



# CONTENT MATTERS

May 7, 2021

The **INTERSECTION** of **LITERACY** and **DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE**  
(Grades 4-12)



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Are you ready to learn about effective literacy instruction that can provide pathways for learning about content? As passionate teachers who love our disciplines AND our students we will address the question:

“How can I share my passion and love for my discipline while developing the literacy skills that my students need to understand it?”

**This web conference** brings together passionate leading educators who will share their tips, activities, and instructional practices to develop critical thinking, literacy skills, and content knowledge!



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KEYNOTE 9AM

Motivating and Engaging Students in  
Today's Learning Environments

*Dr. Richard Cash*

Building and Deepening 10AM  
Students' Vocabulary Acquisition Across the Disciplines

*Dr. Jody Polleck*

S.T.A.R.S.S. = 11AM

Strategies for Teaching Active Reading to Struggling Students

*Dr. Kathy Perez*

Connecting Social Emotional Learning and Math 12PM

*Alex Kajitani*

Kids Love to Argue (We Need to Let Them) 1PM

*Dr. Katherine McKnight*

Attendees receive a certificate for 5 hours of professional  
development. Conference recordings will be available for  
60 days following the conference conclusion.

**FOR Educators,  
BY Educators**

## KEYNOTE

# Motivating and Engaging Students in Today's Learning Environments

Whether in-person, hybrid or virtual, students need to be motivated to learn and engage in worthy activities. How we feel about a learning situation determines the focus of our attention. Therefore, to motivate and engage our students, we must create welcoming and stimulating learning settings. During this session you will learn a variety of methods to connect with your students, uncover their talents, and construct respectful learning options.



**DR. RICHARD CASH** is an award-winning educator and who has worked in the field of education for more than 30 years. His range of experience includes teaching, curriculum coordination, and program administration. Currently, he is an internationally recognized education consultant ([www.nrich.consulting](http://www.nrich.consulting)). His consulting work has taken him throughout the United States, as well as into Canada, The Czech Republic, China, Cyprus, England, Indonesia, Kuwait, Mexico, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, South Korea, and Turkey.

Richard received his Doctorate in Educational Leadership, and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, MN. Along with his Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Richard holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theater from the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. For over 10 years, he co-directed a children's theater company in Minnesota, and co-authored 4 award winning children's plays. He was recipient of the National Association for Gifted Children's *Early Leader Award (2011)*, recognizing his leadership in programming for gifted children.



## Building and Deepening Students' Vocabulary Acquisition Across the Disciplines

Not having knowledge of key concepts and vocabulary words can impede our students' reading comprehension and learning in our content area classrooms. This workshop will explore culturally responsive and sustaining theories, research, and frameworks behind meaningful and engaging vocabulary instruction, particularly for students with special needs and emergent bi- and multi-lingual language learners. Jody will offer a ton of practical activities to help ensure students not only learn the meaning of content-specific words, but learn to use them in context as well. Vocabulary acquisition empowers all students to be lifelong critical thinkers and readers.

**DR. JODY POLLECK** is an associate professor in literacy education at Hunter College in New York City, where she also serves as a literacy intervention teacher and coach for the NYC Department of Education. Jody began her work with urban adolescents in 1994 as an outreach counselor in Washington, D.C. In 1999, she received her Master's in English education and worked as a high school reading and English teacher for emerging readers and writers within a dropout prevention program. In 2002, she received National Board Certification for adolescent English language arts; and in 2003, she accepted a full-fellowship to New York University where she completed her doctoral degree, centering the lives of urban adolescents and their literacy experiences. Jody is also a 2019 Fulbright scholar. Her current research focuses on differentiated, culturally responsive- sustaining literacy instruction. She has published in over 20 different books and journals including *The High School Journal*, *The English Journal*, *Reading Horizons*, *ALAN Review*, *Reading and Writing Quarterly*, *Preventing School Failure*, and *Teacher Education Quarterly*.



## S.T.A.R.S.S. = Strategies for Teaching Active Reading to Struggling Students

Struggling readers need the opportunity to read at their instructional and independent reading levels. Give them the tools to engage with texts that they want to read, and watch them blossom. In this session, Dr. Kathy Perez will share what she calls “instant ideas,” easy-to-implement comprehension strategies that:

- Build struggling readers’ vocabulary
- Help them comprehend difficult text using simple decoding strategies
- Teach readers how to organize critical information

Attendees will get handouts and loads of research-based, teacher-tested tips!



**DR. KATHY PEREZ** is an acclaimed international educational consultant, author and motivational speaker, specializing in instructional strategies and creative approaches to brain research, student engagement, differentiation and inclusion.

Dr. Kathy has extensive teaching experience from preschool to graduate students. She is currently Professor Emerita at Saint Mary’s College of California. She has been a special educator, ESL teacher, literacy coach, site administrator and curriculum and staff development coordinator.

Dr. Kathy has worked extensively with teachers, administrators and parents throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Qatar, Caribbean, Africa, New Zealand, China, Colombia, Australia, Thailand, Hong Kong and Singapore. Her many best-selling books include: *More Than 100+ Brain Friendly Tools and Strategies for Literacy!* (Corwin Press) and *The New Inclusion: Differentiated Strategies to Engage ALL Students!* (Teacher College Press, 2013), *Co-Teaching Book of Lists: A Practical Guide for Teachers* (Jossey-Bass); and her latest: *200+ Proven Strategies for Teaching Reading* (Solution Tree, 2016).

## Connecting Social Emotional Learning and Math

Let's be honest: Without strong social and emotional skills, students really struggle in math class. From approaching word problems with self-confidence and determination, to persevering through multi-step problems, building strong SEL skills helps students build their self-awareness and make sense of mathematics. This session explores the five domains of SEL, and how teachers can incorporate them into mathematics instruction so students approach problem solving, number sense and mistakes with confidence and a growth mindset.



**ALEX KAJITANI** is the 2009 California Teacher of the Year, and a Top-4 Finalist for National Teacher of the Year. He is the co-author of *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Inspiration for Teachers*, and his first book, *Owning It*, was named "Recommended Reading" by the U.S. Department of Education. Alex is also on a mission to get every kid in America to learn their times tables, and to make this happen, he created the popular online program [www.MultiplicationNation.com](http://www.MultiplicationNation.com).

Alex is a highly-sought after keynote speaker who supports and motivates teachers nationwide, and he's known around the world as "The Rappin' Mathematician." Alex has a popular TED Talk, has been honored at The White House, and was featured on The CBS Evening News, where Katie Couric exclaimed, "I LOVE that guy!" For more of his innovative ideas, visit [www.AlexKajitani.com](http://www.AlexKajitani.com).



**DR. KATHERINE MCKNIGHT** is a dynamic presenter, dedicated teacher, and award-winning author. Dr. McKnight began her career in education over 30 years ago as a middle school and high school English and social studies teacher in the Chicago Public Schools. In addition to speaking at professional development conferences, she is a regular consultant in schools and classrooms in the United States and Europe.

She served as a Distinguished Professor of Research at National Louis University. She is the founder of Engaging Learners, an educational company built around her successful Literacy & Learning Center model. Her work in educational leadership, literacy and student skill development has resulted in unprecedented academic achievement in many struggling schools.

Dr. McKnight has received several awards for her publications and teaching. She has authored 20 books that support educational strategies to engage all learners. Her titles include the best-selling *The Teacher's Big Book of Graphic Organizers*, winner of the 2013 Teachers' Choice Award.

## Kids Love to Argue (We Need to Let Them)

When student writers are able to argue or debate, by establishing a claim and explaining and supporting that claim with evidence and reasoning, they are engaging in critical analysis and synthesis of content knowledge. When students reach this level of mastery, they have clearly gained a sophisticated knowledge of the content and are able to express what they know and understanding in written text. Learn specific classroom-ready strategies (for both in person and online instruction) that develop critical thinking skills, content knowledge and writing skills. Teenagers love to argue, we need to let them.





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## CONTACT US

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