

# ARIZONA ASSESSMENTS CONFERENCE

Integrating assessments, standards, and accountability  
for student success

## Wednesday, September 18, 2024 – Session Details

**General Session: 8:30am – 10:00am**

**Keynote Address: 9:00am – 10:00am**

### **Keynote Address: *Updating Your Recipe for Success (The Special Sauce for Student Outcomes)***

**Description:**

With so many competing priorities, it can sometimes feel like being an educator is harder than it's ever been. At times, the recipe for success can feel elusive. However, there are some specific ingredients that will make your practice stronger, more impactful, and even more enjoyable. In this session, we'll unpack the in key ingredients for your Special Sauce for enhanced success!

**Presenter: Tessa Brock**

Tessa Brock is a passionate, engaging, and inspiring presenter who tackles the tough topics of Organizational Culture, Communication, Reflective Practices, and Self-Care with a balance of expertise, honesty, and humor. Tessa has worked with schools through Fortune 500 organizations to enhance interpersonal interactions. Through her genuine and authentic manner, Tessa skillfully uses story to drive home key concepts that make a lasting impression. Tessa has a master's degree, is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), and is a Certified Executive Coach. Tessa actively coaches, trains, and consults with organizations and schools to enhance relationship-based strategies used with professionals, students, and parents. She is an international speaker and national consultant.

**Room:** Media Center

**Target Audience:** All

## Breakout Session 1: 10:15am – 11:30am

### **Breakout Session: *Designing Responsive Arizona State Accountability Systems: Updates and Insights***

#### **Description:**

Join us for an essential session on the latest updates in Arizona's state accountability, including the release of the 2023-2024 school year letter grades and specific indicator letter grades. This session is a collaborative effort between the State Board of Education and the Arizona Department of Education. We will explore recent advancements in accountability measures applicable to traditional, alternative, and AOI schools, underpinned by ongoing contributions from the monthly meetings of the Accountability Technical Advisory Committees aimed at refining our statewide educational measurement system.

#### **Presenters:**

##### **Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer, Arizona Department of Education**

Sean Smith is currently the Chief Accountability Officer with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). The Accountability Team processes data to calculate A-F letter grades and to meet federal accountability guidelines. Sean has worked in education for over 20 years, serving as a paraprofessional, classroom teacher, and district administrator. Sean believes that accountability measures can help communicate the work schools do to serve students, families, and communities.

##### **Sean Ross, Executive Director, Arizona State Board of Education**

Sean Ross is the Executive Director of the Arizona State Board of Education. Prior to joining the State Board of Education, he was the Deputy Associate Superintendent of Academic Standards at the Arizona Department of Education. Before joining state government, he was a classroom teacher, instructional coach, and site leader for fifteen years.

##### **Bruce DuPlanty, Deputy Director, Arizona State Board of Education**

With 30 years of diverse experience in the education sector, Bruce DuPlanty has excelled as a teacher, mentor, technology specialist, professional developer, curriculum designer, evaluator, and administrator at the site, district, and state levels. A technology enthusiast, Mr. DuPlanty leverages tech tools for systems analysis and efficiency improvements, coupled with a strong background in instructional and leadership practices aimed at enhancing teacher efficacy and leadership capacity.

Mr. DuPlanty's dedication to education has been acknowledged through numerous awards, including the Friends of ASPAA Award (2019), the O.M. Hartsell Excellence in Teaching Award (2005), and the Milken Family Foundation National Teacher Award (1999). Currently serving as the Deputy Director at the Arizona State Board of Education, Mr. DuPlanty previously held the role of Deputy Associate Superintendent at the Arizona Department of Education, where he established the state's first educator recruitment and retention unit and developed strategic priorities to support educational entities statewide. Throughout his career, Mr. DuPlanty has led initiatives to create and develop data systems, facilitated the approval of educational standards, and advocated for significant budget allocations to modernize certification and educator workforce systems.

**Jessica Mueller, Policy and Research Administrator, Arizona State Board of Education**

Jessica Mueller is pleased to serve the education community through her role as the Policy and Research Administrator for the Arizona State Board of Education. Joining the Board's staff in 2019, she previously served school-aged children through her contributions in psychological and social work research. She is proficient in navigating Arizona's state data systems across various sectors, including child welfare, behavioral health, criminal justice, judicial, and educational departments. In her current capacity, Jessica focuses on investigating and evaluating educational policies through reviews of evidence, data collection and analysis, and impact reports.

**Room:** Cira

**Target Audience:**

- School or District Administrators
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders

## Breakout Session 1: 10:15am – 11:30am

### Breakout Session: *Meet Navvy: A Fresh Approach to Navigating Student Learning of AZ Standards*

#### Description:

New for the 2024-25 school year and available now, ADE is providing Navvy to teachers, instructional coaches, interventionists, school/district leaders, and students at no cost. Navvy's formative assessments uniquely harness the power of psychometrics to smartly guide teachers' day-to-day instructional moves. Use standard-by-standard learning checks to reliably diagnose student competency at the moment of need in as few as 6-8 questions. With frequent and trustworthy learning evidence for individual standards, Navvy streamlines measuring learning, allowing educators to focus on changing learning for the better.

See Navvy in action, including:

- Saving time with Navvy's ready-made, bite-sized learning checks
- Monitoring standard-by-standard learning progress in real-time
- Identifying specific learning gaps to guide personalized instruction
- Analyzing student performance data to inform teaching strategies
- Coupling real-time learning evidence with grab-and-go instructional resources to provide personalized supports
- Fostering healthy learning mindsets for students

#### Presenters:

##### **Alisha Natvig, Senior Product Manager, Pearson**

Alisha Natvig serves as the Product Manager for Navvy at Pearson, where she transforms educator insights into purposeful product designs. With over 15 years of experience in developing top-tier learning and assessment products, Alisha excels in crafting solutions that not only meet real-world needs but also inspire and delight users. As a product leader, she's committed to empowering educators and students through user-centered design and impactful product development. Alisha's previous roles include Product Owner, Learning Architect, Business Analyst, and User Experience Designer. She holds a Master's Certificate in Business Analysis from Auburn University, an MBA from Globe University, and a BS from Iowa State University. She is credentialed as a Certified Scrum Product Owner (CSPO)® and a Certified Usability Analyst™.

##### **Dr. Laine Bradshaw, Vice President of Classroom Solutions, Pearson**

Dr. Laine Bradshaw is the Vice President of Classroom Solutions at Pearson. As a tenured Associate Professor of Quantitative Methodology in the College of Education at the University of Georgia (UGA), she created Navvy, a student-friendly and learning-focused classroom assessment system, in close collaboration with educators. Navvy leverages proprietary psychometric methods Dr. Bradshaw developed to give short yet reliable, on-demand assessments that celebrate learning achievements and pinpoint student needs. Dr. Bradshaw has a PhD in Research, Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics and an MEd in Mathematics Education.

**Room:** Solana FG

**Target Audience:** All

## Breakout Session 1: 10:15am – 11:30am

### Breakout Session: *Using AZELLA Resources to Monitor Acquisition of the English Language Proficiency Standards*

#### Description:

During this session, the presenters will discuss the English Language Development Standards (ELPS) and the Performance Indicators (PIs) from the standpoint of instruction and the different types of assessments. We will also consider the available AZELLA resources that school leaders and educators can utilize to lead to better and more accurate outcomes for English learners (ELs) as they develop in their acquisition of the English language.

#### Presenters:

##### **Denella Kirkland, Director of Professional Learning, Office of English Language Acquisition Services (OELAS), Arizona Department of Education**

As the Director of Professional Learning with the Office of English Language Acquisition Services (OELAS), I work with our team to create, facilitate, and support a wide range of professional learning opportunities for administrators, educators of ELs, and instructional leaders across Arizona. My passion is in facilitating and working with educators of ELs to enhance instruction, leading to effective ELD instruction.

##### **Gabriela Finn, Director of English Language Assessments, Arizona Department of Education**

With more than 20 years of experience in second language acquisition in different capacities, Gabriela Finn is passionate about positively impacting the academic trajectories of K-12 students. The current Director of English Language Assessments for the Assessments Section of the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), Ms. Finn has worked as a Spanish and ESL instructor, academic coach, and ELL coordinator. Since 2015, she has focused her talents on the development and revision of Arizona's English language proficiency assessment, AZELLA, with a focus on validity, reliability, fairness, accessibility, and quality.

**Room:** Solana B

#### Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- EL Coordinators
- District Test Coordinators

## Breakout Session 1: 10:15am – 11:30am

### **Breakout Session: *Trialing, Testing, Succeeding: Assistive Technology and the ADE Loan Library Resources***

#### **Description:**

Assistive Technology (AT) can help students succeed in the classroom and in the assessment environment. When supports are thoughtfully considered to assist students with disabilities, students can learn to enhance skills and participate more fully in assigned tasks. In this session, we will discuss what Assistive Technology is and how it can be trialed and ultimately implemented. We will also explore the ADE Assistive Technology Short Term Loan Library, a free, valuable resource to access low-tech to high-tech equipment to evaluate with your students. ADE's AT Specialists and the Loan Library Program Coordinator will each share some of their favorite items from the inventory and introduce you to tools designed to address multiple content areas and various grade levels.

#### **Presenters:**

#### **Laura Wooten-LaFranier, Assistive Technology Specialist, Exceptional Student Services, Arizona Department of Education**

Laura Wooten-LaFranier, M.Ed., joined the Arizona Department of Education as an Assistive Technology Specialist in 2020. She started her career in education 24 years ago. She first taught as a general education teacher, and later received her master's degree and certification in special education. After leaving the classroom, she pursued her goal to obtain a certificate in assistive technology and later provided public school services in the East Valley as an Assistive Technology Specialist.

#### **Doug Cutler, Assistive Technology Specialist, Exceptional Student Services, Arizona Department of Education**

Doug Cutler, M.A., CCC-SLP is a Speech Pathologist focused on assistive technology who has worked in non-profit, public schools, and the industry side of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) for 25 years. Doug spent the majority of his career leading a district AAC program in one of the largest school districts in AZ for 16 years prior to joining the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) as an Assistive Technology Specialist. Doug received his bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology from Northern Arizona University and his master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Western Washington University.

#### **Emily Gaylord, Assistive Technology Specialist, Exceptional Student Services, Arizona Department of Education**

Emily Gaylord is a Board-Certified Pediatric Physical Therapist and Assistive Technology Specialist. Prior to joining the Arizona Department of Education, she worked as a school-based physical therapist for 15 years, supporting students with disabilities to access and participate in the routines of the school day.

**Cecilia Dey, Community Program Coordinator Senior, ADE Loan Library**

Cecilia joined the AzTAP/ADE team in February of 2020. She has 20 years of experience working in the healthcare field in both administrative and direct care. She has a passion for helping individuals with special needs, putting on maker events and continuing her knowledge of assistive technology.

**Room:** Solana CD

**Target Audience:**

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- EL Coordinators
- Special Education Leaders
- District Test Coordinators
- Elementary Teachers
- Secondary Teachers

## Breakout Session 1: 10:15am – 11:30am

### Breakout Session: *Leadership from Any Position*

**Description:**

Some environments are unhealthy and/or toxic. Being a positive leader for change is not dependent on status within a hierarchy. Leadership is defined as how one demonstrates leadership qualities that are worthy of being followed. In this interactive and insightful workshop session, we will explore the key components of being a leader and how to use your influence to create a positive impact no matter what your role is.

**Presenter: Tessa Brock**

Tessa Brock is a passionate, engaging, and inspiring presenter who tackles the tough topics of Organizational Culture, Communication, Reflective Practices, and Self-Care with a balance of expertise, honesty, and humor. Tessa has worked with schools through Fortune 500 organizations to enhance interpersonal interactions. Through her genuine and authentic manner, Tessa skillfully uses story to drive home key concepts that make a lasting impression. Tessa has a master's degree, is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), and is a Certified Executive Coach. Tessa actively coaches, trains, and consults with organizations and schools to enhance relationship-based strategies used with professionals, students, and parents. She is an international speaker and national consultant.

**Room:** Solana FG

**Target Audience:** All



## Breakout Session 1: 10:15am – 11:30am

### Breakout Session: **TOTALLY FREE Test Prep (no asterisk!): The ACT from A to Z**

#### Description:

Come one, come all! This session will unveil our best FREE test preparation resources, tools, and tips for administrators, educators, parents, and students alike. Curated by an ACT team member with more than 6 years of organization navigation, you will be sure to benefit from an invaluable repository and freebies including booklets and handouts. We will cover ACT test content-specific resources (English, math, reading and science) and highlight how Arizona students can improve their Writing scores beginning today!

#### Presenter:

##### Jessica Eilertson, Senior Account Executive, ACT

Jessica Eilertson is your Account Executive in Arizona who has been working with assessment data for nearly 20 years. As a former mathematics educator and statewide assessment director, she enjoys helping administrators and practitioners find the value in measuring students' skills in order to improve them. She partners with stakeholders across the state to implement actionable assessment data plans to encourage all students to achieve postsecondary success, regardless of what those plans might be. She is the mother of a wildly fun and willful 5-year-old embarking on Kindergarten this fall!

**Room:** Solana H

#### Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- EL Coordinators
- District Test Coordinators
- Secondary Teachers

## Breakout Session 1: 10:15am – 11:30am

### Breakout Session: *SPARKL: Shine a Light on Science Assessments*

#### Description:

SPARKL is a digital learning tool for K-12 teachers and students. It offers a new approach to lesson design and student interaction that enables teachers to focus the learner's cognitive energy on generating the correct responses, checking their understanding, clearing up misconceptions quickly, and getting feedback throughout the learning process. Come see how this exciting new tool can elevate your instruction!

#### Presenters:

##### **Eric Stuebner, Program Manager of Educational Technology, Arizona Department of Education**

Eric is a lifelong educator who joined ADE to lead the effort to publish Arizona's academic standards into a dynamic digital framework. The result of this work is PAASport and ADEL, our new digital library which offers educators the ability to navigate, integrate, and elevate Arizona state standards.

##### **Sarah Sleasman, Science and STEM Director, Arizona Department of Education**

Sarah Sleasman is the K-12 Science & STEM Director at the Arizona Department of Education. Within this role, Sarah provides updates on standards for science and computer science. She provides professional development and instructional support for integrated standards-based Science and STEM instruction. Sarah has taught in a variety of elementary classes for eleven years. In addition, she works as a Faculty Educator with SRP. Sarah graduated with her bachelor's degree from Portland State University and a master's degree from Concordia University in Oregon before moving to Arizona.

**Room:** Solana I

#### Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- EL Coordinators
- Special Education Leaders
- District Test Coordinators
- Elementary Teachers
- Secondary Teachers

## Breakout Session 2: 12:45pm – 2:00pm

### Breakout Session: *How Should I Say This? (Tips for Challenging Conversations)*

**Description:**

Approaching challenging conversations with employees, co-workers, and stakeholders can be difficult – yet is incredibly important! In this lighthearted and insightful presentation, participants will be able to self-reflect on their personal intentions for conversations and styles of holding “emotionally charged” or “high stakes” conversations. Participants will use real life scenarios to gain new ideas and skills for applying scenarios to gain new ideas and skills for holding conversations with more successful outcomes.

**Presenter: Tessa Brock**

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**Room:** Cira

**Target Audience:** All

## Breakout Session 2: 12:45pm – 2:00pm

### **Breakout Session: A-F Letter Grade Data Dashboard: Impacting School Improvement through Data-Driven Decision Making**

#### **Description:**

Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) has invested in developing an online digital platform for A-F Letter Grade results and analysis. This online digital platform was created using Microsoft Power BI and provides an interactive and visually appealing platform. Schools have expressed appreciation that the dashboard provides a longitudinal analysis of critical A-F Letter Grade metrics over time. The platform is managed by role level security to ensure the ability for leaders to drill down to student-level data. Overall, this presentation will provide district leaders with history of the development and uses of online data dashboards to further impact school improvement.

#### **Presenters:**

##### **Anthony Lizardi, Research Project Manager, Tucson Unified District, Assessment & Evaluation**

Anthony Lizardi has over 25 years of experience in the education field, including secondary math instruction and data analysis. Currently, Anthony is the primary developer of the district's digital data assessment warehouse and data visualization. Anthony has expertise in database management, SQL query coding, and Microsoft Power BI dashboards.

##### **Jon Slingerlend, Achievement District Test Coordinator, Tucson Unified District, Assessment & Evaluation**

Jon Slingerlend is a proud 25-year educator in Tucson Unified School District (TUSD), including middle school mathematics instruction and instructional coaching. Currently, Jon is the TUSD District Test Coordinator for Achievement Assessments in the Assessment & Evaluation Department and co-coordinator of school-based test coordinators working across more than 80 schools in the district. In addition, Jon is responsible for management and training for online testing platforms and staff professional development training for online test administration.

**Room:** Solana A

#### **Target Audience:**

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- District Test Coordinators

## Breakout Session 2: 12:45pm – 2:00pm

### Breakout Session: *SPARKL: Shine a Light on ELA Assessments*

#### Description:

SPARKL is a digital learning tool for K-12 teachers and students. It offers a new approach to lesson design and student interaction that enables teachers to focus the learner's cognitive energy on generating the correct responses, checking their understanding, clearing up misconceptions quickly, and getting feedback throughout the learning process. Come see how this exciting new tool can elevate your instruction!

#### Presenters:

##### Eric Stuebner

Eric a lifelong educator who joined ADE to lead the effort to publish Arizona's academic standards into a dynamic digital framework. The result of this work is PAASport and ADEL, our new digital library which offers educators the ability to navigate, integrate, and elevate Arizona state standards.

##### Tianna Sanchez, Director of K-12 English Language Arts and Move On When Reading, Arizona Department of Education

Tianna Sanchez is the Director of K-12 English Language Arts and Move On When Reading with the Arizona Department of Education. Prior to joining the Arizona Department of Education, she was a district and site leader for 22 years. Tianna holds a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on Reading Instruction from Grand Canyon University. She completed a post graduate program in Educational Administration from Northern Arizona University. She draws on her experience as a former district administrator, instructional coach, reading interventionist, and classroom teacher to create efficacious learning opportunities for Arizona educators. Tianna is dedicated to moving forward the principles and elements of the Science of reading to ensure that every teacher has access to scientifically proven instructional techniques.

**Room:** Solana B

#### Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- EL Coordinators
- Special Education Leaders
- District Test Coordinators
- Elementary Teachers
- Secondary Teachers

## Breakout Session 2: 12:45pm – 2:00pm

### Breakout Session: *Arizona English Language Learner Assessment: Overview and Trend in Student English Proficiency Level*

#### Description:

Arizona English Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA) is a criterion-referenced assessment designed to measure Arizona's English proficiency (ELP) standards. The current AZELLA, which measures the 2019 ELP standards, was renewed in 2023. In this session, three primary topics will be covered for audience to gain knowledge about AZELLA: 1) the overview of AZELLA, 2) student performance on AZELLA in 2023 and 2024, and 3) student performance on AASA and AzSCI by student English proficiency level.

First, the overview of AZELLA will be presented. The focus of the section is around test design and standard setting. The overview of standard setting, including the high-level process and how the overall proficiency level is determined, will be provided.

Second, the student performance in 2023 and 2024 will be informed. This section will cover the trend in overall proficiency level distribution and the student proficiency level on each domain (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing) for those who earned overall proficient and did not earn overall proficient.

Third, the student performance on AASA and AzSCI for the English learners at different overall proficiency levels will be compared. Also, the student performance on the assessments will be compared between students in a regular classroom, English learners, and former English learners.

#### Presenters:

##### **Hirotaka Fukuhara, Senior Research Scientist, Pearson**

Dr. Fukuhara is a lead psychometrician for the Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA), Arizona's Science assessment (AzSCI), and Arizona English language learner Assessment (AZELLA) projects. He has extended experience with test construction, equating, scaling, psychometric analysis, and standard setting.

##### **Anju Kuriakose**

Dr. Anju Kuriakose is the director of Psychometrics at the Arizona Department of Education. She oversees test construction and validation of multiple state testing programs. She has extensive experience in data analysis, educational research, and the different educational accountability models. She started her career teaching and has served in multiple leadership positions in school districts and at the state level for more than 20 years.

**Room:** Solana CD

#### Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- EL Coordinators

## Breakout Session 2: 12:45pm – 2:00pm

### Breakout Session: *High Leverage Practices to Support Students with Disabilities in the General Classroom*

#### Description:

Using AZ data regarding practices helping to increase student growth and proficiency (aTSI exits 2023) and coupling with High Leverage Practice research, this session will provide thoughtful insights into how to improve outcomes (along with daily instruction) for students with disabilities and other at-risk students who might be under-resourced. Specific materials and reflection time provide the opportunities for participants to consider what is going well and what could be the next steps to bolster classroom instruction for EACH student.

#### Presenter:

#### **Chelle Kemper, Federal School Improvement Specialist, School Improvement, Arizona Department of Education**

Dr. Chelle is originally from Southwest Kansas. In addition to teaching for over 15 years, her experience includes building principal, Director of Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment, and Director of Special Education. She also worked at the Kansas Department of Education, supporting Students with Exceptionalities, special education directors, and schools/LEAs across the state with inclusion practices, special education law, and school improvement structures of support and has been committed to finding answers to support ALL students for over 30 years.

Chelle has been with the Arizona Department of Education for three years, working to support LEAs, schools, and their subgroups. Dr. Chelle has a strong belief that it is possible to bridge the gap between general ed and special ed through inclusive academic and behavioral practices, supportive resources, and in-depth/continual data-driven collaboration.

She believes in the importance of the "least dangerous assumption", which is to presume competence of ALL children. "Assume they can learn. Assuming they cannot learn leads to segregated settings, missed educational interventions, and ultimately dependence in adulthood" (McDonnellan, 1984).

**Room:** Solana FG

#### Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Leaders
- Special Education Leaders
- Elementary Teachers
- Secondary Teachers



## Breakout Session 2: 12:45pm – 2:00pm

### Breakout Session: *The COVID Cohort: ACT Scores and How We Can Help*

#### Description:

The graduating class of 2023's entire high school experience was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This 'COVID cohort' has shaped a new era in education, facing many unexpected implications of learning loss. Come discover what the newest ACT research (June 2024) has gleaned about these students, what we can all do to help support current and future students academically and with regard to their postsecondary pursuits. We will use data visualization tools and resources to examine students' college and career readiness relative to the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) and Benchmarks and examine closely the Grad Class report for Arizona.

#### Presenter:

##### Jessica Eilertson, Senior Account Executive, ACT

Jessica Eilertson is your Account Executive in Arizona who has been working with assessment data for nearly 20 years. As a former mathematics educator and statewide assessment director, she enjoys helping administrators and practitioners find the value in measuring students' skills in order to improve them. She partners with stakeholders across the state to implement actionable assessment data plans to encourage all students to achieve postsecondary success, regardless of what those plans might be. She is the mother of a wildly fun and willful 5-year-old embarking on Kindergarten this fall!

**Room:** Solana H

#### Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- EL Coordinators
- District Test Coordinators
- Secondary Teachers



## Breakout Session 2: 12:45pm – 2:00pm

### Breakout Session: *Tech-Driven Formative Assessments: Boosting Math Learning Outcomes*

#### Description:

Join us to harness the power of technology in formative assessments and transform your math instruction! In this session, discover how integrating technology can revolutionize formative assessments in mathematics, enhancing teaching and learning experiences. We will explore the effective use of Desmos, Khan Academy, and fun digital instructional routines to create engaging assessment strategies that provide real-time feedback and deeper insights into student understanding. Participants will engage in a Desmos activity and learn how this interactive graphing calculator and activity platform can be utilized for formative assessments. As well as see how to design custom activities that visualize student thinking, offer immediate feedback, and target specific mathematical concepts and skills. We will preview Khan Academy as a teacher and discover its extensive resources and personalized learning pathways, including practice exercises and quizzes to monitor student progress. Lastly, we will explore and engage in digital routines such as "Slow Reveal Graphs". These routines can be used as warm-up activities and interactive problem-solving sessions that promote student engagement and provide valuable insights into student learning. By the end of the session, participants will be equipped with innovative strategies to enhance their formative assessment practices, ultimately boosting student outcomes in mathematics.

#### Presenter:

#### Jenifer Fernandez, Exceptional Student Services Math Specialist, Arizona Department of Education

Jenifer H. Fernandez has been a Math Program Specialist for the Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services in the downtown office of Tucson, Arizona since 2019. She obtained both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from The University of Arizona in Education and Mathematics Teaching and Leadership. She is dual-certified in Elementary and Secondary Mathematics with a Mathematics Specialist endorsement. Prior to her position at ADE, she was a mathematics teacher in the Tucson area for 15 years. Her years of teaching experience range from elementary grades through high school math. She has also been a math professional development facilitator at the local, state, and national level since 2006. She is an active member of several math organizations including AML, AATM, ASSM, NCSM, and NCTM. Her philosophy is rooted in that all students are capable of learning mathematics, and it is our responsibility as leaders to empower educators to create a positive culture and mindset around mathematics education.

**Room:** Solana I

#### Target Audience:

- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- EL Coordinators
- Special Education Leaders
- Elementary Teachers
- Secondary Teachers

## Breakout Session 3: 2:45pm – 4:00pm

### Breakout Session: *Did You Say T-T-Test? (Tips for Student Anxiety)*

**Description:**

Do you wish you had tips and tricks to help students not only reduce their anxiety around test taking, but also have a sense of enthusiasm around this necessary “check for understanding”? In this interactive session, we will identify mindset hacks, specific preparation strategies, and test taking skills to support students with reducing test-taking anxiety.

**Presenter: Tessa Brock**

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**Room:** Cira

**Target Audience:** All

## Breakout Session 3: 2:45pm – 4:00pm

### Breakout Session: *Supporting Science Success: Understanding the Standards and Assessment Items for MSAA Science*

#### Description:

MSAA Science is designed to assess students with significant cognitive disabilities on alternate achievement standards derived from your state's science content standards. MSAA Science tests students in grades 5, 8, and 11. With the significant changes in science standards in recent years, the content of the alternate achievement standards tested on MSAA Science likewise incorporates new constructs for students to learn, notably multiple science dimensions. Understanding the elements and expectations of the alternative achievement standards and the corresponding way in which assessment items for MSAA Science are written is key to supporting students' learning and subsequent successful demonstration of their learning. In this session, participants will learn about the content and structure of the alternate achievement standards tested on MSAA Science and will examine how assessment items are structured to measure student learning of these standards. Participants will have the opportunity to dive deeply into the concepts presented by being introduced to and using the MSAA Science Sample Teacher Guide.

#### Presenter:

##### **Thurman Munn, Science Content Specialist, Cognia**

I am currently a science content specialist working to develop science assessment items for a variety of student populations. I graduated from Georgia State University with a B.S. in physics. Before my career at Cognia, I was a middle and high school teacher in Georgia for about 5 years. I taught a range of science subjects from middle school earth and space science to advanced placement physics.

##### **Jami Nelson, Accessibility Specialist, Cognia**

Jami Nelson is currently and has been an Accessibility Assessment Specialist at Cognia for two years. She is from West Virginia and has a Master's Degree in Special Education (Multi-Categorical LD, BD, ID: Grades K-Adult), Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education (Grades K-6), Professional Teaching Certificate for Autism (Grades K-Adult), English Content for Special Education (Grades 5-Adult), Professional Administrative Certificate Full Certification: Elementary Education, Principal, Supervisor General Instruction, and Superintendent (Grades PK-Adult), and is a Certified Professional in Accessibility Core Competencies (CPACC). Before beginning as an accessibility assessment specialist at Cognia, Jami was a middle school principal for four years and a special education teacher for nine years.

**Room:** Solana A

#### Target Audience:

- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- Special Education Leaders
- District Test Coordinators
- Elementary Teachers
- Secondary Teachers

## Breakout Session 3: 2:45pm – 4:00pm

### Breakout Session: *Generative AI and How Education Benefits*

#### Description:

If you don't have any or much experience with Generative AI, then this is the session for you. It will provide you with a foundational overview of Generative AI. You will get up to speed on the terminology and learn who is really using it. We will focus on how it can be used by teachers and other educators to help save time. In addition, you will learn how to use the standards in partnership with Generative AI to assist in writing more effectively and efficiently whether it's lesson plans, quizzes, emails, or general correspondence. Start your journey in prompt engineering here!

#### Presenter:

**Audrey Dieken, Career and Technical Education Grant Program Specialist, Arizona Department of Education**

Audrey Dieken has been at the Arizona Department of Education for eight years. She has held positions within the Career and Technical Education (CTE) supporting professional development as well as federal and state grant funding. Previously, Audrey spent ten years working at Hawkeye Community College in Iowa prior to relocating to Arizona. She is currently pursuing her doctorate degree in education at UND focusing on the power of AI for CTE instructors.

**Room:** Solana B

#### Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- EL Coordinators
- Special Education Leaders
- District Test Coordinators
- Elementary Teachers
- Secondary Teachers
- Other: CTE Teachers

## Breakout Session 3: 2:45pm – 4:00pm

### Breakout Session: *How to Write the Wrong Answer!*

#### Description:

This session is designed to equip educators with the knowledge and skills that will be helpful in crafting effective multiple-choice questions based on Arizona's Academic Standards. By participating in this fun and interactive workshop, participants will practice how to write and revise questions for formative assessments. We will explore best practices and strategies for crafting effective questions for classroom assessments.

#### Presenters:

##### **Christmas Collins, Content Specialist, Pearson**

Christmas Collins is an Assessment Specialist for Pearson. Previously, Mrs. Collins taught for more than 10 years in local Arizona schools and has more than 5 years in assessment, with an emphasis in English Language Arts. Currently, her work includes item development and test construction.

##### **Angie Mullenmeister, Senior Assessment Specialist, Pearson**

Angie Mullenmeister is a Senior Assessment Specialist for Pearson. Previously, Mrs. Mullenmeister taught for 10 years at the elementary level. She has worked in assessment for over 20 years.

##### **Tammy Visco, Assessment Development Manager, Pearson**

Tammy Visco is an Assessment Development Manager at Pearson. Tammy has worked in assessment for 15 years.

**Room:** Solana CD

#### Target Audience:

- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- Elementary Teachers

## Breakout Session 3: 2:45pm – 4:00pm

### **Breakout Session: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Learning Programs: Build Better Programs Using Assessment Data**

#### **Description:**

Come learn how to use assessment data from the school day to identify opportunities for enhancing established programs and to build new programs for specific groups of students. This session will also dive into how to leverage assessment data to determine program effectiveness.

#### **Presenters:**

##### **Lisa Kluge – 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Lead Specialist, Arizona Department of Education**

Lisa Kluge is the Lead Education Program Specialist for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC at the Arizona Department of Education since 2014. She has been a teacher, coach, and Title I and 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Coordinator for over 23 years. She was recognized for the Outstanding Afterschool Professional Award in 2012. Lisa is passionate about providing safe and high-quality opportunities to youth to support academic achievement during non-school hours.

##### **Victoria Williams**

Victoria Williams is an Arizona native who started her career in education at the Arizona Science Center. She later became a middle school teacher and received the accolade of Westside Impact Teacher of the Years for 2021. She transitioned in the role of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC District Coordinator in the Washington Elementary District where she supported upwards of 23 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grantees. Her core philosophy is that every child deserves a customized pathway to success.

**Room:** Solana FG

#### **Target Audience:**

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- EL Coordinators
- Special Education Leaders



## Breakout Session 3: 2:45pm – 4:00pm

### Breakout Session: *Accessibility Tools*

**Description:**

This session provides an overview of built-in accessibility tools in PearsonAccessnext (PAN) available to all students taking AASA, AzSCI, and AZELLA.

**Presenter:**

**Sabiha Klepk, Accommodations and Accessibility Specialist, Arizona Department of Education**

Sabiha Klepk is the Accommodations and Accessibility Specialist for the Arizona Department of Education. In her role, she strives to make statewide assessments accessible to all of Arizona's students. Her work focuses on guiding the development and review of accommodated forms, assessment accommodations, and supporting the field. Sabiha's previous experience includes: teaching special education, adult education and working with the community as a social worker in Arizona, Colorado, and Guatemala.

**Room:** Solana H

**Target Audience:** All



**Breakout Session 3: 2:45pm – 4:00pm**

**Breakout Session: *Farm to Table: Item Specifications to Item Bank (Math)***

**Description:**

Creating, Developing, and Aligning (your LEA's) Assessments using Math Item Specifications and Standards

This session will assist teachers and coaches in supporting the development of District Benchmark Assessments. Participants will learn how to design and evaluate purposeful benchmark items and impact students' learning in Math, as it contributes to student success. Participants will engage with organizational structures and supports by evaluating how standards and assessment align by creating and developing District item banks.

**Presenters:**

**Melanie Hill, Achievement Assessment Developer, Arizona Department of Education**

Melanie Hill is an Achievement Assessment Developer for the Arizona Department of Education. In her role, she assists with the development, implementation and creation of materials that support student and teacher preparation. In addition, she will provide content expertise and assessment development support for the standards-based AASA Math and AzSCI Science assessments. Melanie has been an educator for over 19 years and has her Bachelor of Arts in Education as well as a Master's in Secondary Education with an emphasis in STEM.

**Alicia Doty, Director of Math and Science Curriculum and Instruction: K-8, Academies of Math and Science**

Alicia Doty is the Director of Math & Science Curriculum and Instruction K- 8 for the Academies of Math and Science in Arizona. Alicia works closely with all AMS leaders and educators to implement best practice strategies with Standards Based Instruction while developing content specific resources and assessments to build student engagement, collaboration, alignment, rigor, and mastery of Arizona Department of Education State Standards. Alicia's passion is driven by enhancing students and educators' tools to close gaps and gain the knowledge and skills they need to foster an ever-evolving love of teaching and learning. Alicia has 16 years of experience working in education, primarily in Title 1 schools and with English Language Learners in Washington, California, and Arizona. She graduated from Washington State University with a bachelor's degree in social sciences with an emphasis in Human Development, a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from City University of Seattle, holds a BeGLAD certification, and is continuing her education through a graduate certificate program in Applied Behavior Analysis from Arizona State University. Her knowledge and collaboration in unpacking Arizona State Standards, development of aligned assessments, best practice strategies, and language acquisition contributes to her philosophy in accessible learning for all students and educators.

**Room:** Solana I

**Target Audience:** All