

*Welcome to a day of celebration!*



# **Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teachers and Teaching**

**September 29-30, 2017**

Mississippi University for Women

**BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation**

**The W** Mississippi University  
for Women  
FOUNDED 1884 CREDENTIATION SINCE 1982  
OUTREACH & INNOVATION

**TEACHER 2 TEACHER**

## #ECET2GT

<b>8:00-8:30 AM</b> <b>Parkinson Hall Foyer</b>	Registration & Social Media Hangout
<b>8:30-9:00 AM</b> <b>Parkinson Hall Auditorium</b>	Opening Session Cultivating a Calling Speaker
<b>9:00-10:00 AM</b> <b>Parkinson Hall Classrooms</b>	Breakout Sessions
<b>10:00-10:30 AM</b> <b>Parkinson Hall Foyer</b>	Social Media Hangout Snacks-To-Go
<b>10:30-11:15 AM</b> <b>Fant Memorial Library</b>	Colleague Circles
<b>11:30 AM -1:00 PM</b> <b>Hogarth Dining Hall</b>	Teacher Celebration Luncheon Cultivating a Calling Speakers
<b>1:00-1:45 PM</b> <b>Hogarth Dining Hall</b>	Contest Winners Announced Cultivating a Calling Speakers
<b>2:00-2:35 PM</b> <b>Fant Memorial Library</b>	Colleague Circles
<b>2:35-3:00 PM</b> <b>Fant Library/Parkinson Hall</b>	Social Media Hangout Snacks-To-Go
<b>3:00-4:00 PM</b> <b>Parkinson Hall Classrooms</b>	Breakout Sessions
<b>4:00-5:00 PM</b> <b>Parkinson Hall Auditorium</b>	Closing Session Post-Convening Momentum Door Prizes

## #ECET2GT2017

## MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout the Collaboration  
Lauren Zarandona

Room 117

Engaging Students in Learning  
Lucy McKellar

Room 132

Build a Stage:  
Motivation Through Excitement  
April Moore

Room 122

Tabletop Gaming in the Classroom  
Ashley Gressett

Room 104

Stay Positive and Pace Yourself:  
A Survival Guide for New Teachers  
Melinda Lowe

Room 103

## AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout the Collaboration  
Lauren Zarandona

Room 117

Engaging Students in Learning  
Lucy McKellar

Room 132

Build a Stage:  
Motivation Through Excitement  
April Moore

Room 122

Tabletop Gaming in the Classroom  
Ashley Gressett

Room 104

Transform Your Classroom with Growth  
Mindset  
Sheila Westbrook

Room 103

# BREAK THROUGH WITH BREAK OUT SESSIONS

## **Breakout the Collaboration**

Learn how a break out box can give both teachers and students an opportunity to collaborate to solve a meaningful and attention-grabbing problem. You will work with a team to open the locks on a box and save the world from endless faculty meetings.

Once the world is saved, we will brainstorm ways to use the break out box model to build classroom and school communities.

## **Engaging Students in Learning**

Are your students engaged? Are your students having fun learning? Come to this session to learn fun and exciting ways to keep your students engaged 100% of the time.

## **Build a Stage: Motivation Through Excitement**

If you want to motivate your students you have to find things that spark their interest and get them wondering. The wonder of a student leads to a passion for learning. Find your "something different" and work for the "Aha" moments!

## **Transform Your Classroom With Growth Mindset**

While exploring the research of Carol Dweck and Jo Boaler, we will assess our own mindset for teaching and learning and discover ways to improve the classroom environment with simple, easy-to-implement strategies.

## **Tabletop Gaming in the Classroom**

Tabletop (board, card, dice) games allow players to practice strategy, creativity, and teamwork. Tabletop Gaming in the Classroom will help teachers understand how to incorporate tabletop games into their classroom. We will discuss several kinds of games, and teachers will learn how to play a variety of games they can use with their students.

## **Stay Positive and Pace Yourself: A Survival Guide for New Teachers**

The first few years of teaching can be difficult, eye-opening, and even scary. But it is also filled with excitement, adventure, and endless learning opportunities. Here is your chance to network with other new teachers and learn tips and strategies for successfully getting through those first few years.



## Breakout Session Presenters



**Melinda Lowe, ECET2GT Co-Director**

Melinda Lowe is currently the Interim Director of Outreach & Innovation at Mississippi University for Women. Since 2012, she has served as the co-project director for CHAMPS, a multi-million dollar educational research grant. Before joining MUW, Melinda worked for the Columbus Municipal School District for 16 years as an elementary teacher, curriculum coordinator, professional development coordinator, and she developed the STAR New Teacher Induction program. Melinda received her B.S. in Elementary Education from Mississippi State University and her M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Mississippi University for Women. She is a National Board Certified Teacher, ICB certified, and has conducted numerous trainings for educators, parents and various non-profit organizations. Melinda actively serves as the chairman of the Columbus Lowndes Chamber of Commerce board of directors and serves on the CLOC education committee. She is also a member of the Lowndes Young Leaders advisory board.



**Sheila Westbrook, ECET2GT Co-Director**

Sheila Westbrook currently works in the Office of Outreach & Innovation at Mississippi University for Women as the Program Manager of CHAMPS, a multi-million dollar educational research grant that provides professional development to K-8 mathematics teachers. Before joining MUW, Sheila was a public school teacher in Mississippi for 20 years. She has experience teaching regular education, special education, and remedial classes at all levels in K-8. Sheila received her B.S. in Elementary Education from Mississippi University for Women in 1995, and she is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Women's Leadership. In 2009, she was a recipient of the Live from the Field Teacher Fellowship from Earthwatch Institute. She traveled on a scientific research expedition in the arctic where she kept a blog and conducted video conferences with her class while "Live from the Field". She was named Aberdeen School District Teacher of the Year in 2014-15. In 2017, Sheila traveled with Teachers 2 Teachers – International to Belize and the Galapagos Islands to conduct professional development training with elementary mathematics teachers. Sheila is passionate about education and advocating for teachers and students.



**Lucy McKellar**

Lucy McKellar has served 13 years as a middle school mathematics teacher. The last two years she has served as assistant principal at Fifth Street Junior High in West Point, MS. During this time, she has served as an instructor for MUW's Innovation and Outreach CHAMPS program. In this program, she trained teachers to create high achievement in math and problem solving. She has also presented at numerous conferences, at the local, state, and national level. She holds a B.S. in Secondary Education and a M. Ed in Education Leadership from Mississippi University for Women. She loves sharing her passion and enthusiasm for children and teaching with educational professionals.



**April Moore**

April Moore is a fourth grade teacher at Annunciation Catholic School in Columbus, MS. This is her fourth year of teaching fourth grade, but has taught many levels for the last twelve years. April holds a M. Ed in Middle Level Education from Mississippi State University. She recently completed a differentiation strategies class through Harvard online. April loves coming up with creative and fun ideas to keep students engaged. With the collaboration of other teachers, she strives to keep students excited about everyday learning. Teaching students to love learning is what motivates April to be the best teacher she can be.



**Ashley Gressett**

Ashley Gressett is the founder and owner of Books & Boards, an independent book and board game store located in downtown Columbus. She has been an avid gamer for over 15 years, with Scrabble, Qwirkix, and Canasta being her favorite tabletop games. Before opening Books & Boards, Ashley was the coordinator for Lowndes County Imagination Library, a local nonprofit that focuses on early literacy. She thrives on serving the community, and she loves planning events and activities that get children involved in learning.

# *Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teachers and Teaching - Golden Triangle*

## **Cultivating a Calling Speakers**



**Lauren Zarandona**

Lauren Zarandona teaches Algebra 2 and Statistics (and everything in between) at the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science. Currently in her fifteenth year as a teacher in Mississippi, Lauren has a passion for teaching teachers to think differently about curriculum by focusing on problem solving at all grade levels. Lauren is National Board Certified and a Presidential Award recipient for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching. Her husband, Jon, teaches at Armstrong Middle School. Jon and Lauren have two boys, Isaac (age 7) and Silas (age 5).



**Jay Little**

Jay Little is a 2016 Gates Millennium Scholar and alumnus of West Lowndes High School. A native of Artesia, MS, he currently attends The University of Alabama pursuing a degree in Computer Science with a minor in Civic Engagement and Leadership. Little is also a member of the STEM Path to MBA Program and University Honors. He is actively involved in the UA community with in SGA, where he serves as Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) PCI Chairman, Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Black Student Union (BSU), The Blackburn Institute, Collegiate 100 Black Men and an active volunteer with the Center for Service and Leadership. Jay advocates for minority student leadership, education, and professional development. He hopes to be a beacon of change and hope for future generations of young engineers and ultimately seeks to blaze the trail and inspire more students of color to pursue careers in the field. Little's future aspirations are to pursue his advanced degree and cultivate industry tech research while climbing the ladder in corporate America.



**Hagan Walker**

Hagan Walker graduated from Columbus High School in 2011, before attending Mississippi State University in the fall. During his undergraduate studies, Hagan served the university as an Alumni Delegate and as the Team Leader for the EcoCAR2 program. In the summer of 2014, he worked as a Hardware Engineering intern for dSPACE, Inc. in Wixom, Michigan. The following summer, he worked for Tesla Motors in Palo Alto, California, as a body controls engineer. After returning from his internship there, Hagan was offered a full-time position at Tesla Motors, which he declined in order to pursue his own company, Vibe, LLC, co-founded with fellow student, Kaylie Mitchell. Vibe, created at the MSU Center for Entrepreneurship and Outreach, makes a patented product called Glo, a liquid-activated drink light. Since its founding at MSU, Glo has been seen by more than 10 million viewers on social media and has sold over half a million units in 34 countries.



**Tina Scholtes**

Dr. Scholtes is a National Board Certified teacher, a past Starkville Teacher of the Year, a past Mississippi Teacher of the Year, and a Presidential Awardee for Mathematics and Science. She has served on various advisories and working committees for the Mississippi Department of Education. She participated in the National Staff Development Association's Academy of Leaders, a multi-year experience focusing on inquiry and problem-based learning in a professional development setting. She has conducted professional development /classroom demonstrations throughout the state.

# *Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teachers and Teaching - Golden Triangle*

## Cultivating a Calling Speakers



**Bob Fuller**

Dr. Fuller is the Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at Mississippi State University in Starkville, where he is the liaison for the Partnership School between the MSU College of Education and the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District. He served as an Assistant Professor in Educational Leadership at the Mississippi University for Women for seven years. He is a retired educator with twenty-five years experience in the public schools of Mississippi. Bob holds a B.S., M.Ed., and Ph.D. from Mississippi State University. He was principal of Armstrong Middle School (AMS) in Starkville for 15 years where he was named Mississippi's Middle School Principal of the Year in 2003 and the school district administrator of the year on three occasions. In addition, he was president of the Mississippi Association for Middle Level Education from 1996-98, the state's affiliate with the Association for Middle Level Education. While Dr. Fuller was principal of AMS, it was an acknowledged leader in the middle school concept movement. The school was recognized by The Education Trust as a "High Poverty School Exceeding Expectations," was a model school for the Mid-South Middle Start Initiative, and one of six middle schools in the nation chosen to develop a middle school reform model through the U.S. Department of Education. Today, Dr. Fuller serves as a mentor to several middle and high school principals and conducts professional development in the public schools of Mississippi.



**Jennifer Gregory**

Jennifer Gregory is the Program Director for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service in Starkville, Mississippi. The Stennis Center was established by Congress in 1988 as a living tribute to the public service career of John C. Stennis who served in the United States Senate for over 41 years and has offices in Starkville and Washington, D.C. Jennifer is also the Founding Principal of Sidewalk Strategies, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in community development, downtown revitalization, strategic planning and visioning, governmental relations, and marketing. Her clients include political action committees, community development organizations, and main street associations in Mississippi, Arkansas, South Carolina, and Alabama. Jennifer most recently served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership from 2012 - 2016, a community development umbrella organization that consists of the Starkville Area Chamber of Commerce, Starkville Visitors & Convention Council, Oktibbeha County Economic Development Authority, and Starkville Main Street Association. Jennifer was named a Top 50 under 40 professional by Mississippi Business Journal in 2016 and is a member of the Board of Governors of the Starkville Country Club. She serves as President of Parents for Public Schools Starkville, Co-President of Sudduth Elementary PTO, and Vice President for Operations for Bully Bloc.

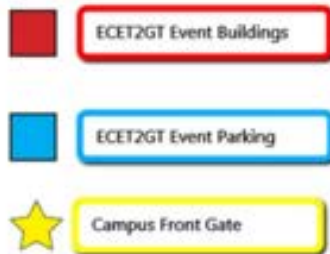


FREE wireless internet is available through the MUW Network. You can access WIFI by connecting to "OUTREACH" in your network settings. The password for this network is "odyowl2017." Just let one of the ECET2GT hostesses know if you have any difficulties connecting.

#ECET2GT #ECET2GT2017



1. Cochran Hall
2. Shattuck Hall
3. Parkinson Hall  
(Nissan Auditorium)
4. Hogarth Dining Center  
(Pope Banquet Room)
5. Hogarth Student Union  
(The W Room)
6. Fant Memorial Library
7. Stark Recreation Center



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