



WGE '24 Breakout Sessions

Opening Sessions

MONDAY, MARCH 18

10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Description

Leading & Building Community through Global Crises

Paul Burke, Head of School at Nightingale Bamford (Independent)

Chevonne Hall, Chief Executive Officer at Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women (Charter)

Allison Persad, Principal of the Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria (Public)

This workshop, moderated by Laura Rebell Gross, brings together three leaders from diverse educational backgrounds to discuss navigating crises and uniting communities. Representing independent, charter, and district public schools, panelists share experiences and strategies for community building amidst adversity.

Through introspection and interactive discussions, attendees gain insights into addressing immediate needs, preparing educators for equitable teaching, and fostering empathy during disagreement. Participants engage with panelists, sharing experiences and exploring practical strategies for community resilience.

Ultimately, the workshop aims to inspire educators to cultivate inclusive, supportive, and resilient communities during times of uncertainty.

Audience: Counselors & Support, Leadership

Location: Auditorium



AI & A New Era of Education: Empowering the Next Generation of Problem Solvers

Audrey Wisch, Founder & CEO of Curious Cardinals

Are you weary of AI being tossed around as a mere buzzword? Are you also intrigued by the idea of demystifying it? Wondering how it functions, how to navigate its implications, and how it could potentially reshape the future of K-12 education?

If so, join this workshop to engage with AI in an accessible way and learn frameworks to embrace it firsthand. Then explore a future where education embraces AI to raise the bar for how we engage, inform, and inspire the next generation.

Our objectives are to demystify AI, provide practical understanding, and showcase its transformative potential in enhancing K-12 education. The workshop will unfold in two parts: an interactive session fostering hands-on learning to apply key frameworks to understand AI, followed by a lecture-based format encouraging open dialogue and addressing real-world applications.

Audience: Everyone
Location: Black Box Theater



Session #1

MONDAY, MARCH 18

11:15 AM-12:30 AM

Description

Beyond Gears: The Benefits of Robotics in Education

Andy Jordan, The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria

The integration of robotics into educational curriculums is a forward-thinking approach that meets the dynamic needs of the 21st-century learning environment. This workshop delves into the pivotal role of robotics in bolstering student engagement, critical thinking, and the development of key skills such as problem-solving and collaboration.

We outline the basics of robotics, covering essential components and their functions, to illustrate the diverse applications of robotics from classroom learning to real-world challenges. Highlighting the interdisciplinary potential of robotics, we showcase how it can be woven into STEM, arts, and humanities, making learning a more engaging and enriching experience.

For educators looking to embark on this innovative journey, we provide a roadmap that includes forming a robotics team, leveraging resources, and securing funding through grants and sponsorships. The importance of robotics competitions is also emphasized, showcasing their role in promoting teamwork, perseverance, and technical skills in a competitive yet collaborative setting.

By equipping students with the skills and knowledge to navigate and shape the future, robotics education paves the way for nurturing the next generation of creative thinkers and problem solvers.

Audience: STEAM Teachers

Location: 305



More Than Movement: Using Movement for Enhanced Mental Health, Confidence, and Self Acceptance

Sara Hayes, Mindful Miles

Participate in our workshop where we'll explore strategies to encourage girls to be more active.

We'll delve into the issues surrounding body image, confidence, and self-acceptance that girls encounter and discuss methods to help them nurture self-kindness and respect.

By the end of this workshop, you'll be inspired to reimagine the way you move and the ways you discuss it with others.

Audience: Counselors & Support

Location: 301



Representation, Sisterhood, and AI: Centering Girls in Coding and STEM Spaces

Liza Stark & Michaela De Guzman, Girls Who Code

Over the last twelve years, Girls Who Code has taught more than 500,000 girls and non-binary students how to code by creating spaces that center sisterhood, career readiness and project-based coding.

In this interactive workshop for teachers, counselors, and school leaders, participants will get a chance to develop their own avatars for video games, learn about the importance of representation and data in AI, and reflect on strategies for centering girls and non-binary students in STEM spaces. Participants will leave with strategies and resources they can use in a variety of school-based and after school contexts.

Audience: Humanities Teachers, STEAM Teachers

Location: 313



Riley's Way: Supporting Young Leaders in Building a Kinder World

Lauren Shenkman & Thais Salas & Naya Houchen, Riley's Way

Join us in hearing from Riley's Way young leaders and staff themselves as they discuss the impact they have been able to make in their communities by participating in spaces that serve as an outlet for them to lead with kindness and empathy.

Participants will leave this workshop having learned about dynamic empathetic activities, research, and project-based work that leads to innovative hands-on learning and impactful projects from Riley's Way staff and students. There will also be time to learn how to connect with Riley's Way and create space for students to lead with kindness and empathy within their communities.

Audience: Everyone

Location: 306



The Advisory Connection: Building Community, SEL, and College & Career Readiness

Rose Agamegwa, The Girls Academic Leadership Academy

This workshop focuses on Advisory. The goal will be for participants to reimagine the way they connect students to one another and their school through community building, college and career curriculum, purposeful socio-emotional lessons, and discussions that can enhance and solidify true sister/student-hood.

In this interactive session, I will share our school's journey with Advisory: the highs and lows and what we have learned along the way. After opening in 2016 and spending eight years perfecting our Advisory program, guess what? It still ain't perfect! But it is a viable, goals-oriented labor of love that is a centerpiece on our campus.

Cultivating Advisory as a space of trust, continuity, and familial connections has been fulfilling for our students, caregivers, as well as our staff. Join this session for Advisory strategies and an introduction to an entry-level practicum that can be adapted to fit a variety of school programs.

Audience: Humanities Teachers, STEAM Teachers, Counselors & Support



Location: 311

The Girls Are Not Okay: New Insights From The Country's Largest Survey of 5th-12th Grade Girls

Lisa Hinkelman, Ruling Our eXperiences (ROX)

Understanding girls' lived realities - including where they struggle and where they shine - helps educators better understand, educate and inspire girls. Learn key insights from the country's largest, and most recent study on girls, The Girls' Index, which illuminates the thoughts, experiences and perceptions of 17,502 fifth through twelfth grade girls regarding leadership, confidence, social media, stress, support and career aspiration.

Leave with strategies to improve the culture and climate for girls in your sphere of influence and acquire new tools to create effective learning environments for girls.

Audience: Everyone

Location: 302



Whole Girl Means 'Whole': Building Trusting and Strong Bonds with Families

Molly Schemm, Kansas City Girls Preparatory Academy

This workshop is designed for educators and communicators outside of the classroom, anyone who works with a scholar's family in their journey through education.

Our goals will be to highlight the importance of family engagement and trust, better understanding of barriers to access for families, strategies to engage, and methods of thinking 'outside of the box.'

Audience: Leadership, Counselors & Support

Location: 307



Breakout Session #2

MONDAY, MARCH 18

2:30 PM-3:45 PM

Description

Beyond the Brochure: Recruiting at the intersection of Vision, Values and Access

Janna Burns & Berta Fogerson, The Young Women's Preparatory Network

Does your student population reflect your vision, mission, and values? Are you truly providing access to all?

This collaborative conversation is for leaders seeking to elevate their recruitment strategies. Participants will delve into the intersection of vision/mission/values, exploring how these elements can shape and define the success of recruitment outcomes.

We'll navigate the complexities of ensuring the student populations we attract not only mirror but

contribute to our organizational vision and mission, and we will explore innovative strategies to enhance diversity, equity, and access in the recruitment process, fostering an inclusive environment that reflects the vision of your organization.

Audience: Leadership

Location: 311



Crafting Your Story: College and Beyond

Stephanie LaVardera, ReVision Learning

In Revision Learning's Crafting Your Story: College and Beyond workshop, participants will be guided through the Moments Method®, our unique process for finding and telling personal stories.

They will leave with a better understanding of how to tell an effective story that connects with their audience. In addition, they will know how to lead and empower students in finding and telling their own stories as they navigate college admissions and their post-high school lives. Participants will also walk away with their own 3-Sentence Story: a story about a defining life moment told in 3 sentences. These stories can be expanded and used in a variety of situations, and as an example story when working with students.

This workshop would be especially beneficial for English and Humanities teachers, college counselors, or anyone who works with students on college admissions essays, but it is open to anyone curious about the power of storytelling to empower and connect.

Audience: Humanities Teachers, Counselors & Support

Location: 305



Empowering Confident and Compassionate Leaders

Amanda Kruzynski, GlamourGals

Join us in this dynamic workshop, designed to demonstrate the leadership programming of GlamourGals for teen volunteers.

The workshop is perfect for anyone looking to build confidence in their teens and bring volunteering and leadership to their schools. We will dive into the new confidence and compassionate leadership workshop GlamourGals is piloting to empower their teen volunteers.

After the workshop you will leave ready to challenge your students to build their confidence and compassionate leadership skills.

Audience: Everyone

Location: 302



Funny Girls: Leadership Through Improv!

Jill Frutkin & Jenny Raymond, Funny Girls

Laugh, learn and lead at the same time? YES, AND cultivate leadership skills, including risk-taking and

collaboration through improv!

We'll take you through a wild journey of creating characters and plot on the spot in a supportive interactive setting, while honing the skills of collaboration and empathy.

We welcome introverts, extraverts, improv newbies, and leadership pros alike. This workshop is for teachers who want to learn how to utilize the tenets of improv to help students to nurture their own self-perception as a leader.

Audience: Everyone

Location: 306



My Co-Teacher is a Robot: Coaching AI as an Educational Tool

Devin Chowske, The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria

In this session, participants will learn about current applications and limitations of Machine Learning (sometimes erroneously referred to as A.I.) in the classroom.

The session will begin by probing participants' experiences with ML and grounding them with the definitions of AI, ML, and DL (deep learning). Next, we'll explore real life examples of limitations of ML, including opportunities to work with free, open-source "AI" during the session.

Through a meta analysis of an existing "AI" workshop, participants will discuss best methods for turn-keying session materials with staff, design plans to implement "AI" effectively in classrooms, and reflect on how to frame discussions with students about "AI".

A laptop is required for this session.

Audience: Everyone

Location: 301



Unlocking the Power of Culturally Responsive Teaching: A Primer

Dr. Loretta Johnson-Smith, Mount Saint Mary's University

Embark on a transformative journey with this literacy focus workshop tailored for educators looking to enhance their culturally responsive teaching practices.

By the end of the workshop, attendees will be able to examine their own identities and understand its impact within their classrooms. Through engaging activities, we will explore culturally responsive resources that validate, affirm, build, and bridge connections between students and their diverse experiences. Join us in this enriching experience where theory meets application, equipping you to foster a more inclusive and affirming educational environment.

Audience: Humanities Teachers

Location: 307



Breakout Session #3

MONDAY, MARCH 18

4:15 PM-5:20 PM

Description

Aiming for Success through Archery

Q, Hidden Gems Archery

In this hands-on workshop, participants will learn how the Olympic sport of archery can help empower girls in their everyday life.

All are welcome and encouraged to participate. Participants will give archery a shot after learning about the equipment & a basic shoot sequence. Between shots the presenter will offer different scenarios used in actual archery sessions and how they're used to empower girls.

Audience: Everyone

Location: Auditorium Upper Level



Critiquing Tech: Student and Teacher Perspectives

Marisa Shuman & Courtney Morgan, The Young Women's Leadership School of the Bronx

During this session facilitated by computer science teachers, experts and students, we will explore the importance of technology critique and impacts of computing in education.

We will look through state standards, classroom best practices, and hear from a student panel about the importance of these lessons.

To conclude the session, we will do a live lesson creation demonstration.

Audience: Humanities Teachers, STEAM Teachers

Location: 311



From Classroom Curiosity to Global Change: Cultivating Leaders and Activists with Case Studies

Stephanie Sciemeca, The Young Women's Leadership School of the Bronx

Unleash curiosity and critical thinking across subjects!

Join this interactive workshop and explore the power of case studies in your classroom. Through collaboration, you'll delve into a compelling case study, ignite passion for real-world issues, and craft an action plan for seamless implementation.

Foster critical thinking, collaboration, and leadership in every student, nurturing their voices and sparking a love for learning. Leave empowered to transform your teaching and unlock the transformative potential of case studies.

Audience: Humanities Teachers, STEAM Teachers

Location: 302



Gender Bias in STEM: Amplifying Girls' Voices

Christine O'Connell & Jia Michel, Riley's Way

Join us for a thoughtful and interactive workshop on gender bias in STEM. You'll participate in interactive exercises and discussions where we will talk about challenges and solutions around the participation and retention of women and girls in STEM fields.

We'll create a space for participants to think critically about gender bias in STEM, but also to discuss and participate in creative and innovative solutions, including advocating for change and amplifying girls' voices.

We will hear from a leading expert in science communication and from two high school students who created a youth-led initiative to increase mentoring and access to women in STEM for other high school students.

Audience: Everyone

Location: 301



Get Out of Your Comfort Zone and LEAD!

Catherine Del Castillo, Girls Leadership

Teachers, principals, counselors, join us in this workshop that is for both inside and outside of the classroom educators!

We will deep dive into Girls Leadership's comfort zone framework and how it can be used to aid students in identifying their comfort zones and fostering different skills that develop leadership capabilities.

This workshop will allow educators to experience the comfort zone framework themselves as a means of having strategies and activities to take directly back to their classrooms and to any youth developing environment. So join us to get out of your comfort zone and lead!

Audience: Humanities Teachers, Leadership, Counselors & Support

Location: 307



Peer Portraits: Sharing Stories Through Dance to Amplify Agency & Voice

Marie Klepacz & Jared Cavazos, Arts Ignite

Join the Arts Ignite Team in this movement-based workshop designed for a wide variety of audiences with the purpose of helping participants develop agency and voice through dance!

In our Peer Portrait Workshop, a professional Teaching Artist will lead individuals in exploring the possibilities of communicating with others beyond verbal and written word.

In the spirit of encouraging a framework that focuses on Social Emotional Learning and a Universal Design for Learning to increase equity and accessibility, this dynamic professional development will equip educators of all backgrounds with multiple means of engagement and the tools to create effective

instruction rooted in the arts-- while also giving participants a chance to have fun!

Audience: Everyone

Location: 305



Ready, Set, Launch: Starting, Building, and Leading Successful Schools

Devon Eisenberg, Principal of The Young Women's Leadership School of the Bronx

Aisha Shepard, Principal of The Young Women's Leadership School of Staten Island

Catherine Mitchell, Principal of The Young Women's Leadership School of Brooklyn

Launching a school is not easy. It takes innovation, collaboration, and building a strong team of educators who share the same vision. The essential components of building successful schools heavily rely on teacher teams.

Come learn more about how we launched our schools within the Young Women's Leadership School (TYWLS) model.

Audience: Leadership

Location: 306



Breakout Session #4

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

9:30 AM-10:45 AM

Description

Blues, Roots and Futures: Culturally relevant approach to STEM and Music

LaFrae Sci, Willie Mae Rock Camp

This interactive workshop will highlight the power of combining project based STEM learning with music and technology as a way to prepare our students to be leaders and creators in a tech centered future.

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to write a blues song through integrating a STEM-based approach.

Audience: Everyone

Location: 302



Closing the Gap: Through Career Exploration for Students of Color

Kristen Gordon, Student Leadership Network

Join us for a thought provoking and hands-on workshop on career exploration for students of color. You'll participate in practical exercises and learn about the meticulous planning that goes into a successful career day experience for students of color with tangible takeaways.

We will generate a space for participants to begin drafting their own career days plans for their communities, and also discuss how to recruit volunteers, prepare teachers, and most importantly arrange our students to be in the best position to network with anyone.

We will consider why it matters to have volunteers that reflect the same cultural backgrounds as students and provide current examples from Cool Careers, Potential Paths, the signature career day series at each Young Women's Leadership School.



Audience: Anyone planning programming or events

Location: 311

Debt Free Like Me

Olivia West, West Advisory Group

The state of our global economy is of great concern to all of us. There has never been a time in which having the proper knowledge to make the right financial choices has been so essential to our personal well-being and quality of life.

Before America's educators can answer the call and improve the financial knowledge of their students, they need basic financial literacy education of their own. This workshop provides educators and school administrators with financial literacy education they can use in their own lives, as well as be a resource to the students that they serve.

In this workshop school administrators/educators will learn how to provide a fun and highly interactive environment for students so that they can retain the presented financial concepts. Several key financial topics will be covered during this workshop; student loan debt, needs versus wants, maintaining good credit, how to pay off your debt, and wise consumer spending.

The goal of the workshop is to equip administrators with the information necessary to help create successful money managers. We will discuss how to engage students to learn the benefits of developing the mindset of saving early and often, the dangers of irresponsible credit card use and the perils of procuring loans with high and/or fluctuating interest rates.

By the end of this workshop, school personnel will be empowered to implement the best practices of personal finance to their students, parents and the community as a whole.



Audience: STEM Teachers, Leadership

Location: 305

Girl Power Up! YWPN's STEAM Challenge Blasts Off!

Jeremy Cortez, Young Women's

Unleash the inner STEM superhero in every girl!

This exciting workshop sparks curiosity and fosters a love for science, technology, engineering, art, and math through engaging hands-on activities and real-world problem-solving. Discover how to nurture creativity, build confidence, and equip girls with valuable skills to thrive in STEM fields.

Learn to design your own dynamic All Girls STEAM Challenge, a transformative experience that empowers girls to become changemakers while igniting their passion for the future.

Remember, fun, engagement, and relevance are key to unlocking the joy and power of STEM, shaping brighter futures for girls and the world.

Bonus: use this workshop as a recruitment and funding tool for your school!



Audience: Leadership, STEAM Teachers

Location: 301

InnovateHER: Fostering Wellness through Innovative Social Media Education

Alyssia Jacobs, Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women

In this interactive workshop, we explore the dynamic realm of social media and its profound impact on the well-being of girls.

Through immersive discussions and hands-on activities, school leaders, school counselors, and teachers will delve into the prevalent challenges and complexities encountered by girls in today's digital landscape.

By gaining firsthand insights into student perspectives on social media, attendees will be equipped with essential knowledge and effective strategies to navigate the challenges.

Educators will have the opportunity to explore innovative educational tools and methodologies leveraging technology to enrich learning experiences and cultivate a positive school environment.



Audience: Counselors & Support, Leadership

Location: 306

Turning Barriers into Bridges: Fostering Positive School Cultures through Leadership

Colleen McGeehan, The Young Women's Leadership School of East Harlem

Mala Panday, The Young Women's Leadership School of Queens

In this session, two experienced principals of public girls' secondary schools will guide participants through a discussion about how barriers to school culture can become bridges when leadership strategies are applied.

Attendees will examine their own schools' barriers to positive school culture and thought-partner with other leaders and educators to strategize how to bridge them for caregivers, teachers, and students.

Location: 307

