

Stratenotes

The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning

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Featured: Using Personal Stories for Impactful Professional Learning

My grandmother was a wonderful storyteller. She would make up stories to tell my brother and me at bedtime. One series of stories was about Danny and Maybelle, characters whose dispositions and adventures bore a remarkable resemblance to my brother and me. These stories made us look forward to bedtime, drew us close to our grandmother, and remain one of my favorite memories of her. But the stories didn't just entertain. They often carried subtle messages about how Danny and Maybelle could be gentler, kinder, and more grateful. My grandmother wrapped her wisdom, guidance and love in story - a spoonful of sugar to help the medicine go down.



This is the power of story. Stories engage us, connect us and teach us, opening our minds and hearts to ideas we might not have otherwise embraced. As educators we understand the power of story and often leverage it in our professional learning. But, as we move with the impact of Covid on our lives, we seem hungrier for connection than ever before. We need to know we're not alone in our struggle and worry. We need to know other people are thinking and feeling what we are thinking and feeling. To this end, I'd like to offer a next step with stories as a tool for professional learning. Consider exploring and telling stories about you – your feelings, experiences, and discoveries. I realize as educators we often strive to keep the spotlight off us and on the students and other educators we serve. However, when you share your SIM story – what got you involved, what grabbed your attention, why you continue to implement – you can draw participants even more deeply into the professional learning you facilitate. You allow your participants to see themselves in you, building the connection and trust that opens a door to conversation and coaching. Extending professional learning in this way helps us realize the ultimate goals of transfer to practice and positive outcomes for students.

If you'd like support finding, writing, and using your personal SIM stories, consider exploring the session [**Using Stories for Impactful Professional Learning from the Florida SIM Update**](#) (**passcode: j53R@u5M6Q**). Then, consider finding a partner and exploring your stories together as part of KU-CRL's [**SIM StoryCorp**](#). Our stories are powerful. Let's share them to connect with other educators and spread the word about the amazing benefits of SIM.

~ Janice Creneti, SIM PD Leader, Instructional Staff Developer, Assistant Project Manager SPDG SIM Project (FL)

SIM in the Field

New SIM StoryCorps #4: How SIM Opens Doors



In this SIM StoryCorps, we'll hear Helen Barrier, Dana McCaleb and Whitney Miller, SIM Professional Development Leaders and Coordinators at the VDOE's Training and Technical Assistance Center at Virginia Tech talk about How SIM Has Opened Doors.

There are some fantastic SIM stories and articles in this issue of the Mashburn Voice (Univ. Central AR), including:

- Connecting SIM to RTI Through the Content Literacy Continuum, B. Keith Ben-Hanania Lenz, SIM Author, Researcher, Professor
- Building Capacity at Greenbrier High School Through Tier I Instruction, Lindsay Griffin, High School Assistant Principal and SIM PDer
- Content Enhancement Routines and RTI, Dr. Michelle Buchanan, STEMteach Master Teacher and CE Preservice Pder
- SLANT: Implementing the Readiness Strategy in the Virtual Classroom, Deanna Kay Rice, Assistant Professor in Teacher Education

New Publications from SIM Professional Developers:

- Ornelas, Y., Saxton, J., **Kohler-Evans, P.**, Sego, A., & Graybeal, L. (2021). *"Who's out there?": Modeling innovation in juvenile justice through a campus-community partnership.* International Journal of Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement, 9(1), Article 4. <https://doi.org/10.37333/001c.31302>
- *Irrefutable Influence: The Impact of School Culture on Student Intervention Success,* **Rosemary Tralli, Ph.D.** **Council for Exceptional Children e-Books.**

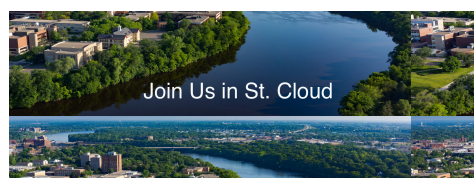
SIM Tools and Resources

- **Test your SIM knowledge** with this [online Stratequiz!](#)
- We hope you'll take a moment to explore the new SIMville website. With it's new format and even more resources, we hope it'll be an asset to you. Please contact simpd@ku.edu if you have any questions about where to find something.

Reminders

- Please Update your Stratedirectory information Today as we are going to be transitioning to a new platform soon and want to be sure we have current contact information for everyone.
- Don't forget to Report your PD online. This information helps us to apply for grants and projects that keep SIM Research going.
- Check out all the upcoming events on the SIM Events Page, including our newest Canvas Online Professional Learning Modules.
- We're looking for short videos to add to the Online Teaching Resources section of SIMville. Anything you'd like to share can be sent to simpd@ku.edu.

Upcoming SIM Events



SIM Update Conferences for SIM Professional Developers and Specialists:

- Feb. 17 - Mar. 17, 2022 - Southeast Virtual SIM Update Conference
- June 1 - July 19, 2022 - Northeast Virtual SIM Update Conference (hosted by VA TTAC) - more info. coming soon
- June 14 & 15, 2022 - Upper Midwest SIM Update Conference, in St. Cloud, MN - This conference will be in person and we're very excited to see our SIM colleagues face-to-face again!

Virtual Content Literacy Leadership Institute for Prospective SIM Professional Developers:

- June - October, 2022 (Applications due March 1, 2022)

Virtual Xtreme Reading Institute for Educators:

- June 27-29, 2022 (Registration due June 1, 2022)

Virtual Professional Learning Sessions for Educators:

- Fundamentals of Paraphrasing and Summarizing Strategy (Canvas Online Session - available anytime)
- Possible Selves Strategy (Canvas Online Session - available anytime)

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