

27th Annual  
**NAEA**  
Conference on  
Alternative  
Education



*Still the One*

October 18-20, 2021  
St. Louis, MO

## *Pre-Conference Sessions*

We are so pleased to offer four pre-conference sessions. The pre-conference sessions will take place on October 18, 2021 – 8:00 am – 11:00 am. You are only able to register for one session. These sessions are not included in your registration. The cost of each session is \$100.00. You can add these sessions during the normal registration process.

### **Pre-Conference Session #1: NAEA Exemplary Practices through School Tours**

#### Session Description:

The NAEA Exemplary Practices will be showcased in this pre-conference session. Collaborate with four model alternative/non-traditional schools/programs from around the country. Each school will showcase two or more of the NAEA Exemplary Practices that they implement exceedingly well. This is a great opportunity to learn about alternative/non-traditional schools that excel in implementation of exemplary practices, engage with panelists, ask questions and take back practical nuggets for your school and school district.

#### Presented by:



Archer Learning Center is the premier alternative school in Northwest Arkansas. The program supports at-risk youth enrolled in Springdale Public Schools. During the past year, Archer provided services to over 600 students. Archer provides personalized learning experiences for students in an open-concept learning environment. Collaboration, project-based instruction and student-centered instruction help engage students with a new found appreciation for education. Archer currently offers on-site instruction, night school, and virtual school to meet the needs of its

diverse learner population.



Pearce Hall is an alternative middle and high school that houses six distinct programs meeting a wide range of student needs. With Reclaiming Youth at Risk's Circle of Courage as a guiding framework, Pearce Hall takes a whole-child, two-generational approach in working with students therapeutically and relationally rather than behaviorally or punitively. Students can participate in a variety of therapeutic groups and expressive arts including yoga, music therapy, sports group, boxing therapy, art, and career readiness. Students leave Pearce Hall not only with the credits they need to graduate, but also with the ability to maintain healthy relationships, self-regulate, successfully gain post-secondary employment, and have increased control over their mental health.



Student Choice High School  
Surprise, AZ

Student Choice High School in Surprise, AZ provides a unique and flexible learning experience for students in which highly qualified staff members are present and available to provide the instructional, social, and emotional support for students. This is combined with a standards-based online curriculum, which allows for self-pacing, individualized progress monitoring, and assessment tools to measure student success. Upon student re-engagement, the focus becomes sequential steps toward both graduation and successful post-secondary opportunities through college and career readiness.



Mountain High School  
Kaysville, UT

Mountain High School in Kaysville, UT is a school of choice for students who desire a smaller more personalized learning setting while still experiencing a rich high school experience. The school focuses on climate and culture, engaging curriculum, and personalized learning designed to meet individual student needs. Unique activity classes include fly fishing, biking and hiking, Zumba and yoga, international cooking, classic film study, to name a few. Students earn graduation credits in eight mini-terms during the traditional school year and an extended summer option. Students are assigned advisors who track personalized plans for each student

including access to college and career coursework at the adjacent Davis Technical Center.

## **Pre-Conference Session #2: Pure Edge, Inc. Breathing, movement, and rest strategies to reset and build resilience**

### **Session Description:**

Join us for an experiential session designed to support the integration of caring for yourself, the educator, while supporting the social and emotional learning (SEL) initiatives for your students. Participants will apply focused awareness of each of the 5 SEL competencies during each session. We will explore safe and supportive relationships, strengthening co-regulation with others, and building interaction skills that support social competence and academic success in a practical context with SEL.

**Presented by:** Gill McClean



Gill is Director of Professional Development. She trains educators across the country on self-care and integrating health and wellness best practices. She regularly presents at conferences to share best practices in managing stress.

Prior to moving to Houston, Gill lived and worked in the United Kingdom, Colombia, United Arab Emirates, Oman and The Netherlands in a variety of roles to learn the culture and make a difference. She managed the allocation of low-cost government housing, working with the homeless, as well as, founded North East Scotland's first dedicated yoga studio. During her overseas postings, Gill became a member of numerous Women's Organizations supporting local charities. Her charitable efforts include fundraising for orphans in developing countries.

She holds a Higher National Certificate in Local Government Administration from Langside College, and also attended Shawlands Academy, in Glasgow, Scotland.

## **Pre-Conference Session #3:**

### **Understanding How Trauma & Adverse Childhood Experiences Effect the Developing Bodies & Brains of Students**

#### **Session Description:**

Come be informed about the next and the best practices related to behavior health and leave with a plan to transform your school climate through the implementation of the essential elements of a trauma informed system of support.

**Presented by:** Dr. Lateshia Woodley



Dr. Lateshia Woodley was an alternative education student now district administrator that specializes in working with at promise students and turnaround school transformation initiatives. Since 2008, Dr. Woodley has worked as a turnaround leader to help bring about positive changes in some of the lowest performing schools in Georgia and now in Missouri.

While serving as the Principal of McClarin Success Academy, Dr. Woodley led the implementation of a community school model to assist students in overcoming barriers that hinder successful completion of high school graduation requirements. During her tenure McClarin's graduation rate increased from 19% in 2012 to 75% in 2017. She is the author of three books titled "Why Did You Choose to Get Pregnant", "Issues of the Heart" and "Transforming Alternative Education," that details her journey as a student then as an administrator. Through her leadership McClarin was recognized as a 2017 National Model School, 2016 NAEA Exemplary Practices School, and 2016 GAAE Spotlight School.

Believing passionately in the impact of supporting the whole child, Dr. Woodley ventured to work for the Kansas City Public School District. She has had the honor of serving as an Assistant Superintendent supporting School Leadership and now serves as the Executive Director of Student Support Services where she is leading the charge of becoming a trauma informed school district.

Dr. Woodley has received numerous awards and accolades which include the 2011 Outstanding Woman in Education Award, 2012 Resolution from the Georgia House of Representatives, 2013 Acknowledgments from the US Department of Education, 2016 National Dropout Prevention Center Crystal Star Award, 2016 GAAE Administrator of the Year Award, 2017 Central Learning Community Principal of the Year, 2017 ASCD Emerging Leader, 2017 IALA Author of the Year for Education, and 2017 Shining Star Educator.

Dr. Woodley serves on the boards of Nelson Atkins Museum Incentive Advisory, the Center for Family and Community Wellness and Empowering Lives, Inc. Her life principle is to be a catalyst that ignites, motivates, encourages individuals and organizations to reach their full potential.

**Pre-Conference Session #4:**

**A Trauma-Informed Approach for Success**

**Session Description:**

A trauma-informed approach equips educators with strategies and tools to better engage those affected by complex trauma as well as meeting the needs of all students. Understanding how to support children to form secure relationships is vitally important in establishing healthy environments to support peers and teachers and facilitate classroom engagement. Creating a trauma-sensitive classroom can provide transformational equity for all students. This 3-hour workshop will focus on the science of trauma and equip educators with the strategies and tools to fully implement a trauma-informed classroom. Educators will leave knowing that trauma-informed practices aren't just something they do but how they "do business" every day.

**Presented by:** Pat Conner



Pat Conner is a Senior Policy and Practice Consultant for CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning). As a consultant with CASEL, she provides technical assistance and support to states on SEL who are involved in the Collaborative States Initiative (CSI). An educator for over 36 years, Pat began her work in a school district as the director of Safe Schools, Health Students before going to the TN Department of Education as the Executive Director for the Office of Student Support, retiring in 2019.

Pat believes that all students and adults thrive in a safe, just, and supportive school climate and that families, caregivers, and communities are critical partners in building equitable systems that support student success.

*We hope you find one of our  
Pre-Conference Sessions valuable to you.*

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