



WELCOME TO **COMMON CORE** **BOOT CAMP!**

www.commoncorebootcamp.org

FOREWORD



Nadera Alborna, Ed.D.
Dean and Professor of
Education



Welcome to the Common Core Boot Camp at the American University in Dubai. As the Dean of the School of Education, it is my pleasure to host this pivotal event for the second time in the 2024-25 school year.

In September, 2024 our campus buzzed with energy as over 400 passionate educators from across the UAE and the broader GCC region gathered for a day filled with engaging workshops, meaningful collaboration, and the forging of lasting friendships. It was an unforgettable experience that left a lasting impact on all who attended. With the continued partnership of Copperstone Education and Growmore, we are confident that today's event will be just as remarkable and inspiring.

Common Core Boot Camp is a testament to our enduring commitment to educational excellence. By assembling nearly 600 teachers and school leaders, we aim to create a collaborative space for sharing best practices, innovative strategies, and diverse perspectives. The sessions are designed to empower educators to implement the Common Core Standards effectively, ensuring that every student receives a quality education.

We welcome our distinguished speakers and facilitators to the campus of American University in Dubai. Your contributions today will undoubtedly enrich our understanding and inspire new approaches to teaching and learning.

I extend my deepest gratitude to each participant for their dedication to the educational profession. Your commitment to continuous improvement is the cornerstone of student achievement and community development.

Thank you for joining us at this important event. Together, we can shape the future of education and foster a brighter tomorrow for all learners.

Warm regards,



Nadera Alborna, Ed.D.
Dean and Professor of Education

WELCOMING REMARKS

On behalf of the Common Core Boot Camp Leadership Committee, it is our absolute pleasure to welcome you to this year's event! We are thrilled to have you join us as we continue to grow an inclusive and dynamic community dedicated to raising educational standards across US curriculum schools. Your presence here reflects your commitment to excellence, collaboration, and the transformative power of education.

Common Core Boot Camp is a celebration of what we can achieve together. In a world that is constantly changing, we are reimagining education to ensure that every student is equipped with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to lead bright, meaningful, and impactful lives. Your dedication to this mission inspires us, and we are optimistic about the incredible progress we will make together.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the AUD School of Education for hosting this event and for sharing our vision of community and inclusiveness. Your support has been invaluable in bringing us all together, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership.

To Growmore, Array Global Accreditation, Ugarit Publishing, Globed, Subway and all those who have supported this initiative through sponsorship and other acts of support—thank you for believing in the power of collaboration and for investing in the future of our education community. Your contributions are helping to create opportunities for growth, innovation, and excellence.

Our facilitators, who have selflessly dedicated their time, talent, and expertise to this Boot Camp. Your willingness to share your knowledge and inspire others is what makes this event so impactful. Thank you for being the driving force behind our collective success.

To our incredible student volunteers, your presence here speaks volumes about your understanding of the importance of education and the vital role that educators and school leaders play in shaping your future. Your enthusiasm and commitment inspire us all, and we are so grateful for your contributions to making this event a success.

Finally, to all of our participants and school groups—thank you for being here. Your passion, dedication, and collaborative spirit are what make this Boot Camp such a powerful and transformative experience. Together, we are not just raising standards; we are building a community that empowers every learner to reach their full potential.

With Gratitude and Enthusiasm,

**The Common Core Boot Camp
Leadership Committee**

THE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Through the formation of a holistic planning process, the **Common Core Boot Camp Leadership Committee** guarantees that each session is engaging, relevant, and aligned with current educational best practices. The leadership committee also ensures that event sponsors benefit from their participation by offering targeted visibility opportunities and meaningful engagement with attendees.



Veronica Griffin
Co-Founder



Jeffrey Smith
Co-Founder



Heath Bailey
School Leader



Michael Bartlett
School Leader



Dr. Jamie Cardwell
School Leader



Dr. Carla Caviness
School Leader



Eli Ghazel
Industry Expert



Crystal Goodwin
School Leader



Sherri Jenio
Educational Therapist



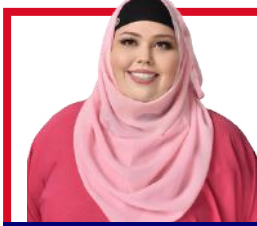
Justin McCauley
School Leader



James Pastore
School Leader



Dr. Simone Saad
School Leader



Dr. Chassie Selouane
School Leader



Dr. Kimberlin Sturgis
School Leader

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Jamie Lynn Cardwell has worked in the field of education for more than 23 years. Hailing from Alton, IL, her career has spanned diverse cultural and linguistic contexts, working with learners of all ages—from children to adults—across the United States, Uganda, Turkey, and the UAE. Dr. Cardwell brings a wealth of academic expertise, holding a B.S. in Education, an M.A. in English/TESL, and a Doctorate in Education with a specialization in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.



Dr. Jamie Cardwell

Dr. Cardwell's contributions to the global educational community are remarkable. She regularly participates in professional organizations, conferences, and roundtable discussions, sharing insights and advancing best practices in education. She is a Founding Member of the Common Core Boot Camp Leadership Committee and has facilitated at all four boot camp events.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Dr. Cardwell is a distance runner, an avid reader, a passionate cook, a skilled flutist, and a dedicated traveler, drawing inspiration from her global experiences. Currently, she serves as Vice Principal at Al Ghad Charter School in Abu Dhabi, UAE, where she continues to lead with vision, innovation, and a deep commitment to empowering both students and educators

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Common Core Boot Camp General Assembly sets the tone for an exhilarating and transformative day filled with discovery, networking, and empowerment!

Time	Activity	Presenter / Speaker
9:00	UAE National Anthem	
9:05	Welcome to Common Core Boot Camp	Tai Paschall
9:10	Qu'ran Recitation	
9:15-9:23	Welcome to American University in Dubai	Dr. Kyle Long
9:23	Welcome from Growmore	Jonathan Coxall
9:25-9:40	Message to the Community	Maher Al Kaabi
9:40	Welcome from Ugarit Publishing	Fahed Al Hussaini
9:42-9:45	Introduction of Keynote	Veronica Griffin
9:45-10:00	Keynote Address	Dr Jamie Cardwell
10:00	Welcome Message from Globed	Murat Yildirim
10:00-10:05	Housekeeping and Dismissal	Tai Paschall



THE AGENDA



15th February | Saturday
9:00–4:30 PM

AUD || AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN DUBAI ||

SESSION ONE



“

“Common Core Boot Camp empowers international educators and school leaders by providing them with practical strategies and collaborative learning experiences, boosting their confidence in implementing rigorous standards and fostering student success. This intensive professional development equips them with the knowledge and resources to adapt best practices to their unique contexts, creating a network of support and shared expertise.”

”

-Dr. Michael Bartlett
Leadership Committee Member

EDUCATORS SESSION 1: STANDARDS STREAM

Time: 10:15–11:15AM | Location: School of Business Building



"Rubric Revolution: Mastering Rubrics and Performance Indicators"

ROOM
B-200

Jonathan D'Avignon and Carrie Chavers will present "**Rubric Revolution**," a session focused on mastering rubrics and performance indicators. Participants will learn to create and refine rubrics across all subjects and grade levels, and how to collaborate effectively using a shared vocabulary to improve assessment consistency.

FACILITATORS: JONATHAN D'AVIGNON AND CARRIE CHAVERS



"Accelerating Skill Development: Meeting All Learners' Needs with Thin Slicing and Formative Assessment"

ROOM
B-203

"Accelerating Skill Development" explores research-based strategies from Dr. Peter Liljedahl's work on Building Thinking Classrooms, focusing on "thin slicing" and formative assessment. This session will provide educators with practical tools to accelerate skill development while meeting the needs of all learners.

FACILITATOR: DESTINY DAVIS



"Common Core Rigor Doesn't Mean Minimizing Factual Knowledge"

ROOM
B-204

Participants will engage in simple critical thinking tasks to explore how working memory and long-term memory combine to foster critical thinking. Additionally, participants will collaborate in small groups to apply a protocol for unpacking a standard into learning targets.

FACILITATOR: CANACE NEWBY

EDUCATORS SESSION 1: STANDARDS STREAM

Time: 10:15-11:15AM | Location: School of Business Building



"Curriculum Improvement as A Cornerstone for Enhancing the Quality of Education"

ROOM
B-207

This training helps educators align curriculum with international standards (CCSS, NGSS, TIMSS) and UAE national guidelines. Participants will learn to create differentiated learning objectives, ensure curriculum coherence, and integrate UAE national identity and culture while maintaining international benchmarks.

FACILITATOR: JAILAN ELOSTÁ



"Bridging Worlds: Integrating the PYP Framework with Common Core Standards"

ROOM
B-208

This session empowers educational leaders to merge frameworks that promote student achievement and global competencies through interactive discussions and hands-on activities. Participants will gain practical tools and strategies for implementing inquiry-driven lessons across subjects and develop an actionable plan to bring inquiry-based learning into their classrooms.

FACILITATOR: JANA E JOHNSON



"Elevating Instruction: A Deep Dive into the Common Core Standards with AI and Technology"

ROOM
B-209

Dr. Alexine's workshop empowers educators to effectively implement CCSS using technology and AI. Participants will explore innovative strategies and practical tools to create engaging, personalized learning experiences, ultimately enhancing student outcomes and fostering collaboration.

FACILITATOR: DR. ALEXINE PROFICE

EDUCATORS SESSION 1: INCLUSION

Time: 10:15-11:15AM | Location: School of Business Building



"Aligning CC Standards with Assessment Outcomes for an Outstanding Inspection"

ROOM
B-101

In this workshop you will take a deep dive into unpacking the standards, aligning these to accurate, triangulated differentiation. We will look at how to design accurate, challenging assessments that how these reflect outstanding elements of the UAE Inspection Framework. We will investigate moderating students output to ensure alignment and how to demonstrate student progress both in lessons and in workbooks.

FACILITATOR: DR. CATHERINE O'FARRELL



"Inclusion in Action"

ROOM
B-102

Terrell's session, "Inclusion in Action," will provide practical strategies for creating more inclusive general education classrooms. Participants will re-evaluate classroom management, relationships, and learning through an inclusion lens. Inspired by "Troublemakers," the workshop will explore how understanding the needs of students labeled as "troublemakers" can lead to more equitable learning environments. This session aims to help all students thrive in general education settings.

FACILITATOR: TERRELL WILLIS



EDUCATORS SESSION 1: ELL STREAM

Time: 10:15–11:15AM | Location: School of Business Building



"Empowering ELL Learners: Building Critical Thinking and Writing Skills for Success"

ROOM
B-103

This session explores the unique linguistic and cultural challenges ELL students face, guiding teachers on scaffolding lessons to boost cognitive engagement and writing skills. Participants will learn to integrate Bloom's Taxonomy for higher-order questioning, engage in critical thinking writing activities, and discover effective digital classroom resources. John'Niea will lead this deep dive into supporting ELL student success.

FACILITATOR: JOHN'NIEA ARMSTEAD



"Empowering Teaching Assistants for ELL Small Group Intervention"

ROOM
B-104

This session teaches participants how to empower teaching assistants (TAs) to lead small group interventions for English Language Learners (ELLs), a key part of effective ELL strategies. Participants will explore practical resources to build teacher-TA collaboration and create inclusive classrooms, enabling TAs and teachers to provide targeted ELL support. Attendees will leave prepared to implement these strategies in their schools.

FACILITATOR: ALYSSIA BLALOCK



"Differentiation & Intervention in ELL"

ROOM
B-105

Maaria's "Differentiation & Intervention in ELL" workshop will provide valuable strategies for teachers working with English Language Learners. Participants will practice using formative assessments, differentiation strategies, tiered interventions (RTI model), flexible grouping, and scaffolding instruction to better meet the needs of ELL students.

FACILITATOR: MAARIA KASHIF

EDUCATORS SESSION 1: STEM STREAM

Time: 10:15–11:15AM | Location: School of Business Building



"Beyond Written Comments: Enhancing Student Learning with Screencast Feedback"

ROOM
B-106

Participants will dive into a series of interactive activities designed to empower them with practical experience in creating and collaboratively reviewing screencasts using ScreenPal tools. By the end of the workshop, attendees will be equipped with the skills and confidence to integrate Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles into their curriculum planning, thereby enriching the learning experience for all students.

FACILITATOR: DR. SAFWA ABDUL AZIZ



"STEMagination: Igniting the STEM Mindset"

ROOM
B-107

Participants will engage in hands-on activities that provide an interactive exploration of the wonders of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Through practical STEM projects, attendees will transform theoretical knowledge into real-world applications, sparking curiosity and fostering problem-solving skills, teamwork, and creativity. By tackling challenges within these activities, participants will experience STEM in action, making the learning process dynamic and memorable.

FACILITATOR: NIKKI WILLIAMS



"Unpacking NGSS: Practical Strategies for Effective Implementation"

ROOM
B-108

This session teaches participants how to break down Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) into practical learning objectives and use them to design engaging lesson plans. These lesson plans will emphasize critical thinking, hands-on activities, and cross-disciplinary connections. Led by Dr. Gihan Fradi, a science education expert with a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, participants will benefit from her extensive experience developing and implementing curriculum in the US and UAE. Her expertise in Common Core standards will provide valuable insights.

FACILITATOR: DR. GIHAN FRADI

EDUCATORS SESSION 1: WELL-BEING STREAM

Time: 10:15-11:15AM | Location: School of Engineering Building



"Well-being Matters"

ROOM
E-202

This session empowers participants to effectively integrate well-being strategies and data into their schools. Hands-on, kinesthetic learning will be facilitated through interactive activities using platforms like Padlet and Mentimeter, along with the well-being platform itself.

FACILITATOR: ROSS MOORE



"Bridging the Gap: Aligning ASCA & ISCA SEL Standards with Common Core for Holistic Student Success"

ROOM
E-205

This session explores the ISCA Student Standards, adapted from the ASCA Student Standards, and how they align with Common Core standards to promote student well-being and academic rigor in international schools. Through real-world examples and collaboration, participants will gain actionable strategies to enhance counseling programs and classroom instruction, creating a comprehensive system for social, emotional, and academic success.

FACILITATOR: KIMBERLY GLASPIE



"Surviving and Thriving: Supporting Educator Wellbeing"

ROOM
E-207

Briana's session focuses on resilience and mindfulness, empowering educators to manage stress and improve their overall well-being. Participants will assess their current well-being and learn effective time management and planning tools for a healthier work-life balance. Briana's experience and passion for educator well-being will provide practical strategies for thriving both professionally and personally. This session aims to equip educators with tools to support their own mental health and well-being.

FACILITATOR: BRIANA BILLINGS

SESSION TWO



EDUCATORS SESSION 2: STANDARDS STREAM

Time: 11:30-12:30AM | Location: School of Business Building



"Rubric Revolution: Mastering Rubrics and Performance Indicators"

ROOM
B-200

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FACILITATOR: DR. ALEXINE PROFICE

EDUCATORS SESSION 2: INCLUSION STREAM

Time: 11:30-12:30PM | Location: School of Business Building



"Embracing Diversity: Strategies for Inclusive Education in the Modern Classroom"

ROOM
B-101

This workshop explores foundational and advanced inclusive education strategies, focusing on creating supportive and accessible learning environments. Participants will learn to adapt curriculum and instruction for diverse learners, implementing UDL frameworks and differentiation techniques. Interactive discussions and activities will cover effective communication and fostering a respectful classroom culture. Educators will leave with tools and confidence to transform their teaching and ensure every student feels valued and can succeed.

FACILITATOR: RUBINA AKHTAR



"Gifted & Talented in the Mainstream Classroom"

ROOM
B-102

This session equips educators to create a comprehensive process for identifying Gifted and Talented (G&T) students and designing an inclusive support system for them. Participants will practice these skills and leave with a practical toolbox of strategies applicable within inclusive classrooms. The session will focus on actionable methods teachers can use to effectively support G&T students in diverse learning environments. Ultimately attendees will gain the confidence and resources to nurture the unique potential of these students.

FACILITATOR: NOHA SHAABAN

EDUCATORS SESSION 2: ELL STREAM

Time: 11:30-12:30PM | Location: School of Business Building



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FACILITATOR: NIKKI WILLIAMS



"When AI Goes to School"

ROOM
B-108

Tai's workshop focuses on innovative and responsible AI integration in K-12 classrooms, empowering participants to develop comprehensive AI strategies for individual classrooms or entire schools. Participants will collaborate and explore practical applications of AI in education. With nearly 16 years of teaching and leadership experience in the US and UAE, Tai, a leading voice in STEM and AI education, brings extensive expertise to this session. His insights will help shape the future of education through technology integration.

FACILITATOR: TAI PASCHALL

EDUCATORS SESSION 2: WELL-BEING STREAM

Time: 11:30-12:30PM | Location: School of Engineering Building



"Well-being Matters"

ROOM
E-202

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FACILITATOR: ROSS MOORE



"Bridging the Gap: Aligning ASCA & ISCA SEL Standards with Common Core for Holistic Student Success"

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This session explores the ISCA Student Standards, adapted from the ASCA Student Standards, and how they align with Common Core standards to promote student well-being and academic rigor in international schools. Through real-world examples and collaboration, participants will gain actionable strategies to enhance counseling programs and classroom instruction, creating a comprehensive system for social, emotional, and academic success.

FACILITATOR: KIMBERLY GLASPIE



"Empowering Students through Social-Emotional Learning: Aligning ASCA Standard 3 with the International School Counselor Association (ISCA) Best Practices"

ROOM
E-207

This workshop connects ASCA Standard 3 (Social/Emotional Development) with ISCA best practices to enhance students' emotional and academic growth. It focuses on developing key social-emotional skills, including self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Participants will gain a practical framework for integrating SEL practices into their schools. This framework will help create a more emotionally supportive and inclusive learning environment.

FACILITATOR: CINDY JOHNSON

SESSION THREE



EDUCATORS SESSION 3: STANDARDS STREAM

Time: 1:45-2:45PM | Location: School of Business Building



"Unlocking Students' Potential by Teaching the Essential 25 Vocabulary Words"

ROOM
B-203

This session empowers participants to implement three effective strategies for teaching the Essential 25 vocabulary words, fostering a supportive learning community. Participants will explore practical methods to unlock students' potential through vocabulary mastery. The session emphasizes building a positive classroom environment where students feel encouraged to expand their vocabulary. Attendees will leave equipped to create engaging and impactful vocabulary instruction.

FACILITATOR: VANESSA GAY-RICE



"Increasing Engagement and Thinking in the Classroom"

ROOM
B-204

This interactive session immerses participants in collaborative learning strategies by having them experience the activities as students. Participants will learn each strategy step-by-step, gaining firsthand understanding of classroom implementation. The session will also cover tips for enhanced questioning techniques and promoting critical thinking within these collaborative structures. This hands-on approach will deepen participants' understanding of facilitating student engagement and thinking in their own classrooms.

FACILITATOR: SHELLY JEANPHILIPPE

EDUCATORS SESSION 3: STANDARDS STREAM

Time: 1:45-2:45PM | Location: School of Business Building



"Cracking the Code: Standards and Data for Transforming Math Success"

ROOM
B-207

Shavonda's interactive workshop empowers educators to connect curriculum standards with actionable data insights for impactful math instruction. Participants will learn to align lesson planning with standards, use student data to inform instruction, and differentiate lessons for diverse learners. Hands-on activities and collaborative discussions will provide immediately applicable classroom strategies. Attendees will leave prepared to share these strategies with their school teams.

FACILITATOR: SHAVONDA STEPHENS



"Bridging Standards and Concepts: Integrating Common Core with Concept-Based Inquiry"

ROOM
B-208

This workshop immerses participants in a concept-based inquiry approach to learning. Through hands-on activities, real-world experiences, reflective discussions, and guided exploration, participants actively construct their understanding. This approach bridges theory and practice, enabling participants to effectively apply these strategies in their own classrooms. The focus is on active learning and developing practical classroom skills.

FACILITATOR: ENGY OLAMA



"The framework is your friend: Aligning and mapping curriculum standards effectively into your practice"

ROOM
B-200

Zoubiya's workshop, "The framework is Your Friend," shows educators how to effectively align curriculum with UAE inspection standards and Common Core. Participants will learn practical strategies for understanding and integrating these standards to improve teaching practices. The session demystifies the inspection framework, demonstrating its use in maximizing educational impact. Attendees will leave with a clear understanding of leveraging the framework for cohesive and effective student learning.

FACILITATOR: ZOUBIYA AHMED

EDUCATORS SESSION 3: INCLUSION STREAM

Time: 1:45-2:45PM | Location: School of Business Building



"Embracing Diversity: Strategies for Inclusive Education in the Modern Classroom"

ROOM
B-101

This workshop explores foundational and advanced inclusive education strategies, focusing on creating supportive and accessible learning environments. Participants will learn to adapt curriculum and instruction for diverse learners, implementing UDL frameworks and differentiation techniques. Interactive discussions and activities will cover effective communication and fostering a respectful classroom culture. Educators will leave with tools and confidence to transform their teaching and ensure every student feels valued and can succeed.

FACILITATOR: RUBINA AKHTAR



"Gifted & Talented in the Mainstream Classroom"

ROOM
B-102

This session equips educator to create a comprehensive process for identifying Gifted and Talented (G&T) students and designing an inclusive support system for them. Participants will practice these skills and leave with a practical toolbox of strategies applicable within inclusive classrooms. The session will focus on actionable methods teachers can use to effectively support G&T students in diverse learning environments. Ultimately, attendees will gain the confidence and resources to nurture the unique potential of these students.

FACILITATOR: NOHA SHAABAN

EDUCATORS SESSION 3: ELL STREAM

Time: 1:45-2:45PM | Location: School of Business Building



"Elevating Comprehension Levels for ELL Students Using Multilevel Tools"

ROOM
B-103

Eli Ghazel will lead a dynamic workshop at the Common Core Boot Camp focused on elevating comprehension for ELL students using multilevel tools. His session, "Elevating Comprehension Levels for ELL Students Using Multilevel Tools," will offer practical strategies for teachers. With over 30 years of experience in curriculum design, textbook authorship, and professional development, Eli is a highly esteemed expert in the ELL field. This workshop promises to be insightful and transformative for ELL educators.

FACILITATOR: ELI GHAZEL



"Empowering Literacy with Daily 5: A Path to Literacy Success "

ROOM
B-104

This workshop prepares participants to effectively use the Daily 5 framework in ELL classrooms to support ELL literacy development. Participants will learn to differentiate instruction within Daily 5 components to meet diverse language needs. The session covers scaffolding language development with visuals, sentence frames, and peer collaboration, along with fostering independent literacy habits. Attendees will leave equipped to build students' vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing skills through Daily 5 routines.

FACILITATOR: TAHA UMAR



"Common Core in an Uncommon Setting: K-5 English"

ROOM
B-105

This session provides valuable insights and tools to enhance teaching for English Language Learners (ELLs). Participants will gain practical strategies, structures, and templates to implement and share with colleagues, improving instructional practices school-wide. Led by award-winning educator NiKayo, this workshop will equip teachers with resources to effectively support their ELL students.

FACILITATOR: NIKAYO COBLE

EDUCATORS SESSION 3: STEM STREAM

Time: 1:45-2:45PM | Location: School of Business Building



"STEM in Action: Integrating Cross-Cutting Concepts Through Hands-On Investigation"

ROOM
B-106

"STEM in Action" offers an interactive experience for educators to create engaging STEM learning environments aligned with Common Core Standards. Participants will learn to design and implement hands-on investigations that develop students' scientific reasoning, mathematical skills, and literacy. Through experiential activities, educators will discover practical strategies to make STEM accessible and exciting for all learners, while maintaining academic rigor. This workshop emphasizes integrating cross-cutting concepts through hands-on investigation.

FACILITATOR: NICOLE HARGROW



"Math Meets Art: Creating 3D Models with Equations"

ROOM
B-107

This workshop explores the Desmos 3D Graphing Calculator, connecting mathematical equations to 3D geometric models. Participants will experiment with pre-designed equations to visualize shapes and manipulate sliders to understand variable impact. They will then create their own 3D models and brainstorm classroom applications, including real-world STEM connections. The session emphasizes collaboration and aims to build participants' confidence in integrating this tool into their math curriculum, regardless of technical expertise.

FACILITATOR: PAMELA JOSEPH



"Unpacking NGSS: Practical Strategies for Effective Implementation"

ROOM
B-108

This session teaches participants how to break down Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) into practical learning objectives and use them to design engaging lesson plans. These lesson plans will emphasize critical thinking, hands-on activities, and cross-disciplinary connections. Led by Dr. Gihan Fradi, a science education expert with a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, participants will benefit from her extensive experience developing and implementing curriculum in the US and UAE. Her expertise in Common Core standards will provide valuable insights.

FACILITATOR: DR. GIHAN FRADI

EDUCATORS SESSION 3: WELL-BEING STREAM

Time: 1:45-2:45PM | Location: School of Engineering Building



ROOM
E-202

"Introduction to Positive Psychology and Positive Education"

Tyler's workshop explores Positive Psychology and the science of human flourishing, providing a framework for Positive Education and fostering classroom well-being. Participants will learn practical skills for stress management and boosting student positivity. Tyler, the Well-being Coordinator at The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Boys and a certified life coach and NLP practitioner, brings extensive expertise to this session. Attendees will leave with ready-to-apply strategies for their classrooms.

FACILITATOR: TYLER HANNA



ROOM
E-205

"Surviving and Thriving: Supporting Educator Well-being"

Briana's session focuses on resilience and mindfulness, empowering educators to manage stress and improve their overall well-being. Participants will assess their current well-being and learn effective time management and planning tools for a healthier work-life balance. Briana's experience and passion for educator well-being will provide practical strategies for thriving both professionally and personally. This session aims to equip educators with tools to support their own mental health and well-being.

FACILITATOR: BRIANA BILLINGS



ROOM
E-207

"Empowering Students through Social-Emotional Learning: Aligning ASCA Standard 3 with the International School Counselor Association (ISCA) Best Practices"

This workshop connects ASCA Standard 3 (Social/Emotional Development) with ISCA best practices to enhance students' emotional and academic growth. It focuses on developing key social-emotional skills, including self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Participants will gain a practical framework for integrating SEL practices into their schools. This framework will help create a more emotionally supportive and inclusive learning environment.

FACILITATOR: CINDY JOHNSON

WHAT MAKES BOOT CAMP SPECIAL?



“Common Core Boot Camp emphasizes accepting growth and change as a crucial aspect of professional development. Embracing change fosters a mindset of continuous learning, encouraging professionals to stay current with evolving practices and technologies. This adaptability not only leads to personal growth but also drives innovation and improvement within their organizations and industries.”

Debra Alexander
Principal at ACT, Washington, DC



“The School of Education at American University in Dubai recognizes the pivotal role of the common core standards in shaping academic excellence. Our partnership with Common Core Network and Copperstone Education provides an invaluable opportunity to American curriculum teachers, but also ensures that AUD’s educational landscape thrives through knowledge exchange.”

Dr. Nadera Al Borno
Dean of School of Education, American University in Dubai



“The Common Core Boot Camp exemplifies the power of collaboration in shaping education. Together, we’re committed to empowering educators and inspiring students, driving meaningful change for learning communities in the region.”

Shailendra Shrivasta
Principal Sponsor and CEO of Growmore

THE LEADERSHIP STRAND



The Common Core Boot Camp fosters school improvement by convening the region's top educational leaders for collaborative dialogue and action planning. Participants share best practices, discuss common challenges, and develop concrete strategies for implementing Common Core standards within their unique school contexts. The Boot Camp empowers these leaders to return to their schools with actionable plans tailored to their specific needs.

THE LEADERSHIP STRAND



Dr. Prince Kouassi



Dr. Nader Ayish



Dr. Farah Arkadan



Dr. Georges Kacchaamy



Dr. Wael Bazzi



Dr. Nezar Ajaj Andary



Veronica Griffin



Dr. Michael Bartlett



Justin McCauley



Christine Nasserghodsi



Sherri Jenio



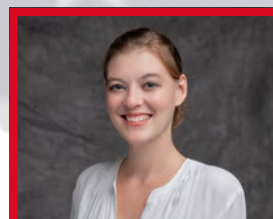
Debra Alexander



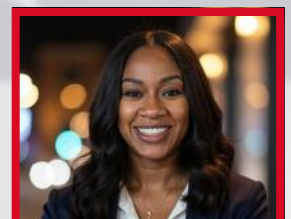
Crystal Goodwin



Dr. Carla Caviness



Chelsea Wilson



Dr. Joy Chestnut



Dr. Simone Saad



Jeff Evans

SCHOOL LEADERS SESSION 1: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Time: 10:15AM – 11:15AM | Location: Main Auditorium

"Upgrading and Elevating: Strategies for International School Success"

Join four influential school leaders as they share their insights and strategies for building exceptional schools. Each panelist brings unique expertise and perspectives to this dynamic and engaging discussion. The conversation will explore diverse approaches to school improvement, covering topics ranging from leadership development to fostering a positive school culture. Moderated by Debra Alexander, a globally recognized organizational consultant from Washington, D.C., this session promises to be an invaluable resource for school leaders seeking to enhance their own practices and create thriving learning environments. Attendees will gain practical takeaways and inspiration from these experienced educational leaders.

The Panel:



Dr. Joy Chestnut
Founding School Principal



Christine Nasserghodsi
School Improvement Specialist



Chelsea Wilson
ELL Leader and Curriculum
Coordinator



Sherri Jenio
Educational Therapist and
Inclusion Consultant

Moderated by:



Debra Alexander

SCHOOL LEADERS SESSION 2: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Time: **11:30-12:30PM** | Location: **School of Engineering Building**



ROOM
E-413

“Common Core, NEASC Readiness, and Teacher Well-being: They Can Co-exist!”

Dr. Michael Bartlett’s engaging session will provide practical strategies for managing the accreditation process effectively while prioritizing a supportive and positive school climate. School Leaders and HODs will learn how to streamline NEASC preparation, engage staff meaningfully, and mitigate potential stress, ensuring a successful accreditation journey without compromising the well-being of the school community. Leave with actionable steps to integrate NEASC readiness seamlessly into a thriving school environment.

FACILITATOR: DR. MICHAEL BARTLETT

SCHOOL LEADERS SESSION 2: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Time: 11:30-12:30PM | Location: School of Engineering Building



ROOM
E-414

"Recognizing Leaders Among Your Staff"

Join Justin McCauley for an engaging workshop focused on cultivating thriving leaders within your school community. Participants will explore practical strategies for identifying potential leaders, developing their skills, and fostering a supportive environment where they can flourish. Justin will share proven techniques for mentorship, coaching, and creating leadership pathways that empower individuals and strengthen your institution. Walk away with actionable steps to build a robust leadership pipeline for the future.

FACILITATOR: JUSTIN McCAULEY



ROOM
E-410

"Improving Teachers. Improving Schools"

Join Veronica Griffin for an insightful workshop designed to empower school leaders to build high-performing teaching teams. Participants will explore practical strategies for professional learning that meets the needs of all teachers. Veronica will guide leaders in creating a 3-tiered system that supports teacher growth and a collaborative culture, ultimately leading to school improvement and student success. Leave with actionable steps and frameworks to cultivate a thriving educational environment.

FACILITATOR: VERONICA GRIFFIN



ROOM
E-416

"School Self Evaluation - Preparing for External Visits"

Prepare your school for a successful external inspection with this workshop led by esteemed school improvement expert, Jeff Evans, Founder of Learning Key Education. This session will provide practical guidance on crafting a winning Self Evaluation Form (SEF), aligning it with inspection frameworks and showcasing your school's strengths and areas for development. Walk away confident in your ability to present a comprehensive and impactful self-evaluation.

FACILITATOR: JEFF EVANS

SCHOOL LEADERS SESSION 3: PRIMARY LEADERS AND COUNSELORS

Time: 1:45PM-2:45PM | Location: SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING BUILDING



Beyond Best Practices: A Socratic Approach to School Leadership

School Leaders will roll up their sleeves and choose between three engaging Socratic Seminar workshops designed to spark critical thinking and collaborative dialogue around some of the most pivotal topics facing the international educational community. School Leaders will pick a topic and become immersed in a one-hour session involving one of the following Principals, VPs and HODs will explore complex questions, share diverse perspectives, and collaboratively construct deeper understandings through facilitated discussion. These interactive workshops offer a unique opportunity for school leaders to engage in meaningful conversations and contribute to shaping the future of education.

SCHOOL LEADERS SESSION 3: PRIMARY LEADERS AND COUNSELORS

Time: 1:45PM-2:45PM | Location: SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING BUILDING



“Global Learners, Diverse Needs: A Socratic Dialogue on ELL Education Worldwide”

ROOM
E-413

Join our dynamic Socratic Seminar led by Dr. Jamie Cardwell, focusing on the unique landscape of English Language Learner (ELL) education within international school settings. This session will explore effective pedagogical approaches, culturally responsive teaching practices, and strategies for supporting ELLs' academic and linguistic development. Participants will collaboratively examine the challenges and opportunities inherent in fostering inclusive learning environments for diverse language learners.

FACILITATOR: DR. JAMIE CARDWELL



“Common Core in Context: A Socratic Exploration of Standards in International Schools”

ROOM
E-414

Engage in a thought-provoking Socratic Seminar led by Dr. Carla Caviness exploring the application and adaptation of Common Core Standards within diverse international school contexts. This session will foster collaborative discussion and critical thinking about the challenges and opportunities presented by these standards in a global educational landscape.

FACILITATOR: Dr. Carla Caviness



“Investing in Well-being: A Socratic Dialogue on Creating Thriving International Schools”

ROOM
E-416

Join Crystal Goodwin for a thought-provoking Socratic Seminar exploring the development of sustainable well-being systems in international schools. This session will foster collaborative dialogue and critical reflection on the key elements needed to cultivate a thriving school culture where both students and staff can flourish.

FACILITATOR: Crystal Goodwin

SCHOOL LEADERS SESSION 3: SECONDARY LEADERS AND COUNSELORS

Time: 1:45PM-2:45PM | Location: ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



“ Shaping Future Leaders: A Dialogue with University Leaders”

Join esteemed university leaders for a crucial discussion on preparing high school students for university success in the UAE and GCC region. This panel will offer invaluable advice to secondary school principals, focusing on key skills and knowledge students need to thrive in higher education. The discussion will cover topics such as academic preparedness, navigating the university application process, and developing essential life skills for independent living. Panelists will share insights on bridging the gap between secondary and higher education, empowering principals to better support their students' transitions. This session provides a unique opportunity for principals to gain expert perspectives and implement effective strategies for university preparation.

FACILITATORS AND SESSIONS:

- **Dr. Nizar Andary**, Associate Professor of Digital Production
- **Dr. Wael Bazzi**, Dean of School of Engineering
- **Dr. Farah Arkadan**, Chair of Dept. of Management and Marketing
- **Dr. Georges Kachaamy**, Director Center for Research, Innovation and Design (CRID)
- **Dr. Prince Kouassi**, Chair of Dept. of Psychology
- **Dr. Nader Ayish**- Moderator



Dr. Prince Kouassi



Dr. Nader Ayish



Dr. Farah Arkadan



Dr. Georges Kacchaamy



Dr. Wael Bazzi



Dr. Nezar Ajaj Andary

GRATEFUL FOR OUR SPONSORS

WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

On behalf of the Common Core Boot Camp Network, we extend our sincere gratitude to our invaluable partners and sponsors for their generous support in making today's event a resounding success. Your commitment to empowering educators and advancing educational excellence is truly commendable. Together, we are fostering a thriving community of passionate professionals dedicated to shaping the future of education.

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THANK YOU SO MUCH

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"The Common Core Boot Camp is a testament to what we can achieve when we come together as a community. I'm deeply grateful to all our participants, sponsors, and schools for their commitment to inclusivity and shared learning. Together, we're building a brighter future for education."

-Jeffrey Smith
Co-founder

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"A huge thank you to everyone who made today's Common Core Boot Camp such a success! Your participation and support fuel our vision of accessible, high-quality professional development and school improvement for our entire education community. We're so grateful to have you on this journey with us."

-Veronica Griffin
Co-founder



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