Connections Conference 2013
Call for Presentations

If you are new to Connections, you will find this conference to be one that is clearly focused on new and exciting practices in all discipline areas. It features teachers, counselors and other educators from Illinois and around the United States sharing innovative programs and strategies that have been successful in their schools. Connections’ goals are to provide experiences to grow professionally, to showcase exemplary programs, and to support school improvement strategies.

Applications Due: December 1, 2012

- Improving rigor in Middle School and High School coursework
- Creating positive student transitions to and from High School
- Developing strong working relationships between Middle School and High School staff
- Building quality Career & Technical Education concentrations in High School
- Designing high impact guidance and advisement systems
- Addressing the cultural and human relations needs of students, parents and communities
- Integrating innovative instructional technology approaches to advance student learning
- Utilizing data to improve school practices
- Advancing students success in the core learning areas
- Creating policies and support systems to advance student attendance and graduation rates, career success, and postsecondary transitions
- Developing school leaders to address the demands of 21st century school practices
- Addressing the important role Career & Technical Education plays in developing student academic core abilities

March 13 - 14, 2013
Wednesday & Thursday

Intended for
Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois

Offering:
Keynote Speakers
Featured Presentations
Breakout Sessions
Mini Sessions
Networking Social

Conference Sponsors: Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois State University
Presentation Requirements

- Most correspondence with presenters is through email. You may need to add the domain name @ilstu.edu to your safe sender list so that Connections' email doesn't end up in the junk folder.

- There are two types of sessions to choose from:
  - Concurrent sessions are one hour, single presentation, theater-style sessions.
  - Mini sessions are 30 minutes, single presentation, theater-style sessions offered on March 13, 2013, only.

- You are required to use the full allotted time for your presentation. Presenters should allow time to respond to questions, distribute and collect evaluations, and distribute Continuing Professional Development Unit labels (CPDUs).

- Presenters are responsible for providing hand-out materials.

- Each breakout room at Connections will have a netbook/mini computer, projector and screen for your presentation needs. Presenters will be responsible for the acquisition, rental expense, and/or set-up of equipment not provided through Connections.

- If you decide to use the provided equipment for a powerpoint presentation make note that the netbook minis DO NOT HAVE a dvd/cd drive in them so the only way you can use the netbook mini computer is with a USB jump/thumb drive.

- Additional equipment you may select at no expense to you: TV/DVD, OLD-STYLE transparency overhead projector, wireless internet, and external laptop speakers.

- If your powerpoint has to be on a dvd/cd or you have a graphic intensive video, you are more than welcome to bring your own laptop to use in conjunction with the projector provided. You will have 15 minutes before your session to set up. If you do bring in your own computer, please reconnect the netbook/mini once you are finished for the next presenter in your room.

- Meeting room setups are theatre style and range in size from 50 - 200 people. If you are confirmed as a presenter, you will receive notification concerning room size and location.

- Applicants will be notified regarding the acceptance or rejection of their presentation proposal toward the end of December. Information regarding the actual date and time of your session will be mailed by mid-January.

- All related travel and hotel accommodations are the sole responsibility of the presenter.

Presenter Registration

- Connections will waive two registration fees per accepted presentation proposal. On the application form, please indicate which two individuals will receive a registration fee waiver. For sessions that include more than two presenters, an invoice for $190 (full one and 1/2 day conference), $115 (For Wednesday only), or $90 (For Thursday only) per person will be sent to the main contact person for the presentation.

- If the presentation is accepted and scheduled, confirmation of registration will be mailed to both the main contact and all co-presenters. Presenters should not use the attendee registration form (this will create duplicate registrations). Whether or not you use the complimentary registration, or if you will pay the fee, please use only this form for confirmed presenters. Please note that if your presentation is not accepted, you will then have to register as an attendee.

- Registration changes: The last day to make changes to your presenter registration is February 8, 2013. If you have any questions regarding billing procedures, please call (309) 438-5185.

- If you or your co-presenters have any special needs, please complete the information below and include it in your application, (duplicate entire form as necessary):
  - Presenter’s Name requiring special needs:
    - Sign language interpreter
    - Vegetarian meals
    - Assistance because of visual impairments
    - Atkins-friendly meals
    - Wheelchair accessibility
    - South Beach-friendly meals
    - Other
If you are interested in presenting at the Connections Conference, please complete the form below as well as the following page. Mail this application to the Connections Project, Illinois State University, Campus Box 1600, Normal, Illinois 61790-1600 or fax your proposal to (309) 438-3211.

Name
(Main Contact Person for Presentation)

Position/Title

Organization
(Current Employer)

Mailing address

City

State Zip

Telephone ( ) Ext

Fax ( )

Home phone ( )

E-mail**

**Please add the domain @ilstu.edu to your safe sender list. Most of Connections’ correspondence is through email.

Your registration option:

- $0 Complimentary
- $190 Full 1 1/2 Days
- $115 March 3, 2013
- $90 March 14, 2013

Check Preferred Session Type:

- Concurrent
- Mini (March 13, 2013, only)

Are you willing to repeat your presentation if requested?

- Yes
- No

To help us code your presentation properly in the program booklet, please check all that apply:

Field/Level:

- Middle/Jr. High School
- Postsecondary
- Secondary
- Association/Vendor
- Business/Industry

Targeted Audiences:

- Administrators
- Guidance Counselors
- Instructors/Teachers
- Business/Industry/Labor
- University Professors
- Student teachers
- High Schools That Work

Audio/Visual Needs

- Each breakout room at Connections will have a netbook/Mini computer, projector screen for your presentation needs.

- The provided netbooks/Minis take a USB Thumb Drive ONLY!!

- Please check the additional equipment that you will need.

- TV/DVD
- “OLD-STYLE” Transparency Overhead Projector
- Wireless Internet
- External Laptop Speakers
- None Needed

Due Date: Please mail or fax by December 1, 2012
In the conference program book, attendees will make decisions based upon the presentation title first. Please list enough information in your title so that conference attendees can determine whether your session will meet their needs/interests.

**Presentation Title** (A maximum of ten words, as you would like it to appear in the program booklet):


**Presentation Abstract** (A maximum of sixty-five words, as you would like it to appear in the program booklet):


Co-Presenters: Complete each co-presenter's name, address, phone, fax and registration option (Use additional sheets if necessary).

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Agenda Overview for the Connections Conference 2013

Wednesday - March 13, 2013

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Opening Comments
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Opening Keynote Presentation
10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Breakout Sessions Showcasing Innovations
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Luncheon in the Megacenter
12:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions Showcasing Innovations - Including one half-hour mini session
5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Networking Social

Thursday - March 14, 2013

7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions Showcasing Innovations
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Luncheon
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Closing Keynote Presentation

The Annual Connections Conference:

- Offers over 100 practitioner-based sessions in a 1 ½ day conference format
- Highlights best practices from kindergarten through postsecondary education
- Addresses the needs of teachers/instructors, administrators, and counselors
- Focuses on curriculum development and instructional methods
- Illustrates how major local, statewide, and national educational initiatives are linked

For up-to-date Session information and an on-line version of this form visit:
http://www.connectionsproject.ilstu.edu

Connections Conference 2013
Illinois State University
Campus Box 1600, Normal, IL 61790-1600
Phone: 309-438-5185 Fax: 309-438-3211
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Connections Project
Illinois State University
Campus Box 1600
Normal IL 61790-1600
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December 1, 2012
Applications Due:

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