Early Development of Great Educators (EDGE)

What is EDGE?

Effective teachers share the attributes of a positive attitude, knowledge of subject matter, skill in the practice of teaching, and the desire for life-long learning. The EDGE program seeks to bring together pre-professionals with experienced teachers and other education professionals who can share their wisdom, foster collaboration among professionals, and ignite a desire to excel as a great educator. PSEA members and staff are committed to the success of Student PSEA members, and the EDGE program provides an opportunity to interact, share ideas, and discuss the issues facing public education and the teaching profession.

EDGE Program Goals:
- Develop a series of mini-courses for pre-professionals
- Provide an opportunity for pre-professionals to interact with veteran teachers and other education professionals
- Provide an opportunity for pre-professionals to discover the positive and rewarding career that is education

Arranging for a Speaker

If you are looking for a speaker for your Student PSEA event, please review the list of available topics and email students@psea.org, noting your requested date, time, location, and presentation topic, along with your contact information.

A PSEA staff person will contact you to schedule your session, or if there are any questions or if additional information is needed. Most speakers are free of charge to Student PSEA chapters, but a few do request a fee. This information, along with date, time, and place, can be arranged with the individual speaker once you have submitted the completed form.

Don't see the topic you are interested in?

If you are interested in a topic that is not included in this catalog, please let us know.

Questions? Need additional information?

Have a question about one of the topics? Are you looking for additional information? Contact Student PSEA at students@psea.org.

1. **Student PSEA, It's Just Liability Insurance, Right?**
   This session provides Student PSEA members with an overview of all that Student PSEA is and can be for its members. Covered in the session are the "Four Pillars" of PSEA which include myriad opportunities for action, learning, and resources in professional development, community service, member development, and political action. Participants will also learn about the many "member benefits" that come with being a Student PSEA member and will walk away with an enhanced and broader sense of the organization, its values and its mission.

2. **Effective Classroom Management for Today's Teacher: What does the research tell us works?**
   This contemporary session is for both elementary and secondary teachers and it introduces participants to Harry Wong's work on classroom "procedures" and Robert Marzano's work on the most effective research-based classroom management strategies. It encourages educators to examine and reflect upon their own practices in terms of the Marzano's descriptions and categories. Participants will walk away with an enhanced understanding of where their own practice is strongest, learn from the strategies, techniques, examples of other teachers and will leave with numerous resources and strategies to improve their own craft and technique immediately within the confines of their own classroom. Catalog Course # 206

3. **What Pre-Professional Educator Should Know as They Transition from College to Career**
   The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has unique requirements for the evaluation of Student Teachers in order to receive their initial PA Level I Instructional Certificate. This session will help future educators understand and prepare for this important time period which serves as a vital bridge to the profession of teaching. Included in the session will be tips on making the most of your student teaching experience, an overview of PDE's formal student teaching evaluation process and Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching, the new PA Teacher Effectiveness System and its components, an overview of PDE's TIMS (Teacher Information Management System), social media tips and guidance, and specific strategies and take-away resources that student teachers can immediately incorporate into their lesson planning and actualize in their instruction with students in the classroom.

4. **PA Core Standards: Instruction and Assessment Shifts and Resources in Math & Literacy**
   This session will focus on helping educators make meaningful and strategic changes to their instructional and assessment practices by connecting learning about PA Core Standards to classroom instruction. The session will provide participants with background knowledge and a litany of strategies and "take away" instructional and assessment resources connected to the PA Core Standards in both math and literacy across content areas that can be actualized in their classrooms immediately. Catalog Course # 1324

5. **Technology's Shifting Role in Education Today 1.0**
   In this session we will explore the rapidly evolving and changing role that technology is playing in our daily lives and its connection to the field education and the practice and craft of teaching. Included will be a discussion of the shift inherent in moving from "institutionally organized" to more "self-organized" educational practices and the integral role that technology has played and is playing in this monumental shift. From "BYOD" (Bring your own device) to "1 to 1" (one device for each student provided by the district) to "Blended Learning" and "Flipped Classrooms," this session will focus on exploring these educational technology paradigms of instruction and will present attendees with information, strategies, and "take-away" tools and resources that educators can immediately actualize into their planning and instruction.

6. **Close Reading Techniques, Text Complexity, and Text Dependent Analysis**
   This session will focus on emerging instructional techniques and strategies often commonly referred to as a "Close Reading" with its use of text-dependent questions and aim of increasing text-complexity levels for students. The PA Core Standards call for students to independently read, analyze, and synthesize information from multiple texts and to the use evidence from the texts to formulate well-defended claims with clear evidentiary support. A "Close Read" can serve as a central tool for educators to help students develop these skill-sets. In addition to close reading instructional strategies and resources, in this session educators will also walk away with knowledge and resources to help write and evaluate text-dependent questions, as well as links to lesson materials. Participants will examine techniques to move students to more in depth text structure analysis and text complexity. Catalog Course # 1326

7. **Reading Instruction Across the Content Areas in the PA Core Era**
   The PA Core Standards call for students to independently read, analyze, and synthesize information from multiple texts and to the use evidence from the texts to formulate well-defended claims with clear evidentiary support. This session will present educators with information and tools to support reading instruction across the content areas. It includes a variety of specific strategies and take-away resources that content area teachers can immediately build into their lesson planning and actualize in their instruction. Catalog Course # 1321

8. **Writing Instruction Across the Content Areas in the PA Core Era**
   The PA Core Standards call for students to independently read, analyze, and synthesize information from multiple texts and to the use evidence from those texts to independently write informational, narrative, and argumentative pieces of their own, formulated with well-defended claims and clear evidentiary support. Geared toward the middle and high-school levels, this session will present teachers with information and tools to support writing instruction across the content areas. It includes specific instructional and assessment strategies and "take-away" resources that educators can immediately actualize into their lesson planning and classroom instruction. Catalog Course # 1322

9. **Effective Vocabulary Instruction Across the Content Areas in the PA Core Era**
   The PA Core Standards present unique demands on students' ability to learn vocabulary and teachers' ability to teach it. In this session educators will come away with knowledge, strategies, and resources to help foster a successful school-wide vocabulary approach across the content areas, guided by both academic and content-area vocabulary. Word knowledge contributes significantly to reading comprehension and to general academic achievement, not only in reading and language arts but also across content areas. Students learn vocabulary best when teachers make consistent use of direct and indirect vocabulary instructional strategies, but many instructional materials provide little guidance to teachers in the area of vocabulary instruction. This session discusses the importance of comprehensive vocabulary instruction and provides examples of instructional tools and strategies that teachers can immediately apply in their classes. Catalog Course # 1323

10. **Literacy Across the Content Areas in the PA Core Era**
    This session will focus on the new PA Core Standards with approaches and resources to help educators challenge students in a variety of content areas to show evidence of learning in new ways. Literacy and what it means to be literate is changing dramatically as our world rapidly

changes, and instructional shifts are required, especially for teachers who must now incorporate literacy into content areas; consequently, discussion can encompass, depending on time, literacy instructional and assessment strategies and resources for educators in reading, writing, vocabulary development connected to the various type of texts used in a myriad of content areas. Catalog Course # 1325

11. **A "Balanced Literacy & Numeracy" Approach to Literacy & Numeracy Instruction**
This course is designed to engage teachers in taking a Balanced Literacy & Numeracy approach to their instruction. This approach is grounded in the Gradual Release of Instructional Responsibility model where responsibility to learn and perform is gradually released from teacher to students. This session will also discuss the philosophical and pedagogical alignment of a Balanced Literacy & Numeracy approach with the new PA Core Standards for literacy and the PA Educator Effectiveness teacher evaluation system.

12. **Balanced Assessment and Empowering Student Ownership of Their Learning Through Metacognitive Strategies Connected to Their Assessment Data**
Participants will take home strategies and techniques about creating and implementing a balanced assessment approach in their classrooms to generate specific student data that informs both the teacher and each respective student about their strengths and specific targets for improvement, while engendering an emphasis on growth and learning from mistakes or misunderstandings in the classroom. Teachers will leave with both theoretical strategies/concepts and tangible examples as models.

13. **Differentiated Instruction for Today's Educator**
Effectiveness as a teacher is now more than ever predicated on the teacher's ability to meet the needs of a wide range of students. Effective teachers must know the standards and their students, and it is the standards and the needs of the students that should determine instructional decisions. Programs, materials, and resources should not guide curriculum and instruction. This course is specifically tailored to provide secondary teachers research-based and teacher friendly approaches, materials, and resources to differentiate their instruction to meet the needs of the particular group of students and the standards being taught.

14. **Student Inquiry Centered Instruction**
This session provides an introduction for teachers to developing instruction for students that is student-centered with their own authentic inquiry as the driver. Participants will be introduced to and have an opportunity to explore resources such as Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) and Mathematics Design Collaborative (MDC) and Problem/Project Based Learning (PBL) for the development and actualization of student-centered instruction in their own classroom.

15. **Text-centered Socratic Seminar**
This session introduces Socratic Seminars and presents practical methods for implementing the approach in classrooms to help students investigate multiple perspectives in texts, as Socratic seminars function most effectively in today's PA Core era with authentic texts that invite authentic student inquiry. Participants will leave the session with an understanding of what Socratic Seminars are and resources to begin to implement them in their own classroom.

16. **Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) 101**
This session will be an overview of Professional Learning Communities and much more! Participants will walk away with an enhanced understanding of PLC's along with multiple strategies and resources that are available to sharpen their skills in PLC specific aspects, such as,

shared mission, norms, values, collaborative SMART goals, enhanced meeting structures and protocols, group data analysis processes, PLC RTI resources, and more.

17. **Student Achievement and Poverty**

This session examines socio-economic status and student achievement in Pennsylvania and takes a look at approaches and interventions that are being implemented to help "close the achievement gap" for students around the country. Participants will leave the session with a better understanding of the facts and helpful knowledge and resources related to poverty and student achievement.

18. **Certification, Tenure, & Act 48 for Educators in PA**

This session provides an overview of PDE's various certifications for educators, including Emergency Permits, Intern Certificates, Educational Specialist Certificates, Level I Instructional Certificates, and converting Level I Instructional Certifications to Level II. Information about acquiring and maintaining both an "Active" and a "Valid" Pennsylvania certificate will be reviewed, with specific information and resources provided regarding "service time" and educational requirements for maintaining a "Valid" certificate and "Act 48" requirements and resources for keeping certificates "Active". Also covered will be the provisions for tenure for educators in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

19. **High Stakes Assessment in Schools Today**

This session covers the high-stakes assessment landscape currently consuming the national education landscape. Participants will walk away with a an understanding of the both the state and national landscape that is high-stakes testing in education today as well as resources and information to help teachers and students in the classrooms taking the high stakes assessments of today.

20. **PA's Educator Effectiveness Teacher Evaluation System**

This session provides participants with an overview of the new Pennsylvania Educator Effectiveness System which is the new formal teacher evaluation system in the state of Pennsylvania. Participants will learn how the system works and the elements that comprise it, including elements such as Danielson's Framework for Teaching, the School Performance Profiles (SPP's), Student Learning Objectives (SLO's), Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS), and more.

21. **Dr. Carol Dweck's 'Mindset' in the Classroom:**

This session is centered on the Mary Cay Ricci book entitled "Mindsets in the Classroom", and explores the importance of cultivating a growth mindset in the classroom with students, teachers, and parents. Participants will emerge from the session with an understanding of "growth" and "fixed" mindsets and be armed with knowledge and resources to effectively implement productive "mindsets" in their classrooms.

22. **Technology in Education Today 2.0: Web Resources & Apps for Teachers in Today's Contemporary Classrooms**

Already on board with getting devices in classrooms? If so, then in this session we will explore the rapidly evolving and changing role that technology is playing in our daily lives and its connection to the field education and the practice and craft of teaching. Included will be a discussion of the shift inherent in moving from "institutionally organized" to more "self-organized" educational practices and the integral role that technology has played and is playing in this monumental shift. From "BYOD" (Bring your own device) to "1 to 1" (one device for each student provided by the district) to "Blended Learning" and "Flipped Classrooms," this session

will focus on exploring these educational technology paradigms of instruction and will present attendees with information, strategies, and "take-away" tools and resources that educators can immediately actualize into their planning and instruction. Beginning with "why" technology should be used in the classroom, we will then shift to "what" teachers can do to effectively utilize technology in the classroom with a myriad of web-based and app resources that teachers can use to integrate devices into the classroom effectively with students.

23. **The Servant Leadership Model in Schools**

This session details how educators can implement and utilize a platform of character education and Servant Leadership advocated by Robert K. Greenleaf and based on the work of James C. Hunter within schools to foster more positive, safe, inclusive, and welcoming school climates and cultures. A culture of servant leadership within schools, for both the staff and students, can be truly transformative in changing the culture of a school and the community it serves, and participants will emerge from the session with understanding and framework for actualizing the Servant Leadership model in their school.

24. **Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) 201: Taking Your PLC's to the Next Level**

Already working in PLC's in your schools? If so, then in this session participants will explore specific avenues to improve and invigorate their PLCs. The session will focus on the stages of development that PLCs typically progress through, and then will hone in on specific strategies to help expedite PLC development. Included will be resources, templates, and examples of integral PLC components, such as: meeting agendas, structure, and roles; group data analysis; PLC protocols; team SMART goals, portfolios, and action plans; common formative assessments, PLC RTII resources; and self-reflection tools all sure to help take your PLCs to the next level.

25. **Generational Diversity and the "Millennials"**

This fun, engaging, and insightful course calls for participants to look at defining aspects of American generations in society. From the Baby Boomers to Gen Xers to Millennials and the "IGeneration", the course begins by defining, comparing, and contrasting the generations before zooming in on the Millennial generation, where we delve into what current research is revealing about the societal and workforce trends of the emerging dominant generation of American society.

26. **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): What is it and what does it mean?**

This session explores the newly adopted federal ESSA law that has replaced "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) as the law of the land within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Participants will get an overview of the ESSA, its background and how it came to be, and the policy shifts that this new law will usher in to the landscape of public education and for educators across the country.