



Session Descriptions

Session I - 9:10 to 10:40 AM

Bargaining for the Common Good

Presented by Sarah Markey & the RSU 22 Teach Learn Support Team. Sarah is a staff member at NEA Rhode Island as an organizer and UniServ Director and has worked for the National Education Association as an Organizational Specialist.

Session Description: How do you deal with tough bargaining? What else is there to talk about once you've beaten wages, hours, and working conditions to death and gotten no where? Join this session to learn what you can do to speak up for your students and your community and at the same time, improve your working conditions. It's not all about wages and insurance. We need to claim our voices as educators, whether we're teachers or ESP.

Escaping the Negative Reinforcement Trap: Effectively Address Challenging Behavior

Presenters Dr. Garry Wickerd and Dr. Jamie Pratt are school psychologists and behavior analysts. They hold faculty positions at the University of Southern Maine in the Educational and School Psychology Programs and provide assessment and intervention services to school-aged children in Maine. Dr. Wickerd and Dr. Pratt have extensive experience working in schools to support children with developmental disabilities and emotional-behavioral disorders.

Session Description: Behavior traps are easy to enter and difficult to escape. In the busy classroom environment with multiple competing demands, it is common to fall prey to the negative reinforcement trap and continue using tactics like negotiating, nagging, referring students to the office, and taking away privileges to manage challenging behaviors. This workshop will review common behavior traps that perpetuate challenging behaviors in the classroom and present strategies to address challenging behaviors before they become persistent. Participants will learn to identify the functions of challenging behavior, utilize effective strategies and interaction styles to prevent challenging behavior, and respond to challenging behavior in a manner that reduces the likelihood of reoccurrence. The presenters will utilize videos and case examples to illustrate key ideas, and participant engagement will be encouraged through discussion and case study analysis.

Health and Wellness

Presented by the MEA Benefits Trust

Session Description: Are you taking advantage of your benefits? Learn about the health and financial benefits of participating in the MEA Benefits Trust wellness plan, OnLife, and spend some time getting physical (please wear appropriate footwear and attire for moderate physical activity). Join us in this interactive, low sweat but high energy session where you can educate your body and your mind.

The MEABT's OnLife Health program offers fun and engaging activities, as well as health and wellbeing programs for all employees and retirees who are covered by the MEABT health insurance plan, as well as their covered spouses and domestic partners. Find out how you can get ongoing support from a health coach and how you can earn points that can be redeemed for prepaid debit cards up to \$250—and have a great time doing it! Great for all members.

Makerspace for Any Discipline

Presenter Wendy Robichaud, Ed.D, teaches marketing at Oxford Hills Technical School and business/ humanities courses for Central Maine Community College. She has a background in social media, technology integration and distance education. Her class makerspace has been featured in two journals and she will be presenting at additional conferences later this year.

Session Description: Would you like a place in your school where students and adults can collaborate, learn, explore, and create? Then you need a makerspace. High tech or low tech, you can do this. If you have cardboard, legos and art supplies you're in business. Come and learn about the maker mindset of creating something out of nothing and exploring your own interests. Help students get 21st century skills and critical thinking abilities. Learn how a makerspace can benefit any discipline. We'll share some examples and brainstorm our own makerspace ideas.

New Teacher Summit Making Friends with the IEP

Presented by Phyllis Hunter & Jill Watson. Teaching Special Education has been Phyllis Hunter's passion for the last 13 years. As the rules around special education have changed, she recognizes that our job as educators has become more demanding. In her current position at Leeds Central School in SAD 52, she uses two models of special education service, push-in and pull-out. Phyllis knows the IEP process well and will help you do the best job you can supporting your students.

Jill Watson is a Special Education teacher at Maranacook Community High School in Readfield. She has also worked as a therapeutic foster parent at the Spurwink School in Chelsea. She is president and chief negotiator for her local association and currently serves on the MEA Board of Directors.

Session Description: When you understand the IEP, you will be better able to help your students get the appropriate services they need. This workshop will provide participants with the skills, knowledge, and tools to understand how the IEP process works, how to be a more effective IEP team member, and how to better implement the IEP.

Para-Educators: Best Practices in Collaborating with Classroom Teachers

Presenter Ina (Indriani) Demers taught English in Semarang, Indonesia for many years prior to immigrating to Maine in 1974. After graduating with a B.A. in English Literature, she entered the University of Southern Maine's Extended Teacher Education Program and earned her Master's Degree in Teaching and Learning. She is a certified teacher and has been an ESL teacher in the Portland Public Schools. She currently serves special needs students in grades K-3 as a para-educator. Presenter Andrea Mercado is a graduate student at the University of Maine. She has a Master's Degree in TESOL and over 14 years of experience teaching grades 1-8 and adults.

Session Description: Educational Technicians, are you wondering how to collaborate with your teacher colleagues? Teachers, what is the collaborative experience like for you? In this workshop, we will explore ways to more effectively collaborate in classrooms and resource rooms to support appropriate student behavior, academic achievement, and English Language Learners.

Poverty and its Social/Emotional Effects on Students Grades 6-12

Presented by Elizabeth Yeaton-Evans, Katie Joseph, Connor Lynch, and Alaina Shorey. Elizabeth Yeaton-Evans is a faculty member of the Secondary/Middle Education Department at the University of Maine at Farmington. She is partnering with pre-service teachers Katie Joseph, Connor Lynch, and Alaina Shorey to facilitate this conversation concerning the social and emotional effects of poverty. All three students are seniors in the Secondary Education program with a concentration in social studies. All of the presenters are very committed to changing the world one conversation at a time.

Session Description: Teachers, regardless of background or identity, must bring both cultural understanding and self-awareness to their work. The process of building this understanding and awareness includes several key commitments concerning their approach to dealing with issues of poverty, including a willingness to be reflective, the ability to develop skills and attitudes that bridge differences, the desire to see diversity as a strength, and a desire to continually learn. Many educators work in schools and communities with changing demographics; commitments to cultural competency, therefore, require ongoing effort, reflection and personal humility. In this topical session, audience members will reflect on their own social emotional readiness for working with students, colleagues, and families in poverty, participate in awareness-raising activities, and leave with strategies for working with families, students and colleagues in poverty based upon Donna Beegle's work on seeing poverty and becoming the difference.

Restorative Justice - Repairing Relationships and Avoiding Revenge

Presenter James Ford is a teacher at Bayside Learning Community, a specialized educational environment dedicated to fostering each individual's success with academic, social, and emotional growth. He serves on the MEA's Human and Civil Rights Committee.

Session Description: This experiential training will provide attendees with an understanding of the circle process and its potential for building relationships within the school community, promoting healthy communication, preventing and resolving conflicts, developing social emotional learning and youth competencies, and creating safe spaces to address difficult issues, trauma, and healing.

Teaching LGBTQ+ History in Maine: Resources

Presenter Susie R. Bock earned her BA from Bates College, and Master Degrees in European History and Library Science from Columbia University. She has been a special collections librarian at Yale University, University of Colorado at Boulder, and the University of Southern Maine for over 30 years, working with Maine LGBTQ+ material for 18 years.

Session Description: Learn ways you can use digital resources from the University of Southern Maine's Special Collections for teaching LGBTQ+ history, including primary resources, films of past programs, exhibitions, and publications to create engaging class activities on this important topic.

New Teacher Summit

Understanding Teacher Evaluation: How to Improve Your Practice and Keep Your Job

Presenter Elaine Ferland was an elementary teacher for 17 years before becoming an Educator Effectiveness Coach under the TIF Grant in SAD 44, a position she has held for two years. She has been trained by Maine Schools for Excellence in teacher evaluation using the National Board standards and is responsible for teacher evaluations in her district. She collaborates with teachers and principals to help improve student learning and teacher performance.

Session Description: We'll give you tips and strategies to help you meet the standards addressed in the new teacher evaluation models used in your districts. Participants will engage in discussion in large and small groups about the National Board Teaching Standards, one model that has been accepted by the Maine Department of Education. Activities will help you review each standard and what that looks like in action in a classroom. Teachers will leave with strategies and ideas to support them as they work to provide evidence of meeting standards in their evaluations.

Using Culturally Responsive Pedagogy to Engage with Communities

Before joining the education faculty at the University of Maine at Farmington, Presenter Dr. Christopher Strople taught for ten years in California's public schools. He teaches Social Studies Methods, K-8, and Field-Based Research. Before joining the education faculty at UMF, Presenter Dr. Maja Wilson taught for ten years in Michigan's public schools. She teaches History and Philosophy of Education and Introduction to Secondary/Middle Education at UMF.

Session Description: How can you engage a diverse community in complicated conversations about important social issues? We'll help you engage in culturally responsive pedagogy and understand its usefulness when working with diverse communities. Our presentation will focus on socio-economic status, gender and race/ethnicity. Together, we'll tackle some tough societal and community issues and consider how you might implement a culturally responsive pedagogy to engage with your community around those issues.

Session II - 10:50 AM to 12:20 PM

Bargaining for the Common Good

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Big Bird and Quantum Physics: Connecting Learning and Public Media

Presenter Dave Boardman has been teaching for 15 years and is currently the instructor of Mass Media Communications at Mid-Maine Technical Center in Waterville. He is also Maine Public's education program coordinator, working to connect students and educators through the Maine Education Project in conversations about teaching and learning today.

Session Description: There's a lot more to Maine Public than Masterpiece Theater and Sesame Street. This session looks at some innovative ways public media can provide options for teaching K-12 and add to your students' learning experiences. We'll explore our weekly connection to Maine's poet laureate, our opportunities for student writers, and a range of standards-connected content from STEM to social studies, language arts and beyond.

Differentiation and STEAM: Keeping Students Engaged Through the Hands-On Classroom

Presenter Bethany Meehan-Poulin is a special education teacher for a small elementary school in western Maine. She holds a Master's Degree in Inclusion Education from the University of New England. Bethany works in a multi-aged, inclusive program and practices what she preaches. Her students participate in classrooms that are designed to have learners work through a standards-based curriculum at a pace that is appropriate for them, as opposed to being broken into grade level groups. She was one of two Maine teachers selected for the 2016 Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy last July. Bethany truly believes that children learn best through exploration and learning to ask WHY.

Session Description: Experience a STEAM-focused lesson that will help you understand and better use best practices in differentiating in the classroom, the best methods for successfully incorporating students with 504 and IEPs in the general education setting, and ways in which we can keep all students engaged through STEAM education. The session will include information on specific strategies you can use in your classroom and ways in which you can make your instruction more student-centered, engaging, and dynamic, through STEAM.

NOTE: Teachers should bring a lesson plan to the session. Web links to a lesson plan template and behavior system suggestions will be sent to teachers prior to the workshop.

Freshman Focus: A New Approach to Alternative Education (Response to Intervention)

Presenter Amber Russo began teaching at Thornton Academy in 2008. She has a Master's Degree in Education with a focus on Literacy Instruction. Amber was Thornton Academy's 2015 Teacher of the Year for her outstanding efforts in the classroom. She is a current member of the Maine Education Association, the National Education Association and the Maine Center for Creativity.

Session Description: Learn how one teacher's goal to improve alternative education at her high school led to dramatically different educational experiences and increased engagement among her students. You will be introduced to the class structure as though you were enrolled, while the presenter models techniques utilized from concepts of positive psychology and principled resistance.

From Bullies to Bathrooms: Making our Schools Safe for all Students

Presenter Sue Campbell directs programming for LGBTQ youth under the age of 22 in rural Maine for OUT Maine. She provides after-school programming and helps build Gay/Straight/Trans Alliances in middle and high schools to make schools safe. Her goal is to create a strong safety net of informed, supportive providers through the training and ongoing support of physical and mental healthcare providers, clergy, school staff, crisis workers and youth service organizations. Sue also is the parent of a trans son, who is currently a college student. She has first-hand experience in supporting the transition process and in working with family issues around transitioning.

Session Description: As the debate rages over lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students and their rights to self-expression and safe school environments, those of us at the local level are struggling to do the right thing. Join us for this informative and lively discussion of the federal and state requirements, and how to effectively bridge them into real action plans to create safe schools and reduce bullying for all students.

Group Decision-Making for Leaders and Members

Presenter Candace L. Lilyquist is an Organizational Specialist with the National Education Association. The focus of her work is growing the health and well-being of the nine affiliates in NEA's Northeast Region. She holds a Master of Science in Organizational Development and Knowledge Management from George Mason University (Virginia). Lilyquist is a licensed classroom teacher and former UniServ Director from Minnesota. She is working in her thirteenth year with the National Education Association.

Session Description: Tough choices are everywhere. This workshop discusses ways to make choices and decisions within the group. Participants will leave understanding how to discern the difference between a choice and a decision. Plus, everyone will have a toolkit of decision-making strategies to implement in their local education association, community, classroom and/or family.

Health and Wellness

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***New Teacher Summit* Productive Talk: Creating a Strong Classroom Culture**

Presented by Beth BeyersSmall & Karen Fream. Beth says she is lucky to have experience teaching elementary, middle-level and high-school students in multiple Maine schools. She is currently working with pre-service STEM teachers at Maine's Center for Research in STEM Education (RiSE) at the University of Maine. She also works with a large community of STEM educators through the Maine STEM Partnership at the RiSE Center planning and creating a variety of professional development opportunities.

Karen Fream is currently the Instructional Coach at East End Community School in Portland. She works with students and teachers from pre-k to grade 5 around the content areas of literacy, technology and science. She has been a member of the Maine Elementary Science Partnership since 2014. She continues to work closely with teachers and students using talk science/accountable talk in all content areas including read aloud.

Session Description: This session will highlight research on productive talk strategies in K-12 classes and the recommendations for creating a classroom culture where productive talk is a skill utilized by students to increase their academic achievement.

We will discuss the value of classroom culture and share suggestions for creating an environment where students feel confident that their ideas are valued and that varying points of view will be respected. We will share methods teachers can use to model productive talk and discuss how these strategies can be used during a variety of discussions. Our work is based on the Talk Science strategies from Sarah Michaels and Cathy O'Connor (2012) and research conducted through Maine's Center for Research in STEM education at the University of Maine, Orono and in Maine K-12 schools.

Attendees will actively engage in lively discussion, examination of productive talk guides, classroom video of productive talk discussions and self-reflection tools for teachers and students.

Re-Enforce the Positives: Manage Student Behavior Without Physical Management

Presenter Susie Perry Davis is a certified K-12 guidance counselor in MSAD #41, and a building administrator who has worked in schools for 20 years. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in English, Writing, and Literature, and a Master's Degree in Education from St. Lawrence University, as well as a Certificate of Advanced Study in Education from the University of Maine, Orono.

Session Description: Learn how to manage continuous disruptive behavior in the classroom while avoiding physical management. In this session, you'll learn strategies and work through scenarios where new teachers can practice and process ways to get the most from their students without escalating the behavior. Take home some fun ways to keep students invested in learning.

Restorative Justice - Repairing Relationships and Avoiding Revenge

Presenter James Ford is a teacher at Bayside Learning Community, a specialized educational environment dedicated to fostering each individual's success with academic, social, and emotional growth. He serves on the MEA's Human and Civil Rights Committee.

Session Description: This experiential training will provide attendees with an understanding of the circle process and its potential for building relationships within the school community, promoting healthy communication, preventing and resolving conflicts, developing social emotional learning and youth competencies, and creating safe spaces to address difficult issues, trauma, and healing.

Using Class Dojo to Connect with Families, Support PBIS, and Develop a Growth Mindset

Presenter Becky Hallowell has been teaching 21 years, mostly in kindergarten. She has a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and is currently pursuing a second Master's in Early Childhood Education. She considers relationships with families a top priority and considers pre-k and kindergarten teachers to be the ambassadors to public education.

Session Description: Come to this workshop to get an introduction to the many uses of Class Dojo. Teachers will set up their own accounts and explore the application as the presenter demonstrates how Class Dojo is used in a real class.

After Lunch, It's Unconference Time! 12:20 to 2:20 PM

No pre-planned topics, no speakers, no panels, no handouts! Holy cow, what are we going to do?! Well, that's up to you. Your curiosity and passions are what will drive this session. You'll have time during the morning and at lunch to post topics you want to discuss to our "Hot Topics" board. We'll do our best to sift through those suggestions and come up with 8 to 10 Hot Topics for you to gnaw on after lunch – sort of an intellectual dessert. What will we all get from this? Your association is going to know a lot more about the things that most concern its members and that will help drive what we do together in the future to positively impact your working lives.

Session IV - 2:30 to 4:00 PM

Addiction and the Teenage Brain: Bringing the Conversation into All Our Subject Areas

Presenter Barbara Sullivan has 40 years' experience as a Life Skills teacher to middle and high School students. She is a published author of teacher resource workbooks on Teen Living. Barbara was Maine's Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher of the Year in 2000 and has been a speaker at state and national teacher conferences on the topic of addiction.

Session Description: This workshop will discuss the teen brain, how it is affected by alcohol and other drugs, the impact of substance abuse on learning and how teachers can continue this conversation in all subject areas.

An Immigrant Nation - Germany Today

Presenter Jacqueline Littlefield taught in Maine schools for 29 years before she retired. Following retirement, she worked as Education Coordinator for the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine. She currently serves as the northeast training specialist for the Transatlantic Outreach Program, (TOP) Washington DC, organizing trainings using TOP's materials and participating in conferences throughout New England.

Session Description: With growing pluralism in our societies, issues arise creating a need for greater sensitivity in accepting cultural and racial differences. As world events result in a greater surge of immigration, many fear the effects of this influx of peoples perceived as 'different.' In Germany 'guest workers' came from Turkey as temporary workers, but, instead, made Germany their home. More recently, the Syrian conflict has created the largest wave of refugees since WWII. This session will examine the refugee experience in Germany and how Germany is dealing with the issue of xenophobia. Participants will receive complimentary resource materials and learn about all-expenses paid study tours to Germany.

Basic First Aid

Presenter Aaron Greene is an Educational Technician 1 at MSAD #49 and has worked there for seven years. He has worked with students with all different levels of special needs. Aaron is a certified Red Cross First Aid, CPR and AED instructor.

Session Description: During this session you will learn about some of the most common emergency health issues in the classroom. You will also learn quick treatment options as well as emergency scene management for both the safety and privacy of the student.

***New Teacher Summit* Creating Classroom Culture, Community & Credibility**

The team of presenters for this session include Kim Proctor, who graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Rhode Island and has taught for 28 years in the states of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Maine, in grades 1-6; Melissa Knight, who has taught 15 years in multiple states, teaching grades 2-6 and gifted and talented; and Danae Secunde, who after many years in the private sector as a social worker and working for the US government, has been teaching for 12 years in grades 2 and 5. All three have been trained in Performance Based Education implementation and

leadership, Complex Reasoning, and Classroom Instruction That Works. All are employees of RSU #57 and teach at the Line School in Newfield.

Session Description: The beginning of a school year is an exciting and stressful time, especially for first year educators! Participants in Creating Classroom Culture, Community & Credibility can expect to come away with the essential first steps necessary to starting the school year. Participants will learn about highly effective practices as well as tools and resources to help them establish a positive and successful classroom using research based evidence. Participants will also have an opportunity to engage in roundtable discussions, customized to fit learners' needs.

Creating Curb Appeal for Your Local Association

Presenter Lindsay Davis received her BS in Elementary Education from the University of Maine at Machias. She served as the vice president of the Waterville Education Association for two years and has represented Maine educators at the NEA Representative Assembly. Lindsay taught 4th Grade in Waterville for seven years before coming to the MEA where she works as an administrative assistant.

Session Description: Is your local association "attractive" to potential members? Are you retaining current members? Local association members and leaders need to consider the association's reputation and overall "curb appeal." We'll explore ways to engage with your community as well as your school, and offer suggestions of how to be seen in a positive light. We'll also learn how we can engage our diverse membership, working across generations that have a variety of interests and abilities.

Exploring the Possibilities of Differentiating in a Proficiency-Based Classroom

Presenter Sammie Garnett Sias is a math teacher at Lewiston High School. She is the President of her local association and a member of the MEA Board of Directors.

Session Description: Today's schools are becoming increasingly diverse and teachers need to respond in instructionally appropriate ways to that diversity. Different abilities, learning styles and cultures sometimes need different approaches. We'll examine standards, consider how we can develop rubrics, and learn how we can design instruction that best supports our students in a proficiency-based curriculum.

New Teacher Summit Parent-Teacher Relationships: Connecting School and Home

Presenter Gigi McAllister is a 4th grade teacher in Gorham. Her 24 years of teaching experience includes ten years as a special educator for grades K-6. She has a MSED in Literacy from the University of Southern Maine and is currently working toward a Certificate of Advanced Study in Literacy. Gigi is a candidate for National Board Certification in Early/Middle Childhood Reading/Language Arts. She is a contributor to Choice Literacy and blogs about books and reading at thelatebloomersbookblog.blogspot.com.

Session Description: We will explore ways to foster a positive home-school relationship and gain a better understanding of effective ways to communicate, share information, and involve parents in the education of their children. We'll also learn how to avoid and solve conflicts that may arise. Topics

will include: Effective ways to keep parents informed (websites, apps, newsletters); positive ways to involve parents (classroom events, volunteering, projects, surveys); fostering communication (when it is appropriate to write notes, send emails, make phone calls or hold face-to-face meetings). And we'll take some time to explore apps and websites designed to help you connect with your students' parents.

Staff and Student Educational Opportunities Through Google Classroom

Presenter Jonathan Payne, Ph.D., is currently the Technology Integrator at Noble High School in North Berwick, where he is also the President of his local association. He has previously taught Chemistry, Engineering, Biology, Environmental Science, Sports Science, and credit remediation in Chemistry and Physics.

Session Description: Google Classroom opens a whole host of educational opportunities for students and staff alike. It is possible to use this tool to create Layered and Flipped Classrooms for students and Micro-credentialing PD for staff. Join us if you would like to know how to do this in your own classroom. This session is most suited for teachers working in 1-to-1 environments.

Student Created Criteria Checklists

Presented by Holly Trottier and AnnMarie Hann, grade 4 Teachers Saco Schools. Holly has taught in Florida and Maine, in grades 3-5 in both Waterville and Saco. She is comfortable managing a diverse population of students. She holds National Board Certification and a Master's Degree in Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and has served on the MEA Instruction and Professional Development Committee for a number years.

Session Description: You have your "I Can" statement posted. You know what your expectations are, but the students are struggling to meet them. Some procedures have so many steps, the students have too many misconceptions and the missed steps are confusing learners. What can you do? Stop being in charge, and give the learning over to the students. Instead of stating your expectations, let the students discover them. We'll show you how this guided discovery process of teaching has helped us reach our students this year. We've used it to teach problem solving and to bridge from modeling to the standard algorithm for division. This strategy can be applied to almost any content that seems to be confusing, or has many procedural steps. Let's make our students the drivers of their learning.

Student MEA: Certification, Boundaries, and Elections – For Student Members Only

Presented by MEA UniServ Director Elizabeth Peterson, former MEA General Counsel Shawn Keenan, and Professional Development Director Dan Allen.

Session Description: Have you got questions about certification? Wondering how to protect your personal and professional integrity as an educator? We have the answers for you. This is a smorgasbord session for student educators, including Student MEA elections and presentations on boundaries for educators and certification issues for new teachers.

Writing in STEM Education

Presenter Kristen Gould is a first grade teacher of eight years. Her interest lies in engaging students in interactive, cooperative, and integrated learning experiences that push them to think critically and perform at their best, while finding a love for learning. A Consultant for the Maine and National Writing Projects, as well as a regional trainer for the Maine STEM Partnership in Talk Science, Write Science, Higher Order Thinking Skills, and Assessment for Learning, she is a Maine state finalist for the 2016 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Session Description: In this highly interactive workshop, teachers will participate in a STEM activity and writing project that demonstrate how STEM and literacy can be easily integrated to create engaging, powerful learning experiences for students. We'll do a read-aloud of Chris Van Dusen's *The Circus Ship*, (a compelling story featuring a band of circus animals that have crashed their ship off the coast of Maine) and participate in a STEM activity designed to help those animals return to their homes. Come, learn about high-impact instructional strategies for integrating writing with STEM, explore how the Maine Writing Project supports this kind of classroom experience, and help those animals get home.

You will leave this session having a clear understanding of how writing and STEM can be integrated to give students learning opportunities that link STEM and writing, and how one can deepen student understanding of the other. Just as importantly, educators will leave feeling inspired to give students the kinds of hands-on, cooperative learning experiences they deserve.