

# SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CLOSING THE GAP CONFERENCE



Thursday, February 27, 2025

John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL

## Closing the Gap Breakout Sessions

The Southern Illinois PreK-20 Education Alliance proudly presents an innovative opportunity to explore strategies and technologies that can transform traditional educational environments into engaging, student-centered learning spaces. The theme of the conference is Re-Imagining Classrooms for Student Learning. Breakout sessions will target topics such as personalized learning, flexible classroom designs, artificial intelligence, restorative practices, classroom management, the integration of digital tools, and collaborative teaching methods. Participants will learn about the importance of relationships in education, as well as gain insight, best practices, and actionable ideas that will benefit all educators and ESPs in efforts to support the students they serve.

This is the 24<sup>th</sup> year of the annual Closing the Gap conference with up to 400 area educators participating each year. Evaluations indicate that participants gain valuable knowledge and skills by attending this conference. Don't miss out! 5.5 Professional Development Hours (PDHs) will be offered.

### CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

7:30 am	Registration and Coffee	<b>WAYS TO REGISTER:</b> <b>Online:</b> <a href="http://conferenceservices.siu.edu">conferenceservices.siu.edu</a> <b>Phone:</b> 618/536-7751 <b>Fax:</b> 618/453-5680
8:00 am	Welcome and Keynote Presentation	
9:15 am	Breakout Session I	
11:00 am	Breakout Session II	
12:30 pm	Lunch & Networking	
1:40 pm	Breakout Session III	

**Registration Form - Deadline to register: February 14, 2025**

25M0901201

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

District name: \_\_\_\_\_

District address: \_\_\_\_\_

District phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Role in district/occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ IEIN: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Check Area of Interest:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-service <input type="checkbox"/> PreK/Early Childhood <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Education <input type="checkbox"/> Middle School/Jr. High <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Education <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Education <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Ed Faculty <input type="checkbox"/> Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education <input type="checkbox"/> Community <input type="checkbox"/> Education Support Professional	<b>REGISTRATION FEE</b> before January 17th <input type="checkbox"/> Professional \$60 <input type="checkbox"/> Ed Support Prof. \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Retiree \$20 <b>REGISTRATION FEE</b> after January 17th <input type="checkbox"/> Professional \$75 <input type="checkbox"/> Ed Support Prof. \$40 Payment (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Bill School	Credit Card #: _____		
	Exp. Date: _____ CVC: _____			
	Name on Card: _____			
	Billing Address: _____			
	Email Address: _____			
	Mail to: Events and Outreach, SIU Carbondale, Mail Code 6705, 1265 Lincoln Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901			

*Please choose one (1) workshop from each session:*

## Session I — Breakout Sessions — 9:15 am

- You're Already Doing It! Engaging Students with CS and Computational Thinking in Content Areas
- Sign Language Basics: Talking with Your Hands
- Tiny Changes, Remarkable Results
- Motivating Students with High Interest, Choice and Service Learning
- Take Good Care
- Glitter Brains
- 3 Signature Practices
- Thriving through Change in the Classroom

## Session II — Breakout Sessions — 11:00am

- You're Already Doing It! Engaging Students with CS and Computational Thinking in Content Areas
- The Visual Advantage: Empowering Preschools with Inclusive Learning Tools
- AI in Education: Transforming Learning for ALL
- Connection before Content
- Take Good Care
- Glitter Brains
- Words that Work
- Circle of Care: Grief Support for Children Impacted by Substance Use Related Death and Disorders

## Session III — Breakout Sessions — 1:40 pm

- Early Childhood Outcomes 101: Grow Your Expertise (PreK/ECSE)
- Overview of ESP ParaSharp Online Training from 3-2-1 Insight
- AI in Education: Transforming Learning for ALL
- Harnessing Trauma for Growth: Embracing Vulnerability and Building Resilience in Educational Systems
- ALOP 101: Enhancing Support with a Student Advocate
- Thriving through Change in the Classroom
- Motivating Students with High Interest, Choice and Service Learning

**Return to:**

Events and Outreach  
Southern Illinois University  
1265 Lincoln Drive  
Carbondale, IL 62901