



CURRICULUM, EDUCATION AND DESIGN SUMMIT

Join us for the third annual **Curriculum, Education, and Design Summit**, where education and design converge to shape the future of learning. This year, we're spotlighting the vital role educational leaders have in aligning curriculum and space design. Through engaging discussions and hands-on exercises, you'll collaborate with designers to envision classrooms that truly support modern learning.

Don't miss this opportunity to lead the way in creating inspiring educational environments!

DATE | May 2, 2025 | 9AM - 3:15PM

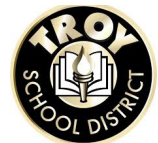
LOCATION |  **Headquarters**

(1001 Centennial Way Suite 300 Lansing, MI 48917-9279)

Click here to RSVP

REGISTER EARLY AS SPACE IS LIMITED

In partnership with:



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SCECH'S ARE AVAILABLE AND LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

AGENDA

9:00 - 9:15 AM

INTRODUCTION | ROB ATKINS

Why are Curriculum Directors left out of discussion about designing educational spaces? This summit aims to shift that narrative by emphasizing the critical role Curriculum Directors play in aligning curriculum delivery with the creation of effective learning environments.

9:15 - 10:15 AM

VISIONING WORKSHOP | JAMES SEAMAN

Schools are shifting toward a shared vision that centers on learners, fosters innovation, and prioritizes wellness and belonging. This workshop begins by exploring the why behind alignment in schools, using a broad lens to examine global trends and their implications. Together, we will build a shared understanding of the deep connection between a district's curricular goals, the activities learners engage in to develop skills, and the places that support these activities. Participants will actively engage in identifying key learner activities that foster skill development. Together, we will explore real-world examples of schools that have successfully aligned their curricular goals, activities, and environments to create exceptional educational systems.

10:15 - 11:30 AM

DESIGN CHARRETTE | JAMES SEAMAN, JOHN DAVIDS, LAURA CASAI

Building on the foundation of the visioning workshop, this session introduces a shared language of Design Patterns—adaptable solutions to recurring challenges—to connect learner activities with physical places. Participants will be guided through a hands-on design charrette—a collaborative effort to create a design plan—where teams will use design patterns to create places that support specific curricular goals within their school context.

11:30 - 12:30 PM | LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

12:30 - 1:30 PM

TEACHING WITH SPATIAL FLUENCY | JILL ACKERS

Explore the intricate bond between spatial features of learning environments and their potential to enhance teacher practices. Beyond a mere focus on furniture, we'll dive into the transformative power of spatial elements, emphasizing how they can profoundly influence student engagement. Central to our exploration is the development of teachers' spatial fluency.

By equipping educators with the ability to effectively recognize and harness these spatial features, we aim to foster an environment where dialogue-driven teaching thrives, leading to enriched student engagement and participation.

1:30 - 2:00 PM**ENGAGEMENT BY DESIGN | LAURA CASAI, MARIE WOODMAN, SARA EASTER**

Every day, students and teachers engage with classroom furniture and technology, shaping their learning experiences. Let's explore practical strategies to involve teachers and students in reimagining these essential elements of the classroom. By aligning furniture and technology with pedagogy and curriculum, we can empower teachers to design agile, student-centered learning environments.

2:00 - 2:15 PM | BREAK**2:15 - 3:00 PM****PANEL DISCUSSION | ERIN MACGREGOR, ELSON LIU, JENNIFER GOODWIN**

As we conclude the summit, this dynamic panel will explore new ways of thinking about the intersection of curriculum, education and design. The discussion will highlight how thinking differently can impact change in your school district, emphasizing innovative approaches that disrupt traditional thinking. The panelists will also share personal insights and stories from their own building projects and how their experiences have shaped their vision for creating educational spaces that inspire learning and community.

3:00 - 3:15 PM**WRAP UP / Q&A**

PRESENTERS



ROB ATKINS, PE **PRESIDENT, KINGSCOTT**



Rob Atkins is an engineer, visionary leader, and passionate advocate for both his profession and his community. With a career spanning over three decades, Rob has garnered extensive experience in engineering, architecture, and leadership roles. Rob's journey as president of Kingscott Associates is characterized by his innovative approach and unwavering commitment to excellence and people. Under his leadership the firm has thrived, breaking new ground in architectural design, and has made advancements to be a vehicle of change, elevating the connection between the delivery of education and innovative facility designs.

Rob's visionary thinking and collaborative approach has positioned the firm to begin developing future architects and engineers with the goal of moving the A/E industry forward to represent the diverse communities we serve. Rob understands that as an industry leader in the K-12 arena for nearly 100 years, Kingscott must continue meeting the challenges of today to create a better tomorrow.

Before taking the helm as president, Rob spent 17 years as Director of Engineering at Kingscott Associates. His extensive tenure in this role allowed him to fine-tune his skills while shaping the direction of the firm. Rob served as a civil engineer at Gove Associates for 13 years where he developed a deep understanding of engineering principles and the impact projects can have on improving the quality of life for people. His experience in this role laid the foundation for his future leadership roles.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Rob has demonstrated his commitment to making a difference in the community. He has served on the Pretty Lake Camp Board of Directors for nearly a decade, working tirelessly to provide life-changing experiences for underprivileged youth. He is also a member of the Kalamazoo Kiwanis Club. His dedication to service aligns with Kingscott's efforts to make the world a better place, one community at a time.



JAMES SEAMAN, PhD, AIA, ALEP **MANAGING PRINCIPAL, FIELDING INTERNATIONAL**



With a career spanning over 20 years, James has dedicated his work to designing and improving places for learning, and has managed, planned, and designed numerous innovative schools around the world. He is an architect and an educational researcher. His approach to designing schools begins with a deep understanding and vision for learning. He views the physical environment as a technology that can be designed to shape and support teaching and learning activities. He has authored articles about architecture and educational innovation and regularly presents at conferences.

James holds a master's degree in architecture from Lawrence Technological University, a graduate level certificate in Educational Facility Planning through San Diego State University and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology and Educational Technology from Michigan State University. His academic work enriches his practice, as he approaches design with a methodology rooted in academic research. He's also an experienced teacher, having taught university courses in education and design.

Dedicated to the profession of educational facility planning, James has served as the President of the Association for Learning Environments Midwest Great Lakes Region, an organization committed to best practices in K-12 and Higher Education. He holds the organization's top distinction of Accredited Learning Environment Planner (ALEP) and received a Regional Service Citation Award.

PRESENTERS



JOHN DAVIDS, AIA, REFP, LEED AP BD + C **SENIOR PLANNER, KINGSCOTT**



John Davids is an accomplished architect whose career spans nearly four decades and is marked by a relentless commitment to improving educational spaces and nurturing future generations. His journey includes over 6 years at Kingscott Associates where he is a member of the executive leadership team, and recently became the firm's Senior Planner. In this role, John offers his mentorship and years of experience, which are invaluable, to Kingscott's architectural design team.

John's diverse career includes professional practice as a designer/studio leader, providing volunteer architectural work for community organizations, and as Architect-in-Residence at Frank Lloyd Wright's "Snowflake House."

He has served as a graduate teacher of Architectural History at the University of Michigan and professor of Architectural Design and Professional Practice at the University of Detroit and Lawrence Technological University. John relocated to London, England for two years in the 1980's to work as a designer for a firm specializing in recreational aquatic facilities. In 1999, John received the prestigious AIA Michigan "Young Architect of the Year" Award. John's remarkable career is a testament to his belief in the potential of students and the importance of fostering vibrant educational environments.

John holds a master's degree in architecture from the University of Michigan where he was not only dedicated to his studies, but also a member of the university wrestling team. His commitment to excellence in both academics and athletics reflects his drive and determination.



LAURA CASAI, IIDA, LEED AP **PROJECT DIRECTOR - PRINCIPAL INTERIOR** **DESIGNER, EDUCATIONAL PLANNER**



With over 17 years of experience, Laura brings a wealth of leadership qualities and expertise to the Kingscott team. She is a LEED Accredited Professional and is qualified with the National Council for Interior Design. Laura's interior design work includes over 525 projects for K-12, university, and private owners and has resulted in functional, flexible, and vibrant environments for all age groups. Her experience is impressive, her passion is contagious, and she brings great energy and enthusiasm to every project she is involved with!

PRESENTERS



JILL ACKERS, ALEP **DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, VS AMERICA INC.**

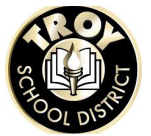


Jill Ackers is a transformative leader in education with a career that spans almost three decades. Her background stretches from Early Childhood to Higher Education and her dedication to project-based learning and learner-centered initiatives has been at the heart of her work. Her view on education as a holistic system, recognizes the necessity of Facility Master Planning, School Bond Development, Organizational Leadership, and Change Management in creating an environment conducive to learning. Through these multidimensional strategies, she has contributed to transformational outcomes that aim to ensure the sustainability and impact of education in a rapidly changing world.

Her experience has taken her across almost 50 states and more than 23 countries. In collaboration with global architectural firms, she has taken part in the reimagining of learning environments. Jill is steadfast in her mission to reshape education at all levels, driven by her vision to enhance impact and sustainability. It is her firm belief that by collectively transforming educational practices to be more aligned with future needs, we can provide a more enriching, engaging and empowering learning experience for all students.



MARIE WOODMAN **EDUCATOR, TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT**



Marie Woodman is an educator from the Troy School District in Michigan. She began her career teaching kindergarten for 6 years and then taught first grade for 8 years. She has been in her new role now as the Curriculum and Instruction Specialist for Science pre-K-12 for the past 6 years. She has been fortunate to help lead bond projects in the district with a specific focus on furniture and learning environments.

Marie and her husband Peter have 4 children and a dog. In any free time she enjoys painting, reading and the outdoors!



SARA EASTER **PRESIDENT, COMMUNICATIONS BY DESIGN**



Sara Easter is the founder and president of Communications by Design (CBD). Sara began her working career working at IBM while she was studying secondary education at Calvin College. Her love for technology and teaching pushed her to launch CBD where she can share her experiences and perspective with schools throughout the state.

As a former Middle School English teacher, Sara leads her team of technology engineers and professional learning consultants to help educators to effectively leverage the power of technology in the classroom.

This unique approach of CBD is focused on partnering with educational leaders to create a student centered, engaging learning environment to support “Successful Students, Innovative Classrooms and Thriving Schools.”

PRESENTERS



ERIN MACGREGOR

SUPERINTENDENT, HOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Erin J. MacGregor, Ed.D. is in his 10th year as Superintendent of Howell Public Schools. During his tenure with Howell Public Schools, MacGregor has built a culture of trust and support, passed a \$12.5 million dollar technology bond, a \$39 million dollar capital and safety bond, and a \$258 million dollar capital projects bond, rightsized the district, and launched several new educational initiatives such as a Spanish Language Immersion Program, Global Scholars Endorsement, an Innovation Academy, and the Portrait of a Highlander, a whole-child educational vision. He was named the 2017-18 Michigan School Public Relations Association Outstanding Superintendent Communicator

of the Year for his dedication to and support of effective communications. He was also named the 2020 Howell Chamber Citizen of the Year for his commitment to the community, strong civic presence, and for helping lead the school district through the pandemic. Before becoming Superintendent in Howell, MacGregor served as an assistant superintendent, principal, and teacher in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. MacGregor holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, a Masters of Arts in Education from Michigan State University, an Educational Specialist in Administration and a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership from Oakland University.



ELSON LIU

EDUCATOR, HOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

With 28 years in K12 education, Elson Liu has a proven track record of leading transformative technology integrations and creating innovative learning spaces. From restructuring large-scale 1:1 programs to designing community-based digital learning spaces, Elson's experience demonstrates a deep understanding of how physical and digital environments can enhance student learning. As Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services for Howell Public Schools, Elson continues to champion innovative instructional approaches and the design of supportive learning environments.



JENNIFER GOODWIN

PRINCIPAL, SOUTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jennifer Goodwin has proudly served as the principal of Southwest Elementary for the past 10 years. A Howell Public Schools alumna, Goodwin returned to the district in 2004 as a high school social studies teacher. Her leadership journey began in 2008 when she was named Howell High School's dean of students, and in 2009, she advanced to serve as one of the school's assistant principals. Goodwin holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, both from Madonna University. Her passion for education and dedication to the Howell community have made a lasting impact on Southwest Elementary, where she continues to inspire students and staff every day.

