2021 NEA ESP National VIRTUAL Conference Workshops

Note: All session times are Eastern Standard Time

1. **Adult Workplace Bullying**

   **Presenter:** Seleste Harris

   Have you ever felt that you were in the midst of adult bullying? While many discussions are centered on the important issue of student bullying in schools, very few are focused on the inappropriate behaviors adults may experience from other adults in the workplace. In this workshop, participants will be able to identify adult bullying tactics and be empowered with strategies to address inappropriate behaviors and invoke systematic change.

   **Leadership Competency:** Leading Our Professions (Mobilizing/Power Building)
   **PGC Universal Standards:** Professionalism (Foundational); Cultural Competence (Foundational)
   **Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

   **Session I:** Pre-recorded
   **Session II:** Live

2. **Are You Interested in Earning a “Big Fat Check?”**

   **Presenters:** Kimberly Lindsey, Glenda Jones

   It’s a new year and members are looking for practical ways to save money and gain a greater return on their spending. In this workshop, participants will become knowledgeable of ways they can use NEA Member Benefits to save and maximize spending habits. If you’re looking for ways to stretch your dollars when it comes to positioning your finances, don’t miss this session.

   **Leadership Competency:** Strategy and Fiscal Health (Foundational)
   **PGC Universal Standards:** Professionalism (Foundational); Technology (Foundational)
   **Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

   **Session I:** Pre-recorded
   **Session III:** Live
3. **Bargaining and Advocacy in the Face of Crisis**

**Presenters:** Brian Beallor, Andy Jewell

The COVID-19 pandemic has quickly become the worst crisis we have ever faced in our lifetime. ESPs, students, and communities have been hit with staggering issues, many that were unthinkable before. Now, more than ever, ESPs have been forced to bargain and advocate as if their lives, and those of which they care for, depend on it, because it literally may. This workshop will focus on becoming better prepared as a union to tackle issues brought upon through crisis such as protecting ESP careers and advocating for health and safety issues, as well as providing practical skills and resources that can make the union more effective advocates.

**Leadership Competency:** Advocacy (Mobilizing/Power Building)
**PGC Universal Standards:** Health & Safety (Foundational); Communication (Advanced/Mastery); Organization (Proficient); Professionalism (Advanced/Mastery)
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

- **Session I:** Live
- **Session II:** Pre-recorded

4. **Be Calm and Carry On…But How?!**

**Presenters:** Sheila Grady, Joan Condon

Are you feeling stressed, frustrated, or even anxious and fearful during this pandemic? Join a team from Capacitar International and learn simple self-care tools that you can use in your everyday life. Techniques such as fingerholds to manage emotions, acupressure, movement and meditation can help you to manage emotions and stress. In this Capacitar workshop, you will learn, by doing.

**Leadership Competency:** Leading Our Professions (Foundational)
**PGC Universal Standard:** Health & Safety (Foundational)
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

- **Session III:** Live
5. Bridging Differences Using the Ladder of Inference for Clearer Communication

Presenters: Dr. Latasha Bacote-Owens, Jessica Tedder

Have you ever wondered how two people receiving the same information at the same time can come to such different conclusions? The Ladder of Inference is a useful framework for recognizing how our perceptions and assumptions can have an impact on our communication with others. This tool reminds us to pause and reflect on our own thoughts, make our assumptions explicit, and take the time to be cognizant of others. In this session, participants will learn how to use the Ladder of Inference to help them get perspective and minimize bias, thus leading to improved communication with others.

Leadership Competency: Communication (Foundational)
P GC Universal Standard: Cultural Competence (Foundational)
Relevant for educators: Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

Session II: Pre-recorded
Session III: Live

6. Community Engagement to Community Action

Presenters: Stacey Grissom, Chloe Bovia

Now more than ever, the fight for safe, just, and equitable schools means our union must be deeply connected to the communities in which we work and live. We must be in the community, not with passive presence, but in active partnership. Join NEA’s Community Advocacy and Partnership Engagement (CAPE) department for this workshop on building partnerships at the local level. Hear how NEA affiliates across the country are forging resilient ties to their communities by embracing diversity, cultivating collaboration, and standing as allies for the common good. Learn how external partnership is not only a tool for winning on the issues we care about, but also a smart strategy for deepening the union’s connection with members.

Leadership Competency: Organizing (Mobilizing/Power Building)
P GC Universal Standards: Professionalism (Foundational); Cultural Competence (Foundational)
Relevant for educators: Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

Session III: Live
7. **Confronting White Nationalism in Schools**

**Presenters:** Matthew Powell, Saul Ramos, Brenda Brathwaite

Whether a school bus driver, custodial staff member, or classroom teacher, all educators play a critical role in recognizing and addressing white nationalism. Join us for an engaging session as we explore the Confronting White Nationalism in Schools toolkit published by the Western States Center. Participants will leave the session with at least one tangible action step to implement in their workplace or community.

**Leadership Competency:** Advocacy (Mobilizing/Power Building)
**PGC Universal Standard:** Cultural Competence (Proficient)
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session I:** Live
**Session II:** Pre-recorded

8. **Creative Strategies for Organizing and Engaging Newer Educators**

**Presenter:** Crystal Bush

In this session, participants will learn a variety of ways to creatively engage newer educators. Through hands-on activities, participants will be given a variety of tools to turn passive members into actively engaged members. Topics covered include organizing focus group meetings, creating a Sparks Program, cross-regional networking opportunities, and the creation of a state-based Emerging Leaders Academy. The spectrum of soft to hard engagement strategies will also be covered. Participants will leave with a variety of engagement strategies that can be used at the local, regional, and state levels.

**Leadership Competency:** Organizing (Mobilizing/Power Building)
**PGC Universal Standards:** Professionalism (Advanced/Mastery); Communication (Advanced/Mastery)
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session III:** Live

**Presenters:** Michael Rollins, Allen Barkkume, John Staab

This training provides participants with examples of how to use legislative rights to advocate for custodial and maintenance workers. Participants will learn applicable CDC recommendations and local policies to maintain safe and healthy workplaces and learning environments.

**Leadership Competency:** Organizing (Mobilizing/Power Building)
**PGC Universal Standards:** Health & Safety (Foundational); Organization (Advanced/Mastery); Reporting (Proficient); Communication (Proficient)
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session III:** Live

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10. Dealing with Behaviors: What ESPs Need to Know

**Presenters:** Lynn Goss, Mary Binegar

How can ESPs manage and prevent challenging behaviors in the classroom, on the school bus, and in other school environments while promoting a positive school climate and social, emotional, and academic development (SEAD)? According to recent research, one in five children today have experienced at least one traumatic event in their life. One could argue that currently 100% of our children are experiencing trauma due to COVID-19. These experiences, coupled with the understanding that all children perform better academically when they have strong social and emotional skills, underscores the need for learning the principles of behavior. This workshop will address universal practices for providing positive behavioral supports and specialized intervention strategies that address challenging behaviors and promote safe and supportive learning environments for students. They will learn and practice research-based strategies for positive behavior change by working through real-life scenarios. This workshop is relevant for all ESP career families.

**Leadership Competency:** Leading Our Professions (Foundational)
**PGC Universal Standards:** Professionalism (Foundational); Cultural Competence (Foundational)
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through High School

**Session II:** Live
**Session III:** Pre-recorded
11. Developing Racial Equity Tools in our Communities and Food Systems

**Presenters:** Krystal Oriadha, Karen Spangler

Racial equity is an integral part of supporting kids, communities, and education professionals, and National Farm to School Network (NFSN) believes that farm to school activities can provide an approach to addressing inequities. NFSN will discuss key takeaways from our inaugural Equity Learning Lab, a collaborative curriculum to train farm to school leaders from across the country in equity principles and strategies that ESP members can apply to their own work in school food justice and in their communities. We will also share highlights of NFSN’s own equity journey, including strategies for organizations who are new to addressing racial equity in their work.

**Leadership Competency:** Advocacy (Mobilizing/Power Building)

**PGC Universal Standards:** Cultural Competence (Foundational); Professionalism (Advanced/Mastery)

**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session I:** Live

12. Digital Footprint Workshop

**Presenter:** Sabina Ellis

Monitoring your online activity and ensuring security is important in any workplace. In this workshop, participants will learn about tracking and protecting their digital footprint on social media platforms, websites and emails. They’ll also learn how to monitor searches in the Google Chrome browser.

**Leadership Competency:** Communication (Foundational)

**PGC Universal Standards:** Technology (Foundational/Proficient); Communication (Foundational)

**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session I:** Pre-recorded
13. How to Build a Statewide ESP Trainer Cadre

Presenters: Nani Lium, Keri Roberts

Join our session to learn how the Washington Education Association built a cadre of only education support professionals (ESPs) to train on state mandated equity curriculum. Participants will leave with strategies on seeking candidates, building curriculum, and training others. Hear how purposeful decisions are made on the makeup of teams who will train around the various areas within a state. Participants will also learn how we transitioned from in person training to online training from a team that has trained over 5,000 ESPs on cultural identity, diversity, and equity.

Leadership Competency: Leading Our Professions (Mobilizing/Power Building)
PGC Universal Standards: Professionalism (Advanced/Mastery); Technology (Proficient); Organization (Advanced/Mastery); Communication (Advanced/Mastery)
Relevant for educators: Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

Session II: Live

14. How to Write a Grant

Presenters: Meghan Berka, Dr. Christopher Johnson

Founded by NEA members, the NEA Foundation awards approximately $400,000 annually to public school teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff. This session will provide an overview of eligibility requirements and tips on how to write successful grant proposals, as well as feature outstanding ESP projects that have been funded by the NEA Foundation and the NEA’s Center for Great Public Schools. Attendees will have the opportunity to brainstorm projects and practice articulating the needs of their students and schools so that they can walk away feeling confident in preparing a proposal for their next grant opportunity.

Leadership Competency: Communication (Mobilizing/Power Building)
PGC Universal Standards: Professionalism (Advanced/Mastery); Communication (Proficient)
Relevant for educators: Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

Session II: Live
15. **Implicit Bias and Racial Microaggressions**

**Presenter:** Aneeka Ferrell

This research-based course explores issues of implicit bias based on race through an analysis of "micro-aggressions" and "micro-insults." This training exposes participants to an understanding of what implicit bias is in order to examine how personal implicit biases can impact the way we respond and react to people based on their race. Participants will gain tools to adjust automatic patterns of unconscious thinking. The goal is to reduce and ultimately eliminate discriminatory behaviors that can lead to racial and social injustices and inequalities.

**Leadership Competency:** Communication (Foundational)

**PGC Universal Standard:** Cultural Competence (Foundational)

**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session II:** Live

**Session III:** Pre-recorded

16. **Intersectionality: Using an Intersectional Lens**

**Presenters:** Wanda Newman, Antoinette C. Smith

Most ESPs are not invited to the table to develop school practices or policies despite often being the first professional educator seen by students each and every day. Because of how closely they interact with students, many ESPs pick-up on both marginalized and privileged differences and identities among students immediately. While ESPs may not create school practices or polices, they support and sustain school climates that are equitable and create a sense of belonging for all students so they can achieve socially, emotionally, and academically. Learn about NEA’s new partnership with the Human Rights Campaign, Welcoming Schools, and how they’re helping to create safe and welcoming schools for all students, families, and educators.

**Leadership Competency:** Leading Our Professions (Mobilizing/Power Building)

**PGC Universal Standards:** Cultural Competence (Advanced/Mastery); Ethics (Foundational)

**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session III:** Live
17. **Merging for Power: ESP and Certificated Local Collaboration**

**Presenters:** Shannon Rasmussen, Robbi Reed

Two Washington State local affiliates will discuss the value and gained strength following a merger of their ESPs and certificated locals. Both mergers, Federal Way Education Association in 2008 and Northshore Education Association, harnessed strength, power and solidarity to positively impact both units. The presenters will share the processes, procedures, guiding documents, and logistics that were used in the merger process, and will discuss how the alliance made both locals stronger. They will also discuss how the merger significantly advanced bargaining gains for both units.

**Leadership Competency:** Governance and Leadership (Mobilizing/Power Building)

**PGC Universal Standards:** Organization (Advanced/Mastery); Professionalism (Advanced/Mastery); Communication (Advanced/Mastery)

**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session III:** Live

18. **Microsoft PowerPoint and Google Slides**

**Presenter:** Mary Hilton

Have you ever wanted to learn about Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Slides? Then this is the class for you. Join us as we look deeper into PowerPoint and Slides and unlock their mysteries. This workshop will help participants understand how to effectively use these tools for meetings and presentations.

**Leadership Competency:** Leading Our Professions (Foundational)

**PGC Universal Standards:** Technology (Foundational); Communication (Foundational)

**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session II:** Pre-recorded

19. **Microsoft Word and Google Documents**

**Presenter:** Mary Hilton

Have you ever wanted to learn about Microsoft Word or Google Docs? Then this is the class for you. Come along as we dive deep into Word and Documents and unlock all their potential. Figure out which program best suits you and your needs and accelerate your knowledge. Laptops will be provided.

**Leadership Competency:** Leading Our Professions (Foundational)

**PGC Universal Standards:** Technology (Foundational); Communication (Foundational)

**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session III:** Pre-recorded
20. **Network with Clerical Professionals: Tips and Tools of the Profession**

**Presenters:** Audrey Nichols, Janie White

This workshop will be an interactive space for participants to network, give and receive tips and tools of the profession based on their level of expertise on the ESP Professional Growth Continuum (PGC). The session will model a panel discussion that will yield needed and helpful tips to make your work environment run smoothly.

**Leadership Competency:** Leading Our Professions (Mobilizing/Power Building)
**PGC Universal Standards:** Communication (Foundational); Professionalism (Proficient)
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session II:** Live

21. **Organizing and Advocating to Protect Public Education**

**Presenter:** Carol Schnaiter, Diane Chapman

As educators and union members, we must understand how and why our profession is under attack by those who seek to undermine the guarantee of a public education for our students and the collective voice of our members. Our adversaries understand that an educated populace limits their ability to control the wealth, governance, and economy of our nation. Through this session, participants will learn basic organizational strategies, which can be used at the local and state levels to engage and empower members to counter the activities of the many, intertwined groups which use their power to sway public opinion with misleading propaganda that serves to undermine public education and policy at the state and federal levels in their favor of free markets, the privatization of our schools, and the diminishment of unions, retirement programs and benefits.

**Leadership Competency:** Advocacy (Mobilizing/Power Building)
**PGC Universal Standards:** Organization (Foundational); Communication (Proficient); Ethics (Foundational)
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session III:** Live
22. **Political Action, PACs, and Lobbying: Why ESPs Must Become Actively Involved**

**Presenter:** Connie Boylan

If ESPs are to have a seat at the table in important, relevant discussions regarding education, social justice, or their careers, they must become involved politically. In this workshop, ESPs will become familiar with strategies to help them boost their confidence and step outside their comfort zone, enabling them to understand the how and why of becoming a political activist.

**Leadership Competency:** Advocacy (Mobilizing/Power Building)
**PGC Universal Standards:** Communication (Proficient); Organization (Advanced/Mastery); Professionalism (Advanced/Mastery)
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session II:** Live

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23. **Protect Our Schools Together (POST)**

**Presenters:** Caitlin Rollo, Aaron Dockser

NEA has created POST, a tool that allows individual NEA members, potential members, students, parents, and community members to document various situations in real time, such as unsafe conditions, violations of health and safety agreements, or inappropriate management activity and responses that could lead to COVID-19 outbreaks. During this interactive training, NEA field staff will help participants develop and implement effective use of POST including next steps and how to create a plan of action. They will also cover basic roll out, providing form emails, SMS messaging, hustle scripts, customized web pages, and other ways of implementing the tool. POST is a mobile friendly web form connected to NEA’s membership database, NEA 360. The tool aggregates data on a local and national level, sends back regular reports to local leaders and staff, and facilitates an individual’s participation in the larger project of promoting public safety through organizing in their union.

**Leadership Competency:** Advocacy (Mobilizing/Power Building)
**PGC Universal Standards:** Health & Safety (Foundational); Communication (Advanced/Mastery); Reporting (Foundational); Ethics (Advanced/Mastery)
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session I:** Live
24. **Secondary Trauma Support for ESPs**

**Presenters:** Danielle Logan, Brytan Felter

Participants will gain a better understanding of trauma and secondary trauma (aka compassion fatigue), and discuss how they may affect work-life balance. This will include COVID-19 related trauma. Participants will learn how to use the *Professional Quality of Life Self-Assessment* tool to measure their current levels of secondary trauma and discuss self-care and resilience-building strategies. This workshop will involve breakout groups, a safe space to share experiences, and opportunities to build community with peers and colleagues. To facilitate a safe space, breakout groups will not be recorded.

**Leadership Competency:** Leading Our Professions (Foundational)  
**PGC Universal Standards:** Health & Safety (Foundational); Professionalism (Proficient)  
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session II:** Live

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25. **Student Behavior: De-escalation Strategies and Student Rights**

**Presenters:** Suzanne Harris, Rhodie Sims

In this session, participants will learn how some responses to student behavior encourage the behavior to continue, how to adjust adult responses to student outbursts, how to give students responsibilities that can improve behavior, student privacy rights, and other basic strategies to de-escalate student behavior. Participants will use the ESP Professional Growth Continuum (PGC) universal standards to develop a plan for additional growth using interactive, engaging virtual programs and guided questions.

**Leadership Competency:** Leading Our Professions (Foundational)  
**PGC Universal Standards:** Communication (Proficient/Advanced Mastery); Cultural Competence (Foundational); Ethics (Foundational/Proficient)  
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through High School

**Session I:** Live  
**Session II:** Pre-recorded
26. Supporting Grieving Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Presenter:** Dr. David Schonfeld

Even prior to the pandemic, grief was common in the lives of children. The death of a close family member or friend can have a profound and long-term impact on children’s psychological adjustment, academic achievement, and personal development. Education support professionals (ESPs) play a critical role in providing support to grieving students. The current pandemic poses multiple challenges to meeting grieving students’ needs for support at a time when adults are also experiencing substantial loss and stress. This session will discuss the unique challenges of supporting grieving students during the pandemic, offer practical strategies for helping students cope with loss, and highlight free resources available through the Coalition to Support Grieving Students, of which NEA is a founding member.

**Leadership Competency:** Leading Our Professions (Mobilizing/Power Building)

**PGC Universal Standards:** Communication (Proficient/Advanced Mastery); Professionalism (Proficient)

**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session II:** Live

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27. Taking Advantage of Unforeseen Opportunities to Protect and Grow Membership

**Presenters:** Shannon Alston, Martin McDonough

Unforeseen circumstances, such as the global COVID-19 pandemic we are experiencing can be an opportunity for our Association. In this session, we will share tried and true tactics to protect and grow membership when faced with unexpected challenges. Participants will discuss and learn how to use some of these same tactics to form a path to a stronger union as things return to “normal” and beyond.

**Leadership Competency:** Organizing (Mobilizing/Power Building)

**PGC Universal Standards:** Professionalism (Advanced/Mastery); Communication (Advanced/Mastery)

**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session I:** Live

**Session III:** Pre-recorded
28. Talking Race: Grounding Our Understanding to Effectively Talk About Race and Racial Justice

**Presenters:** Wanda Newman, Hasheen Wilson, Lisa Jennings

This session will provide an introduction to the different levels of racism and its impacts on institutions and systems. Participants will learn why a race equity and racial justice lens is critical to the work of everyone on the education team. Interactive activities and tools will be introduced to support the development of a racial analysis, along with basic resources to engage in constructive discussions about race.

**Leadership Competency:** Advocacy (Mobilizing/Power Building)

**PGC Universal Standards:** Cultural Competence (Advanced/Mastery); Ethics (Foundational); Professionalism (Foundational)

**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session I:** Pre-recorded

**Session II:** Live

29. The Power in Partnerships and Alliances with Communities of Color

**Presenters:** Sedelta Oosahwee, Melody Gonzales

In 2020 we witnessed the devastation of a global pandemic, more Black lives tragically lost at the hands of law enforcement, and a contentious election followed by political unrest. This state of affairs will continue to impact the lives of our students, especially students of color. Education support professionals have the opportunity to work with their school communities and local unions to partner with organizations led by, and working with, communities of color to advance racial justice efforts and create the conditions in which all students can thrive. This interactive session, featuring diverse NEA partner organizations, will provide participants with the opportunity to learn more about the NEA's Community Advocacy and Partnership Engagement (CAPE) work, gain a deeper understanding of the key issues impacting communities of color, and learn from examples of successful partnerships that can help local NEA affiliates better collaborate with diverse organizations in their communities to create the change our students need.

**Leadership Competency:** Organizing (Mobilizing/Power Building)

**PGC Universal Standard:** Cultural Competence (Foundational)

**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session I:** Live
30. **The Social Emotional Intelligence Leadership Journey**

**Presenters:** Katherine Bishop, Benita Moyers, Clinton Smith

Now more than ever, education leaders need to learn to navigate challenges of current crisis and change to lead healthy and productive lives and model for others the often overlooked, social and emotional skills of leadership. This session will provide an overview of the NEA Leadership Competency Framework and introduce participants to a new addition, a 7th competency: Social Emotional Intelligence. This interactive workshop will help educators explore ways to deepen their awareness and practice of the knowledge, skills, and behaviors that create healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

**Leadership Competency:** Governance and Leadership (Foundational)  
**PGC Universal Standard:** Cultural Competence (Foundational)  
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session I:** Live

31. **The "S" Word: The Role of Schools in Preventing Suicide**

**Presenter:** Brandy Brooks, EdD

Education Support Professionals (ESPs) are uniquely positioned to recognize the signs of suicide and self-injury and make the appropriate referrals for help. In order to be able to recognize the warning signs, all ESPs need training to acquire the skills, vocabulary, and techniques to support young people at risk. In this workshop, participants will gain an understanding of the importance of suicide prevention training as well as learn how to recognize and identify the risks and warning signs for youth suicide. Through interactive role-plays, participants will gain practical knowledge and skills to be able to respond to a young person at risk. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s Suicide Prevention Program’s online training, “The “S” Word: The Role of Schools in Preventing Suicide,” will also be discussed.

**Leadership Competency:** Leading Our Professions (Foundational)  
**PGC Universal Standard:** Health & Safety (Proficient)  
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session I:** Live  
**Session III:** Pre-recorded
32. Using Effective Communication to Build Partnerships with Families

**Presenter:** Patricia Weinzapfel

In the past year, we have learned just how important it is to bring families into the educational process. But before we can begin to partner with families, we need to communicate with them in ways they understand and in ways that are respectful of their expertise. Sometimes the language we use to explain school practices and goals to families is complicated and full of educational jargon and acronyms. Families often find the words and authoritative tone we use off-putting, confusing and alienated. They are often overwhelmed with the amount of information we are providing, which can cause them to disengage and tune us out. Simplifying and improving our communication skills can eliminate barriers and allow us to fully engage with families as equal partners. Participants will leave with practical tips, tools, and techniques they can apply to all of their conversations, emails, text messages, and newsletters.

**Leadership Competency:** Communication (Agenda Driving)
**PGC Universal Standards:** Communication (Foundational); Cultural Competence (Foundational); Professionalism (Proficient)
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through Higher Education, Central Office/Districtwide

**Session I:** Pre-recorded
**Session III:** Live

33. Working Together to Stomp Out the Antecedent

**Presenter:** Robert Browning

When faced with challenging student behaviors, ESPs must have the skills, knowledge and training to manage and support them. Whether you are a bus driver, a custodian, clerical staff, electrician, paraeducator or any professional in a school setting, you are the eye and ears both inside and outside the classroom and play a critical role in every part of a student's school day. This session will discuss triggers (antecedents) that lead to challenging behavior. We will use the five tenants of the whole student philosophy: Healthy, Safe, Supported, Engaged, Challenged, and share how each of these tenants can impact student behavior.

**Leadership Competency:** Leading Our Professions (Foundational)
**PGC Universal Standards:** Professionalism (Foundational); Health & Safety (Foundational)
**Relevant for educators:** Pre-K through High School

**Session I:** Live