

Breakout Session Details - FEPLN 2025 Annual Convening

Rosen Plaza, International Drive, Orlando

Thursday, February 27th, 2025

SESSION 4 BREAKOUTS (11:10 am – 12:30 pm)

Leading with Purpose: Balancing Instructional and Operational Leadership – Ballroom D

Dr. Ginger Featherstone, *OELL Consultant*

This workshop will equip school leaders with strategies for effectively navigating the dynamic balance between instructional and operational leadership, in alignment with the Florida Educational Leadership Standards (FELS). Participants will engage in collaborative discussions and explore the Leadership Matrix framework, as well as time management strategies, to prioritize tasks, delegate efficiently, and enhance their leadership in both instructional and organizational domains.

Leading a School District Coaching System – Salon 8

Dr. Jennifer Shepard, *Clay County Schools*

This session will examine strategies for leading a coherent coaching system of district coaches to improve student outcomes. It will explore approaches to strengthen a clear coaching structure district-wide, and techniques to monitor and track its effectiveness. Participants will gain an understanding of the value of establishing vertical, horizontal, conceptual, and logistical coherence for effective coaching implementation.

Peer Coaching - Developing Novice Teachers Through Mentoring and Coaching – Salon 9

Dr. Cynthia Bauman, *Florida Atlantic University*

How can the teacher mentor-novice teacher relationship be strengthened to build capacity and expertise in those initial teaching years? This presentation will outline the ways teacher mentors can utilize coaching strategies within the mentor/mentee relationship to maximize potential within our novice teachers, positively impacting teacher retention and reducing turnover. Applying coaching skills and strategies provides mentors the flexibility to meet the unique needs of today's novice teachers. Peer coaching is embedded professional learning that can lead to resilient and skilled teacher.

Unleashing Potential: Principals Fueling Coach Success for Maximum Impact – Salon 10

Dr. Katherine Policastro, *Broward County Public Schools*

As a school principal, supporting coaches involves providing guidance, resources, and a collaborative environment that empowers them to effectively support teachers and students. This includes offering time for coaching sessions, facilitating professional development opportunities, and fostering open communication. Principals must ensure that coaches have the tools and strategies to address specific needs within the school, align coaching efforts with school goals, and create a culture of continuous improvement. This professional learning session will provide leaders with a framework to empower and maximize coaching in their district and on school campuses.

SESSION 5 BREAKOUTS (2:00 PM – 3:20 PM)

Building Bridges to School and District Leadership: Cultivating a Strong and Sustainable Pipeline-Ballroom D

Dr. Daniel Reyes-Guerra, *Florida Atlantic University*

Principal and leadership pipelines are district-wide systems created to identify, select, develop, hire, and support school and district leaders. The goal of a pipeline is to create a system-wide set of highly effective leaders that will increase teachers' satisfaction, retention, and quality as well as build a school or district culture and climate that will all lead to increased student learning. Two important components are pre-service and in-service preparation, which are best enhanced by district-university partnership and collaboration. This session will be focused on developing pipelines in districts, with district and higher education participants engaged in activities which include using a self-study guide that will help them to reflect on how to improve their current policies, processes, and structures around pipeline development. Included will be a differentiation between how medium- and large-sized districts can engage in this work as opposed to how smaller, rural districts can develop these pipelines.

Alien Superstar: Crafting A Plan for Resilient New Teachers from Alternative Places – Salon 8

Dr. Kevin Forehand, *Florida State University*

While there is notably a massive teacher shortage, the number of new teachers from non-traditional preparation pathways outnumber new teachers who enter the field from traditional preparation programs. Thus, conventional methods must shift to prepare teachers to enter classrooms and provide the best possible learning experiences preparing teachers to enter classrooms and provide the best possible learning experiences must shift. "Alien Superstar" is a dynamic 80-minute workshop designed to equip school leaders with the strategies and tools needed to effectively lead and support brand new, out-of-field teachers, particularly those with non-traditional or no formal preparation programs. Emphasizing resilience, this workshop will provide practical techniques for creating a supportive environment, fostering professional growth, and ensuring the success of these unique educators.

A New Vision of AI: Moving Beyond Hesitation to Action – Salon 9

Dr. John Critelli, *Florida Atlantic University*

AI is everywhere - exciting, confusing, and sometimes overwhelming. While many educators recognize AI's growing influence, uncertainty remains around where to start and how to use it effectively. This interactive session will:

- ☒ **Demystify AI & Generative AI** – Clarify key concepts and real-world applications.
- ☒ **Explore AI's Role in Education** – Examine trends, opportunities, and challenges in K-12 and higher ed.
- ☒ **Assess Your AI Readiness** – Use the TPACK framework to evaluate AI integration in your work.
- ☒ **Develop an Actionable AI Goal** – Create a concrete plan to enhance AI use in your professional practice.

Whether you're skeptical, curious, or already experimenting with AI, this session provides **practical strategies and a clear path forward** — so you can move from hesitation to action.

Principal Leadership: Supervision Strategies for Student Success – Salon 10

Dr. Katherine Policastro, *Broward County Public Schools*

Principal supervision for student success focuses on supporting a principal's leadership effectiveness in driving positive outcomes. This process considers key areas such as instructional leadership, school culture, teacher support, and data-driven decision-making. By developing the principal's ability to set clear goals, provide feedback, and foster a collaborative environment, the principal supervisor aims to ensure the principal is successfully guiding the school towards improved student achievement. Regular feedback and professional development are key components of this process, supporting principals in their continuous growth and impact on student success. This professional learning session will focus on key areas of principal supervision, providing key strategies and tools for principal supervisors in the area of leadership coaching.