

## Session Information

An overview of your session schedule is listed below. To view *complete* session information, including room capacity and names of any co-presenters, please click the title of your session.

Contact us at [summerconference@sreb.org](mailto:summerconference@sreb.org) to request any changes to your session.

Date	Time	Session Title	Room	Venue
07/16/2025	2:30 PM - 3:30 PM CDT	<u><a href="#">From Student to Teacher: Building a Pipeline Through Certifications and Early Teaching Opportunities</a></u> <b>Speaker(s)</b> Laura Lastra, Speaker	383	Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
07/17/2025	10:45 AM - 11:45 AM CDT	<u><a href="#">The Power of Choice: Hosting Student-Centered Conferences That Inspire Future Success</a></u> <b>Speaker(s)</b> Laura Lastra, Speaker	287	Ernest N. Morial Convention Center

Southern Regional Education Board  
 592 10th St. NW  
 Atlanta, GA 30318  
 404-875-9211  
[sreb.org/summerconference](https://sreb.org/summerconference)



Dear Laura,

Thank you for submitting a proposal for our 2025 Making Schools Work Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 15-18, 2025.

**Congratulations!** We are delighted to accept the session proposal listed below. You will receive a separate email about each session if you have submitted multiple proposals.

**Session Number:** 1083

**Session Title:** The Power of Choice: Hosting Student-Centered Conferences That Inspire Future Success

You will receive an additional email with the scheduled date, time, and location of your session on or before April 18, 2025. At that time, you will receive a link, log in, and password to access our eShow conference system where you can update your speaker information (including your photo, bio and social media information), and add any additional co-presenters. Please note that session descriptions may be edited to fit program formatting.

You must still register for the conference to attend and present. Please register now to take advantage of our early bird rates! All presenters should select Presenter Registration Fee during the process to receive their discounted pricing.

All conference events will be held at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, in Halls H-J. Contact Connections Housing to reserve your accommodations today. Call Connections at (404) 842-0000 or (800) 622-9974 OR visit Connections' website.

Should your availability change, preventing you from presenting, please complete this form as soon as possible so that we can plan for adjustments.

For all conference information, please visit the **SREB** website at <https://www.sreb.org/conference>.

Sincerely,  
The Making Schools Work Conference Planning Team

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**Date and Time** 07/17/2025 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM CDT

**Room** 287

**Room Setup** Theater

**Room Level** Second

**Venue** Ernest N. Morial Convention Center

**Title** The Power of Choice: Hosting Student-Centered Conferences That Inspire Future Success

**Description** This session will explore how to plan and execute a student-centered conference that engages students in exploring a variety of college and career pathways. Participants will learn how to design a day-long, choice-based event that includes keynote speakers, interactive sessions, and partnerships with businesses, colleges, and community organizations to provide meaningful, real-world learning experiences. By empowering students to select sessions that align with their interests and future goals, these conferences foster engagement and inspire exploration. One Florida school district successfully hosted a student-centered conference that brought together more than 650 students, offering them opportunities to hear from dynamic keynote speakers, connect with industry professionals, and participate in hands-on career exploration activities. This session will provide attendees with strategies for securing partners, designing impactful programming, and creating a conference model that prepares students for the future. Walk away with actionable tools to implement a similar event in your district.

Speaker(s)	Role	Action
Laura Lastra Primary Presenter	Primary Presenter	<a href="#">View</a>

## **The Power of Choice: Hosting Student-Centered Conferences That Inspire Future Success**

This session will explore how to plan and execute a student-centered conference that engages students in exploring a variety of college and career pathways. Participants will learn how to design a day-long, choice-based event that includes keynote speakers, interactive sessions, and partnerships with businesses, colleges, and community organizations to provide meaningful, real-world learning experiences. By empowering students to select sessions that align with their interests and future goals, these conferences foster engagement and inspire exploration.

One Florida school district successfully hosted a student-centered conference that brought together more than 650 students, offering them opportunities to hear from dynamic keynote speakers, connect with industry professionals, and participate in hands-on career exploration activities. This session will provide attendees with strategies for securing partners, designing impactful programming, and creating a conference model that prepares students for the future. Walk away with actionable tools to implement a similar event in your district.

### **Alternative titles:**

- Empowering Students: Designing Choice-Based Conferences for Career and College Exploration
- Student Voices, Bright Futures: Creating Impactful Conferences Centered on College and Career Pathways
- From Vision to Reality: How to Plan a Student-Centered Conference with Community Partners

### **Presentation Outline:**

- Outline of Hernando County Stats
- History
  - Turning our Vision into a Reality
  - Where we started
- Strategies for securing partners
  - Location
  - Keynote
  - Session Speakers
    - Who can we use that will be impactful
    - Choosing speakers before sessions, we knew who we wanted to take part
  - Sponsors
- Designing impactful programming
  - “All Hands-on Deck”
    - Last year data chats were scheduled, Asst. Superintendent moved all chats so that Directors and Supervisors could be present and help throughout the day (sessions, crowd control, clean-up)
  - Topics
    - Industry Sessions
    - Young Alumni
- Creating a conference model that prepares students for the future
  - Addition of college sessions
    - Advance Course sessions for MS, AP Session
- Challenges/Obstacles we had to overcome
  - Finding a location, mostly churches which gets a response from (some) community
    - Enough space for sessions to accommodate number of students
  - Limited number of students

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Congratulations! We are delighted to accept the session proposal listed below. You will receive a separate email about each session if you have submitted multiple proposals.

Session Number: 1082

Session Title: From Student to Teacher: Building a Pipeline Through Certifications and Early Teaching Opportunities

You will receive an additional email with the scheduled date, time, and location of your session on or before April 18, 2025. At that time, you will receive a link, log in, and password to access our eShow conference system where you can update your speaker information (including your photo, bio and social media information), and add any additional co-presenters. Please note that session descriptions may be edited to fit program formatting.

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**Date and Time** 07/16/2025 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM CDT

**Room** 383

**Room Setup** Theater

**Room Level** Third

**Venue** Ernest N. Morial Convention Center

**Title** From Student to Teacher: Building a Pipeline Through Certifications and Early Teaching Opportunities

**Description**

This session will explore how to build a teacher pipeline aligned with the conference's objective of providing students access to career pathways that meet workforce needs. Attendees will learn how to design programs that integrate approved industry certifications from the state Master Credentialing List, dual enrollment coursework, and work-based learning experiences in partnership with local elementary schools. These programs provide high school students with hands-on teaching opportunities, equipping them with the skills, credentials, and experience needed to seamlessly transition into the education workforce. One Florida school district has implemented this model, allowing students to earn credentials, complete college-level coursework, and gain real-world classroom experience. Graduates of the program are even offered teaching contracts before finishing high school. Participants will leave with actionable strategies to replicate this model, including tips for forming partnerships, aligning programs with state standards, and supporting future educators.

**Speaker(s)**

Laura Lastra  
 Primary Presenter

**Role**

Primary  
 Presenter

**Action**

[View](#)

## **From Student to Teacher: Establishing a Pathway Through Certifications and Early Teaching Opportunities**

This session will explore how to build a teacher pipeline aligned with the conference's objective of providing students access to career pathways that meet workforce needs. Attendees will learn how to design programs that integrate approved industry certifications from the state Master Credentialing List, dual enrollment coursework, and work-based learning experiences in partnership with local elementary schools. These programs provide high school students with hands-on teaching opportunities, equipping them with the skills, credentials, and experience needed to seamlessly transition into the education workforce.

One Florida school district has implemented this model, allowing students to earn credentials, complete college-level coursework, and gain real-world classroom experience. Graduates of the program are even offered teaching contracts before finishing high school. Participants will leave with actionable strategies to replicate this model, including tips for forming partnerships, aligning programs with state standards, and supporting future educators.

### **Alternative titles:**

- From Classroom to Career: Developing a Teacher Pipeline with Local Partnerships and Early Experience
- Future Educators Start Here: Creating a Teacher Pipeline with DOE Standards and Early Teaching Experience
- Empowering Tomorrow's Teachers: Building a Pipeline Through Certification and Elementary Partnerships

### **Presentation Outline:**

- Outline of Hernando County Stats
- History
  - Choosing a location (HHS & WWHS)
  - Recruiting the right teacher
- Integrating in an Industry Certification
  - Master Credentialing List
    - WordPress
      - Usage in Education, tooling them for small businesses
    - FTCE -
  - Funding the Program
  - Acceleration Point
- Dual Enrollment Partnership
- Partnership with Elementary School
  - Hours per week
  - Areas of instruction
  - Examples of "assignments"
  - Reading hours/designation
  - FFEA competitions
- Offering of District Positions
  - Signing Event
    - Paraprofessional immediately
    - ATS position after one year and working on AA degree
      - Bachelor's degree at no cost, commits 5 years