

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

7:30 - 8:30	Registration (Marriott Lobby)
8:30 - 9:00	Welcome: Rita Sparks, AAGC President (Birmingham Ballroom)
9:00 - 11:15	Workshops
11:15 - 12:45	Lunch Buffet / Network with colleagues / Visit vendors
12:45 - 3:00	Workshops

Thursday, October 18, 2018

7:30 - 8:30	Registration (Marriott Lobby)
8:30 - 9:00	Welcome: Rita Sparks, AAGC President (Birmingham Ballroom)
9:00 - 10:15	Keynote: Lisa Van Gemert (Birmingham Ballroom)

Breakout Sessions 10:30 – 11:20		
Teaching Like Lucy: Five Minute Interventions to Calm Students & Build Relationships	Lisa Van Gemert	Ballroom 3 & 4
Taking a page out of Lucy's playbook from Peanuts, we'll explore some tips and tricks for embracing five-minute opportunities to meet the needs of students. Get dozens of resources and strategies you can use to get a read on your students, calm a tense moment and deepen your relationships to make the classroom safe.		
Drink from the Technology Firehouse	Shirley Farrell	Ballroom 1 & 2
Join this session to see the latest and greatest websites, apps, and gadgets to use in the classroom. We will try to "drink in" 50 of these in 50 minutes		
Using Primary Resources with Gifted Students	Jennifer Jolly	Jefferson
This session investigates the use of primary resources and artifacts in teaching gifted and talented students. These pieces of evidence and clues to the past offer insights often not captured by textbooks. Participants will be offered the opportunity generate lesson ideas that incorporate gifted education strategies and primary resources.		
Differentiating Instruction with Talents Unlimited (TU): Simple Strategies for Creating Effective TU Lessons	Jane Newman & Traci Ingleright	Ballroom 6
Do you want to integrate Talents Unlimited (TU) into instruction, but you aren't quite sure "how-to"? Learn simple strategies for creating TU thinking skills lessons to be integrated into all subject areas. Participants will receive a "NO FAIL" handout developed for University of Alabama pre-service gifted candidates.		
Create a Culture of Critical Thinking	Jerry Nash & Nancy Johnson	Ballroom 5
Discover how chess connects to any area of the curriculum allowing the teacher to engage student interest, differentiate for complexity, and encourage critical thinking in and beyond the classroom.		
Integrating Math and Science for a Sustainable Planet	Brian Gleason	Vestavia
In this hands-on workshop, participants will engage in innovative activities that illustrate the science and math behind real-world ecology concepts such as carrying capacity, natural resource use, and how humans are changing Earth's landscape, habitats and biodiversity. Presented strategies include group problem-solving, graphing/analysis, and role-playing simulations. Lesson plans provided.		
2017 AAGC Grant Winners: Gifted Voices through Video, Dissection, 3-D Printing & Rockets	Lisa Elkins, Lindsey Irvin, Cherry Moody, Vickey Bailey, & Michelle Griswold	Homewood
Our AAGC 2017 grant winners will share all their best tips and tricks for engaging gifted students in hands-on, real-world applications of various resources and experiences. Learn from these winners how to write winning AAGC grant proposals.		
Preparing Students for the Jobs of the Future	Joseph Gulino	Shelby
Experience a 21st Century vision of education and classroom interaction, as well as what your students will need to know and be able to do to insure employment and financial success. In this engaging conference session, I will share innovative, easy to implement strategies to successfully help students improve their learning, ability to learn, divergent thinking & cognitive skills. Classroom preparation and innovative, practical educator practices and more will be discussed.		

11:30-12:00 SDE Superintendent Dr. Eric Mackey (Birmingham Ballroom)
Honor State Legislators
12:00-12:45 Lunch/Visit with vendors/Network with colleagues
12:50 -1:10 AAGC Business Meeting (Birmingham Ballroom)

Breakout Sessions 1:15 – 2:00		
Perfectionism	Lisa Van Gemert	Ballroom 3 & 4
Perfectionism is an occupational hazard of giftedness, and its effects can be truly debilitating. Learn what perfectionism looks like in gifted kids, its potentially damaging effects, and then take a deep dive into the big ideas and strategies for turning this terrible master into a compliant servant.		
What are they LEARNING by doing that?!?! Using the Alabama Gifted Education Programs: Standards and Student Outcomes to guide classroom activities.	Keller Monet L. Davis	Ballroom 1 & 2
In Gifted pull-out, classroom activities sometimes look differently than they do in general education programs. We'll look at the Standards and Student Outcomes and how we can use them to not only shape our lessons but also provide the credibility and accountability that supports our lessons and programs.		
Advancing Gifted Education in Alabama through a website resource tool!	Nellie Christian, Lauren Pitt, & Kim Stephenson	Vestavia
The website resource tool is a brand-new tech tool created specifically for everyone involved in gifted education and the gifted education process. This cutting-edge tech tool can be used as a customizable template for your school's gifted education page on your school website.		
Making Sense of Math with Muggins Math Manipulatives	Heidi Schuler-Jones & Sue Schuler	Ballroom 6
In this hands-on workshop, we will see numeracy, operation sense, and core math concepts come to life through the use of our original Number Neighbors blocks and resources. We also will explore our unique integer tiles which utilize zero pairs to visually explain the concepts for adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing positive and negative numbers.		
Developing Adolescent Voice through Writing	Jason Mayfield	Jefferson
Participants will practice writing for use in a middle or high school class in order to have practical strategies to take back to adolescent classrooms. Particular emphasis will be placed on developing student voice through argumentation and creative outlets. We will also play a round of "Who Wins?"		
McDowell Farm School: The First Residential Farm School in the Southeast!	Maggie Johnston	Ballroom 5
McDowell Farm School teaches STEAM through dirty hands and muddy feet! Come take a virtual field trip to the Farm with some fun hands-on activities to incorporate as well. You will want to find a time to bring your students after you see the farm life in action.		
National Geographic's Geo-Inquiry Process in Action!	Carley Lovorn	Homewood
Geo-Inquiry is an exciting new integrated, project-based process that connects real-world challenges and National Geographic Explorers to the classroom. In this interactive session educators will learn new strategies to help students develop the critical thinking skills to ask geographic questions, collect information, visualize their data, create a compelling story, and ultimately become advocates for change in their local community.		
Beyond Instagram: The Power of the Image and the Importance of Teaching Visual Literacy	Michele Pettis & Renee Fraley	Shelby
What do our students think about the thousands of images they are bombarded with daily? Do they think about them at all? This session addresses the importance of teaching Visual Literacy with specific tools and strategies for using images to instill curiosity, promote critical thinking, encourage collaboration, and creative exploration.		

Breakout Sessions 2:15 – 3:00		
Coding	Mandy Fox	Ballroom 3 & 4
Everyone is talking about the importance of students learning to code, but what is it about coding that students need. Come and hear what about the latest tools and ideas to help students learn more in the world of coding as well as preparing them for this new way of thinking.		
6 Thinking Hats: Putting on the Perspectives Hat	Melanie Thomas	Ballroom 1 & 2
This presentation provides the participants with an overview of the 6 Thinking Hats strategy as a way to enliven discussion and critical thinking. Participants will be introduced to the strategy through the use of pop culture references and then apply the skills in activities that could be immediately transferred into the classroom.		
Individualize Student Learning with Meaningful, Real-World, Independent Projects	Melanie Bondy	Homewood
Excite students with fun real-world topics to explore and research. Provide a framework, yet allow interests, ability and learning style to guide content, process and product. This teacher presentation demonstrates project creation and management. Provide high-level, interdisciplinary challenge while alleviating your workload. View student portfolios/exhibits. Excellent handouts!		
Building Student Confidence: Helping Every Student Succeed through Cooperative Learning Initiatives!	Beth Dille & Maggie Johnston	Ballroom 5
Have you ever wished for a miracle way to connect with your students and get them to connect to each other? Come learn some innovative and fun ways to get students excited about learning through team building initiatives. You will be out of your seats and there will be laughter!		
Muggins Math: Aerobics for the Mind	Heidi Schuler-Jones & Sue Schuler	Ballroom 6
Come experience numeracy and operation sense like you've never seen them before with these fun, original math games! In this hands-on workshop, we will play our award-winning MUGGINS! game and take a look at the Pre-Algebra for Visual Learners integer tiles. One of our games will be given away at the end of the session.		
Rap, Rock... and Geography?	Jennifer McElroy	Shelby
Kids love rock, rap and all different types of music. But how many kids would prefer to learn geography over their favorite music? In this session, you will learn about a geography lesson that is cleverly disguised as a music project!		
Putting The "A" in STEAM	Kimberly Green, Fredeisha Darrington	Vestavia
STEAM is a fusion of arts and science in which the arts leverage learning in other subject areas. Learn strategies for arts integration across the curriculum, participate in activities that promote engagement for gifted learners, and discover the impact drama can bring to your classroom/resource room.		
Promote Critical Thinking, Inquiry, Imagination & Intuitive Functioning – Resources of Nathan Levy	Joseph Gulino	Jefferson
In this engaging session I will share the work of Nathan Levy, one of the first gifted leaders to develop resources for educators to achieve the goals/challenges presented to them, past and present.		

3:00 Wrap Up & Door Prizes

Friday, October 19, 2018

7:30-8:30 **Registration (Marriott Lobby)**
8:30-9:00 **Welcome: Rita Sparks, AAGC President (Birmingham Ballroom)**
9:00-10:15 **Keynote: Dr. Richard Cash (Birmingham Ballroom)**

Breakout Sessions 10:30 – 11:20		
Differentiating UP: Strategies to Engage and Challenge Gifted Learners	Richard Cash	Ballroom 3 & 4
Based on their sophisticated learning processes, a more advanced level of differentiation must be employed. This session will show teachers how to adjust and modify “up” curriculum and instructional practices to best meet the needs of gifted learners. Come prepared to engage in learning activities that will extend and enhance current curriculum for gifted and advanced learners.		
The Little Engine that Wouldn’t: Underachievement in the Gifted	Lisa Van Gemert	Ballroom 1 & 2
They’ve got the smarts, and sometimes even the desire and drive, yet somehow, they never get the train up the mountain. Join us as Lisa Van Gemert, the Gifted Guru and author of <i>Perfectionism: A Practical Guide to Managing Never Good Enough</i> , explores exactly why our gifted youth struggle with risk avoidance and underachievement. Take away practical ideas, and maybe even a little paradigm shift.		
ISTE 2018 (International Society for Technology in Education) Turn-Around	Lindsey Irvin & Brooke Veazey	Vestavia
2 “techy” teachers, one epic summer! Join us as we share our learning from attending the ISTE 2018 conference in Chicago. Take away LOTS of cool tech tips and ideas for engaging students.		
Using Children’s Literature to Introduce Concepts	Shirley Farrell	Ballroom 5
Quality Children’s literature has complex ideas and concepts. Join this session to learn how to use these books in K-12 classrooms to introduce concepts before starting a unit. Hook the students into learning. We will explore various children’s literature to identify the concepts.		
Identification & Assessment of Visual Arts GT Candidates	Shelbye Specht	Shelby
We will take an in-depth look at the current assessment rubric for visual arts, accompanying student evidence, and explore how we can advocate for an identification & assessment process that is more aligned with the true definition of “gifted and talented.”		
Hands on Python Programming with CodeSpace and the micro:bit	David Ewing & Geri Ewing	Ballroom 6
Whether you are brand new to the world of code, or a seasoned pro, you’re sure to learn a lot from this session! Get your hands on some real python code, and experience how physical computing can level-up the engagement for your students.		
Commodities for Learning - Authentic Learning Products	Alica Petreit	Homewood
The purpose of this presentation is to help specialists/teachers develop and design authentic learning products. The presentation will give ideas to help start the road to building projects that are loaded with student choice, critical, and creative thinking. Also, it will include ideas on how to guide students through the projects and learning how to let the students guide the projects to have high engagement and thinking.		
Stock Market Game: Virtual Learning, Real Results	Wanda McAbee	Jefferson
Free differentiated curriculum for exciting ten-week, online investment of hypothetical \$100,000. STEM and Project Based Learning for gifted, social studies, math, and technology. Correlated to national standards. Grades 4-12.		

11:20-1:00 **Lunch on your own**
 Network with colleagues
 Visit vendors

**Breakout Sessions
1:00 – 1:50**

Reframing Deficit Thinking to Surplus Thinking: Changing Perceptions of Underserved Gifted	Richard Cash	Ballroom 3 & 4
How we see children has a profound effect on how we educate them. Learn how to shift deficit thinking of differing behaviors toward surplus thinking about strengths for learning. Make powerful changes for underserved gifted students by tapping into strengths. Participants will receive surplus thinking instructional practice and a menu of encouraging additive approaches.		
Teaching Like Lucy: Five Minute Interventions to Calm Students & Build Relationships	Lisa Van Gemert	Ballroom 1 & 2
Taking a page out of Lucy's playbook from Peanuts, we'll explore some tips and tricks for embracing five-minute opportunities to meet the needs of students. Get dozens of resources and strategies you can use to get a read on your students, calm a tense moment and deepen your relationships to make the classroom safe.		
Canva & Graphic Design	Mandy Fox	Jefferson
Everywhere we look, we see images by someone who has created them. Images help us make sense of our world and the things that surround us each day. Come and learn ways to help your students become graphic artists while learning the important principles of graphic design.		
Skill Development Sequence	Beth Lambert & Faith Burns	Vestavia
Utilizing the Gifted Standards and Student Outcomes, St. Clair County Gifted Specialists have developed a document to evaluate and communicate student progress within the gifted program.		
Developing Minds - Instructional Strategies for Gifted & High Achievers	Alica Petreit	Homewood
Developing Minds is a PD workshop for general education teachers taught by Specialists. It is designed to have teachers do the strategies in the form of a strategy, a jigsaw. It is typically 2-4 hours. The materials and PowerPoint are intended for the attendees at AAGC to take back to their schools for training/PD of other teachers in the strategies.		
Finding Space to Pursue STEM+: Curriculum Enrichment for Spatially Talented Students	Joni Lakin	Ballroom 6
Spatial skills are gatekeepers into many science and engineering professions. However, some students' spatial skills are underdeveloped and other students with spatial strengths often struggle more in the classroom. This session will use hands-on activities to explore the domain of spatial talents, discussing ways to develop these strengths.		
Solving Tomorrow's Problems Today - Future Problem Solving	David Conner	Shelby
This presentation is an introduction to Future Problem Solving, a program and process created by creativity pioneer E. Paul Torrance. We will focus on what the components of the program are and how it "teach[es] students how to think, not what to think."		
Mountains to the Gulf Expedition!	Maggie Johnston	Ballroom 5
Come learn about the greatest workshop in all the land! For 7 years, <i>Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education</i> and McDowell have conducted an 8-day journey across the state to learn how the geology, ecology, and waters of Alabama are connected. We end at Dauphin Island Sea Lab.		

2:00 AAGC Awards, Wrap-up, & Door Prizes