

WELCOME TO THE 2021 BTU QuEST CONFERENCE



[A welcome message from President Brown...](#)

Every year, The Baltimore Teachers Union convenes your annual Quality Educational Standards in Teaching (QuEST) Conference to create space where experts share lessons learned and explore strategies for a quality school year. I envision this year's virtual conference as a space to network with other BTU members, strengthen your work, and empower you with skills and support.

The theme of this year's free conference is "License To Thrive" because I feel confident that you will leave the conference with more pathways to thrive in your life after you hear wisdom from Keynote Speaker and "Sister Activist" Tawanda Jones of the West Wednesdays Coalition and from workshop facilitators like sharlimar douglass, Tsanonda Edwards and 2018 Teacher of The Year, Mrs. LaQuisha Hall.



[Meet our 2021 QuEST Keynote Speaker Tawanda Jones](#)

Tawanda Jones is a mother, teacher, activist, and voice for her brother Tyrone West, who was killed by police brutality on July 18, 2013 in Baltimore City. Since then, Tawanda has been holding weekly demonstrations every Wednesday for over 8 years called "West Wednesday." Part memorial for her brother Tyrone West and part protest against police brutality, it has created a healing space for community members to fight for all victims of police brutality. As a mother of 4 and a PreK/Kindergarten teacher for 15 years, Tawanda helps fight for a better world where Black children can grow up and not be scared of being killed because of the color of their skin. As she says, "There is no justice, there is just us" and her activism is an act of love. Tawanda is an inspiration, whose activism and leadership show us how we can use our trauma to empower us to fight injustice, build community, and change the world. She is a real-life superhero!

2021 BTU QUEST CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Get Paid! Tips for Navigating The Career Pathways for Teachers

T. Nathan Ferrell, BLSYW Teacher, Union Learning Representative

The goal of this workshop is for teachers to learn how to increase their salary as quickly as possible by effectively navigating and leveraging the career pathway system. The workshop will include tips and differentiated strategies for teachers at every point in their career from conditionally certified to veteran teachers and advanced degree holders. It will also include information about how the Teacher Effectiveness Evaluation and Performance Based Evaluation System are structured, and a demonstration of how to find one's pathway, Interval and Achievement Unit History and how to find and sign up for Achievement Units.

Live by the PSRP Contract, Thrive by the PSRP Contract

Cindy Sjoquist, BTU Field Representative

We're going to dig in on the PSRP Contract. I'll highlight the most frequently challenged sections, point out where some of the more widely used language is located, and walk you through tools and strategies for living, enforcing and thriving through your contract!

Classroom Confidence Through Creative Journaling

LaQuisha Hall, 2018 City Schools Teacher of the Year

Increase your classroom confidence by increasing your creativity! Join Mrs. Hall in a session where you learn to get creative and journal via her 5-point strategy that will empower you throughout the school year. Journal alongside LaQuisha for a chance to win a giveaway!

Certification: Get Yours

sharlimar douglass, BCPSS Certification Support Expert

An overview of the process of initial certification. How to move from a conditional certification to a standard certification. Includes information on what education classes are required for initial certification, understanding your course evaluation, how to add an endorsement to an existing certificate, and how to move to an Advanced Professional Certificate.

Family/Community Engagement, Relationship Building

BTU President Diamonté Brown, BTU Member Engagement Specialist Corey Gaber, BCPSS Parent and Former PCAB Chair Jessica Fautleroy

This workshop will include a panel discussion, a Q&A session, and small breakout groups. This workshop will explain the principles and strategies at the heart of effective Family/Community Engagement, and will focus on both high tech and low tech options for communications and relationship building.

Participants will leave with strategies that help them engage in their own communities, target populations of people depending on the types of relationships they are trying to build, and organizational tools that help sustain relationships and community engagement.

News You Can Use: PSRP Edition

Tishea Lester & Chris Bilal

You've got questions. We've got answers. For example, what is a floating holiday? How many are you allotted annually? What is the status of PSRP Negotiations? How can I get involved? What is a living wage? PSRPs will leave with news that you can actually use.



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Intentional Self-Care

Tsanonda Edwards, Success Coach and author of "The extraORDINARY Mr. Nobody: A Beginner's Guide to Self-Healing"

This workshop focuses on fine-tuning the process of personal well-being for the most important person in your life: YOU. Through storytelling and interactive activities, Tsanonda Edwards will remind some and guide others along the path of really understanding yourself and your priorities in a way that makes self-care more accessible which will then make your other priorities (family, job, etc.) easier to navigate and manage.

Instructional Design and Virtual Course Development with an Antiracist Lens

Jillian Turner and Samra Mekonon, Elementary Teachers, KIPP Harmony

Our session offers classroom practitioners the opportunity to develop their strengths into tangible learning experiences as professional development facilitators for their colleagues. We cover culturally responsive practices for adult learning, a variety of instructional activities, scheduling acumen, and user-friendly course structure. Ultimately, this session will inform and support union membership creation of district-led learning opportunities that are useful for both course developers and participants.

In turn, more teachers engage in professional learning opportunities that they deem helpful to them which enhances their self-efficacy and leadership opportunities at their own schools and throughout the district. Providing new opportunities for teachers to share their talents and interests makes them better-able to serve the needs of students.

Addressing Burnout: An Introduction to Completing the Stress Cycle

Hannah Scouten, Special Education Teacher, Green Street Academy

In order to proactively address the education burnout that typically occurs each year, participants will be introduced to the work of Emily Nagoski PhD. and Amelia Nagoski DMA in their book *Burnout: The Secret to Unlocking the Stress Cycle*. Participants will receive a brief exploration of the stress cycle, complete a mini introspection of stressors, begin an identification of inevitable stressors, and create a confrontation plan to address their own stress cycles. The goal of this workshop is to proactively equip teachers to hurdle burnout in order to retain mentally healthy individuals to the profession.

Virtual Field Trips

Delana Penn and Ashton Hampton

This workshop will provide both students and teachers the opportunity to expand their learning beyond the walls of the classroom into a world beyond the city limits of Baltimore, Maryland. It is our objective to use field trips as a tool to afford students experiences which cannot be duplicated in the classroom setting but are nonetheless an integral part of instruction. Trip excursion(s) can best be described as a living laboratory in which learning is acquired through an active hands-on experience with rich resources provided by the world of travel. The objective of this workshop is to provide travel experiences which will increase each student's knowledge and understanding in the subject areas of fine arts, culture and history. Field trips offer student's realism to their topic of study and will provide an opportunity to develop and enhance their socialization and citizenship skills.

Mindfulness Matters: Implementing Self-Care in Our Work Practices

Dr. Kizzy Rose Pittrell, Owner of Ross Counseling

Dr. Kizzy D. Pittrell, Ed.D., LCPC received her doctorate degree in Counseling Psychology from Argosy University, Washington DC. Dr. Pittrell received her Master of Arts in Counseling from Towson University and Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Bowie State University. Dr. Pittrell is a Licensed Professional Counselor, an Approved Drug and Alcohol counselor and an Approved Clinical Supervisor in Maryland. Dr. Pittrell has worked in the community sector providing mental health and addiction counseling and treatment to adults and adolescents for sixteen years. Her workshop gives participants practical skills and tools you can use to integrate self-care into our work experiences.



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Instructional Framework Rubric - General Overview

Jessica Papia, City Schools Director of Employee Effectiveness, and Tami Evanosky, City Schools Specialist, Instructional Leadership
The Instructional Framework is an essential document in City Schools that provides a structure that helps teachers design and deliver effective instruction. It also identifies the things that go into excellent teaching, so that teachers, school administrators, and district staff can recognize it and talk about it using a common language. This session will allow participants to increase their foundational knowledge about the Instructional Framework Rubric and other resources that are available for them.

Instructional Framework Rubric - Workshop (limit 24)

Jessica Papia, City Schools Director of Employee Effectiveness, and Tami Evanosky, City Schools Specialist, Instructional Leadership
The Instructional Framework is an essential document in City Schools that provides a structure that helps teachers design and deliver effective instruction. It also identifies the things that go into excellent teaching, so that teachers, school administrators, and district staff can recognize it and talk about it using a common language. This session will allow participants to increase their foundational knowledge and understanding of the Instructional Framework Rubric in order to make personal connections with effective practices and improve teaching and learning in their classrooms.

Introduction to the Retirement Process

Joyce Cooper, Employment Engagement Associate

This workshop will provide introductory information about the retirement process, including: retirement eligibility, retirement requirements, making your payment option selection, necessary forms, and transferring health insurance, and life insurance.

Diabetes and Food

Clifton Denby, BTU Field Representative

This workshop will provide participants with strategies and information for healthy eating and nutrition. We will discuss the impact of stress on our physical health, and how eating habits can impact energy levels, productivity, and mental stability.

The Disability School to Prison Pipeline

Gloria Martinez, Vice President of Elementary Schools, United Teachers of Los Angeles

Learn about research on the intersection of disability and the school to prison pipeline conducted by United Teachers of Los Angeles and their allies, and learn about their actions to demand just and equitable educational access.

Mindset Makeover: Transform Into A Better You

Darryl Wharton, CEO, Darryl Inspires

This workshop will discuss the beginning steps to transform one's mindset for manifestation. Participants will learn how the brain processes thoughts and how to turn those thoughts into reality. Join us to gain clarity and feel more aligned to who you desire to be.

The BTU Buddy Program

Geralda Thompson and Candace Fryer,

BTU Buddy Coordinators This session is for both veteran BTU members who have signed up to be BTU Buddies, and the Early Career Teachers they are supporting. Participants will attain core strategies to support and enhance daily educational practices for new teachers.



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