

Pre-Conference Workshops

Monday July 18h 2022 1:30 – 5:00PM EST

At this year’s conference, due to high demand for more hands-on experiences and opportunities to explore topics in more depth, we are offering four pre-conference sessions. A full description of each is provided below.

We have also set aside a time block on Tuesday, the first full day of the conference, to offer an additional 6 workshop offerings. Please consult the main schedule for those descriptions.

Pre-Conference Workshop Block 1 (1:30PM – 3:00PM EST)

1. Apple Teacher & Tools Lab - Investigate creating content with Apple Tools hosted by Robbie Melton

This session will be a virtual hands-on lab for content creation. **Participants will need an iPad for this session.** Participants will receive a list of free apps to install on their device so that they may create amazing teaching and learning content for distance education learning. Activities will include a showcase of interactive Apps, basic skills for designing prototypes of Apps, and guidance for becoming an Apple Certificated Teacher through the completion of App Badges.

2. Diversifying Educational Leadership (Leadership Knows no Color) hosted by Jerri Williams-Harper

School systems are not hiring, grooming and promoting educational leadership for those of color at the same rates as white counterparts. Often there are principals and assistant principals of color but not those of color in Central office and at the level of the Superintendency. Hispanic Superintendents are at 14%, African American Superintendents are 10% and Asian Superintendents are at 4% according to data from 2020. The nations Superintendents are still overwhelming white and male. The Superintendency and Principal leadership positions are still lagging behind in securing these upper level administrative jobs. The questions to be answered are how to change these demographics and statistic for those of color aspiring to lead. Let's not be afraid to talk about that fact that Leadership should know no color.

Pre-Conference Workshop Block 2 (3:30PM – 5:00PM EST)

3. Grant Writing Workshop - Investigate DL grants, writing tips, submitting, managing a grant hosted by Kristin DeProspero

Attendees will leave with an understanding of funding agencies and organizations, a list of current funding sources, an understanding of the grant seeking process, information on grant writing best practices and tools to find expert grant writers, access to funding search engines, an understanding of projected funding sources for 2020 - and more.

4. Immerse Students in Learning with AR/VR/XR and AI! hosted by Rachelle Dené Poth

The use of AI and emerging technologies in the learning environment makes it possible to provide more unique learning experiences for students, to model risk-taking and problem solving, and to re-create many innovative learning opportunities that push students toward developing their 21st-century skills and become the creators in the classroom. During this session, learn how to integrate AR, VR and AI to engage learners, inspire creativity and curiosity. Transform instruction, create innovative, immersive learning experiences and have students tell stories using these tools.

Using tools like those for augmented and virtual reality which enable students to become more immersed in their learning environment, to interact with objects, and the content they are learning about in a way that enables them to explore more closely, interact in unique ways that increase engagement in learning as well as curiosity and bring learning to life. Walk away with ideas to get started and learn how to move from just exploring to creating!
