

Berkshire Resources for Learning and Innovation

Spring 2022 Professional Learning

Berkshire Resources for Learning and Innovation (**BRLI**), a collaborative project of **BERK** (Berkshire Resources for Education K12 and the Berkshire County Superintendents Roundtable), is sponsoring several professional learning experiences for Berkshire educators this spring. This is a great opportunity to learn together and collaborate with colleagues in our region. Sessions will begin in late January or early February. Registration has been extended to **Monday January 24th**. Be sure to sign up to guarantee your place in these workshops.

For questions regarding workshops please contact the presenters listed or BRLI Project Coordinator Brendan Sheran (bsheran@pittsfield.net).

Spring 2022 Offerings

Berkshire Ed Leader Series - Spring 2022

Audience: School Leaders (principals, assistant principals, and aspiring school leaders)

Instructor: Dr. Ben Klompus

Sessions: Virtual sessions (some synchronous and asynchronous)

Cost: Free

Licensure Benefits: 10 PDPs

Description: Our Berkshire Ed Leader series looks to connect school leaders in our region to...

- Provide support, networking, and thought partnership to leaders as they lead through today's challenges.
- Collaboratively share promising instructional, cultural, and strategic leadership practices from leaders around the country that are having a positive impact on student learning and well-being now.
- Identify and share "bright spots" in Berkshire County schools that are leveraging technology to increase engagement and learning in our schools.
- Enlist recommendations for next steps in leadership development and support in our region

For a more detailed description of sessions and activities [click here](#). Use this [registration form](#) to enroll.

***Dr. Ben Klompus**, a long-serving Berkshire County educator and current Managing Director of Innovation and Impact at [Relay Graduate School of Education](#), drives institutional efforts to identify, codify, and share impactful practice that measurably improves learning and experience for all PK-12 students. As the founding Dean of the [National Principal Supervisor's Academy](#), a selective, national cohort of accomplished system-level leaders, Klompus supports system level leaders in their quest to support and accelerate the development of the school level teams they serve. With more than 25 years of experience serving students at the classroom, school,*

and system level, Klompus has worked extensively at the nexus of data informed school improvement, instructional leadership development, and design thinking.

Dr. Klompus holds his Ed.L.D. and Ed.M. from Harvard Graduate School of Education, B.S. in Philosophy from The Colorado College, and post baccalaureate from MCLA. He and his spouse Janine live in Williamstown, Massachusetts where their five sons keep them busy and smiling

Bringing Voice and Choice to Students Through Arts Integration In The Classroom

Audience: Teachers

Instructor: Lisa Donovan, Dana Schildkraut, and Melissa Quirk Cairns

Sessions: Virtual sessions (asynchronous)

Cost: Free

Licensure Benefits: 10 PDPs

Description: This workshop is designed by the **Berkshire Regional Arts Integration Network (BRAINworks)** as a way to build PreK-12 educators' capacity to learn innovative methods to integrate the arts across the curriculum. Completion of the Canvas workshop will permit a practicing educator to earn 10 Professional Development Points (PDPs). Arts integration strategies to be explored include drama, music, visual art, poetry, storytelling, and creative movement. Educators will consider and write about how the arts can provide flexible options for: representing content, accessing curriculum, and expressing understanding. The strategies are designed to be flexible and map to state, district, school, and/or educator goals or priorities. They can deepen practice, improve student engagement for all levels and abilities, and increase student understanding. Teams of educators are encouraged to complete this Canvas workshop together, collaboratively shaping ideas and lessons as they move through the Canvas modules. The goals of this workshop are to 1) provide educators with flexible strategies to launch arts integrated approaches in the classroom, 2) increase access to the curriculum for diverse learner, and 3) increase opportunities for social emotional learning.

For a more detailed description of activities [click here](#). Use this [registration form](#) to enroll.

LISA DONOVAN, CO-DIRECTOR: *Lisa Donovan, Ph.D, is a Professor in the Fine and Performing Arts Department at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Previously she served as Director of the Creative Arts in Learning Division at Lesley University and Associate Professor. Lisa has broad experience working as an arts educator and administrator in a variety of arts organizations including Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Berkshire Opera Company, Barrington Stage Company, Boston University's Theater, Visual Arts and Tanglewood Institutes and University of Massachusetts' Department of Theater. She also served as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Alliance for Arts Education.*

DANA SCHILDKRAUT, CONTENT COORDINATOR: *Dana Schildkraut worked in MCLA's Division of Graduate and Continuing Education, where she served as an adjunct instructor as part of the Degree Completion Program. Formerly Dana served as a STEAM Educator with the Improving Teacher Quality grant*

program where she worked with preschool through second grade students and teachers in four Berkshire County school districts and multiple preschool centers to promote and implement STEAM programming. Dana has been employed in both traditional and nontraditional education settings.

SEI (Sheltered English Immersion)

Audience: Teachers and Administrators

Instructor: Sarah Jordan, Ph.D. (sjordan@gcvs.org)

Sessions: Virtual classes are Thursdays 5:30-8:30, January 27-May 12 (The last two sessions are for capstone presentation only.)

Cost: Free - with 3 graduate credits from Fitchburg State University available for a cost.

Licensure Benefits: 67.5 PDPs and the SEI Endorsement.

Description: This SEI Endorsement class was designed to be delivered virtually to low-incidence, high needs districts. Participants are asked to have an administrator approve the participation, as the strategies and materials will be modified to support that language development of all students, and the administrator should be available as an observer and thought partner. We will explore how to embed the strategies within the UDL framework and modify them for virtual delivery. Please use this [registration form](#) to enroll.

Administrators seeking the Admin Endorsement are welcome to join. Work and participation will be modified for this more evaluative role.

***Dr. Jordan** is a state-license SEI provider. She is the Director of Accountability and Student Services at Greater Commonwealth Virtual School (GCVS) and owner of Sarah Jordan Action Data.*

Special Education and Assistive Technology

Audience: Teachers

Instructor(s): Gretchen West (gwest@napsk12.org) and Anne-Mary Riello (ariello@napsk12.org)

Sessions: Synchronous Virtual Meetings: February 8, March 7, April 11 (all 5:00-7:30); Asynchronous Work due February 28, March 28

- Inclusive practices in the general education classroom
- Use of technology to assist with data collection and supporting student needs
- Assistive Technology as a Related Service for students with disabilities
- Executive functioning and dyslexia
- Legal considerations for Special Education

Cost: Free

Licensure Benefits: 15 PDPs in Special Education

Description: The purpose and goal of these course offerings is for special or general educators to continue to gain a strong base of knowledge for students with special needs at all age levels. These courses are a way for special and general educators, at any level, to gain further experience in the issues that the students and their parents face. Further, these courses will help special and general educators find ways to assist in achieving and maintaining an appropriate educational experience that will provide educational benefit for their students.

Please use this [registration form](#) to enroll.

***Gretchen West** graduated from Syracuse University with a BA in Psychology and a Minor in Communication Sciences & Disorders. She went on to complete a Masters degree in Communication Sciences & Disorders from SUNY Plattsburgh. Gretchen is a licensed and certified Speech/Language Pathologist who worked in the school setting for approximately 20 years. During this time she returned for a second Masters degree in Administration of Educational Facilities with a concentration in Special Education Administration. Gretchen served as the Director of Special Education for the Pittsfield Public Schools for 4 years and an additional 3 years in the Central Berkshire Regional School District. In her current position, Gretchen is the Assistant Director of Special Education & Related Services for the North Adams Public Schools.*

***Anne Mary Riello** received her BS in Political Science from the College of Charleston and then went on to receive her Masters in Elementary Education from American International College. She was an elementary school teacher for the Pittsfield Public Schools for 12 years. Anne is currently the Coordinator of Digital Learning and Instructional Technology for the North Adams Public Schools.*

Center Stage (Canvas LMS Focus)

Audience: Teachers

Instructor(s): Stacey Schultze (staceyschultze@gmail.com)

Sessions: Virtual (asynchronous with optional synchronous meetings)

Cost: Free

Licensure Benefits: 10 PDPs

Description: With an investment of as little as 2 hours a week, this 6-week asynchronous course will explore the role learning management systems (LMS) and tech tools can play in your instruction and students' learning. Whether you are brand new to integrating online instruction in your classroom or want to sharpen your skills, this class is for you! Each week a new module will be introduced covering these topics: Setting the Scene: Extending Your Classroom, The Players: Redefining Roles, The Script: Clear, Concise, Consistent Communication, Director's Cut: Managing Engagement, Special Effects: Exploring Tech Tools, and The Sequel: Moving Forward. Enjoy interacting with your peers and learning from each other in a small cohort.

Optional synchronous activities will guide the discussion, and your dedicated instructor will be available to assist with specific learning needs.

Please use this [registration form](#) to enroll.

***Stacey Schultze** is an EdD candidate at Trevecca Nazarene University who holds an MFA in Visual Arts from Lesley University College of Art and Design. She has completed the Quality Matters Online Teaching Certification Program and applies this knowledge to her current collegiate teaching practice. Stacey has designed courses using open source materials in seated, hybrid, and online formats. She teaches Art History and Art Appreciation at two colleges while maintaining a [professional art career](#). As creative director for [Art Close to Home](#), a small arts organization birthed out of Covid restrictions, Stacey plans and curates short-term art exhibitions in nature. Most recently, Stacey has consulted for BERK and BRLI on educational opportunities for both teachers and students. Her goal is to bridge resources and talent to increase equitable access and inclusive practices across Berkshire County.*