

Conference Agenda (April 25th, 2026)

8:30-9:00 Registration, Breakfast, and Networking

9:00-9:20 Welcome (Main Ballroom)

Introduction: Dr. Matthew Hollstein

Opening Remarks: Dr. Rob Sturr, Associate Professor Kent State University

9:25-10:20 Round 1 Sessions

Session A (Room 134): Dr. Todd Hawley- Professor of social studies education at Kent State University

Session Overview: Fostering ethical citizenship in the social studies classroom is vital, yet it often feels risky. This session explores how educators can courageously explore content that might seem intimidating while sparking critical inquiry, and empowering students to become ethical citizens who are principled members of a global society.

Session B (Room 136): Dr. Lori Wilfong-Associate Professor Kent State University

Session Overview: Literature is a great way to bring Social Studies concepts into the English Language Arts classroom. Several titles exploring the topic of citizenship will be introduced to participants. Each title will be introduced using literacy strategies easily adopted for classroom use. Come ready to talk and actively participate!

10:20-10:35 Break

10:35-11:30 Round 2 Sessions

Session C (Room 134): Dr. Shelly Heron-Kent State University

Session Overview: Description: Join the session for a series of mathematical activities and tasks that illustrate intentional connection to Mathematical Mindsets. The goal is to encourage visual and collaborative problem-solving that will develop deeper conceptual understanding.

Session D (Room 136): Dr. Greg Smith-Associate Professor Kent State University at Stark

Session Overview: Good citizens are good stewards. We will discuss ways to stay connected to nature and promote the conservation of natural resources and biological diversity. The goal is to develop a deeper appreciation of the world around us and learn to use that connection in order to teach the principles of stewardship.

11:40-12:45 Lunch-Dining Hall

12:55-1:45 **Non-Profit Session I (Hoover Seminar Room)**-Stephanie Sweany, Stark County Hunger Task Force

Session Overview: Stark County Hunger Task Force has been fighting hunger in Stark County for 45 years. Learn about their programs, their history, and how they set the tone for their partners to create a compassionate and welcoming environment for their neighbors in need.

1:50-2:40 **Non-Proffit Session II (Hoover Seminar Room)**-Brad Pietzcker, Veteran Service Commission of Stark County

Session Overview: The Veterans Service Commission of Stark County was founded in 1886 and has been focused on serving the veterans and their dependents ever since. Learn about the programs and initiatives run by veterans and for veterans.

2:50-3:00 **Break**

3:00-4:00 **Leadership Panel-Audience participation is encouraged.**
(Main Ballroom)