

**Thursday Morning Half Day (10:00AM-12:30PM) -\$50**

1. Brenna Lamprey and Beth Reilly – ***Project Au-Some***  
PreK -Middle

Project Au-Some began as an effort to build empathy and social skills between a fifth-grade classroom and preschool children with special needs -- and it quickly turned into more than Brenna and Beth could ever have imagined. In this session, participants will explore the reasons why students of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds can benefit from social-emotional learning through literacy. Promoting empathy and acceptance through literature is a powerful strategy that can easily be implemented in any classroom setting. This session will focus on gaining an understanding of the impact of executive function skills on student behavior and social interactions. The session will provide research-based evidence for teachers to determine student need, in regards to social-emotional development, and will provide strategies to build community and relationships through literature.

2. Dr. Linda Karges-Bone - ***Bibliotherapy and the Brain***  
All grade levels

This action-packed session explores the fascinating connections between EQ and IQ, an essential discussion during these perilous times of school and community violence. How does the brain process threats? How can we impart empathy and tolerance while doing the important business of teaching the 5 part literacy model and addressing the 7 Literary Elements? *Bibliotherapy* is one of the most effective ways to address these issues and to provide teachers with impactful, rigorous, standards-based lessons across the literacy continuum. Participants will have the option of purchasing Dr. Bone's best-selling book set as well as receive training in the model. The *Bibliotherapy* showcases 48 award-winning children's books across six areas of *bibliotherapy* and connects them with appropriate and powerful activities that increase listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. The areas of *bibliotherapy* presented include: attachment and growth; creativity and critical thinking; bullying and building friendships; family matters (dynamics and change); poverty and social justice issues; and childhood challenges. Participants will also learn of "Brain Verse", Dr. Bone's early literacy methodology that applies phonemic awareness with *Bibliotherapy* themes.

3. Vickie Brockman and Janet West – ***Reading and Writing with Two Texts***  
Elementary and Middle

Using two texts is an authentic way to introduce a topic and have students analyze the content and consider more than one point of view. This presentation will explore the uses of two texts for reading and writing while integrating it with other subjects. Teachers will experience this first-hand and leave with numerous ideas for the designing of their own assignments.

4. Dr. Rebecca Harper – ***Literacy Escape***  
Elementary, Middle, and High School

Escape rooms have become a widespread entertainment experience that individuals of all ages can enjoy. Using hints and clues, participants solve puzzles to complete the objectives of the game and escape from the room. In this session, participants will take part in a *Literacy Escape* room using a novel as an anchor text to address literacy competencies and standards. Participants will utilize problem solving skills, critical thinking, and cooperative learning to acquire a means of escaping.

5. Dr. Brooke Hardin – ***The Curiosity Project: Writing with Inquiry***  
Elementary and Middle

In this session, participants will learn about an inquiry-based instructional approach for informational and poetic writing called *The Curiosity Project*. By providing intentional scaffolding for student-driven inquiries, educators can teach students to cultivate their natural curiosities, conduct research, compose digital informational texts, and write persona poetry to extend children's imaginative engagement and enhance content-area learning. Participants will receive handouts, book lists, and exemplars needed to implement *The Curiosity Project* and inspire a love of writing with inquiry!

**Thursday Afternoon Half Day (2:30-4:00PM) -\$50**

1. Brenna Lamprey and Beth Reilly - *Project Au-Some*  
PreK -Middle

Project Au-Some began as an effort to build empathy and social skills between a fifth-grade classroom and preschool children with special needs -- and it quickly turned into more than Brenna and Beth could ever have imagined. In this session, participants will receive resources and strategies for implementing social-emotional literacy into a classroom, school-wide, and even community-based settings. Participants will explore the benefits of incorporating literature that focuses on characters of varying abilities and how students can make connections with themselves and others that they may not have been able to before. The session will also explore how books with strong social-emotional themes can motivate reluctant readers and writers to engage with characters and expand the depth of their literary analysis. By demystifying people's differences, students will begin to build new relationships and understanding for others.

2. Dr. Linda Karges-Bone – *The Currency of Literacy*  
All grade levels

During this session, participants will explore the research supporting the diabolical “30 Million Word Gap” between middle class and high poverty populations of young children, which has become the focus of much of our work bridging the achievement gap. We now understand that words are worth dollars, hence a “Currency of Literacy” seems to be what feeds rich brains and a concurrent lack of access to words and books may be what restrains the growth and development of young children who live in poverty. Nationally recognized expert on the brain and poverty, Dr. Linda Karges-Bone, fresh from her 6th speaking engagement at the National Title I Conference in Kansas City, will share secrets from her best-selling book “Rich Brain/ Poor Brain: Bridging Social and Synaptic Gaps”, as they apply to literacy. Four key elements challenge schools that attempt to LEAP (Literacy, Experiences, Attitudes, Performance) across synaptic and social gaps, and one of them is Literacy. That is not new. However, the powerful and easily accessible model for “Shared Read Aloud” using high value vocabulary targets in science and social studies, cloaked in beloved children’s literature, is fresh! Matching this model with Dr. Bone’s focus on “Brain Tips” will align your school with the latest and most impactful strategies to provide access to “The Currency of Literacy” that offers all children an opportunity to learn and grow.

3. Vickie Brockman and Janet West - *Reading and Writing with Two Texts*  
Elementary and Middle

Using two texts is an authentic way to introduce a topic and have students analyze the content and consider more than one point of view. This presentation will explore the uses of two texts for reading and writing while integrating it with other subjects. Teachers will experience this first-hand and leave with numerous ideas for the designing of their own assignments.

4. Dr. Katie Kelly – *For the Love of Literacy*  
All grades

In this pre-conference institute, participants will learn about the power in creating and maintaining a classroom culture that facilitates authentic, engaging, and purposeful reading experiences. Through careful selection of text to help students see themselves and examine perspective, they develop a greater sense of empathy and begin to build bridges between the familiar and unfamiliar leading to deeper understanding and transformation. Ultimately, the reading experience should extend beyond the back cover of the book or the last paragraph of the article. In this session, participants will learn how to expand the reading experience to move beyond empathy and inspire and empower readers to take action as active citizens in the world around them.

5. Katie Garner – *The Brain’s Emotional Systems – ‘Warp-Speed’ Access to Reading and Writing Skills*  
Preschool/Kindergarten and Primary

Did you know that the brain has a “backdoor” for learning that can easily be hacked? Good magicians know this and take full advantage of it, as can great teachers! Discover how to target instruction to the socio-emotional learning networks and transform tricky letter-sound and phonics skills into child’s play. Harness the power of what’s “used together becomes fused together” in the brain. Activate backdoor learning channels through which beginning and struggling readers gain “warp-speed” access to ALL of the code needed to read and to write. Uncover learning loopholes rooted in brain science and take away multisensory “brain-changing” teaching tools that are sure to become the most relied-upon pieces of your teaching repertoire!