East Stroudsburg University is hosting its first-ever “Igniting Innovation in Instruction” conference. This year’s focus is on blended and online learning and will be held completely online. This free conference is open to all educational practitioners, and Act 48 hours will be awarded for Pennsylvania educators.

George Couros, author of The Innovator’s Mindset and Innovate Inside the Box, is our keynote speaker. Mr. Couros writes, “By being curious, collaborative, and open to new learning, we can truly inspire our students to not only be prepared for the real world but ensure that they make the world better than it is now,” and we look forward to having him as our keynote.

Our closing speaker is Stacey Gonzales, head of SG Creative Connections. She is the director of curriculum and instruction at Consolidated High School District 230, an award-winning three high school district in the south suburbs of Chicago.

Sessions are divided into four strands — K–6, 7–12, higher ed, and leadership — for ease of selection, but you are not tied to those tracks. All tracks are open to educators regardless of current position or teaching assignment.

For more information or to register, please visit esu.edu/igniting-innovation.
PROGRAM

9–10 a.m. Keynote Address .............................. George Couros

George Couros is a worldwide leader in the area of innovation, and has a focus on innovation as a human endeavour. His belief that meaningful change happens when you first connect to people's hearts is modeled in his writing and speaking. He has worked with all levels of schools from K–12 as a teacher, technology facilitator, and school and district administrator. He is the author of the book, The Innovator's Mindset: Empower Learning, Unleash Talent, and Lead a Culture of Creativity, and his latest book, Innovate Inside the Box.

10:15–11:15 a.m. Session 1

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Session 2

1–2 p.m. Session 3

2:10–3 p.m. Closing Remarks ............................. Dr. Stacey Gonzales

Dr. Stacey Gonzales is an educator, leader, and innovator. She has dedicated her career to inspiring others as an enthusiastic, curious thought leader in the field of education. She values developing authentic personal and professional relationships built on a strong foundation of trust. She is currently the Director of Curriculum & Instruction at Consolidated High School District 230, an award-winning three high school district in the south suburbs of Chicago. She strives daily to inspire, motivate, and engage leadership teams to ensure all 8,000 high school students are well-prepared for their post-secondary experiences. Dr. Gonzales has received awards and recognition for her ability to leverage technology to create meaningful connections. She presents nationally and locally on innovation, leadership, and learning.
IGNITING INNOVATION IN INSTRUCTION

SESSION 1
10:30–11:30 a.m.
Melissa Whitman

Nazareth Area School District

Melissa Whitman is a technology integration specialist at Nazareth Area School District and an adjunct professor of Instruction Technology at East Stroudsburg University. She is an Apple Teacher and a Google Certified Educator and Trainer.

“MAKING YOUR VIRTUAL CLASSROOM INTERACTIVE” (K–6)

Online learning is not the traditional discussion boards and videos anymore. Today it’s a world of interactive learning using best practices from the face-to-face classroom and engaging students in the online environment. Come take a look at how to engage learners through applications and technology strategies combined with the TPACK and 5E Lesson Design Model. A world of virtual presentations, collaboration, and personalization of learning to really promote students to learn and not just participate in the online classroom. Take home a virtual toolbox of tools and ideas to use in your virtual classroom!

Lisa Vitulli

East Stroudsburg Area School District

Lisa Vitulli been a teacher with the East Stroudsburg School district for 15 years. For the past six years, she has been part of the cyber program. Two years ago, her district started a cyber/blended program and her job duties changed. She became a “coach” to approximately 50 students and monitored their school work. Communication with families is very important — we are a team and all want students to be successful.

“COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS” (7–12)

Parents/guardians play an essential role in the education of their children. Gain practical tips about communicating with parents in an online environment, including strategies to engage and involve working parents to form a working partnership for education.

George Couros

George Couros is a worldwide leader in the area of innovation, and has a focus on innovation as a human endeavour. His belief that meaningful change happens when you first connect to people’s hearts is modeled in his writing and speaking. He has worked with all levels of schools from K–12 as a teacher, technology facilitator, and school and district administrator. He is the author of the book, The Innovator’s Mindset: Empower Learning, Unleash Talent, and Lead a Culture of Creativity, and his latest book, Innovate Inside the Box.

“BLOGGING AS STUDENT AND PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO” 7–12

Blogging has become a tool that is used often in the classroom but has also become a valuable tool for educators to use in their own professional learning. Aligning with Teaching Standards, this session will show you how to create a professional portfolio that will be invaluable for sharing, connecting, and reflecting on teaching practice.
Patty Petula

Commonwealth Charter Academy

Patty earned her undergraduate teaching degree from the University of Scranton and a master’s degree in classroom technology. Prior to 2011, she was a high school English teacher in traditional classrooms for 16 years. After experimenting with blended versions of her class for busy juniors and seniors, she turned her attention to full-time online teaching. For the past nine years she has taught English classes for Commonwealth Charter Academy in Harrisburg, PA.

“ADDRESSING ONLINE ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: MOVING PAST PUNITIVE APPROACHES” (7–12)

Classroom and online teachers alike face the daily challenge of how to address academic dishonesty in its various forms. While technology has opened new pathways for teaching and learning, it has also brought with it new ways for learners to skirt learning. The workshop presents research to clarify circumstances when learners are most likely to “cheat.” It presents ways to reduce academic dishonesty with an “ounce of prevention/pound of cure” approach while also offering alternatives to commonly used consequences so that learning remains the focus of teacher-learner interactions.

Anita Young and Olivia Grugan

World of Learning Institute, Appalachia Intermediate Unit

After a decade of teaching in the brick and mortar classroom, Anita transitioned to the virtual classroom with the World of Learning Institute as a Spanish teacher. She is now a Virtual Learning Specialist for the Appalachia Intermediate Unit 08 and gets to support other teachers with their virtual instruction.

Olivia joined the World of Learning last year after teaching Social Studies, Spanish and English in classrooms both here in the US and abroad. As Virtual Learning Specialist at Appalachia Intermediate Unit 08, Olivia enjoys working with an amazing team of 20 World Language teachers, especially when she gets to talk about pedagogy!

“PICK THE TOOL LAST: LIVE SESSION ENGAGEMENT” (7–12)

What could an engaging, live virtual class look like? Come experience it with us! Join us for an interactive workshop modeling a variety of activities that can be used virtually and can be adapted to any content area and age group. You will walk away with a toolbox of strategies to adapt your instructional activities for the virtual environment and keep your learners engaged during your live sessions.
Kristin Noblet  
*East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania*  
Kristin Noblet is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at East Stroudsburg University. As a mathematics education specialist, she regularly teaches mathematics education courses (methods, technology) in addition to a variety of mathematics courses.  

"iPADS AND DOC CAMS AND APPLE PENCILS, OH MY!"  
*(HIGHER ED)*  
Navigating the different types of technology useful for teaching remotely — and in a short amount of time — can be overwhelming! In this session, we provide a bit of a “crash course” in delivering remote instruction with some of those types of technology. For example, we will discuss how to use an iPad and Apple Pencil with various types of files (e.g., PowerPoint, PDF), the syncing capabilities of Apple products in general, and how to create a make-shift document camera with your iPhone. Questions are welcome!

Michelle LaBadie  
*Pleasant Valley School District & East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania*  
Michelle LaBadie is currently teaching 7th and 8th grade supplemental learning support at Pleasant Valley, and adjuncts in the Special Education/Rehabilitation Department at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania. In addition to teaching, she has served in multiple leadership roles among the Pennsylvania Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), and is currently the student advisor. She is the co-advisor to ESU CEC, and membership chair to the CEC of Bethlehem. She also participates on the CEC conference proposal committee each year. She has presented at multiple PACEC conferences, ESU CEC conferences/panels, and at other varying conferences.  

"BEST PRACTICES FOR THE DELIVERY OF AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE DIGITAL LEARNING SPACE"  
*(LEADERSHIP)*  
Come discuss different ways of gaining student engagement and increasing community for Individualized Education Programs in the digital learning space. Also discussed will be methods and programs used to monitor student progress.
IGNITING INNOVATION IN INSTRUCTION

SESSION 2
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Jill Barnes

Orange County Public Schools

Jill loves to create high quality, engaging learning experiences for all students. She is both challenged and enthusiastic about finding ideas that will spark student interest and deepen their understanding. Jill works as an Instructional Coach at a Title I Elementary School in Orlando, Florida. With over 25 years’ experience in education, she has seen it all! Early in her career, Jill taught high school math. In 2000, she had the opportunity to try her hand at virtual education with the Florida Virtual School. At FLVS, Jill served as the Director of Instruction during a time of rapid growth, helping to move the state’s online district to a completion-based funding model. Her biggest contribution to FLVS was during her time as Executive Director of Curriculum Products where she helped increase staff morale, improve processes, and develop and deliver high quality K-12 curriculum products to improve student engagement and performance.

“USING VIRTUAL TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO PROMOTE STUDENT DISCOURSE AND DEEPEN UNDERSTANDING IN MATH” (K–6)

Come and experience some tools and resources that will help promote student discourse in a virtual classroom. When students talk about math concepts, and see the variety of ways in which they might approach a problem, they gain a deeper understanding. How do we get students to interact with each other, the instructor and the content in meaningful ways? How do we create online math lessons without spending hours on curriculum development? Participants will learn to deliver meaningful online math lessons using simple, effective and engaging tools and resources.

Greg Cottrell and Doug Lare

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

Greg Cottrell is a former Technology Education Teacher and Assistant Principal. In 2017, Dr. Cottrell became the Principal of North Hunterdon High School in Annandale, NJ. In 2017, he also earned his doctorate from East Stroudsburg University. He is also the co-founder of Learnics.

Dr. Douglas Lare has over 40 years of experience in private/public education. Whether as a teacher, principal, professor, or central office administrator, he has focused on ways to more effectively integrate technology with education.

“TOLA: UNCOVERING YOUR STUDENTS’ ONLINE STORY” (7–12)

Learn how Google Classroom, Zoom, and TOLA (Targeted Online Learning Analytics) can be integrated in order to create a more effective online experience.
Anita Young and Olivia Grugan

World of Learning Institute, Appalachia Intermediate Unit

After a decade of teaching in the brick and mortar classroom, Anita transitioned to the virtual classroom with the World of Learning Institute as a Spanish teacher. She is now a Virtual Learning Specialist for the Appalachia Intermediate Unit 08 and gets to support other teachers with their virtual instruction.

Olivia joined the World of Learning last year after teaching Social Studies, Spanish and English in classrooms both here in the US and abroad. As Virtual Learning Specialist at Appalachia Intermediate Unit 08, Olivia enjoys working with an amazing team of 20 World Language teachers, especially when she gets to talk about pedagogy!

“DON’T REINVENT THE WHEEL: PLANNING FOR VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION” (7–12)

Online teaching is not as different as you think. Just like teaching in the classroom, it is driven by goals, objectives, student needs, student interests, pedagogy, etc. Join us to see how we prepare for our virtual classes to engage our learners in an inclusive environment and demonstrate their understanding of our course objectives.

Tom Liam Lynch

The New School

Tom Liam Lynch is the recipient of NCTE’s 2019 National Technology Leadership Initiative Award. A former English teacher, Tom currently directs education policy at the Center for NYC Affairs at The New School, while continuing to design methods for embedding computer science into secondary ELA classrooms. Learn more at tomliamlynch.com.

“NEW LITERARY DEVICES: USING TECHNOLOGY TO DEEPEN AND EXPAND THE TEACHING OF LITERATURE IN THE SECONDARY ENGLISH CLASSROOM” (7–12)

Where does one even start when it comes to using technology in the classroom? Why should one bother? And what will the future of teaching English with technology look like? In this workshop, we will explore these questions and more. Participants will do so in two parts. The first part of the workshop will answer some of the most common questions from English teachers while sharing a few high-leverage tools and applications that you can use right away. The second part of the workshop will offer a primer on why computer science belongs in the English classroom and how to get started by using computational methods to teach literature. Computer science is not just a trendy add-on; it can deepen and expand one’s current practice. Prepare to have scholarly useful fun! All materials will be shared via tomliamlynch.com.

Andrew Kalahanis

Commonwealth Charter Academy

Andrew Kalahanis has over 20 years of face-to-face, hybrid, and distance learning teaching & administrative experience in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary educational settings. He founded Anodos Foreign Language Center in Greece where the English and German languages were taught, and relocated to the United States in 2004 to continue his educational career. He is a proud ESU alumni and holds a BA in English, M.Ed. in Sec. Education, M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, K-12 Administrative and ESL certifications.

“ONLINE BEST PRACTICE & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT” (7–12)

Learn how to effectively engage your students online by incorporating best practices
Dr. Imani Akin

Dr. Amber-Leigh Jensen

Dr. Brooke K. Langan

Dr. Imani Akin enjoys collaborating to identify and support the academic and social emotional needs of all learners. Dr. Akin worked in business industry for 25 years and volunteered to serve as a mentor for a school-to-work program which started her transition to serving in the field of education. She has supported teachers and students in K–12 for 10 years and in higher education for over 10 years. She has served in elementary and high schools of charter, parochial and public schools within urban and suburban school districts, supporting diverse learners. As an educational leader she served as department head, board member, and consultant, developing training sessions to build teacher capacity on response to intervention. Dr. Akin values collaboration in research.

Dr. Amber-Leigh Jensen is an Associate Professor in Emergency Medical Services in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Awarded the 2017 Tidewater EMS Council EMS Educator of the Year Award, she is passionate about student advocacy and community relations. Dr. Jensen completed her undergraduate studies in Mathematics at Virginia Wesleyan College, her MPA from Walden University and her Ed.D. in Leadership, Education, and Community Organizations from the American of Education.

Dr. Brooke Langan serves as the Assistant Dean in the College of Education at East Stroudsburg University. A recent doctoral graduate in Educational Leadership and Online Education, she is passionate about rigorous and engaged virtual learning. With the shift to online learning for most universities, it is imperative to define what students need to remain engaged with coursework, instructors, and peers in an online environment.

“CULTIVATING ENGAGEMENT TO SUPPORT SOCIAL PRESENCE IN ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING” (HIGHER ED)

As more colleges and universities make the shift to online coursework, faculty and students struggle to “feel connected” like they do in the face-to-face classroom. Literature points to the importance of the Community of Inquiry (CoI) framework when designing and delivering coursework online. With a focus on the social presence portion of the CoI framework, this session will support avenues for cultivating student engagement in online coursework.
Christopher Dubbs

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

Christopher Dubbs is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education at East Stroudsburg University. His teaching is centered on the mathematical and pedagogical preparation of PK-12 teachers. His research leverages technology to improve mathematics teaching, mathematics learning, and mathematics education research.

“INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGIES USING OBS (OPEN BROADCASTER SOFTWARE)” (HIGHER ED)

OBS (Open Broadcasting Software; obsproject.com) is a free and open source software for video recording and live streaming. As a streaming software, it is particularly well suited to manage and display multiple sources in a single screen for recording to video file or for screen sharing via Zoom or other video conferencing software. For example, in OBS it is possible to display one or more webcams (i.e., for the teacher, a document camera, etc.), one or more software windows (e.g., a powerpoint presentation, video, graphing software, etc.), iPad or computer screen(s), and more. In this session, I will introduce OBS and some of the uses of this software for online teaching.

Sarah Latimer

FLVS Global

In her role as a Digital Education Consultant with FLVS Global, Sarah Latimer helps schools implement and build online and blended learning programs. Previously, she has focused on excellence in course development through Quality Assurance, overseeing research and development in Marketing, and providing schools and districts a high level of support in Business Development. Her experience in research drew her to FLVS, but her true passion is serving clients.

“TRANSITIONING TO ONLINE LEARNING: A CRASH COURSE FOR ADMINISTRATORS” (LEADERSHIP)

Join the FLVS Global team to learn best practices for transitioning your school, or whole district, quickly to an online learning atmosphere, to keep students learning virtually.

Dr. Dan Cullen

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Cullen serves as an instructor in the Special Education and Rehabilitation Services Department in the School of Education at East Stroudsburg University. He also serves as a Supervisor of Special Education at Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 as he leads the Transition Services Department and oversees programming for students low level incidence disabilities spanning grades K–12. Dr. Cullen is extremely passionate about special education teacher retention and the impact positive energy can have on fostering growth outcomes for all learners!

“BEST PRACTICES FOR INSTRUCTION, ASSESSMENT, AND ACCESS IN THE INCLUSIONARY DIGITAL LEARNING SPACE” (LEADERSHIP)

This presentation provides a blueprint for access that specifically focuses on a framework of best practices linked to meaningful instruction informed by authentic assessment practices for all students in innovative digital learning spaces.
Dr. Shawn L. Watkins

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Shawn Watkins has served as a faculty member in the Reading Department at East Stroudsburg University since 2010. She earned her Ed.D. in Reading Education from the University of Mississippi where she was also an adjunct professor. At ESU, Watkins serves as the Chairperson in the Reading Department and Faculty Coordinator for Professional Development Schools. Watkins teaches reading courses for the online M.Ed. program in Reading. Her research has focused on pre-service teachers and reading instruction.

“GUIDED READING IN THE ONLINE SETTING” (K–6)

During our Spring 2020 Practicum, graduate students in the M.Ed. Reading Program taught small group reading instruction online. Using the Zoom platform, they created before, during, and after reading activities that promoted reading comprehension. Together, the professors and students problem-solved and shared the many tools that were found to be beneficial. In this session, Dr. Watkins will be joined by Lea Decker, a former graduate student who currently teaches at Bangor High School. They will share their experiences with meeting students live and engaging them in reading.

Michelle Schoenberger

Northampton Area School District

Michelle Schoenberger is the K–12 mathematics and science curriculum supervisor at Northampton Area School District.

“LEARNICS & STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY” (7–12)

Learn about the latest research surrounding the growing field of learning analytics. Since the research is being conducted by current educators, practical applications in the ever-changing virtual world will be emphasized.

Dr. M. Elizabeth Azukas

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Elizabeth Azukas is an Assistant Professor at East Stroudsburg University. Dr. Azukas has been an educator for more than 25 years, with experience teaching at the elementary, middle, high school, and post-secondary levels. She has held a number of different leadership roles including working as a curriculum supervisor, principal, curriculum director, and as an assistant superintendent. Her career has focused primarily on innovation in education with the goal of increasing equity and access for all students as well as promoting authentic personalized learning.

“GETTING STARTED WITH BLENDED AND ONLINE LEARNING” (7–12)

This session will address key components of getting started with online and blended learning including how to set up your online classroom, establish rules and procedures, and motivate students. The session will also address the difference between synchronous and asynchronous sessions and when to choose which for what activities.
Jason Slipp

Lehigh University

Jason Slipp is an Instructional Designer/Technologist at Lehigh University and a certified Peer Reviewer with Quality Matters. Slipp brings nearly 20 years of experience in higher education and industry, where he designs, and teaches, online courses in a variety of modalities. Jason has an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Masters degrees in Instructional Design and Environmental Policy Design. Jason is also working towards his doctorate in Teaching, Learning, and Technology at Lehigh University.

“UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING AND ONLINE EDUCATION” (7–12)

This presentation will broadly cover the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework. Whether your focus is pre-K-12 or adult learners, this session will give you some basic steps to begin implementing UDL principles to make your learning environments more inclusive and engaging to accommodate a variety of diverse learning needs.

Dr. Heather Garrison

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Heather Garrison is a professor in ESU’s Special Education and Rehabilitation Department. She implemented the use of D2L’s digital badges at ESU and has researched their effectiveness since their inception at ESU. Her other areas of interest and research include access for people with disabilities, disability representations in literature, disability studies, and evidenced-based literacy strategies.

“COLLEGE STUDENTS’ PERCEPTIONS OF DIGITAL BADGES BEFORE AND DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC” (HIGHER ED)

Explore the use of digital badges as a motivational tool within an LMS. Learn gamification and learning theories related to digital badges. Examine research findings related to graduate students’ perceptions of achieving badges in online courses. Discover differences in their perceptions of earning badges before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn how to apply this knowledge in your own setting, with your own students, in the upcoming school year.

Dr. L. Johan Eliasson

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Eliasson has taught online since 2007, using several different learning platforms, and he co-chairs East Stroudsburg University’s distance education committee. He holds a Ph.D. from Syracuse University (along with Certificate in College Teaching), and has published three books and a dozen peer-reviewed articles.

“ALTERNATIVE FOR LIVE SESSIONS” (HIGHER ED)

Interaction is key. There are multiple options for live online sessions. Good teaching is interactive, and even when you are online your students need (and want) to see and hear you. There are numerous options for online interaction, depending on the outcomes sought for a particular topic or section. We discuss the benefits and challenges associated with synchronous (live) options: lectures, lectures that are simultaneously recorded, discussion sessions, office hours, and student presentations.
Kevin C. Wolbach
University of the Sciences
For the past 28 years, Kevin has been a faculty member and administrator at USciences. His course experiences include: General Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, Aquatic Biology, Ecology, and Environmental Science, most with field-based laboratories. Like many of you, this is his first foray into teaching an Online Laboratory.

“ARE ONLINE LABS IN BIOLOGY BEST PRACTICE?” (HIGHER ED)
This presentation will discuss the opportunities and limitations of online laboratories in the biological sciences. Solutions that have been tried, with some success, in the rapid transition to online labs this year will be provided.

Dr. Jessica Loverdi
Pocono Mountain School District &
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania
Dr. Loverdi is currently a Principal in the Pocono Mountain School District. She has worked with students and leaders in all grade levels, K-12+. In addition, she previously led the district’s online learning program. Dr. Loverdi has taught various courses for East Stroudsburg University in the Graduate and Doctoral programs and assisted with the development of the Online Learning Endorsement series.

“PEDAGOGICAL SHIFTS WITH ONLINE LEARNING” (LEADERSHIP)
We will be discussing changing pedagogy with regard to emergency remote learning. Using recent research and anecdotal publications, we will engage in discussion regarding planning for online instruction during the pandemic, Maslow vs. Bloom, and thoughts about professional development.

Dr. William Vitulli
East Stroudsburg Area School District
Dr. Vitulli is currently the Principal of East Stroudsburg Area Cyber Academy (ESACA), and has been an educator for 16 years and a principal for the last 11. He is a graduate of ESU’s doctoral program with a thesis focused on online learning. ESACD has just finished its second year as a blended cyber program with much success and growth with just under 450 students enrolled (pre-COVID-19).

“SUPPORTIVE STRUCTURES: SUPPORTING AND COACHING IN ONLINE LEARNING” (LEADERSHIP)
This session will examine the various lessons learned and the reasoning behind the model selection we use to support and coach our ESACA students successfully through our program. We will view this topic from academic, social, and emotional lenses and how that influences the skills needed by our “cyber coaches” at ESACA.