everyone.
- **Learning Strategies for Struggling Learners**
From various disabilities to complex trauma our students bring a lot with them when they enter our door. In this workshop, we will examine various strategies and teacher tips that will help support any type of struggling learner. Emphasis will be on those with learning disabilities or ADHD.

Kelly Raudenbush: Executive Director – The Sparrow Fund

- **Trauma Matters**
By the time the students in your class reach 18, between one half to two-thirds of them will have experienced trauma, altering their brains and significantly impacting the way they see themselves and how the world works. In this session, we will consider what trauma is and how it may be expressed so that you can be more trauma informed in the varied roles in which you serve.
- **Foundations of Healing Relationships**
Hurts experienced in the context of relationships are healed in the context of relationships. In this session, we will explore the power of human relationships for learning, growing, and healing and how we can better become instruments of healing for the children God places around us.
- **The Practice of Healing Relationships**
While we are created for relationship, our experience of broken people in a broken world creates ruptures that often are expressed through behaviors that can confuse and challenge us in all sorts of ways. In this session, you will learn practical ways we can respond to challenges inside and outside the classroom and best support families as we learn and grow ourselves.
- **Application of Healing Relationships** *Designed to be a true workshop, come ready to collaborate as a community of practice to explore how to practice healing relationships in real-life scenarios*
MACSA educators have faced inside and outside the classroom.

John Elliott: Board Member – Stanley M Herzog Charitable Foundation

- **An Introduction to the Stanley M Herzog Charitable Foundation**
Learn about the Herzog Foundation and its mission to catalyze and accelerate the development of quality Christ-centered K-12 education so that families and culture flourish. This session will also explore the Herzog trainings, programs, and opportunities.
- **Board Governance from a Founder's Perspective**
I had the privilege of being one of the founders of Northland Christian High School and, within the first year, of Northland Christian Education System. I then served as the board chairman for seventeen years. Join me for an open discussion of the pros and cons, the blessings and curses, of board governance.

Dr. Marti MacCullough: Distinguished Professor of Education, Emeritus – Cairn University

- **Developing a Framework for Classroom Management and Student Discipline Informed by a Biblical Worldview**

A two-session seminar designed to explore the difference between classroom management and student discipline and determine the keys to student discipline that will promote individual human flourishing and contribute to a positive learning community.

- *Developing a Framework for Classroom Management – PART II*

Dr. Dan Spanjer: Principal – Veritas Academy

- *Teaching Christianly: Educating Students to Distinguish Between the Things that Shake and the Things that Don't.*

Secular culture has transformed education in part by reducing it to student accomplishment and comprehension. As a result, students have come to equate truth and knowledge, learning and pragmatism. Christians, on the other hand, see all education as pointing students through the things, people, and places of this world to God. In this seminar we will look at the liberal arts part of Christian education as a powerful tool to help students understand their world in the effort to know God and His truth, beauty, and goodness.

- *Disciplining Christianly: Molding Christian Character*

Modern American society rejects discipline as a danger to students' self-expression and self-definition. Educators who have accepted the world's wisdom have seen student anxiety increase along with student fragility. Classrooms have become increasingly unruly while teachers have become ever more powerless to respond. Christian educators, however, know that discipline is God's good gift to his people. In this seminar I will explore the beauty and goodness of using discipline to help students develop character, resolve, and humility, in the hopes that they will also grow in Christ.

Phil Puleo: Christian Education Consultant & Advocate

- *Communicating to Contributors: Helping Them Use Their State Taxes to Support Christian Education*

"I don't have time" stated one Christian School Administrator. Explore some practical tips that will help you become more efficient and effective in sharing with your school community the PA Educational Tax Credit Programs for the purpose of having more money for student scholarships, student programs, teacher salaries, and facility upgrades.

- *Give Unto Caesar What is Caesar's: Engaging in the PA Legislative Process*

Thomas Jefferson once said, "We in America do not have a government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." Give "Caesar" an hour of your week to familiarize yourself with and engage the legislative process in support and protection of your Christian School. School leaders from all states are welcome.

Lisa Hosler: President / Align Life Ministries

- *The Unexhausted Leader*

Teaching students and leading Christian schools can be exhausting. But it doesn't have to be that way. And God doesn't want it to be that way for you. Learn practical ways to experience ongoing replenishment as you and your associates engage together with God; cultivate authentic, life-giving relationships; discern God's will corporately for school-wide mission advancement; and experience personal, student body, and institutional transformation.

Dr. Vermelle D. Green: Executive Director – SACRED Boys/Vision: Concepts in Education, LLC

- *Boys Learn Differently Than Girls!*

This workshop is designed to help teachers and administrators become more knowledgeable about the differences between male and female brains and how those differences affect learning and behavior. We will combine information on child development and brain science, along with discussing practical classroom strategies.

- *Teaching Boys: Creating a Classroom Environment for Their Success*

Many of our boys, especially those of color, are falling behind academically, socially, and morally. As followers of Christ, we have the spiritual resources to make a difference. In addition, we must be prepared to change our teaching methods to fit the learning needs of young males. Come prepared to learn practical strategies and methods to best meet this challenge in your classroom and school.

Josh Beers: President, OneLife Institute

- *What Students Really Need (and Want)*

Our commitment to these 10 timeless truths learned from 30 years of working with students will strengthen your impact as a coach, teacher, or leader and allow you to make a lasting influence well beyond the classroom. This seminar will challenge you to evaluate your “why” and your “how” as you lead the next generation.

- *Reaching the Heart of Gen Z*

This generation presents new challenges and opportunities, and we as Christian leaders should be on the leading edge of helping them navigate the complexities they face. Looking at both characteristics of this generation and how we can adjust the sails to reach them, this seminar charts a path to help student anchor to their only Hope in the midst of an ever-changing world.