



Nebraska Department of Education

500 S. 84th St, 2nd Floor ♦ Lincoln, Nebraska ♦ 68510

High Ability Learning

May 2022

Never Too Early to Start Planning!



As the 21-22 school year comes to an end, it is important to reflect on all of the wonderful things we have accomplished! I have had the pleasure of traveling across the beautiful state of Nebraska and talk with hundreds of educators this year, and there is SO much great stuff going on to support HAL students!

From professional learning to classroom observations and student events, it has been a joy to spend this school year with all of you. In the midst of everything, it can be hard to remember all of the good you are doing for students. Take a moment to write down 3 things that you are proud of from this school year. Remember all of the positives that have shaped you and your students. Most importantly, take time this summer to recharge!

As we look forward, it is never too early to put dates on the calendar! This newsletter will include dates of HAL events scheduled for the next school year, some great books for summer reading, and other opportunities.

Thank you for all you do for Nebraska's students!



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HAL Events 22-23 School Year



We have several exciting events coming up in the 22-23 school year! Make sure to take note of these dates and mark your calendars. All times are in CST. Registration links will be sent closer to the date of the event. Events will be recorded and posted on the HAL website.

July 27th, 3 pm – HAL Funding Application Tutorial
August 31st, 4:30 pm – HAL Educator Forum
September 7th, 6:00 pm – HAL Family Forum
September 14th-October 19th – HAL Webinar Series (Wednesdays)
December 7th, 6:00 pm – HAL Family Event
March 8th, 6:00 pm – HAL Family Event
March 15th, 4:30 pm – HAL Educator Forum
May 10th, 6:00 pm – HAL Family Event

HAL Spotlight: Kate Sherwin



Kate Sherwin
Coordinator of Engagement & HAL, Nebraska City Public Schools

What is your favorite part about working with High Ability Learners?

Being able to always go above and beyond. The kids are so interested in what we're doing, and they'll ask tons of questions. These questions lead to a multitude of other engaging activities that we all end up learning from.

What are some challenges you have faced working with HALs?

Teaching my HAL kids how to practice a growth mindset is a big challenge. I want them to learn how to work for something, because they're used to acquiring new knowledge and skills with ease. I don't want them to give up when things get challenging. I want them to learn the "power of yet". It's not "I can't do it", it's "I may not be able to do this yet, but..."

What is something you would like to tell other HAL people across the state?

I'd like to thank all of the HAL people across the state for the big and small things they may do in the name of gifted education, whether they're a teacher, a parent, or just a concerned and invested person. I'd also like to encourage anyone who isn't already a member to join the Nebraska Association for the Gifted. It's a really dedicated and supportive network. I've learned so much from them over the years!



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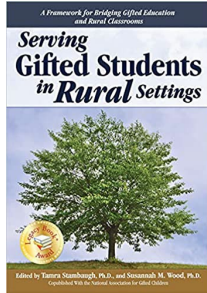
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Professional Books for Summer Reading

Summer is a great time to catch up on reading for professional learning. We often do not have time during the school year to catch up on current best practices. I have compiled a list of recommendations for your summer book list!

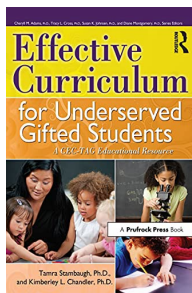
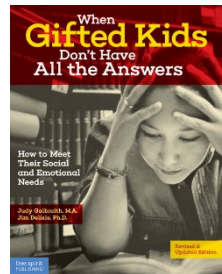


[Serving Gifted Students in Rural Settings – Stambaugh & Woods](#)

"*Serving Gifted Students in Rural Settings* provides a framework for educating the gifted in rural settings. The book outlines practical, theoretical, and evidence-supported approaches for understanding, teaching, and leading programs for this unique population. Case study vignettes and practical ideas for administrators and teachers are combined with theoretical applications."

[When Gifted Kids Don't Have All the Answers – Galbraith & DeLisle](#)

"This book, now fully revised with updated information and new survey quotes, offers practical suggestions for addressing the social and emotional needs of gifted students. The authors present ways to advocate for gifted education; help gifted underachievers, perfectionists, and twice-exceptional students; and provide all gifted kids with a safe, supportive learning environment."

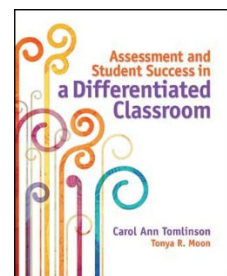


[Effective Curriculum for Underserved Gifted Students – Chandler & Stambaugh](#)

"*Effective Curriculum for Underserved Gifted Students* explains the need for a differentiated curriculum for gifted students typically underrepresented in gifted programs, including children of poverty and those who are from culturally and linguistically diverse populations. Features of research-based curriculum found to be effective in enhancing the academic achievement of these populations are highlighted. In addition, practical, evidence-based strategies for curriculum development and instruction are shared."

[Assessment and Student Success in a Differentiated Classroom – Tomlinson & Moon](#)

"Carol Ann Tomlinson and Tonya R. Moon take an in-depth look at assessment and show how differentiation can improve the process in all grade levels and subject areas. After discussing differentiation in general, the authors focus on how differentiation applies to various forms of assessment—pre-assessment, formative assessment, and summative assessment—and to grading and report cards."



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Additional Opportunities for Educators & Students

[National Association for Gifted Children Annual Convention: November 17-20, 2022](#)

NAGC's 2022 convention will be in Indianapolis, IN this November! Mark your calendar for the best professional learning opportunity of the year! I highly encourage anyone who can attend. Remember, you can use HAL funds or ESSER funds to fund this PL opportunity!

[Code.org Training Through UNL: June 6-10, 2022](#)

Through a partnership with Code.org, UNL offers a summer training for teachers to be certified to teach Computer Science Discovery, Computer Science Principles, and Computer Science A. Worried about the cost? There are scholarships available to cover the cost of the course and materials.

[Workshop for Young Writers: August 1-5, 2022](#)

The Workshop for Young Writers is an amazing opportunity for students in grades 6-8 to learn and grow as writers. Explore new and familiar genres, strengthen your writing technique, receive individualized feedback on your work, and enjoy a community of young authors who will stretch you as a writer. The WFYW will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST, Monday through Friday. Class will be taught synchronously (live with in-person instructors; no recordings) to make the experience as engaging as possible.

[Summer Art Residency: July 10-29, 2022](#)

Picture this: You're a high school artist spending your summer learning from world-class faculty on one of the premier arts campuses in the US. You spend your time participating in classes, workshops, evening tours, lectures, and events that excite and stretch you as an artist. You spend three full weeks living and learning with other students from all over the world who are as consumed with art as you, and you finish off the summer by showcasing your creations to your peers, teachers, and the public. This is what you'll find at the Summer Art Residency (SAR), an immersive 3-week residency at the University of Iowa's Belin-Blank Center. Financial Aid is available!

[Summer Writing Residency: July 11-29, 2022](#)

Imagine spending your summer in a UNESCO City of Literature - one of only two in the United States - learning from world-class faculty on one of the premier writing campuses in the country, home to the famed Iowa Writers Workshop. Envision spending your time participating in classes, workshops, evening tours, lectures, and events that excite and stretch you as a writer. Picture investing three full weeks in your passion, living and learning with other high school students from all over the world who are as consumed with writing as you, and finishing off the summer by showcasing your work to your peers, teachers, and the public. This dream is reality at the Summer Writing Residency (SWR), an immersive 3-week residency at the University of Iowa's Belin-Blank Center. Financial Aid is available!



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[Chautauqua Workshops at University of Iowa: Summer 2022](#)

The Belin-Blank Chautauqua features six separate summer workshops on campus with additional online components. Participants may enroll in just one (or more!) of the workshops. Those who enroll at the graduate level for all three workshops in either week—or both—receive an automatic tuition scholarship from the Belin-Blank Center for one of three classes (i.e., three workshops for the cost of two; six for the cost of four). Chautauqua offers opportunities in the Psychology, Programming, and Administrative strands, making earning the endorsement easier than ever. Participants and/or instructors may choose to Zoom rather than interact in person during the first two days of each class; the Belin-Blank Center wants everyone to feel comfortable about their health and safety this summer.



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