

CONNECTICUT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

EARLY CAREER EDUCATOR CONFERENCE

March 22, 2025
Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa



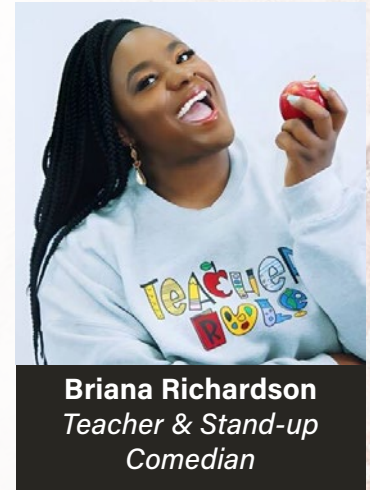
AGENDA

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa · Groton, CT

All workshops are offered twice (once during each session).

- 8:30 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome by CEA President Kate Dias
Opening session
Keynote Speaker: Briana Richardson,
Teacher & Stand-up Comedian
- 10:00 a.m. Session I
- 11:30 a.m. Break
- 11:45 a.m. Session II
- 1:15 p.m. Lunch



- Register at cea.org/event/early-career-conference.
- Download the Cvent Event app to your phone to get ready for the conference. This app contains a detailed schedule, sessions, information about presenters, session room assignments, and so much more.
- The conference is designed for educators in their first seven years of teaching, but any CEA member currently employed by a school district may attend. Lunch is included.
- In case of inclement weather, check for updates at cea.org or call 860-525-5641 for the status of this conference.
- If you have questions, contact Angela Spinnato at angelas@cea.org or Lisa Bickford at lisaab@cea.org.

Register for CEA's
Early Career Educator
Conference here!



SESSIONS

AI Basic Literacy and Ethics for Educators

The National Education Association recently released policy guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence, highlighting the importance of using AI safely and responsibly. Basic AI literacy and ethical considerations are necessary for teachers across subject areas, as the use of AI is expected to grow and become fundamental to 21st-century learning. Discover how AI can enhance the learning process, why face-to-face learning remains key, and how AI tools can be used ethically and effectively for multiple purposes. To get the most out of this session, participants should bring their laptops. *Elementary, Middle, High*

Educator Wellness, Resilience, and Hope

Educator stress is at an all-time high, educators are fleeing the profession in droves, and pipelines to fill positions are drying up. The profession cannot address mass exodus merely by offering self-care tips. We need to collectively re-envision schools as workplaces that foster educator well-being throughout the career continuum, starting with our newest educators and those who mentor them in their preparation programs and beginning years of teaching. If we send enthusiastic new educators into toxic work environments, we risk watching them leave the profession they have worked hard to prepare for. *Elementary, Middle, High*

Equity Through Read-Alouds in Early Childhood Education

This workshop will focus on the importance of race and equity in the early childhood classroom. Participants will analyze children's books, looking closely at text and illustrations, and plan meaningful learning experiences for their own students. There will be opportunities to share, and everyone will receive a booklist and other resources to support equity work in their own classrooms. *Elementary*

Financially Independent Teachers

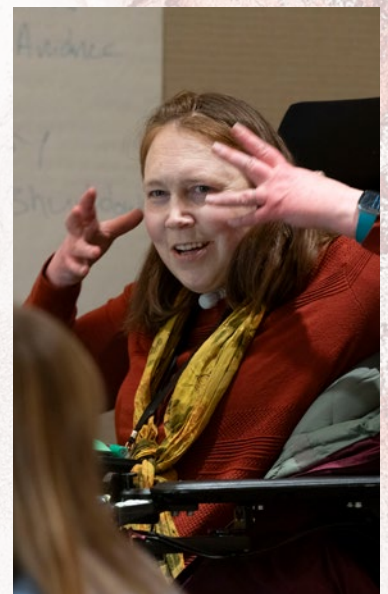
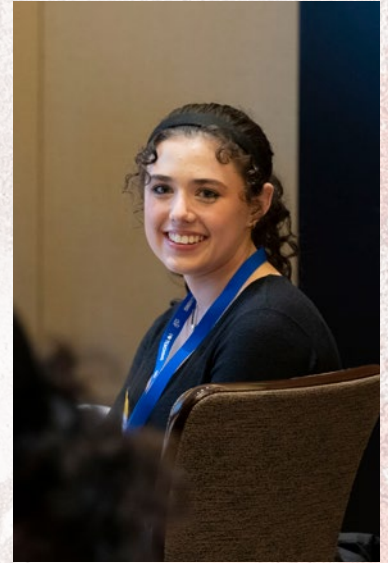
Teachers will come away with an understanding of the basics of retirement savings options (IRAs, 403(b)s, 457s), including how money compounds in these accounts, how to research their own district's options, and how to identify their financial independence (FI) number. Participants will walk away ready to make choices that will have compounding lifelong benefits that can lead to early retirement! *Elementary, Middle, High*

Google Drive: Tips, Tricks, and Time!

Google Drive can be a teacher's best friend. Learn some clever, time-saving hacks in Google Docs, Sheets, Forms, and Slides as well as how to organize your Drive in a way that works for you. *Elementary, Middle, High*

LGBTQ+ Issues, Rights, and Responsibilities in Education

LGBTQ+ staff and students live in an ever-changing landscape and often face discrimination, harassment, and questions about their rights. The goal of this workshop is to educate LGBTQ+ educators and their allies on their rights in and out of the classroom and ways they can best support themselves, their colleagues, and students. Want to know more about how these issues



SESSIONS CONTINUED

are playing out in schools, or just how to be the best ally you can be in any environment? This is the track for you! We will teach you how to navigate rough waters and make sure everyone belongs in education. ***Elementary, Middle, High***

Mastering Small Group Instruction for Reading Success

In this engaging workshop, participants will explore the critical connections between data and effective literacy instruction. As we dive into the science of reading, educators will learn how to leverage data to inform their teaching practices, identify key focus areas, and enhance their small group instruction. Attendees will discover structured literacy approaches aligned with research-based strategies, enabling them to support students in Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions effectively. We will discuss the essential routines and frameworks that promote successful small group learning environments, ensuring all students receive targeted, impactful instruction. By the end of our session, educators will walk away with easy-to-implement tools and ideas to empower their teaching and inspire their students. ***Elementary***



Play-Doh Is Not Just for Playing! Using Common Materials to Engage Student Learning

It doesn't get more hands-on than Play-Doh! Roll up your sleeves and learn how to use modeling compounds, recycled materials, and other common manipulatives to differentiate learning, practice vocabulary, enhance existing lessons, and introduce new concepts. Reach diverse learners across the curriculum. Assessment models are included. ***Elementary, Middle, High***



Teachers and the Law

This presentation examines educators' legal rights and responsibilities in a variety of contexts, including state mandatory reporting, DCF investigations, teacher dismissal, personal liability, union representation, FOIA and personnel files, and much more. ***Elementary, Middle, High***

The 3 Cs of Behavior Management

Teachers consistently identify behavioral issues as one of the biggest challenges they face. In this workshop you will learn how to create a safe, welcoming classroom environment that fosters learning and minimizes disruptive behavior in three steps. ***Elementary, Middle, High***

Truth, Beauty, Freedom, Love: Discussions that Dare to Disrupt

Taboo. Uncomfortable. Challenging. These are labels often given to conversations that disrupt the status quo. In this dynamic presentation, participants will learn to lead critical conversations that dare to disrupt. ***Elementary, Middle, High***

