

VyStar Credit Union's Everyday Heroes Mortgage Product

VyStar's breakout session will feature their Everyday Heroes Mortgage Product, a program built to honor those who serve, protect, and care for our communities.

Maryanne Kolisnyk is the Military & Specialty Products Manager for VyStar Credit Union's real estate lending department. Maryanne has been with VyStar for over two years, and within that time frame has helped develop VyStar's specialty products, the Military Heroes Mortgage Product and the Everyday Heroes Mortgage Product. These products provide affordable housing options in hopes of creating generational wealth for community heroes.

Kimberly Gomez is one of VyStar Credit Union's mortgage loan officers and has been originating loans for 8 years. Kimberly specializes in conventional, VA, and FHA lending. Kimberly prides herself in educating every borrower so that they feel confident throughout the entire process. She believes that everyone should experience the joy of home ownership.

Supporting ESE Students with a Hands-on Approach to Literacy Through Vocabulary - Margaret Hastings

Multisensory experiences provide unique ways of learning for students. We'll discuss and explore different activities that are structured in such a way to engage a variety of learning modalities.

Margaret Hastings has taught in Duval County for 22 years and has her reading, gifted, and ESOL endorsements. Margaret has taught in a variety of settings with all types of learners. She enjoys finding new ways for students to learn concepts while incorporating manipulatives into literacy lessons. Graduating with English arts and elementary education degrees set her on a path to share her love of literacy with students and peers. When not in the classroom, Margaret is a specialist for hand2mind.

Why "play" is Important to STEM Learning

When children play, there is more going on than simple amusement. Playing provides an opportunity to tap into natural curiosity, motivating them to develop a positive attitude toward learning and reduce any pre-existing biases (towards STEM). In this session, the presenter will demonstrate how STEM learning can be embedded in any subject. Using Interactive Stage

platform, participants will experience the creative process of constructing a theater play/diorama and program the electronics for its special effects. Theater engineering is open ended and supports students' natural storytelling passion. Their own output is what makes a positive impact on their interest in STEM.

Graduate of MIT with bachelors in computer engineering and masters in mathematics, *Linda Chen's* work experience focuses on leading product innovation at startups and Microsoft. Following her passion in new technology and education, Linda invented her first STEAM learning platform called Interactive Stage, collaborating with Merrimack and Bellevue College. Her platform and methodology has been used in several innovative after school programs as well as in-class projects.

Reducing Teacher Burnout - Margena Edwards, Ed.D.

After seeing several of her fellow teacher colleagues succumb to burnout and leave the field of education, Dr. Edwards focused her doctoral research on ways to reduce educator burnout. In this session, she will share some of her research-supported strategies for reducing burnout.

Margena Edwards, Ed.D. has been an educator for 18 years, working with students from Pre-K through 6th grades as a classroom teacher, coach, interventionist, and specialist. As a military spouse, Dr. Edwards has had the privilege of teaching at eight different schools in four states, providing her with the opportunity to work with hundreds of talented educators throughout her career.

Promoting Mental Wellness in Education

This session will explore adaptive coping methods for various stressors to better equip teachers and students with overall emotional health. Attendees will learn how to recognize common signs of emotional distress in an academic setting, various coping methods that promote resilience, and learn about educator resources available from the "On Our Sleeves" mental health initiative of Baptist Health and Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Francesca Varallo Sims, Psy.D. oversees programmatic and departmental operations of behavioral health education for providers of all disciplines. Prior to joining Baptist Health, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical health psychology at UF Health. There, she provided consultation and liaison psychological services within a Level I Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center. She

is also a professor of psychology, currently on adjunct faculty in the department of social and behavioral sciences at Florida State College of Jacksonville.

Why Do Children Behave This Way?

This session will provide a detailed look into the functions of behavior from an early childhood lens. In addition, Marlena will discuss some of the reasons why young children may struggle to engage with their environment in an appropriate manner. Lastly, the presenter will share strategies for home and school success.

Marlena L. Jenkins, M.S., BCaBA is a special educator, behavior analyst (BCaBA), and master IEP coach with over 20 years of experience working with individuals with developmental and behavioral diagnosis. She holds degrees in developmental disabilities and K-12 special education. Marlena served on a statewide committee responsible for revamping the Florida Educator's Autism Endorsement. Marlena's doctoral degree research focuses on early childhood educator training and mental health support for students with developmental trauma.

Finding Math in Art

Piet Mondrian's compositions are an arrangement of rectangles and squares. Participants will create Mondrian inspired compositions on different sized grids. (4x4, 5x5, 7x7...) and then work to find the smallest possible score when subtracting the smallest rectangle area from the largest rectangle area. This hands-on lesson incorporates art and math where students create and solve by thinking abstractly while using a variety of math skills and developing problem solving strategies.

Debbie Scarbrough has been an elementary educator for 38 years, 31 years in the regular classroom teaching all grades and subjects and the past 7 as an elementary visual art teacher. She is a member of the Florida Art Education Association and Northeast Florida Art Education Association. She has served as president of NEFAEA, serves as a moderator for Northeast Florida Scholastic Arts, and is a regular presenter at the annual FAEA conference. Many of her art lessons incorporate math and literature.

SESAME STREET IN COMMUNITIES

For 50 years, the muppets on Sesame Street have helped kids grow smarter, stronger, and kinder. Join us for a warm welcome to SESAME STREET IN COMMUNITIES - the free online collection with hundreds of bilingual multi-media tools for educators. The resources engage kids and adults in everyday moments and daily routines—from teaching early math and literacy concepts to encouraging families to eat nutritious foods to serious topics such as divorce and food insecurity. This session will navigate the collection's topics and give you access to professional development resources.

Stephanie Murray (Ed.D. candidate) is an education consultant, certified teacher, professor, and owner of Creativity in Learning Partners, an education company with a mission of creating authentic learning experiences. She currently works with organizations across the country, including WJCT, PBS KIDS, and Fred Rogers Production where her curriculum and community engagement work support PBS KIDS series Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood, Alma's Way, Cyberchase, and Donkey Hodie. Prior to consulting, she most recently served as the national project manager for the SESAME STREET IN COMMUNITIES initiative at WNET (New York Public Media) and was chair of the New York City Early Learning Network.

Accelerating Vocabulary Growth: Practical Approaches From Vocabulary and Language Enhancement Research

The presentation describes qualitative and quantitative results of two VALE multifaceted vocabulary instruction formative experiments. The first examines teacher experiences implementing vocabulary instruction in English and Spanish in a 2nd grade dual language setting. The second relates the findings of the first year of VALE in 13 kindergarten classrooms. Participants receive a description of how the teachers' implemented the effective vocabulary instructional routines, and view video segments of vocabulary classroom instruction in various grade level settings.

A recent hire to the education department at JU, *Ellen Kappus*, Ed.D. has been a long-time EL teacher and more recently a literacy coach in a public school district on the Arapaho Reservation in Wyoming. She is a researcher in the Vocabulary and Language Enhancement Project (VALE), and has worked with 3rd-5th grade teachers in two-to-three-year formative experiments in which teachers implemented a robust multifaceted vocabulary instruction routine.

Green Actioneers - Get Your Entire School Community to "Go Green" in One Exciting Day

This session will simulate "Green Actioneers Family Night" for a typical school. Participants will first assemble as "family members" in groups of 4 or 5, then they will have fun going through and selecting from over 100 actions from the "Green Actioneers Family Action Guide," publicly pledging to take actions that save energy, water and money and create a clean and green future for us all. Finally, we'll discuss the experience and see how it can relate to families in their schools.

From 2007 to 2015, *Dave Finnigan*, M.P.H. presented "Climate Change is Elementary" in schools in MA, CT, NY, NJ, MD, and CO teaching kids, parents and teachers about climate change. Recently Dave developed his one-day Green Actioneers program presenting it in 26 schools across six states, with his companion Green Actioneers Activity Book and website.

Support Services for School Reintegration Utilizing Education Plans and Psychological Services

Participants will learn how to best support students after receiving new behavioral health treatment plans or diagnosis as they transition back to the classroom.

As the Behavioral Health Education Liaison, *Jasmine Clarke* assists children and families to ensure their Individualized Education Plan (IEP), or 504 plans, are correctly implemented within the school system. Her career spans over 13 years of varied experiences as a leader, mental health provider, and educational advocate. She has held positions providing oversight, therapy, and behavioral interventions to children, adolescents, and young adults.

Building Positive Relationships with Families

In this session, participants will learn effective techniques when communicating with families and how to remain professional during difficult conversations. Participants will also be shown various methods of documentation and how to cultivate positive relationships that stem beyond parent-teacher conferences.

Janelle Rodriguez, M.Ed. is an elementary school teacher and adjunct childcare instructor at Florida State College at Jacksonville. She has over fifteen years experience in the field of early childhood education. Janelle is the former 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year for Gregory Drive Elementary School.

Nia Johnson is a graduate of Bethune-Cookman University. She is a third-year teacher and the current Teacher of the Year of Gregory Drive Elementary. While Nia is at the start of her career, she has hopes of becoming a part of leadership during her professional career as an educator.

Project Learning Tree: Engaging Students With Active Learning

In this workshop, participants will look at what Project Learning Tree has to offer K-5 educators and strategies for engaging students through active learning. An activity on the water cycle will be modeled and participants will take away the “Water Wonders” lesson found in the Explore Your Environment activity guide.

Janet Schnauss, M.A.E. is a K-5 elementary science specialist with DCPS, a Project Learning Tree trainer and the area 4 director for the Florida Association of Science Teachers. She was selected as the 2022 National PLT Educator of the Year. Janet has taught science in elementary, middle, and high school, was co-director of the Suwannee Valley Regional Science and Engineering Fair, and is a trainer for Project Wild and Project WET.

Brianna Hubbard, M.Ed. is an elementary science specialist with Duval County Public Schools. She has experience teaching Kindergarten, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grades, with a focus in science. She uses her knowledge obtained from the classroom and her master's degree in educational leadership to support and coach science teachers in Duval County.

Got 10 Minutes? Try This

Have you ever found yourself at the beginning or end of a lesson where you wanted to get the kids hooked or re-focused? Come explore four different hands-on classroom activities that can be implemented in less than 10 minutes to help engage learners. This session will feature a station-based approach to allow participants to actively engage in four different activities.

Shannon Wood, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of education in the Division of Education at Thomas University. She is in her 20th year of higher education and fifth year at TU. Prior, she was a full-time and adjunct faculty member at Jacksonville University and an adjunct faculty member at Old Dominion University. She has primarily trained teacher educators, but has taught both undergraduate and graduate students in many content areas (physical education, teacher education, elementary education, sport management, and exercise science).

Colleen Wilson, Ed.D. is currently a professor in the teacher preparation program and is the director of the Marilyn Repsher Center for Teaching and Learning at Jacksonville University. She has worked in public school, private schools, and delinquency settings for the past 20+ years. She received her Ed.D. from the University of North Florida.

Student co-presenters include La'mirakle Price, Christina Swably, Tiana Villagomez, and Shania Young.

JEA's Educational Programs and Partnership with DCPS

In partnership with Duval County Public Schools, JEA offers educational programs to elementary students (1st and 2nd graders), JEA Power Pals and Aqua Pals. The programs teach students the importance of electric and water safety. JEA also offers programs for middle and high school students covering electric and water safety, conservation, and interviewing and job skills.

Karen Blutcher has over 30 years of community relations and social services experience with 20 of those years being at JEA. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in communications and a master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix. Karen was a part of the team who created JEA's education programs (Power Pals and Aqua Pals) back in 2015 and has been instrumental in implementing these programs in over 13 schools across Duval County.

Tawana Simmons has over 20 years of community and customer service experience with 10 years at JEA. She has a bachelor's degree in mathematics and business management. She coordinates all JEA education and school programs throughout Duval County.

Scientific Inquiry: Conducting Real Experiments if You're Not Sure Where to Start

Experimentation has been called the cornerstone of science. Many classic elementary science lessons include "experiments" that are not actually experiments at all. Learn what it takes to conduct one, the easy changes that can transform any lesson into an experiment, why it's important, and how it can save the world.

Eddie Whisler is an enthusiastic educator who is passionate about spreading an interest in science. Whisler has been with the Museum of Science & History since 2010, and has classroom teaching experience in Duval County, Hawaii,

and South Carolina. These experiences have revealed to him the power of the inquiry approach to learning—the approach he now brings to the informal setting of museum education. He graduated from the University of North Florida with a degree in science education.

Social Justice Project for Elementary Grades 3-5 - Steven Ingram, L.L.M. and Tamla Simmons

The session will focus upon our background work with a variety of Duval County elementary schools on a social justice program. Learn how this program helps students to develop and to exercise local, national, and global perspectives when considering issues of social justice while simultaneously strengthening their background knowledge of geography, skills necessary for future global thinkers and actors.

As a high school teacher credentialed in English, social sciences and humanities, *Steve Ingram* has worked to develop a social justice outreach program for middle and elementary schools. He has been a semi-finalist for Teacher of Year and was granted JPEF's Wolfburg Social Justice in Education Fellowship for 2020-2021. Under the grant Steve worked with 4th and 5th grade students in three elementary schools on the topic of social justice.

Tamla Simmons is a biology teacher and the IB Coordinator for Stanton College Prep and has worked with Steve Ingram on the social justice outreach program since 2020. Additionally, Tamla regularly conducts outreach to a wide variety of Duval County middle schools as an IB coordinator.

If Instruction Isn't Engaging, I Quit

If Instruction Isn't Engaging, I Quit will allow educators to explore 10 strategies that every teacher should immediately implement to increase student engagement, which can significantly increase academic achievement. This popular and highly interactive presentation is filled with music, movement, and fun learning.

Vincent Taylor, M.Ed. a veteran teacher of 27 years, is known as "The Rapping Teacher." He is a huge fan of music and as a result of this passion, he has written a reading program that helps students in the area of comprehension called Rhythmic Reading with Rap. This supplemental resource has been successful in increasing student achievement on standardized tests. He has presented his highly sought after professional development workshop

entitled "If Instruction Isn't Engaging, I Quit" to over 50,000 educators across the country.

Fresh Eyes on Wellbeing: What Does This Child Need?

Join us for a conversation around seeing and meeting the wellbeing needs of children/teens as we shift the mindset from: "What's the matter with you?" to "What happened in your story?" Learn how at this session.

As executive director, *Kirsten Murray* guides Hope Street's cross-sector delivery of Trust Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI) to all who touch the life of a child. Her work as a Title I public school teacher; co-director of Lancaster (PA) Mother's Center; director of Family Life Education; director of development and public relations at a community behavioral health center; and a trauma-informed community developer set the foundation for Kirsten's work in Jacksonville.

Terrie Andrews, Ph.D. is a licensed psychologist and has been vice president for behavioral health at Baptist Health since July 2021. She oversees the pediatric inpatient psychiatric unit, pediatric day stay and partial hospital programs at Wolfson Children's Hospital; the adult inpatient psychiatric unit at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville; the adult partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs; the Wolfson Children's Center for Behavioral Health Clinics; the adult and pediatric bridge programs; and Baptist's 20 outpatient behavioral health locations.

Danté Jennings serves as JPEF's Director of Strategic Initiatives. Danté was a district math specialist for two years overseeing 5 of Duval County Public Schools' historically underperforming middle schools and he was recognized as Jean Ribault Middle School 2017 Teacher of the Year. Following this, JPEF awarded Danté with a scholarship to pursue a graduate degree with the purpose of increasing diversity in school leadership.

Jacquelyn Green is Community Development Administrator for the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). Her experience encompasses healing-centered community engagement, public and private agency policy and crisis management, media relations, and healthcare. Ms. Green is a Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) practitioner.

Why Won't They Listen?

May I have your attention please? Hey guys listen up! Excuse me! I'll wait! STOP TALKING!!! OMG, WHY WON'T THEY LISTEN???

Does this sound familiar? Have you ever heard or said these words before?? Come join Karen as she shares 6 strategies to get the attention of students without losing control, classroom culture, or your confidence.

Karen Rosemond, M.Ed. works with Duval County Public Schools in the human resource department as a teacher development and support specialist. With over 20 years of teaching experience, she supports and coaches novice teachers in the classroom as they implement best practices that lead to greater teacher retention and student achievement. Also in her role, she develops and facilitates professional development programs at the school and district levels.