

BE THE LEADER

Demonstrate What is Possible

2021 MEA CONFERENCE FOR ASPIRING AND EARLY CAREER EDUCATORS

Saturday, March 20, 2021 • 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

A Virtual Offering



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, Aspiring and Early Career Educators!

Welcome to the newly renamed and expanded conference that MEA has planned just for your needs. This is a dynamic time to be an educator, and we are excited to share some helpful pointers for managing your classroom and career!

From data-driven practice to addressing behavior difficulties, the challenges of working with young people require knowledge, patience, and persistence. What are some ways to keep a classroom running smoothly? How do you best utilize formative and summative assessments to drive instruction?

Where do you fit creativity into your lesson plans? How can you advocate for your students in the civic arena, and what are some ways to take better care of yourself in this demanding—and rewarding—profession?

You will find those topics covered here—and more. Don't forget networking and socializing! It's good to stay connected with other young professionals who understand what you're experiencing at this early stage of your journey. Belonging and making connections with one another can make a real difference as you navigate your career journey!

That is one role your union plays—building connections between educators strengthens all of us. Unions are more important than ever today—from lifting up your professional voice to ensuring you and your students are safe and supported.

Leaders and members joining together in solidarity make MEA an unwavering voice for school employees' rights, working conditions, and benefits; for best practices; for healthy neighborhood schools; and for social justice across our most vulnerable communities.

MEA is your union—here to help, support, and show you the way to be the change. Enjoy the 2021 MEA Conference for Aspiring and Early Career Educators!



Paula J. Herbart
MEA PRESIDENT



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Giveaways
at general
sessions!

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The series platforms will open 10 minutes in advance. Please log in during the time allotted between each event to check in to allow the sessions to start on time.

Platform Opens	Session Start Time	Session
9:50 a.m.	10 a.m.	Welcome & Introduction*
10:20 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	100 Series
11:30 a.m.	11:40 a.m.	200 Series Keynote Speaker: Owen Bondono*
12:20 p.m.	12:30 p.m.	300 Series: Action Camps
1 p.m.	1:10 p.m.	400 Series
2:10 p.m.	2:20 p.m.	Closing Sessions* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MESSA • MiNE Panel Discussion

*There will be giveaways at each of these three [general sessions](#) that are open to all participants. Members must register for the session and be present at the time of the giveaway to win.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Deadline: March 10, 2021

Session enrollments are limited. Register early!

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Online registration only.

Click the button to register. If that direct link doesn't work on your device, you can:

1. Go to **www.mea.org/login** and log in (you can create your login credentials there or reset a lost password).
2. Scroll down to Register for Conferences and click to log in.
3. After logging in, click on Upcoming Events.

PLEASE NOTE: To use online registration, each member must sign into their MEA account so that the information is on their record. One MEA member cannot register another MEA member.

Please verify that your email address is correct in the system before registering. This is how you will receive a confirmation email to let you know that the registration was processed correctly.

Session availability will be in real time so there is no need to list/select a 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice when registering online (as you do when submitting a paper copy with payment). If the session is available to select as the member is registering, there are seats available in that session.

IMPORTANT: If you receive a message about any time overlap, you have registered for overlapping sessions and will need to remove one of the sessions before you can finalize the registration. The system is trying to help make sure your registration is complete/correct so no further action will be required on your part prior to the conference. Watch for a confirmation email. This will be your proof that the registration processed all the way through the system.

If you do not receive a confirmation email immediately following registering, please notify Jess Fowler at **jfowler@mea.org** to confirm your registration was processed.

CONFIRMATION EMAIL

A confirmation message will be sent to the email on file for the member. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact Jess Fowler at **jfowler@mea.org**.

REGISTRATION FEES

Due to the 2021 MEA Conference for Aspiring and Early Career Educators being a virtual offering, no fees will be charged to attend. However, you must be a member in good standing with the MEA and pre-register to participate.

REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- All persons attending all or any part of the conference must register.
- Plan to register early since some sessions have limited enrollment.
- If you find you can no longer participate in any/all of the virtual sessions, please be sure to cancel via email including your name and local unit or chapter. Please send email to **jfowler@mea.org**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Jess Fowler at **jfowler@mea.org**.

2021 CONFERENCE FOR ASPIRING AND EARLY CAREER EDUCATORS

STATE CONTINUING EDUCATION CLOCK HOURS (SCECH)

TO PARTICIPATE: If you would like to participate in the State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECH) Program, please indicate that during the online registration process by selecting SCECH credit from the course selection. The sessions that are eligible for SCECH credit are listed below. Not all sessions are eligible for SCECH credits.

***SCECHs are pending approval from the Michigan Department of Education.**

STATE CONTINUING EDUCATION CLOCK HOURS (SCECH) ELIGIBLE SESSIONS

- 101 A BALANCING ACT: WORKING WITH KIDS WITH BEHAVIOR DIFFICULTIES
- 102 LANDING YOUR PERFECT JOB!
- 103 TEACH4ENDURANCE: SURVIVING THE SWIM, BIKE AND RUN IN TODAY'S CLASSROOM
- 301-304 ALL ACTION CAMP TOPICS
- 401 DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
- 402 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FOR FUTURE EDUCATORS
- 403 ERIC'S EPIC ED-VENTURE – CREATIVITY AND CULTURE IN SCHOOLS

If you have any questions about the SCECH program or what is required of you, please call 517-333-6262.

MICHIGAN ESP CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ESP CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

TO PARTICIPATE: If you would like to participate in the Michigan ESP Center for Professional Learning ESP Certificate Program, please indicate that during the online registration process by selecting ESP credit from the course selection. The sessions listed below are those that are eligible for credit through the ESP Certificate Program. Not all sessions are eligible for ESP credits. The sessions listed below have been approved as part of the ESP Certificate Program for which credit can be issued.

MICHIGAN ESP CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ESP CERTIFICATE PROGRAM ELIGIBLE SESSIONS



The sessions listed below have been certified as part of the ESP Certificate Program.

CORE: BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

- 101 A BALANCING ACT: WORKING WITH KIDS WITH BEHAVIOR DIFFICULTIES

ELECTIVE: SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

- 301 ACTION CAMP: STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS/ABLEISM

ELECTIVE – CULTURAL DIVERSITY/EQUITY

- 401 DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

If you have any questions about the ESP Certificate Program or what is required of you, please call 517-333-6260.

101 A BALANCING ACT: WORKING WITH KIDS WITH BEHAVIOR DIFFICULTIES



Walk away with over 10 tips you can try tomorrow to manage behavior. Understand the core functions of all behaviors. In the end, be reminded of what is in and what is out of your circle of control.

Presenter: Christine Rushlow, Plymouth-Canton EA Member

102 LANDING YOUR PERFECT JOB!



You've just reached a new milestone—you now have your degree after completing your education program. Now you're ready to land that dream job. Sounds simple, doesn't it? You know a great job is out there, available and waiting for you. It's just a matter of having a strategic plan to find—and snag—it. This session will help you with the important steps for helping you do that. The session will include writing your résumé, finding job openings, completing the job application and sailing through the job interview. Most importantly you will have an opportunity to ask direct questions to an elementary principal who has been at the hiring table for over 15 years.

Presenter: John Hagens, Flushing Community Schools Principal

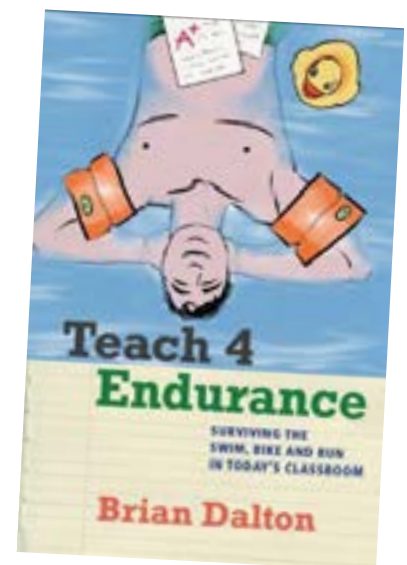
103 TEACH4ENDURANCE: SURVIVING THE SWIM, BIKE AND RUN IN TODAY'S CLASSROOM



As educators, our greatest responsibility is to those children sitting (or running around) in front of us. However, collegiate educational pools are drying up and many of those who have remained in the classroom are leaving the profession in droves. The dilemma here is that as educators, we cannot be the best for our students if we do not take care of ourselves first! Come hang out for a bit to take part in an interactive and engaging session, based off my book, to assist in surviving the endurance sport of teaching! I have connected the dots (my dots anyway) in strategies I utilize in surviving 15-hour Ironman races and how they correlate to our lives in the classroom. Well, my friends; it's time to get to work! Be ready to work, discuss, share, reflect, and maybe even sing. Ya' never know, but it will be an adventure.

Presenter: Brian Dalton, Rochester EA Member, author of *Teach4Endurance: Surviving the Swim, Bike and Run in Today's Classroom*

Brian Dalton's book can be purchased at <https://www.teach4endurance.net/product-page/teach4endurance-surviving-the-swim-bike-and-run-in-today-s-classroom>



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

OWEN BONDONO

2020-2021 Michigan Teacher of the Year

Teacher, Oak Park High School, Oak Park School District

Owen Bondono (pronouns: he/they) teaches 9th grade ELA at Oak Park High School. He is in his 6th year of teaching and is the 2020-2021 Michigan Teacher of the Year. His goal as an educator is growing students as empathetic critical thinkers and communicators in a space where they are safe and empowered. Owen is focused on bringing anti-racist and queer-affirming practices into the classroom and advocating for diversity in the educator work force. He is a proud member of his local union, the Oak Park Education Association, and believes that unions are essential to a healthy public school system. He is an advocate for all students and believes that advocacy drives all good teaching practices. In his spare time, Owen is a writer, the Detroit Municipal Liaison for National Novel Writing Month, and a Dungeons and Dragons player.



Action Camps are designed for participants to collaborate with their colleagues to brainstorm and problem-solve issues facing educators today. These are participant-driven sessions that encourage each of you to share concerns, ideas, and suggestions about what has worked or might work in schools. Please select a topic from the following list:

301 STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS/ABLEISM



How do we best meet the needs of diverse learners with different abilities so that each child can succeed? Does your district have professional development available to educators so that you are able to meet the needs of diverse learners? What barriers does your school or classroom have that you can assist your student with? How does your school or district budget factor into services that students receive?

302 BALANCING TEACHING AND HEALTH/SELF CARE



Teaching can be an all-consuming profession where there is always more work than time available. How can we create balance between our work and home life so that we avoid burn-out? What boundaries have you established in your work life? What habits have you developed to cope and what healthy habits can you add?

303 PARENT/COMMUNITY/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS



How can we encourage parents and other community members to partner with educators to help ensure student success? Parents are strong advocates for their children, how can you get them on board to advocate for your school and your staff as well? What programs does your school have to involve parents and community members? What programs would you like to see in your school or district?

304 INNOVATION IN THE CLASSROOM *(integrating physical activity, art, technology, etc. into content)*



How can we make lessons engaging, innovative, and multi-dimensional by layering them with different disciplines? How does integrating different disciplines meet the diverse learning styles of students? What are the benefits and strategies for integrating physical activity and art into core subjects? What are some technology tools that help support rather than supplant content?

401 DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



Diversity is the range of human differences, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, and political beliefs.

Presenters: Kia Hagens, MEA Director, Center for Leadership & Learning
Annette Christiansen, UniServ Consultant & Professional Issues Organizer

402 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FOR FUTURE EDUCATORS



Learn strategies to better advocate for yourself, your students, your schools, and your profession from a teacher who was tired of asking others to make the changes and decided to do it herself.

Presenter: Rep. Lori Stone, State Representative for 28th District and former Fitzgerald EA Member

403 ERIC'S EPIC ED-VENTURE - CREATIVITY AND CULTURE IN SCHOOLS



5,000 mile road trip, 28 schools across seven states in two weeks. Join Eric, former president of the National Association of Elementary School Principals for 2018-19, as he shares his "Epic Ed-Venture" filled with laughs and tears as he highlights best practices in schools and inspires you to reach for the sky for your students. Eric will delve into his teaching experience and 19 years as a building administrator to share his philosophy and why education is still the best lifestyle. Strap on your seatbelt!

Presenter: Eric Cardwell, former president of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)



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Michigan New Educators

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Michigan Education Association

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The mission of the MEA is to ensure that the education of our students and the working environments of our members are of the highest quality.

