28th Annual High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference

Finding Solutions to Today’s Challenges

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center
Nashville, Tennessee
July 16-19, 2014
Finding Solutions to Today’s Challenges

Join us for one of the nation’s best conferences for educators! It is highly recommended for teams of career-technical (CT) and academic teachers, guidance counselors and administrators. Participants will walk away with best practices, solid strategies and a plan to improve their schools.

Register Today!
www.sreb.org/summerconference

*I love this conference because it lets me see how other schools deal with similar issues my school has. It always offers new and innovative strategies for teaching old content, and I love seeing so many educators excited about teaching in one place.*

— Amanda McFarland
Teacher and 2013 Conference Attendee

About the Conference

In today’s world, students must be able to think, analyze, research, communicate and solve complex problems as demanded by college courses, advanced training and the workforce. For students to leave high school prepared, there are a number of challenges schools face:

- Preparing more middle grades students who are ready to succeed in high school where the curricula are aligned to college- and career-readiness standards
- Offering intellectually demanding CT programs aligned to postsecondary and workplace opportunities
- Graduating at least 90 percent or more of students ready for work, advanced training or college
- Having high school students graduate with the habits of behavior and mind that will make them successful in postsecondary studies and careers
- Equipping students with the foundational learning skills essential for success in further study and the workplace
- Preparing young adults, especially males, to acquire the skill sets needed to pursue postsecondary goals that will lead to good jobs
- Assisting students to formulate career goals based on accurate information about opportunities and helping them to choose postsecondary institutions and majors that will maximize their career options

The 28th Annual HSTW Staff Development Conference will offer 500+ sessions on how middle grades schools, high schools and technology centers can work together to find solutions to today’s challenges by creating quality pathways to prepare high school graduates for work, advanced training and college. Wi-Fi access will be available to all attendees throughout the convention center to facilitate collaboration and networking.
Conference Objectives

The 2014 HSTW Staff Development Conference will focus on how middle grades schools, high schools and technology centers can work together to find solutions to today’s challenges by creating quality pathways to prepare high school graduates for work, advanced training and college.

1. **Find solutions to ensure more students are college- and career-ready by creating optional career pathways aligned to high-demand, high-wage careers and to postsecondary learning opportunities that prepare students for work, advanced training or college.**
   a. Adopt Advanced Career (AC) pathway programs that prepare students for college and careers.
   b. Refocus CT courses with robust, real-world assignments that require students to apply a mix of cognitive, academic, technical and soft skills to complete.
   c. Design and implement, in the fall of 2015, personalized STEM academies by blending AC courses with a college-ready academic core.
   d. Design career pathways that connect technology centers and high schools to postsecondary studies and work-site learning.
   e. Have pacesetting comprehensive high schools and technology centers identify what they have done to find solutions to today’s challenges.

2. **Attain higher literacy achievement by engaging students in grade-level assignments that involve reading and analyzing texts and documents and preparing written papers.**
   a. Strengthen the capacity of all teachers in the middle grades to engage students in grade-level assignments designed to advance literacy and subject-area achievement.
   b. Assist ninth- and 10th-grade teachers in English/language arts, science and social studies to fashion assignments that advance independent literacy learning skills and subject-matter achievement.
   c. Create assignments in CT classrooms, technology centers and comprehensive high schools that advance students’ abilities to do research, read and analyze technical documents, and create work plans for completing assignments.
   d. Organize professional learning communities within and across disciplines in comprehensive high schools and CT centers to foster collaboration between academic and CT teachers to ensure assignments are aligned to the academic and technical readiness standards needed for advanced training, work and postsecondary studies.
   e. Have pacesetting technology center, high school and middle grades schools share solutions found to advance student literacy achievement.

3. **Discover ways to achieve higher math performance through grade-level assignments that not only stress procedural fluency, but reasoning, understanding and application of math in multi-step, real-world problems.**
   a. Use formative assessment lessons aligned to grade-level standards aimed at advancing students’ abilities to reason, understand and apply math concepts to real-world problems in the middle grades and high school.
   b. Design classroom instruction around proven math practices in middle grades, high schools and technology centers.
   c. Improve assessment practices and questioning techniques in math classes, and adjust instruction to ensure all students understand content in a timely manner.
   d. Use proven instructional practices to embed high school level math into real-world assignments in CT classrooms at comprehensive high schools and at technology centers.
   e. Have pacesetting middle grades schools, high schools and technology centers identify solutions to advance students’ math achievement.

4. **Promote organizational structures that allow teachers to find solutions to student learning through support in blending career pathway programs with a college-ready academic core.**
   a. Implement career academies that allow academic and CT teachers to plan blended learning experiences in high schools and in technology centers.
   b. Allow academic and CT teachers to collaboratively design and implement career pathway programs of study that engage students in acquiring the academic, technical, 21st-century and problem-solving skills needed for postsecondary studies and careers.
Conference Objectives

c. Use project-based learning in middle grades, high schools and technology centers to provide students with authentic assignments that require a mix of hands-on, critical thinking, technology and soft skills to complete.

d. Work with industry and business to create authentic projects, work-site learning experiences and opportunities for students to earn certifications after completing the necessary academic and technical learning.

5. **Advance the use of technology to find solutions for supporting students’ mastery of academic and CT studies.**
   
a. Enhance classroom lessons and engage students through proven strategies using the latest apps and other electronic and technology resources.
   
b. Implement and sustain technology to support creative instruction, deeper student engagement, and college- and career-readiness standards.
   
c. Improve intervention methods using technology to respond to student and teacher needs.
   
d. Make greater use of technology to personalize learning and enhance students’ readiness for college and careers in academic and CT classrooms.

6. **Motivate students by designing a counseling-for-career program to help students see the connection between careers and career pathway programs of study and between postsecondary learning and work opportunities.**
   
a. Understand why some young adults, particularly males, struggle to launch a career, and understand the growing mismatch between career opportunities and educational pathways.
   
b. Design career and educational exploratory experiences for students in the middle grades.
   
c. Make greater use of work-based, school-based, community and online strategies to assist students in exploring careers to increase their readiness for college and advanced training.
   
d. Use proven teaching strategies that advance students’ creativity, problem-solving abilities and research skills in academic and CT classrooms.
   
e. Provide counseling for careers and character education to enhance students’ confidence to achieve and succeed after graduation.
   
f. Design a guidance system for high schools and technology centers that connects students’ programs of study to their career interests and ensures they are taking the right classes.

7. **Establish transition programs that enable students to succeed in career pathway programs of study.**
   
a. Improve students’ transitions from elementary to the middle grades.
   
b. Offer students struggling in grades nine through 12 the support they need to graduate and avoid remedial courses in college.
   
c. Identify struggling students and create intervention plans that meet their individual needs.
   
d. Offer seniors failing to meet college- and career-readiness standards a literacy and math course designed to help them meet those standards.
   
e. Identify and provide interventions to get middle grades students who are below grade level on track for high school graduation.

8. **Improve schools’ and teacher-leaders’ abilities to provide instructional leadership and to create a continuous culture of school improvement that centers on optional pathway programs of study.**
   
a. Have CT leaders and high school principals who understand what great CT teachers do to engage students in assignments that advance their academic, technical and 21st-century skills.
   
b. Learn how to observe classrooms and provide teachers feedback to support them in growing their abilities to create quality assignments.
   
c. Use turnaround leadership strategies to create high schools and technology centers organized around students’ interests and hands-on learning to advance student achievement.
   
d. Learn what districts and schools can do to give teachers more time, support and resources to implement the new college- and career-readiness standards.
HSTW Staff Development Conference Schedule at a Glance

**Wednesday, July 16**
- Registration 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Opening Keynote Presentation and Awards 3 – 4:30 p.m.
- State Meetings 4:45 – 5:45 p.m.
- Optional Team Meetings 6 – 8 p.m.

**Thursday, July 17**
- Concurrent Sessions 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Optional Team Meetings 4:30 – 6 p.m.

**Friday, July 18**
- Concurrent Sessions 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Optional Team Meetings 4:30 – 6 p.m.

**Saturday, July 19**
- Concurrent Sessions 8 – 10 a.m.
- Closing Keynote Presentation 10:30 a.m. – Noon

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**Wait! There’s More…**


This conference will feature more than 150 in-depth sessions on how to tackle the new, college- and career-readiness standards by embedding literacy strategies into content area assignments and using formative assessment math lessons to advance student achievement.

Go to www.sreb.org/networking conference to learn more.

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**Pre-Conference Session**

**Monday – Wednesday: July 14-16, 2014**

**Using Project-Based Learning in Academic and CT Classrooms to Engage Students in Deeper Learning Experiences**

Evidence suggests that students are so focused on finding the “right” responses that their creativity and problem-solving abilities are on the decline. Project-based learning develops students’ capacity to apply academic and technical knowledge to construct solutions to real-world problems.

Learn the elements of robust assignments in CT classrooms and how to plan instruction that incorporates the eight elements of effective project/problem-based design. Participants will redesign existing assignments so that they incorporate a mix of academic, cognitive and technical skills to advance students’ readiness for work and further study.

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**SREB Readiness Courses Institute**

**Thursday – Saturday: July 17-19, 2014**

**Transitioning to College and Careers**

For the first time, SREB’s HSTW Staff Development Conference will host an institute for teachers with a focus on teaching students the skills they need to learn and think independently after high school.

Too many U.S. students graduate from high school unprepared for college or career training, and far too many need developmental education when they get to college — leading to poor college completion rates and a weak workforce. This readiness gap will loom even larger as new common assessments begin testing students on more rigorous college- and career-readiness standards.

SREB’s two readiness courses have been developed specifically to teach skills that can close the readiness gap in reading, writing and math. Students will learn how to think independently, read for information and solve problems. These are the skills young adults must have to succeed, whether they go on to postsecondary study or the workplace.
**Who Should Attend?**

Dramatic and sustainable school improvement requires a shared and coordinated effort. That’s why districts and schools are encouraged to send a team of educators to gather strategies that can be taken back to their classrooms and schools. The ideal team includes:

- Superintendents/assistant superintendents
- Principals/assistant principals
- Academic and CT instructional leaders
- Middle grades and high school teachers
- Guidance counselors
- State education department leaders

**Register online at** [www.sreb.org/summerconference](http://www.sreb.org/summerconference)!

Registration fees include a conference bag, publications packet, admission to all sessions and the exhibit hall, breakfast, and refreshment breaks for three days and hot lunches for two days.

**Spouse/guest registrations only include admission to the exhibit hall, meals and refreshment breaks.**

**Early Registration**

To secure the early registration price, payment must be postmarked by **April 30, 2014**. Early registrations not paid by then will automatically increase to the regular rate.

**Purchase Orders and Checks**

Please send purchase orders and checks to the number or address listed below. Purchase orders and checks by themselves do not reserve registrations.

**Mail/Fax**

Southern Regional Education Board  
Attn: HSTW  
592 Tenth St. N.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30318  
(404) 872-1477

**Credit Cards**

Credit cards are accepted via our online registration system and processing fees are included in the registration rate.

**Have Questions? Contact Us!**

(404) 962-9629  
summerstaffdev@sreb.org

**Hotel Information**

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center  
2800 Opryland Drive  
Nashville, TN 37214

**Reservations:**

Connections Housing. Call (800) 262-9974 or visit the online reservation system.

**Room Rate:**

- Single  $150 per night  
- Double  $165 per night

**Remember to ask for the 2014 SREB Conference rate when booking your reservation.**
Registration Form

Register online through July 9, 2014 at: www.sreb.org/summerconference

If you wish to pay by credit card, you must register online.

If you register by mail for the 28th Annual HSTW Staff Development Conference and/or the College- and Career-Readiness Standards (CCRS) Networking Conference, registration forms must be postmarked by July 7, 2014. A check, money order, contracted services school ID number or a copy of your purchase order must accompany the registration form. All registrations paid for on the same purchase order or code number must be attached and mailed as a group. Each individual will be notified electronically of the status of his or her registration. Please ensure the email address provided can be accessed through July. All communications will be electronic. We reserve the right to close registration before the deadline date due to registration numbers.

Please note:
- Even if payment is sent with registration, complete the Billing Contact Information section.
- Complete all pages of this form and print clearly.

Registration Options

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Please select one registration code per attendee. Spaces are provided in the attendee section on the next page to input the registration code for the conference(s) you wish to attend. A registration code must be placed in the space provided in order for the attendee to be registered. * Spouse/Guest registrations only include admission to the exhibit hall, meals and refreshment breaks.

Billing Contact Information
(This is the person who will receive the invoice for payment.)

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School / Organization Information for Attendees
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Would you like to receive online newsletters of best practices from the 2014 conference? Yes No

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Method of Payment

☐ Check/Money Order #

(Your check or money order must accompany this form.)

☐ Purchase Order #

(A copy of your purchase order must accompany this form.)

☐ Contracted Services #

Total Amount Enclosed $__________

Please ensure the email address provided can be accessed through July. All communications will be electronic. We reserve the right to close registration before the deadline date due to registration numbers.

Please note:
- Even if payment is sent with registration, complete the Billing Contact Information section.
- Complete all pages of this form and print clearly.
PRIVACY STATEMENT

SREB will not sell your information. However, you may receive email messages from SREB with information about upcoming events or other program news and services.

Attendee(s)

Please note: This page can be printed out and used as many times as needed. If all information is not filled out, we cannot guarantee that your registration form will be entered into our system correctly.

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Proposal to Present Form

28th Annual HSTW Staff Development Conference
Nashville, Tennessee July 16-19, 2014

Deadline: April 25, 2014

With your help, we can make the 28th Annual High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference a high-quality learning experience for everyone. Submit proposals that address the conference objectives (see pages 3 – 4) and are based on practices that work. Presenters who are accepted for this event must register for the conference and pay the registration fee. This form cannot be used to register for the conference. You may submit a proposal to present in one of the following ways:

If your proposal is approved, you will be notified via email by May 14, 2014. Accepted presenters must register and pay the full registration fee. If you have questions, call (404) 962-9629 or email summerstaffdev@sreb.org.

Submit:
- Online: www.sreb.org/summerconference
- By fax: (404) 872-1477
- By mail: HSTW Staff Development Conference Coordinator
  Southern Regional Education Board
  592 10th St. N.W.
  Atlanta, GA 30318-5776

Receipt of your proposal to present will be confirmed via email. If you do not receive a confirmation, email summerstaffdev@sreb.org or call (404) 962-9629 for assistance.

Session Type

- **Best Practice**
  These sessions will feature solutions to today’s challenges by highlighting best practices and lessons learned by discipline areas in middle grades, high school and technology centers, and feature strategies that have enhanced student learning and improved school culture.

- **Evidence-Based**
  These sessions will present evidence of solutions to today’s challenges by illustrating that creative strategies and challenging assignments can motivate students to reach higher achievement in middle grades, high school and technology centers.

- **Scaling**
  These sessions will focus on scaling solutions to today’s challenges by spreading successful strategies across states, districts and schools to increase student achievement within districts and schools.

- **Mini-Sharing**
  These 25-minute sharing sessions allow participants to gather information from a variety of presenters and to brainstorm with others to find solutions to today’s challenges. These sessions may include condensed versions of full sessions.

School Location

- Rural
- Suburban
- Urban
- Other

School Size (per grade level)

- Small (fewer than 100)
- Medium (100 - 250)
- Large (more than 250)
- Not Applicable

Audiovisual Requirements

- Overhead projector (for transparencies)
- Flip chart and markers
- None needed

Note: Items must be requested at least 60 days prior to the conference. If you plan to show a PowerPoint presentation, you will need to bring your own projector and laptop. In the event you are unable to provide your own equipment and need AV equipment on-site, you may obtain equipment at your own expense through Tech Rentals — (800) 967-2419.

Conference Objectives (see pages 3 – 4): _________________. You may choose only one sub-objective per session. (Example: 5b)

Session Length:

- [ ] 60-minute session
- [ ] 120-minute session
- [ ] Mini-sharing session (two 25-minute sessions on Thursday and Friday)
Proposal to Present Form (continued)

Presenter Information:
The session title and abstract may be edited before it is printed in the conference program. Please write concisely and proofread thoroughly before submitting.

**Session Title** (up to 10 words):

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

**Session Abstract** (three to five sentences):

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

**Further Description** — Please provide any additional information that will help us understand your session. Include any data you’ve used to identify problems and solutions, changes you’ve made, and how they affected student achievement. This information may appear in the conference program.

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

**Evidence** — Please show evidence that what you have done has produced positive results.

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

1. Presenter’s Name __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   School or Organization _____________________________________________________________________________________________________
   HSTW/MMGW/TCTW Site? (Circle one) Yes No If yes, how long? _________________
   Mailing Address ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   City, State, Zip __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   Job Title __________________________ Content Area (if applicable) __________________
   Personal Email __________________________ Daytime Phone Number ( _______ ) _______ - ________
   Have you presented before? (Circle one) Yes No ___________________________________________________________________________
   Exhibitor? (Circle one) Yes No

2. Presenter’s Name __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   School or Organization _____________________________________________________________________________________________________
   HSTW/MMGW/TCTW Site? (Circle one) Yes No If yes, how long? _________________
   Mailing Address ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   City, State, Zip __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   Job Title __________________________ Content Area (if applicable) __________________
   Personal Email __________________________ Daytime Phone Number ( _______ ) _______ - ________
   Have you presented before? (Circle one) Yes No ___________________________________________________________________________
   Exhibitor? (Circle one) Yes No

3. Presenter’s Name __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   School or Organization _____________________________________________________________________________________________________
   HSTW/MMGW/TCTW Site? (Circle one) Yes No If yes, how long? _________________
   Mailing Address ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   City, State, Zip __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   Job Title __________________________ Content Area (if applicable) __________________
   Personal Email __________________________ Daytime Phone Number ( _______ ) _______ - ________
   Have you presented before? (Circle one) Yes No ___________________________________________________________________________
   Exhibitor? (Circle one) Yes No
SREB will host deep-dive sessions July 17-18, 2014 at the 28th Annual HSTW Staff Development Conference. Each session is designed around an in-depth presentation on key topics critical to school success. Participants will leave these two-hour workshop sessions with specific ideas they can implement immediately in their schools or classrooms.

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