



The 15th Annual WP Educational Technology Conference

Friday, November 15, 2024, 8:30 AM - 3:10 PM (EST), Online

Leveraging Technology to Foster Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA)

What are the roles of technology in advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) in P-12 education? Technology can provide opportunities for learners to engage in diverse experiences while also helping promote cultural diversity. Technology can help create more inclusive learning environments and provide access to education by eliminating barriers. This year's conference will help educators learn about the transformative potential of educational technology to promote DEIA and strategies and examples to bring into the classrooms for immediate implementation. Participants will receive 6.5 development hours. Click here to register. Click [here](#) to register.

Conference Chairs: Heejung An and Gigi Mohamad

Virtual Meeting Place: Zoom will be used for the entire conference. The links will be emailed to the registrants one week before the conference.

Website: <https://www.wpuedtechconference.com/>



Conference Schedule

8:15 AM – 8:30 AM: Logging into the Main Room

8:30 AM – 8:40 AM: Welcome (10 minutes)

8:40 AM – 9:40 AM: Concurrent Session I (60 minutes)

9:40 AM– 9:50 AM: Break (10 minutes)

9:50 AM – 10:50 AM: Concurrent Session II (60 minutes)

10:50 AM – 11:00 AM: Break (10 minutes)

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM: Keynote Session (70 minutes)

12:10 PM – 12:50 PM: Lunch Break (40 minutes)

12:50 PM – 1:50 PM: Concurrent Session III (60 minutes)

1:50 PM – 2:00 PM: Break (10 minutes)

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM: Concurrent Session IV (60 minutes)

Conference Schedule
Welcome: 8:30 AM – 8:40 AM, EST (10 minutes)

Welcome Remarks: Amy Ginsberg, Dean, College of Education, William Paterson University
House Keeping: Gigi Mohamad

Concurrent Session I: 8:40 AM – 9:40 AM, EST (60 minutes)

Workshop 1: Leveraging ChatGPT to Support Linguistically Diverse Parents

By Heejung An, William Paterson University of NJ

To better support families who speak languages other than English, this workshop will introduce participants to how P-12 teachers and administrators can use an artificial intelligence chatbot, ChatGPT, in their communication with families. Strategies and examples for creating school-home communication materials in multiple languages will also be provided.

Target Audience: P-12 teachers

Workshop 2: Building Diverse Virtual Libraries Using Google Slides and Bitmojis

By Neil Grimes, William Paterson University of NJ; Elizabeth Van Pate, Baltimore City Community College

Building diverse virtual libraries using Google Slides and Bitmojis presents a dynamic approach to curating digital resources that cater to a wide range of learners and interests. By leveraging the collaborative features of Google Slides, educators and librarians can collaboratively design visually appealing virtual spaces that showcase various books, articles, videos, and other educational materials. Incorporating Bitmojis adds a touch of personalization, allowing creators to infuse their virtual libraries with unique characters and themes that resonate with their audience. Through this method, P-12 educators can promote diversity and representation in their virtual libraries by intentionally selecting materials that reflect various cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives. Additionally, the interactive nature of Google Slides enables users to embed multimedia elements, interactive links, and discussion prompts, fostering active engagement and critical thinking among learners. Moreover, the accessibility features of Google Slides ensure that virtual libraries are inclusive and accommodating to all learners, including those with diverse learning needs.

Target Audience: P-12 teachers

Workshop 3: Culturally Responsive Teaching and Technology: Enhancing Inclusive Learning Environments

By Claudia Heisterman, Bound Brook School District

This workshop explores the intersection of culturally responsive teaching practices and innovative technological tools. Participants will learn to leverage technology to create inclusive and engaging learning environments that respect and reflect diverse cultural backgrounds. Through interactive sessions, educators will gain practical strategies to integrate cultural responsiveness into their pedagogy, enhancing student engagement and achievement.

Target Audience: K-12 teachers

Workshop 4: Leveraging Amira as an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered Reading Assistant: Supporting Equitable and Personalized Learning for Bilingual Children with Language and Special Needs

By Jennifer Chen, Kean University; ChareMone' Perez, NJ Public School

In this workshop, the presenters will showcase how Amira, the AI-powered and purportedly the first intelligent reading assistant, can help revolutionize assessment practices for teachers of bilingual students. They will also demonstrate how Amira can empower teachers to efficiently assess bilingual students' learning strengths and needs, lessen their assessment workload, and clear valuable time for tailored teaching. By leveraging Amira's innovative capabilities for assessing student learning, teachers can apply insights gained to provide personalized instruction for bilingual learners to acquire both English and Spanish more effectively. Additionally, Amira serves as a powerful screening tool for identifying students who may be at risk of dyslexia, enabling further evaluations and timely interventions. The second presenter will share firsthand experience of implementing Amira in her second-grade English-Spanish bilingual classroom to support students' language development and screening for possible dyslexia. The presenters will conclude by encouraging participants to harness the power of AI tools, such as Amira, to support equitable learning for all bilingual learners from diverse backgrounds and with diverse learning needs.

Target Audience: *K-5 teachers*

Workshop 5: Empowering Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) in the Digital Age

By Diallo Sessoms, Salisbury University

In our increasingly digital world, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) are crucial. This interactive session explores the dual role of technology as both a barrier and a catalyst for DEIA. Participants examine how technology can amplify biases or dismantle them, create access or worsen disparities, and discuss strategies to leverage it for positive change. Participants will gain actionable insights to champion DEIA, fostering more inclusive and equitable digital spaces..

Target Audience: *5-12 teachers, media specialists, educational technology support specialists*

Workshop 6: Revolutionizing K-12 Science Education: Harnessing Technology for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

By Karen Spence, American History High School, Newark Public School District

As science educators, we are all part of a community striving to create a more welcoming and equitable classroom environment for all learners. Using an online resource like Kami, this workshop is a collaborative learning experience that aims to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in science K-12 classrooms. Kami ensures engaging lessons, collaborative learning, time-saving assessment processes, and improved learning outcomes, fostering a sense of shared responsibility in our

teaching practices. By the end of the session, participant will have practical strategies and resources at their disposal, empowering them to integrate technology effectively and support DEI in their teaching practices.

Target Audience: K-12 teachers

Break: 10:50 AM – 11:00 AM, EST (10 minutes)

Keynote Address: 11:00 AM – 12:10 PM, EST (70 minutes)

Introductory Remarks: Jonathan Lincoln, Associate Provost, William Paterson University

Introduction to the Keynote Speaker: Heejung An

Keynote Speakers: Rajni Shankar-Brown, Jessie Ball duPont Endowed Chair of Social Justice Education, Stetson University

Unleashing Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Power: Leveraging Educational Technologies for Good



Join us as we explore the changing landscape of education and gain insights into harnessing the full potential of educational technologies inside the classroom and beyond. In today's interconnected and complex world, educational technologies (EdTech) can be a powerful catalyst for social change. With growing social inequalities and humanitarian crises, it is imperative we reflect on the challenges and opportunities of EdTech. By mindfully leveraging EdTech in our schools and communities, we can better

address persistent and growing disparities in learning opportunities and outcomes. Internationally renowned professor of social justice education, Dr. Rajni Shankar-Brown, will delve into the transformative potential of EdTech to promote justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI), along with the profound impact of EdTech on teaching and learning paradigms. From personalized learning supports to equity-centered data analytics, from arts integration to capacity building, from inclusive access to accessibility, from culturally responsive teaching to innovative professional development, we will examine and explore revolutionary tools, effective approaches, and promising strategies that leverage educational technologies for positive impact. Through research, narrative, history, poetry, art, reflective activities, and real-world examples, Dr. Shankar-Brown will illuminate how EdTech can enhance and reshape education, how EdTech can empower educators to support diverse learners more effectively, and how EdTech can individually and collectively help us to unleash JEDI power!

Biography:

Rajni Shankar-Brown, MA, M-MA, MBA, PhD, is an internationally renowned, community-engaged Professor and the Jessie Ball duPont Distinguished Chair of Social Justice Education at Stetson University, as well as the recipient of Stetson's most prestigious awards -- the McEnry Award for Excellence in Teaching and the

Hand Award for Distinguished Faculty Achievement. Dr. Shankar-Brown is also the President of the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) Board, the Founder and the Executive Director of the Institute for Catalyzing Equity, Justice, and Social Change (I-CEJSC), a steering member of the National Environmental Justice Institute (NEJI), the Co-Chair of Equity and Justice for the International Society for Teacher Education and Information Technology, the Director of the Acts of Kindness and Justice Movement, curriculum designer and coach for the Racial Equity Action Lab, and a faculty member for the International Society of Experiential Education Academy. Dr. Shankar-Brown has worked in a variety of transformative leadership roles with communities, organizations, government agencies (federal, state, and local levels), corporations, PreK-12 schools, and institution of higher education in urban, rural, and suburban areas across the United States and around the world. She is a committed advocate for equity-centered approaches to educational technologies, as well as using and creating digital tools to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Dr. Shankar-Brown was honored with the Outstanding Leadership and Service to Digital Equity Award from the International Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education. She has presented around the globe and written education articles, book chapters, and creative works in leading academic sources. She has published an education book series including books *Bending the Arc Toward Justice: Equity-Focused Practices for Educational Leaders* and *Re-Envisioning Education: Affirming Diversity and Advancing Justice* and has a new book in motion - *EdTech for Social Change*. In addition to being a passionate teacher-scholar, Dr. Shankar-Brown is a dedicated amma (mom) who loves sunflowers and masala chai.

Lunch Break: 12:10 PM - 12:50 PM, EST (40 minutes)

Concurrent Session III: 12:50 PM – 1:50 PM, EST (60 minutes)

Workshop 7: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Unveiled: Exploring Bias in AI and its Effects on Education

By Sue-Anne Alonso, Wayne Valley High School; Richard Chomko, Passaic Academy for Science and Engineering

As the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) grows in educational environments, the use of AI presents new challenges, including the hidden implications of AI bias and unintended consequences of this phenomenon. This presentation offers the knowledge and tools necessary to identify, understand, and address bias in AI. The session will provide insight on the origins and types of bias in AI; the effects of biases; and how to navigate AI to enhance equity. Real-world examples and practical strategies, will help attendees critically assess AI tools and counteract bias.

Target Audience: 6-12 teachers and college students

Workshop 8: Smart Learning: Using Technology to Erase Barriers

By Gihan (Gigi) Mohamad, William Paterson University of New Jersey

This presentation aims to explore how various technological advancements can be utilized to overcome the diverse barriers to learning that students face. By leveraging technology, we can create more inclusive, accessible, and effective educational environments that cater to the needs of all learners. The objective is to provide an overview of the different types of barriers to learning and present specific technologies

and digital tools that can address these barriers..

Target Audience: *K-12 teachers, School library Media Specialists*

Workshop 9: Integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) Across the Disciplines: A Report from the National Technology Leadership Summit

By Michael Sean, The Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education (SITE), The Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE)

The National Technology Leadership Summit (NTLS), held annually in Washington, DC, brings together national leaders from educational associations and related organizations. The recent National Technology Leadership Summit featured a strand that focused on the integration of AI in Education Across the Disciplines. Leveraging the expertise of leaders from several educational professional associations, NTLS explored the level to which AI is being integrated across their disciplines. One area of focus included issues related to diversity, ethics, and access. Plans to publish this work are underway.

Target Audience: *P-20*

Break: 1:50 PM – 2:00 PM, EST (10 minutes)

Concurrent Session IV: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, EST (60 minutes)

Workshop 10: Ideas, Approaches, and Strategies for DEI in the Learning, Design, and Technology Curriculum

By Curtis J. Bonk, Indiana University

Addressing issues of learner diversity, equity, and inclusion are front and center across every educational sector today. In this session, Curt Bonk will discuss ways he has successfully fostered a learning community in diverse classes rich with various experiences, backgrounds, expectations, and needs, focusing on interaction, engagement, and inclusion of all voices. Drawing on an abundance of open educational resources (OER) and knowledge of OER practices, he utilizes instructional techniques rich in choice, flexibility, autonomy, and multiple forms of representation. By the end of this session, there will be dozens of methods that you can use to motivate and engage the diverse learners of this world.

Target Audience: *K-12 teachers, higher education faculty and administrators, instructional designers, and online learning directors and managers*

Workshop 11: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Connectivism

By Benjamin Brown, Stetson University

This presentation explores the intersection of AI development and the rise of connectivism in education. By examining how AI enhances networked learning environments, we reveal its role in fostering dynamic, personal learning experiences. Emphasizing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, we highlight AI's capacity to process vast data sets, enabling adaptive learning paths and immediate feedback for all learners. The implications for educators and learners are profound, signaling a transformative shift in how knowledge is created and shared.

Target Audience: *All educators and persons interested in technology*

Workshop 12: Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) Image Generators to Promote DEIA in the Classroom

By Triada Samaras, Kean University

Using AI image generators for diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA) initiatives can be a powerful tool to create diverse and inclusive visual content. In this workshop participants will learn to use this technology to create a more inclusive and engaging learning environment that reflects and celebrates the diversity of their students. This approach not only enhances artistic skills but also fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures and perspectives.

Target Audience: *K-12 Teachers*

- Participants will receive 6.5 Professional Development Hours
- Fee: \$49.99
- Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/wpedtech>
- Contact: Brie Mesagaes at mesagaesb@wpunj.edu
- Website: <https://www.wpuedtechconference.com/>