

WINTER CONFERENCE • SAN FRANCISCO, CA • FEBRUARY 13-15, 2026

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM  
OR REGISTER ONLINE AT LEARNINGANDTHEBRAIN.COM

Five ways to register: | Phone: (857) 444-1500 x1 Email: registration@LearningAndTheBrain.com Fax: (857) 357-7011  
Postal mail: ERI • 78 Brooks Road, New Canaan, CT 06840 Web: LearningAndTheBrain.com

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY THIS FORM FOR EACH APPLICANT.

|                 |         |                |
|-----------------|---------|----------------|
| Name            |         | Position       |
| Organization    |         |                |
| Address         |         |                |
| City            |         | State/Province |
| ZIP/Postal Code | Country | Phone          |
| Email           |         |                |

Register Me for the Conference: \$

|                                                 |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Early Registration (THROUGH DECEMBER 5, 2025)   | \$679 per person (\$579 per person for groups of 5+) |
| General Registration (THROUGH FEBRUARY 6, 2026) | \$749 per person (\$649 per person for groups of 5+) |
| Late Registration (AFTER FEBRUARY 6, 2026)      | \$779 per person (\$679 per person for groups of 5+) |

Register Me for a Friday, February 13 Pre-Conference Workshop Add \$30 if not attending the Feb. conference \$

Please select one of five:

|                                                       |                    |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> From "Brainrot" to Brainpower   | 8:00 am – 11:00 am | \$169 per person |
| <input type="radio"/> The AI Road Map                 | 8:00 am – 11:00 am | \$169 per person |
| <input type="radio"/> TechnoStress                    | 8:00 am – 11:00 am | \$169 per person |
| <input type="radio"/> Intelligent Humans and Machines | 8:00 am – 11:00 am | \$169 per person |
| <input type="radio"/> Tech-Infused Literacy           | 8:00 am – 11:00 am | \$169 per person |

Sign Me Up for Professional Development Credit (FREE)

☐ Please send the certificate via email. For more information on CEUs, visit LearningAndTheBrain.com.

Sign Me Up for Attending Live or Virtually

☐ I plan to attend in San Francisco ☐ I plan to attend virtually

Register Me for the Reception (FREE)

☐ Register me for the February 13 Meeting of the Minds Reception.

Sign Me Up for Emails (FREE)

☐ Email me the monthly L&B Newsletter ☐ Email me information about upcoming L&B events

All prices are in U.S. dollars. GRAND TOTAL: \$

☐ Please check here if you have any special ADA requirements, and call (857) 444-1500 x1.

The Fairmont San Francisco is ADA compliant.

PAYMENT METHOD ☐ Check enclosed ☐ Purchase Order enclosed ☐ Credit Card (Circle one: VISA MC AMEX )

Credit Card Number: Exp:

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Cardholder Billing Address: ZIP:

Signature: Date:

Make check or purchase order payable to Educator Resources, Inc. (ERI), and mail it along with your registration form to:  
ERI, 78 Brooks Road, New Canaan, CT 06840-6250.

P.O.s will be invoiced if sent without a check prior to conference. Registrations without payment or purchase order will not be confirmed.

REGISTRATION POLICIES Registrations are taken and confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis according to receipt of full payment or purchase order. Unpaid registrations without a purchase order will be canceled after 30 days. If you do not receive a confirmation within three weeks after sending full payment or purchase order, call 857-444-1500 x1. Early conference registration is \$679 (\$579 per person for groups of 5 or more) through December 5, 2025. General conference registration is \$749 per person (\$649 per person for groups of 5 or more when registering together) through February 6, 2026. After February 6, 2026, late registration is \$779 per person (\$679 per person for groups of 5 or more when registering together).

SUBSTITUTIONS AND CANCELLATIONS Substitutions are permissible up to seven days before the conference, but you must notify ERI in writing by fax or mail. Cancellations must be requested no later than February 6, 2026. No cancellations can be accepted after February 6, 2026. Because cancellations incur substantial administrative costs, we regret that it is necessary to charge a cancellation fee of \$75 per person if you cancel by December 5, 2025, or \$150 per person if you cancel after December 5, 2025, but by February 6, 2026.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM CHANGES Educator Resources, Inc. (ERI) reserves the right, without having to refund any monies to participants, to make changes in the conference, its program, schedule, workshops, sessions, events, location, and/or faculty should ERI, in its sole discretion, deem any such changes necessary or advisable. Similarly, ERI further reserves the right to cancel any workshops, sessions, events, credit courses, or the conference entirely, in which case ERI's liability to participants shall be strictly limited to a refund of those fees. ERI, the Cooperating Organizations, and Sponsors are not responsible for (nor do they necessarily endorse) the efficacy, accuracy, or content of any recommendations, statements, research, or other information provided at the conference.

# ADVANCING SCHOOLING IN AN UNCERTAIN AI AGE

AI is reshaping education, jobs, and the world. For Generations Alpha and Beta, this uncertain AI world is the only one they've ever known. Recent research has found that while AI offers powerful tools for personalized learning, its overuse can lead to increased loneliness, stunted social skills, reduced critical thinking, and rising "technostress" on already struggling students. A 2020 *Economic World Forum Report* on "Schools of the Future" noted that students today will be entering jobs that don't yet exist and ones that place a premium on both digital and social-emotional skills. **This interdisciplinary conference will explore the future of education, skills, and learning in an AI age. The conference will examine AI's impact on the brain, generational differences in learning, and ways to effectively engage students in a distracted world. Learn strategies for teaching AI effectively and ethically; improving relationships and using social robots for learning and loneliness; fostering student critical thinking and creativity; building skills in robotics, STEM, and digital literacy; promoting reading and writing in a digital era; and preparing students for an uncertain AI future.**

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**You will gain knowledge about:**

- ✓ Rethinking schooling and skills for an uncertain future
- ✓ Your brain on ChatGPT and promoting deeper, critical thinking
- ✓ Strategies for teaching Generations Z, Alpha, and Beta in classrooms
- ✓ Preparing students for a future of STEAM, makerspaces, and robotics
- ✓ Engaging students in learning in an age of disengaged, digital distractions
- ✓ Improving relationships and the impact of AI and social robots on loneliness
- ✓ Advancing learning with AI classroom strategies and educational design
- ✓ Designing schools for thinking, creativity, and student-led learning
- ✓ The potential of AI to treat stress, distraction, and addiction
- ✓ Fostering reading, writing, and data literacy in an AI age



\*This *hybrid* conference will include both a live, in-person audience as well as a virtual option using Zoom. You can choose to travel and see the sights of San Francisco or watch the sessions comfortably from your home, or your hotel room. All talks will be recorded and made available to stream for 45 days afterward. **For more information, visit [LearningAndTheBrain.com](https://LearningAndTheBrain.com) or call 857-444-1500 x1.**

## CO-SPONSORS

Graduate School of Education, **Stanford University**  
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The Neuro-Education Initiative, **Johns Hopkins School of Education**  
National Association of Elementary School Principals (**NAESP**)  
National Association for Secondary School Principals (**NASSP**)

**LEARNING & the BRAIN® Foundation**

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Curriculum, Staff Developers  
Speech-Language Pathologists  
PreK-12 Teachers, Administrators  
Psychologists, School Psychologists  
Learning Specialists, Special Educators  
Early Childhood Educators, Professionals  
Reading, Writing, STEM, Technology Teachers  
Mental Health, School, Career Counselors  
Superintendents, Principals, School Heads  
College, University Professors

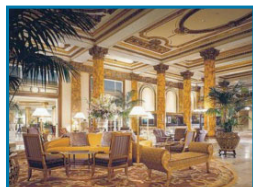
## EARN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT

**Professional Development Credit:** Earn 15-18 hours toward professional development credit for educators, psychologists, speech-language professionals, and others by attending in-person or virtually. Visit our website at **[LearningAndTheBrain.com](https://LearningAndTheBrain.com)** for more information on the availability of CEUs, PDPs, CEs, and other professional development credit, or call 857-444-1500 x1.

**Speech-Language Pathologist Credit:** Visit **[LearningAndTheBrain.com](https://LearningAndTheBrain.com)** for more information on courses registered to offer ASHA CEUs.



## STAY AT THE HISTORIC FAIRMONT SAN FRANCISCO – SPECIAL RATES



Save on hotel costs by booking a room at a discounted conference rate. LEARNING & the BRAIN® has negotiated discounted rates at the Fairmont Hotel, the site of the conference, and several nearby hotels. **Please access [LearningAndTheBrain.com](https://LearningAndTheBrain.com) for information on how to make reservations and room availability.** If you have trouble making reservations, please call the L&B information line at 857-444-1500 x1 for additional hotel options. LEARNING & the BRAIN® conference hotels are conveniently located atop Nob Hill and in the Union Square area close to cable car routes, shopping, and the sights of San Francisco.

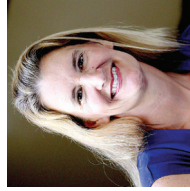


# HYBRID LEARNING & the BRAIN® CONFERENCE

73<sup>RD</sup> International Conference for PreK Through University Educators, Clinicians, and Parents

**February 13-15, 2026** • At the Historic Fairmont Hotel, **San Francisco, CA**, or Virtually From Your Home

Presented by:  
Educator Resources, Inc.  
78 Brooks Road  
New Canaan, CT 06840



## **FEATURED SPEAKER:**

**Jean M. Twenge, PhD**  
Professor of Psychology, College of  
Science, **San Diego State University**;  
Author, *10 Rules for Raising Kids in a  
High-Tech World* (2025), *Generations*  
(2023), *iGen* (2009), and *Generation  
Me* (2006)

## TEACHING GENERATION AI-Z: ADVANCING SCHOOLING, SKILLS, RELATIONSHIPS, AND LEARNING IN A DISTRACTED, UNCERTAIN, AI AGE

*Explore the latest research on:*

Critical Thinking in an AI World

Rethinking Schooling and Skills

Relationships, AI, and Loneliness

Preparing for an Uncertain Future

Engaging Kids in a Distracted Age

Teaching Gen Z, Alpha, and Beta

Human-Robot/AI Collaborations

Your Brain on ChatGPT

Using AI Strategies in Classrooms

Reading, Writing, and Data Literacy

Cultivating Creativity and STEM Skills

Designing Schools for Deep Thinking

Potential for AI-Based Interventions

Shifting to Student-Led Learning

**EARN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT AT THIS HYBRID CONFERENCE**

**UPCOMING SPRING 2026 L&B CONFERENCE:**

**New York, NY • April 16-18, 2026**

For information on upcoming conferences, webinars, summer institutes, in-service training, and available PD credit, see inside or visit **LearningAndTheBrain.com**

"Technology is a game-changer for education – it offers the prospect of universal access to high-quality learning experiences, and it creates fundamentally new ways of teaching. But a big fear with AI is it will automate bad ways of teaching. This is the moment to pay attention and do things differently."

—Daniel Schwartz, PhD  
Stanford Graduate School of Education



AI Generated Photo

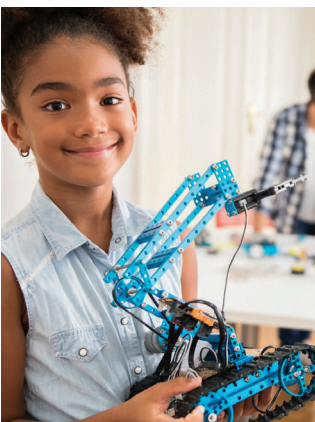
# TEACHING GENERATION AI-Z: ADVANCING SCHOOLING, SKILLS, RELATIONSHIPS, AND LEARNING IN A DISTRACTED, UNCERTAIN, AI AGE

AT THE HISTORIC FAIRMONT HOTEL ATOP NOB HILL IN  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA, OR VIRTUALLY FROM YOUR HOME

**FEBRUARY 13-15, 2026**

Pre-Conference Workshops: February 13

Early Registration Deadline: December 5, 2025



WINTER HYBRID LEARNING & *the* BRAIN® CONFERENCE

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM TOPICS

## WITH A DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

### 1) THE FUTURE OF SCHOOLING: PREPARING SKILLS FOR AN UNCERTAIN AI AGE



#### **Keynote: Preparing the Next Generation for an AI-Enhanced World**

**David M. Eagleman, PhD**, Guggenheim Fellow; Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; Director, Laboratory for Perception and Action, [Stanford University School of Medicine](#); Host of the Emmy-Nominated PBS Series, “The Brain”; Author, *Livewired* (2021), *The Brain: The Story of You* (2017), and *Incognito: The Secret Lives of the Brain* (2012)



#### **Keynote: Cultivating a STEM Mindset in Students: Preparing Today’s Generation for an AI and Data-Driven Future**

**Talithia D. Williams, PhD**, Mathematics Clinic Director, [Harvey Mudd College](#); Co-Host of the PBS Series “Nova Wonders”; Mathematician and Big Data expert with research appointments at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the National Security Agency, NASA, and the World Health Organization; Author, *Power in Numbers: The Rebel Women of Mathematics* (2022)



#### **Keynote: Fix the Past or Invent the Future: Rethinking Schooling in the Age of AI and Uncertainty**

**Yong Zhao, PhD**, Foundation Distinguished Professor, [University of Kansas](#); Professorial Fellow at the Mitchell Institute for Health and Education Policy, [Victoria University](#); Professor in Educational Leadership, [Melbourne Graduate School of Education](#); Author, “Artificial Intelligence and Education: End the Grammar of Schooling” (2024, *ECNU Review of Education*)

#### **The Future of Education: Teaching Students to Think for Themselves, Embrace Challenges, and Love Learning in an AI World**

**Ana Lorena Fabrega, BS**, EDUpreneur; Chief Evangelist of Synthesis, an Online, AI Tutor and Curriculum; Former Third and Fourth Grade Teacher in Panama and the US; Host of the YouTube Series, “Show & Tell”; Author, *The Learning Game: Teaching Kids to Think for Themselves, Embrace Challenge, and Love Learning* (2023)

#### **Rethinking Education in the Age of AI**

**Rebecca E. Winthrop, PhD**, Director and Senior Fellow, Center for Universal Education, Brookings Institute; Member, Brookings Global Taskforce on AI and Education; Adjunct Faculty, [Georgetown University](#); Author, *The Disengaged Teen: Helping Kids Learn Better, Feel Better, and Live Better* (2025) and “Generative AI Is Coming for Our Students, and Now Is the Moment to Shape It” (2025, *Brookings Institute*)

#### **Preparing Generation AI-Z for the Future: Fostering STEAM, Robotics, Creativity, and Innovation in Elementary Schools**

**Jacie Maslyk, EdD**, Literacy Consultant, Solution Tree; Google Certified Educator; Former Assistant Superintendent, Hopewell Area School District; Author, *Remaking Literacy: Innovative Instructional Strategies for Maker Learning* (2019), *Unlock Creativity: Opening a World of Imagination With Your Students* (2019), and *STEAM Makers: Fostering Creativity and Innovation in the Elementary Classroom* (2016)

### 2) SOCIAL MINDS: ADVANCING RELATIONSHIPS & ROBOTS IN A LONELY WORLD



#### **Keynote: Bridging the Gap: Aligning AI, Educational Fundamentals, and Collaborative Culture in Schools**

**George Couros, MEd**, Innovative Teaching, Learning, and Leadership Consultant, George Couros Consulting; Adjunct Instructor, Graduate School of Education, [University of Pennsylvania](#); Author, “10 Timeless Principles for Learning, AI, and Emerging Technologies in Education” (2024, *George Couros Blog*) and *The Innovator’s Mindset* (2015)



#### **Keynote: Relational Intelligence in Education in an AI-Driven World**

**Isabelle C. Hau, MBA**, Executive Director, Stanford Accelerator for Learning, [Stanford University](#); Board Member, EDSAFE AI Steering Committee and Brookings Global AI Taskforce; Author, “Why Relational Intelligence Is the Key to Thriving in the AI Age” (2025, *Hechinger*) and *Love to Learn: The Transformational Power of Care and Connection in Early Education* (2025)



#### **Keynote: The Revolution of Learning, AI, and Co-Creation**

**Daniel L. Schwartz, PhD**, I. James Quillen Dean; Professor of Educational Technology, [Stanford Graduate School of Education](#); Director, Transforming Learning Accelerator; Director, AAALab, [Stanford University](#); Co-Host of the Stanford Podcast “School’s In”; Co-Author, *The ABCs of How We Learn: 26 Scientifically Proven Approaches, How They Work, and When to Use Them* (2016)

#### **Teaching in a Lonely World: Promoting Social Connections in Schools in a Digital, AI Age**

**Natalie A. Kerr, PhD**, Professor of Psychology, [James Madison University](#); Contributor, Greater Good Science Center, [University of California, Berkeley](#); Author, “Teaching in a Lonely World: Educating Students About the Nature of Loneliness and Promoting Social Connection in the Classroom” (2024, *Teaching of Psychology*); Co-Author, *Our New Social Life: Science-Backed Strategies for Creating Meaningful Connection* (2025)

#### **Human-Robot Social Interactions: Potential for Motivation, Learning, and Interventions**

**De’Aira G. Bryant, PhD**, Postdoctoral Scientist, Amazon Consumer Robots; Former Graduate Researcher, Human Automation Systems, [Georgia Institute of Technology](#); Co-Author, “Robot Therapist Versus Human Therapist: Evaluating the Effect of Corrective Feedback on Human Motor Performance” (2018, *IEEE*) and “Developing a Robot Hip-Hop Dance Game to Engage Rural Minorities in Computer Science” (2017, *IEEE*)



# CONFERENCE BEGINS AT 12:00 PM ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

All times are Pacific Standard Time



## 3) TEACHING GEN AI-Z: ADVANCING LEARNING IN A HIGH-TECH, AI AGE



### Keynote: Gen Z and Gen Alpha: What Makes Them Different and What That Means for Education and the Future

**Jean M. Twenge, PhD**, Professor of Psychology, College of Science, [San Diego State University](#); Author, *10 Rules for Raising Kids in a High-Tech World* (2025), *Generations: The Real Differences Between Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, Boomers, and Silents – and What They Mean for America's Future* (2023), *iGen* (2017), *The Narcissism Epidemic* (2009), and *Generation Me* (2006)



### Keynote: Education and Learning for the Age of Artificial Intelligence

**Charles K. Fadel, BSEE, MBA**, Founder and Chairman, Center for Curriculum Redesign; Past Visiting Practitioner, [Harvard Graduate School of Education](#); Co-Author, *Education for the Age of AI: Why, What, and How Should Students Learn for the Age of Artificial Intelligence?* (2024) and *Artificial Intelligence in Education: Promises and Implications for Teaching and Learning* (2019)

### GenAI Instruction: Artificial Intelligence in the K-12 Classroom

**Victor R. Lee, PhD**, Associate Professor, [Stanford Graduate School of Education](#); Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence, [Stanford University](#); Author, *Advancing Data Science Education in K-12: Foundations, Research, and Innovations* (2024); Co-Author, "Teaching High School Students About Generative AI: Cases of Teacher Lesson Design" (2025, *Educational Research*)

### Generation Alpha and Beta: Educating Our Next Generations

**Valora Washington, PhD**, CEO/President, the Cayl Institute; Founder, Voices for Michigan's Children and the Early Childhood Funders Collaborative; Author, *Changing the Game for Generation Alpha: Teaching and Raising Young Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (2021); Co-Author, *Ready or Not: Early Care and Education's Leadership Choices—12 Years Later* (2019)

### Generation Z Explained

**Roberta R. Katz, PhD**, Senior Research Scholar, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, [Stanford University](#); Advisor, Distinguished Careers Institute; Member, Boards of Trustees of the Exploratorium and the National Parks Conservation Association; Co-Author, *Gen Z, Explained: The Art of Living in a Digital Age* (2021), based on findings from a multi-year, interdisciplinary study of Gen Zers

## 4) DISENGAGED MINDS: ENGAGING GEN AI-Z IN A DISTRACTED, DIGITAL ERA



### Keynote: The Cognition Crisis: The Future of AI on the Brain

**Adam H. Gazzaley, MD, PhD**, Director, Neuroscape; David Dolby Distinguished Professor in Neurology, Physiology, and Psychiatry, [University of California, San Francisco](#); Host of the PBS Special, "The Distracted Mind With Dr. Adam Gazzaley"; Co-Author, "Can Technology Mend Our Broken Minds" (2020, *UCSF Science*) and *The Distracted Mind* (2016)



### Keynote: Can Humans Adapt Along With AI?

**Charan Ranganath, PhD**, Director, Dynamic Memory Lab and Memory and Plasticity Program; Professor, Department of Psychology, Center for Neuroscience, [University of California, Davis](#); Affiliated Faculty, Center for Mind and Brain; Author, "Why I'm Deeply Skeptical About Comparisons Between Humans and Machines" (2025, *NewScientist*) and *Why We Remember* (2024)

### Disengaged Teens in an Uncertain, Tech-Driven Age

**Rebecca E. Winthrop, PhD**, Director and Senior Fellow, Center for Universal Education, Brookings Institute; Member, Brookings Global Taskforce on AI and Education; Adjunct Faculty, [Georgetown University](#); Author, *The Disengaged Teen: Helping Kids Learn Better, Feel Better, and Live Better* (2025) and "Generative AI Is Coming for Our Students, and Now Is the Moment to Shape It" (2025, *Brookings Institute*)

### The Depth Advantage: Deeper Learning in a Distracted, AI World

**John T. Spencer, EdD**, Assistant Professor of Education, [George Fox University](#); Technology Specialist; Former 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher; Co-Founder/Tech Developer of the blogging platform for K-12 students, "Write About"; Author, *The Depth Advantage: Deeper Learning in a Distracted World* (2025), *The A.I. Roadmap: Human Learning in the Age of Smart Machines* (2023), and *Vintage Innovation: Leveraging Retro Tools and Classic Ideas to Design Deeper Learning Experiences* (2019); Co-Author, *Empower* (2017) and *LAUNCH* (2016)

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

Pre-Conference Workshops

Conference Day 1

Conference Day 2

Conference Day 3

Friday, February 13

Friday, February 13

Saturday, February 14

Sunday, February 15

8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

12:00 PM – 6:15 PM

8:00 AM – 5:15 PM

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

## 5) AI VS IQ: PROMOTING CRITICAL THINKING & CREATING IN STUDENTS



### Keynote: The Brain and AI: The Future of Intelligence and Learning

**Terrence J. Sejnowski, PhD**, Francis Crick Chair, Professor, The Salk Institute; Co-Director, Institute for Neural Computation; Co-Director, NSF Temporal Dynamics of Learning Center, [University of California, San Diego](#); Author, *ChatGPT and the Future of AI: The Deep Language Revolution* (2024); Co-Author, "The Memory Paradox: Why Our Brains Need Knowledge in an Age of AI" (2025, *arXiv*), *Uncommon Sense Teaching* (2021), and *Learning How to Learn* (2018)



### Keynote: AI: Stupefying Students or Supercharging Learning? – Six Essential Shifts in Education

**Jonathan H. Bergmann, MA**, Science Teacher/Staff Developer for AI-Infused Mastery Learning, Houston Christian High School; Educational Consultant, Flipped Learning LLC; Author, "AI Will Stupefy Our Students Unless We Do These Six Things" (2025, *Educate AI*) and *Flip Your Classroom: Reach Every Student in Every Class Every Day* (2023, Revised Edition)

### Humanity Amplified: Designing Schools for Deeper Learning and Thinking

**Sabba N. Quidwai, EdD**, Futurist; Social Scientist; CEO, Designing Schools; Host of the Podcast, "Designing Schools"; Lecturer, [University of California, Irvine](#); Author, *Designing Schools: How Design Thinking Makes YOU Irreplaceable in the Age of AI* (2024); Co-Author, *Humanity Amplified: Understanding the AI World and Augmenting Our Students' Intelligence With Human Deep Learning* (2024)

### Human Creativity and AI in Education

**Ronald A. Beghetto, PhD**, Professor; Pinnacle West Presidential Chair, Teaching and Learning Innovation, Mary Lou Fulton College, [Arizona State University](#); Author, *Uncertainty x Design* (2024); Co-Author, *Creative Agency Unbound* (Forthcoming), *Agents of Impact: How Education Can Empower Students to Change Themselves, Their Communities, and Their World* (2025), and *Nurturing Creativity in the Classroom* (2010)

### Your Brain on ChatGPT: Augmented Reasoning, Cognitive Load, and Critical Thinking

**Patricia E. Maes, PhD**, Professor of Media Arts and Sciences, Media Lab, [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#); Co-Author, "Your Brain on ChatGPT: Accumulation of Cognitive Debt When Using an AI Assistant for Essay Writing Task" (2025, *arXiv*) and "Human-AI Interaction for Augmented Reasoning: Improving Human Reflective and Critical Thinking With Artificial Intelligence" (2025, *Human Factors in Computing Systems*)

### AI-Powered Learning Quests: Guiding Student Thinking and Inquiry With Purpose and Precision

**Douglas B. Fisher, PhD**, Chair, Department of Educational Leadership, [San Diego State University](#); Classroom Teacher, Health Sciences High and Middle College; Co-Author, *Teaching Students to Use AI Ethically and Responsibly: Exploring AI With Intentionality, Curiosity, and Care* (2025) and *The Artificial Intelligence Playbook: Time-Saving Tools for Teachers That Make Learning More Engaging* (2025, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)

## 6) LITERATE MINDS: FOSTERING READING, WRITING, & DATA LITERACY

### Rethinking Literacy: Connecting Making, STEM, and AI for Elementary Literacy Classrooms

**Jacie Maslyk, EdD**, Literacy Consultant, Solution Tree; Instructional Coach; Google Certified Educator; Former Assistant Superintendent, Hopewell Area School District; Author, *Remaking Literacy: Innovative Instructional Strategies for Maker Learning* (2019), *Unlock Creativity: Opening a World of Imagination With Your Students* (2019), and *STEAM Makers: Fostering Creativity and Innovation in the Elementary Classroom* (2016)

### Teaching Adolescents to Read and Write in a Digital, AI Age

**Kristen H. Turner, PhD**, Director of Teacher Education, [Drew University](#); Director, Contemporary Learning and Interdisciplinary Research, [Fordham University Graduate School of Education](#); Co-Author, *Teaching Writing in the Age of AI: Strategies for Teachers of Secondary Students* (2025), *Argument in the Real World: Teaching Adolescents to Read and Write Digital Texts* (2017), and *Connected Reading* (2015)

### Technology and Reading: Who Is Your EdTech Hurting or Helping?

**David B. Daniel, PhD**, Conference Chair; Professor Emeritus of Psychology, [James Madison University](#); Co-Author, "Toward an Ecological Science of Teaching" (2021, *Canadian Psychology*) and "Seeing Self and Others On-Screen Does Not Negatively Impact Learning in Virtual Classrooms" (2021, *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology*)

For a complete list of speakers, go to [LearningAndTheBrain.com](#). Follow us on X, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

## REGISTER NOW FOR OUR SPRING LEARNING & the BRAIN® CONFERENCE



### TEACHING EXECUTIVE SKILLS:

APPLYING BRAIN SCIENCE TO BOOST MEMORY, ATTENTION, AND EMOTIONAL REGULATION FOR STUDENT LEARNING

APRIL 16-18, 2026, IN NEW YORK, NY

Held at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel

See [LearningAndTheBrain.com](#) for more information.

**PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS** (More In-Depth and Hands-on)

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

**Cost per person: \$169.** By advance registration only. Select one of five. (Add \$30 if not also attending the conference.)

**1. From "Brainrot" to Brainpower: A School Psychologist's Guide to Engaging Gen Z and Gen Alpha**

Today's students are navigating a world saturated with AI and digital distractions, which can leave them disengaged. In this interactive, research-based workshop, veteran school psychologist Dr. Rebecca Branstetter shares practical, brain-informed strategies to help students reconnect with learning, improve executive functioning, and build resilience. You will walk away with ready-to-use tools that foster focus, motivation, and authentic connection, even amid an age of constant digital scrolling. **Rebecca A. Branstetter, PhD**, Licensed School Psychologist; Founder, The Thriving Students Collective; Contributor, Greater Good Science Center, [University of California, Berkeley](#); Former Clinical Psychologist, UCSF Autism Clinic, [University of California, San Francisco](#); Author, *Small Habits Create Big Change* (2024), *The Thriving School Psychologist* (2020), *The Conscious Parent's Guide to Executive Functioning Disorders* (2016), *The Conscious Parent's Guide to ADHD* (2015), and *The Everything Parent's Guide to Children With Executive Functioning Disorders* (2013)

**2. The AI Road Map: Improving Human Learning in the Age of Smart Machines**

The A.I. Revolution is here. For some, it's exciting. For others, it may feel terrifying or confusing. Many of us feel a mix of all three emotions. But one thing is certain—it's not going away. In this workshop, you will explore how educators might adapt and change as we navigate the new terrain of an AI world. Explore the essential human skills students will need in a world of smart machines. Ultimately, you will be reminded of the hope and humanity we continue to have in a time of epic change. **John T. Spencer, EdD**, Assistant Professor of Education, [George Fox University](#); Technology Specialist; Former 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher; Co-Founder/ Tech Developer of the blog platform for K-12 students, "Write About"; Author, *The Depth Advantage: Deeper Learning in a Distracted World* (2025), *The A.I. Roadmap: Human Learning in the Age of Smart Machines* (2023), and *Vintage Innovation: Leveraging Retro Tools and Classic Ideas to Design Deeper Learning Experiences* (2019); Co-Author, *New Teacher Mindset* (2024), *Empower: What Happens When Students Own Their Learning* (2017), and *LAUNCH* (2016)

**3. TechnoStress: Empowering Students to Overcome Anxiety in the Age of AI**

Discover how to combat student stress and constant distraction while promoting academic achievement amidst the challenges of the AI age. This workshop will provide practical, neuroscience-based strategies to help students thrive academically. Drawing from real-world classroom examples and interactive activities, you will learn to foster self-regulated learning, build strong neural connections, and create a classroom that empowers students. Leave with actionable strategies you can use to help students not only adapt to AI's challenges but also cultivate the resilience needed to navigate and thrive in an uncertain AI future. **Lauren Price, MEd**, Director, Academic Independence Coaching Educational Consultant; Former Director of Association and Membership, Houston Tutorial Association; Creator of a digital program to increase executive functioning and self-regulation skills

**4. Intelligent Humans and Machines: Using AI to Enhance, Not Replace, Student Thinking**

Artificial intelligence is now part of classrooms, but how educators choose to use it will determine whether it strengthens or weakens student learning. This workshop will equip you with strategies for designing instruction that leverages AI to deepen critical thinking, rather than short-circuit it. Through case studies, group activities, and guided discussions, you will explore ways to integrate AI in ways that foster reasoning, creativity, and collaboration while addressing the risks of AI overreliance and ethical blind spots. **Priten Soundar-Shah, MEd**, EDUpreneur; Chief Executive Officer, Pedagogy Ventures; Chief Technology Officer, ThinkerAnalytix; Faculty Instructor, [College Unbound](#); Founder/Chair, Academy 4 Social Civics; Author, *Ethical Ed Tech: An Educator's Guide to AI, Cellphones, and Surveillance in K–12 Schools* (Forthcoming), "AI May Be Making Teacher Burnout Worse" (2024, *Education Week*), "AI's Transformative Role in STEM Education: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Future" (2024, *Encorps*), and *AI and The Future of Education: Teaching in the Age of Artificial Intelligence* (2023)

**5. Tech-Infused Literacy: Engaging Students in All Types of Reading in the Digital Age**

This interactive workshop will guide educators through practical, hands-on strategies for engaging students in all types of reading in the digital age. Discover how EdTech tools can support differentiated instruction for a variety of reading levels and interests. This workshop will also highlight creative, tech-infused reading response activities that inspire students to think critically and communicate effectively. Learn how to use AI-powered tools to create customized instructional materials and supplemental resources that enhance reading engagement across different content areas and grade levels. You will leave with a curated collection of digital tools that empower readers to engage as both consumers and creators, along with actionable ideas to implement immediately. **Monica Burns, EdD**, EdTech and Curriculum Consultant; Apple Distinguished Educator; Founder of ClassTechTips.com and Blog; Host of the Podcast "Easy EdTech"; Former Adjunct Professor, [Kean University](#); Author, *EdTech Essentials* (2024, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition); Co-Author, *Engaging Students to Read All Types of Text* (2020)

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**MEETING OF THE MINDS RECEPTION**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 from 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM — Free and Open to All Attendees

Take this opportunity to meet other attendees and some of the nation's brightest minds and enjoy complimentary wine and cheese.

Advance registration required on the registration form.

**PRESENT A POSTER SESSION AT THE FEBRUARY CONFERENCE**

Share and present your scientific research or successful programs you implement in your classrooms or schools to reduce distractions and technostress; advance learning using AI or EdTech; build social skills or relationships; use AI for therapy and learning interventions; prepare students for the future; rethink schooling for the AI age; or improve teaching and engagement for Generation AI-Z. Submit a summary of your poster session for review to [info@LearningAndTheBrain.com](mailto:info@LearningAndTheBrain.com).

**Proposal deadline is January 23, 2026. For more information, visit [LearningAndTheBrain.com](https://LearningAndTheBrain.com) or call 857-444-1500 x1.**