

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE

DAY ONE SESSIONS

Breakout Sessions #1 | Wednesday, 10:00 – 11:10

Going Deeper with Developmental Relationships

During this breakout session, Search Institute President and CEO Dr. Kent Pekel will guide participants through a case study that helps them dig deeper into the concept of developmental relationships. The interactive case study engages participants in discussing and reflecting on the challenges and opportunities of building developmental relationships across the boundaries of race, class, and other lines of difference.

Grade Level Relevance: K-12 | Location: Johnson Great Room

***Kent Pekel, Ph.D.** is an educator who has worked at the school, district, state, federal, and university levels. Throughout his diverse career, he has sought to bridge the divides that too often exist between educational practice, research, and policy. Kent is currently President and CEO of Search Institute, an internationally recognized research organization that studies and works to strengthen youth outcomes in schools, families, out-of-school time programs, and communities. Kent began his career as a high school social studies teacher in his home state of Minnesota. He holds a B.A. in East Asian Studies from Yale University, a Master's in Education from Harvard University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Minnesota.*

Systematic Supports for Promoting Graduation

During this session, participants will learn about the variety of online support tools developed through a federally funded project; *Stepping Up Technology Implementation*. These tools support the implementation of the Check & Connect intervention, use of the C&C App, and administration of the Student Engagement Instrument. The session will include online demonstrations and sharing of resources.

Grade Level Relevance: K-12 | Location: Ski-U-Mah Room

***David R. Johnson, Ph.D.**, is an Emma Birkmaier Professor of Educational Leadership in the College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota. Dr. Johnson's faculty appointment is in the Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development where he conducts research, teaches courses, and advises graduate students in evaluation studies and research methods. A former Director of the Institute on Community Integration (ICI), he has also been Principal Investigator of numerous research, training, and demonstration projects.*

***Eileen A. Klemm, Ph.D. Candidate**, is the Check & Connect Program Director at the Institute on Community Integration. Currently, she manages the overall development and provision of training and technical assistance for Check & Connect implementation across the country and internationally. Ms. Klemm is the co-principal investigator on three sponsored projects which incorporate Check & Connect: two statewide projects in Minnesota and Florida and the new Systemic Support for Promoting Graduation project that will utilize the C&C App and an online version of the SEI across multiple states. Ms. Klemm is a Ph.D. candidate in evaluation studies at the University of Minnesota.*

What Makes a Reading Intervention Effective? Key Component for Academic Success and Engagement

Many interventions promise strong results, but do they have the necessary components of an effective intervention? In this session, we outline the five components of an effective intervention and share how they foster student engagement. We explain each component using K-5 reading intervention examples and research to demonstrate why they are critical for ensuring student learning. Having knowledge of the effective intervention components provides educators with the tools to determine appropriate and effective pathways for engaged student success. Participants will receive resources to guide them in implementing interventions that include all five components of an effective intervention.

Grade Level Relevance: Elementary | Location: Thomas Swain Room

Stacy Thompson has worked in diverse urban and suburban schools across the country. Her roles in public schools have included: elementary teacher, ESL teacher, English Language Development chair, and peer coach. Stacy holds an M.A.Ed. in TESOL and a B.A. in Elementary Education. She is currently a Literacy Specialist for Path to Reading Excellence in School Sites (PRESS) a framework for literacy improvement housed at the Minnesota Center for Reading Research at the University of Minnesota.

Check & Connect App

This is an informal workshop where participants will see an overview presentation of the Check & Connect App (C&C App), the web-based platform that allows Check & Connect mentors and coordinators to document, monitor, and report on student progress using their computer or tablet web browser. ETI staff will participate in this session to answer any questions you may have and to get your feedback related to the C&C App. This is a unique opportunity for you to participate in a session with the technology developers, who are eager to make sure the solution meets your needs. This session is ideally suited for people implementing or considering an implementation of Check & Connect.

Grade Level Relevance: K-12 | Location: Minnesota Room

Michelle Austin, M.A., Ed.S., is a program specialist and national trainer for Check & Connect at the Institute on Community Integration (ICI), University of Minnesota. Mrs. Austin provides training around the country on the implementation of Check & Connect for schools and community-based organizations. She also provides follow-up trainings in the form of fidelity of implementation workshops for sites already implementing Check & Connect. As a national trainer, she partners with sites to assess their needs and customizes training to meet their strategic plans.

Educational Technology Innovations (ETI) leads the technical development of projects that span collegiate disciplines and was formed to create technical solutions for users of educational products created at the University of Minnesota, such as Check & Connect (C&C). Together, ETI connects the deep knowledge that exists inside the college with people and organizations on the outside that need it most.

Breakout Sessions #2 | Wednesday, 11:20 – 12:30

Evidence-Based Student Engagement Strategies

Efforts to promote school completion are best implemented within a school context that is focused on the engagement of all students. In addition, the heterogeneity of students' difficulties and risk for poor educational outcomes requires a range of strategies and interventions. Thus, there is growing interest in the development and evaluation of interventions to enhance student engagement at school and with learning. This session is focused on intervention programs and strategies from the recent Handbook of Student Engagement Interventions (Fredricks, Reschly, & Christenson, Editors) and forthcoming volume, Evidence-Based Practical Student Engagement Interventions: Promoting Students' Academic, Behavioral, Cognitive, and Affective Engagement at School (Reschly, Christenson, & Pohl, Editors).

Grade Level Relevance: K-12 | Location: Johnson Great Room

Amy Reschly, Ph.D. is a professor of educational psychology and coordinator of the School Psychology Program at the University of Georgia. Her scholarly work focuses on student engagement, dropout prevention, and working with families to promote student success. She worked as a Check & Connect mentor from 1998-2000.

Check & Connect Info Session

This session offers participants background knowledge and understanding of the Check & Connect Model, while exploring a site's readiness for implementation. Participants will learn about the evidence, usability, and support within Check & Connect. A C&C national trainer will then lead a discussion around assessing need, fit, and capacity for implementing C&C at a site.

Grade Level Relevance: K-12 | Location: Ski-U-Mah Room

Joseph Angaran, M.A. is the Training Director for Check & Connect at the Institute on Community Integration (ICI), University of Minnesota. Mr. Angaran also provides training on the implementation of Check & Connect for schools and community-based organizations, while also assessing the needs of sites and customizes training to meet those needs. Prior to his work at ICI, Mr. Angaran began his teaching career in the Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan (MN) public schools as an elementary teacher and then a Cognitive Coach.

Check and Connect: Creating Leaders of Change and Combating the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Student Advocacy Center of Michigan will share ways it has worked to positively impact school discipline in partnership with students in Check and Connect. We will explore key connect strategies, including developing self-advocacy skills, increasing knowledge of student rights and responsibilities, teaching and modeling behavior, and providing leadership opportunities (such as meeting with the principal, giving public comment at school board meetings and testifying before the state Legislature). We also will discuss the mentor's important but challenging role as advocate.

Grade Level Relevance: K-12 | Location: Thomas Swain Room

Anell Eccleston, is a master's level social worker and Check & Connect Program Manager with the Student Advocacy Center of Michigan. Anell has been a Check & Connect Mentor for 4 years and has worked to ensure students have an opportunity to achieve goals set for their future. He now supervises 4 other Check & Connect Mentors with program implementation and advocacy efforts for their students in schools.

Kat Layton is a Check & Connect Mentor for the Student Advocacy Center. Previous to this role, she worked with youth and families in educational advocacy and enrichment for several years in Texas. Kat completed her masters in social work from the University of Michigan where she explored domains that interrelate with education. Kat is passionate about the importance of a youth's education, specifically with its complex relationship towards juvenile delinquency.

C&C Implementation Network on Slack

This is an informal introduction to the new online networking workspace for Check & Connect via Slack. Stop on in if you want help with logging in, accessing conference materials, or want to learn how to connect with other C&C implementers and coordinators across the country. This space is made available to help you get acquainted with this online tool to help channel resources, tools, and state-wide collaborations.

Grade Level Relevance: K-12 | Location: Minnesota Room

Ann Romine is a Check & Connect National Trainer provides training nationally on the implementation of Check & Connect for schools and community-based organizations. She also provides mentor training and follow-up training around fidelity and implementation for sites already implementing Check & Connect. As a national trainer, she assesses the needs of sites and customizes training to meet those needs. She is driven to build connections for students and families across schools and communities.

Breakout Sessions #3 | Wednesday, 1:30 – 2:40

Increasing Family Engagement with Culturally Responsive Mentors

Family engagement is a critical component of Check & Connect and when successful has many positive impacts on student outcomes. This presentation will 1) provide an overview of family engagement, 2) review family engagement modules developed in Florida, 3) discuss cultural responsiveness and its role in family engagement and 4) present strategies and resources for increasing the cultural responsiveness of Check & Connect mentors.

Grade Level Relevance: K-12 | Location: Johnson Great Room

Peg Sullivan, M.Ed. is the Director and Principal Investigator of Florida's State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG). The Florida SPDG is a five-year initiative to support increased graduation rates for students with disabilities via the use of two evidenced practices, Check and Connect (C&C) and the Strategic Instruction Model™. Peg's keen interest in building collaboration among families, professionals and communities to ensure delivery of a quality education fits well with the C&C model.

Elaine Miller, MAT, is the Check & Connect Program Director for the FL State Personnel Development Grant at the University of South Florida - St. Petersburg. Elaine worked in the field of school mental health research for eight years and has a background teaching special education at the secondary level. Her primary professional interests include evidence-based interventions for students with emotional and behavioral disorders, interconnecting PBIS and school mental health services, and improving the quality of Individualized Education Plans.

Tricia Buchanan, M.Ed. is the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) coordinator for Renaissance Charter School at Wellington, Florida. While working as a state school improvement consultant for the state of Missouri, she became a certified Check & Connect trainer. Tricia is now a certified Check & Connect trainer for the state of Florida.

A Large District's Implementation of Check & Connect, Stakeholder Perception, and Building for Capacity

This presentation will provide an overall view of a large district's implementation of Check & Connect over the course of three academic years (2015-16, 2016-17, & 2017-18). The presenters will provide information on outcome data, stakeholder perception gathered from students, parents, school administrators, and Check & Connect mentors. In addition, presenters will discuss building for capacity for continued implementation of Check & Connect with district general funding.

Grade Level Relevance: Middle School and High School | Location: Ski-U-Mah Room

Darnell Logan, Ph.D., is an alumnus (B.S. in African-American Studies, Sociology, & Youth Studies; M.A. in Educational Psychology; and Ed.S. in School Psychology) from the University of Minnesota. He also holds an Ed.D. in Executive Leadership from Lincoln Memorial University (Tennessee). After completing his bachelor's degree, he worked at the Institution of Community Integration (U of MN) as a mentor for Check & Connect in Minneapolis Public Schools. He has worked as a School Psychologist for Fulton County Public Schools (East Point, GA) and a Coordinator for Psychological Services for Atlanta Public Schools (Atlanta, GA). His primary areas of interest include dropout prevention, student engagement, and culturally competent psychoeducational assessment. He serves on the National Diversity Advisor Board at the University of Minnesota. He is a Special Education Assistant Director for the DeKalb County Schools (Atlanta, GA). Currently, he assists with district's efforts on reducing the disproportionate suspension of students with disabilities.

Taffy Fletcher is a double graduate of Clark Atlanta University (Atlanta, GA). She holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Masters of Social Work. She is a dedicated professional in the field of Social Work specializing in Foster Care and Youth Mental Health. She has worked as a Behavior Interventionist and Check & Connect Mentor for the DeKalb County School District (Atlanta, GA). She is very focused on addressing support strategies that meet the social, emotional and academic needs of various students. Currently, she is the Lead Student Engagement Coach at DeKalb County School District.

How to Increase Students' Behavioral and Emotional Engagement in the ESL Classroom: A Case Study

This presentation is based on a research-action oriented study developed in 2017 while taking an internship at one private school in Santiago, Chile. The purpose of the investigation is to address students' engagement in English classes. The objective is to increase students' levels of behavioral and emotional engagement by incorporating games, storytelling and technology in lessons. The methodology used was both quantitative and qualitative. The findings can be of interest for everyone involved in education and, particularly, in the field of teaching English as a second language.

Grade Level Relevance: High School | Location: Thomas Swain Room

***Ivanna Michelle Thenoux Araya** was born in Antofagasta, Chile and is an English teacher currently working with young adults and adults in vulnerable situation in Santiago. Apart from this, she teaches at Instituto Chileno Norteamericano de Cultura. She graduated with first class honours from Universidad Mayor and has presented her research projects on motivation and engagement in the ESL classrooms in two conferences held at Universidad de Feevale, Brazil in 2017 and 2018.*

Check & Connect Fidelity Dive

This workshop is designed for participants currently implementing Check & Connect. A C&C trainer will walk through evaluation tools that can support mentor development and growth, as well as improve your site's C&C implementation fidelity.

Grade Level Relevance: K-12 | Location: Minnesota Room

***Eileen Klemm, Ph.D. Candidate**, is the Check & Connect Program Director at the Institute on Community Integration. Currently, she manages the overall development and provision of training and technical assistance for Check & Connect implementation across the country and internationally. Ms. Klemm is the co-principal investigator on three sponsored projects which incorporate Check & Connect: two statewide projects in Minnesota and Florida and the new Systemic Support for Promoting Graduation project that will utilize the C&C App and an online version of the SEI across multiple states. Ms. Klemm is a Ph.D. candidate in evaluation studies at the University of Minnesota.*

Breakout Sessions #4 | Wednesday, 2:50 – 4:00

The success of implementing social emotional learning and trauma informed practices within an MTSS from preschool through 12th grade

A multi-tiered system of supports that is aligned across PBIS, Social Emotional Learning, Reading and Math can produce significant positive results for students' achievement as well as their whole child outcomes. This presentation will provide the participants with steps for collecting and analyzing relevant data for SEL, PBIS, and academics pre-k through 12th grade and approaches for creating a sustainable, aligned MTSS that continues to thrive for extended years of implementation. Data demonstrating growth in social emotional learning, school climate, and achievement will be provided and tools will be shared that support sustainability of a district-wide MTSS.

Grade Level Relevance: PreK-12 | Location: Johnson Great Room

***Beth Clavenna-Deane, Ph.D.**, has worked in special education for 25 plus years. The majority of her focus has been research and practice for secondary students with disabilities, specifically in their transition to adulthood. In the past decade, she has focused primarily on all grade levels of students in terms of their behavioral and social emotional skill development in a multi-tiered system of supports. Dr. Clavenna-Deane has presented considerably on both these focal areas and has published articles, briefs, chapters, and books related to these content areas. Currently, she is employed by Kansas MTSS as a State Trainer with a focus on Behavior and Social Emotional Learning for all students, and she is an adjunct professor for Baker University with a focus on effective stakeholder collaboration at IEP meetings and high-quality inclusive practices.*

Measuring Student Engagement

In this session, we will cover methods for measuring students' academic, behavioral, cognitive, and affective engagement at school. Recommendations for linking these indicators to school policies and practices and using information to evaluate effectiveness of interventions will be addressed. The session will include information about the Student Engagement Instrument, which was developed from experience working with students in Check & Connect.

Grade Level Relevance: 3rd Grade – High School | Location: Ski-U-Mah Room

***Amy Reschly, Ph.D.** is a professor of educational psychology and coordinator of the School Psychology Program at the University of Georgia. Her scholarly work focuses on student engagement, dropout prevention, and working with families to promote student success. She worked as a Check & Connect mentor from 1998-2000.*

How a School Built a Mentorship Community Based on Trauma Responsive Care

Take a journey with a reformed Check and Connect cynic who emerged as a champion for mentorship and student engagement. Kate Diorio, Supervisor of Pupil Services in the Red Lion Area School District, cultivated a climate where teachers yearned to be champions for students who were lost in a large suburban high school. By infusing newly established trauma informed practices, the school emerged from being trauma informed to trauma responsive. Ultimately, the vision is to create a trauma infused school that will inform the community on best practices to support youth and social and emotional competencies.

Grade Level Relevance: High School | Location: Thomas Swain Room

Kate Diorio began her career in Southeast Delco School District as a Social Studies teacher for students in grades 9-12. While at Southeast Delco School District, she became the dean of students and later, the principal of the Ninth Grade Success Academy. Mrs. Diorio yearned to head back to York County to be near family and landed in Red Lion Area School District. After nearly 5 years as the assistant principal at the SH, she was promoted to the position of Supervisor of Pupil Services. In this role, she supervises school nurses, school counselors, social workers, the district registrar, child accounting, transportation, and AEDY placements. Additionally, Mrs. Diorio is the ECYEH and foster student liaison, truancy and residency officer, Check and Connect trainer, and School Safety and Security Coordinator.

Check & Connect Implementation Network Launch

This is an informal introduction to the new online networking workspace for Check & Connect via Slack. If you want to connect with other C&C implementers and coordinators across the country, come introduce yourself and get acquainted with this online tool to help channel resources, tools, and state-wide collaborations.

Grade Level Relevance: K-12 | Location: Minnesota Room

Ann Romine is a Check & Connect National Trainer provides training nationally on the implementation of Check & Connect for schools and community-based organizations. She also provides mentor training and follow-up training around fidelity and implementation for sites already implementing Check & Connect. As a national trainer, she assesses the needs of sites and customizes training to meet those needs. She is driven to build connections for students and families across schools and communities.