

# **TAGT ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2: PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTES**

*All Pre-Conference Institutes begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m.*

### **Why Are School Buses Always Yellow? Inquiry, Problem Solving and Creative Thinking for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**TAGT Core Area:** Creativity and Instructional Strategies  
**National Standard:** Instructional Strategies  
**Strand:** Curriculum Differentiation, Leadership, Student Research  
**Audience:** Teachers, Coordinators/Administrators  
**Grade Level:** All  
**Room:** 310  
**Presenter:** Dr. John Barell, Montclair State University

This institute will focus upon challenging all our students to ask good questions, conduct purposeful investigations, think critically, draw reasonable conclusions and reflect on performance. We will challenge ourselves to find within our established curricula ways to foster students' inquisitiveness and creative problem solving. There will be opportunity to apply specific instructional approaches to long term curriculum development and assessments of understanding.

### **A Coordinated, Organizational Approach to Excellence**

**TAGT Core Area:** Differentiated Curriculum; Program Options and Design  
**National Standard:** Instructional Planning  
**Strand:** Administrators, Coordinators, Curriculum Differentiation  
**Audience:** Teachers, Coordinators/Administrators  
**Grade Level:** All  
**Room:** 320  
**Presenter:** John Samara, The Curriculum Project

Responding to the needs of all children can be accomplished by developing an organization that focuses on effective instruction. This institute will provide an overview of The Curry/Samara Model of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and The Model Curriculum Project. These systems provide an integrated, standards approach to curriculum development that addresses differentiation from three dimensions: content, process, and product. With a focus on curriculum development and implementation of instructional strategies, The Curry Samara Model is the foundation upon which a model classroom is built.

### **Gifted in the Middle: Challenges, Choices, and Change**

**TAGT Core Area:** Social and Emotional Needs; Program Options and Design  
**National Standard:** Learning Environments and Social Interactions  
**Strand:** Administrators, Coordinators, Leadership  
**Audience:** Teachers, Counselors, Coordinators/Administrators  
**Grade Level:** Middle School  
**Room:** 330  
**Presenter:** Dr. Susan Rakow, Cleveland State University

Beginning with a look at the need for greater collaboration with middle school advocates, this institute will focus on the nature and needs of the gifted early adolescent, programming options, curriculum models, assessment, and finally, action planning and overcoming obstacles to change. Interactive strategies will be used to help participants make the content relevant and appropriate to their school, students, and community.

### **Components of an Exemplary Program: From Standards to Best Practices**

<b>TAGT Core Area:</b>	Program Options and Design
<b>National Standard:</b>	Foundations
<b>Strand:</b>	Coordinators, Leadership
<b>Audience:</b>	Coordinators/Administrators
<b>Grade Level:</b>	All
<b>Room:</b>	340
<b>Presenter:</b>	Dr. Susan Johnsen, Baylor University, and Todd Kettler, Coppell ISD

This working session for program coordinators and administrators will focus on identification of diverse populations, program design, curriculum, professional development, national standards, and issues related to accountability. Participants will have opportunities to network and share their “glows” and “grows” about their current school program.

### **Grow with the Texas Performance Standards Project**

<b>TAGT Core Area:</b>	Differentiated Curriculum; Program Options and Design
<b>National Standard:</b>	Instructional Planning
<b>Strand:</b>	Coordinators, Student Research. Leadership
<b>Audience:</b>	Teachers, Coordinators/Administrators
<b>Grade Level:</b>	All
<b>Room:</b>	350 D-F
<b>Presenter:</b>	Marilyn Peebles, Region 13 ESC, and other presenters

This institute will focus on a practical approach to introducing and utilizing the Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP); working teachers who have successfully implemented the TPSP at elementary, middle school, and high school levels will be featured.

## **TAGT Exhibit Hall Grand Opening: 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

The TAGT Exhibit Hall opens at 4:00 p.m., immediately following the conclusion of the Pre-Conference Institutes, so be sure to stop in and visit! Over 100 exhibitors will be onsite, displaying and selling educational books, materials, games, and services.

This grand opening is free and open to the public, as well as all conference participants. There will be special sessions for parents and community members regarding advocacy, parenting, and the opportunities that TAGT membership can provide!