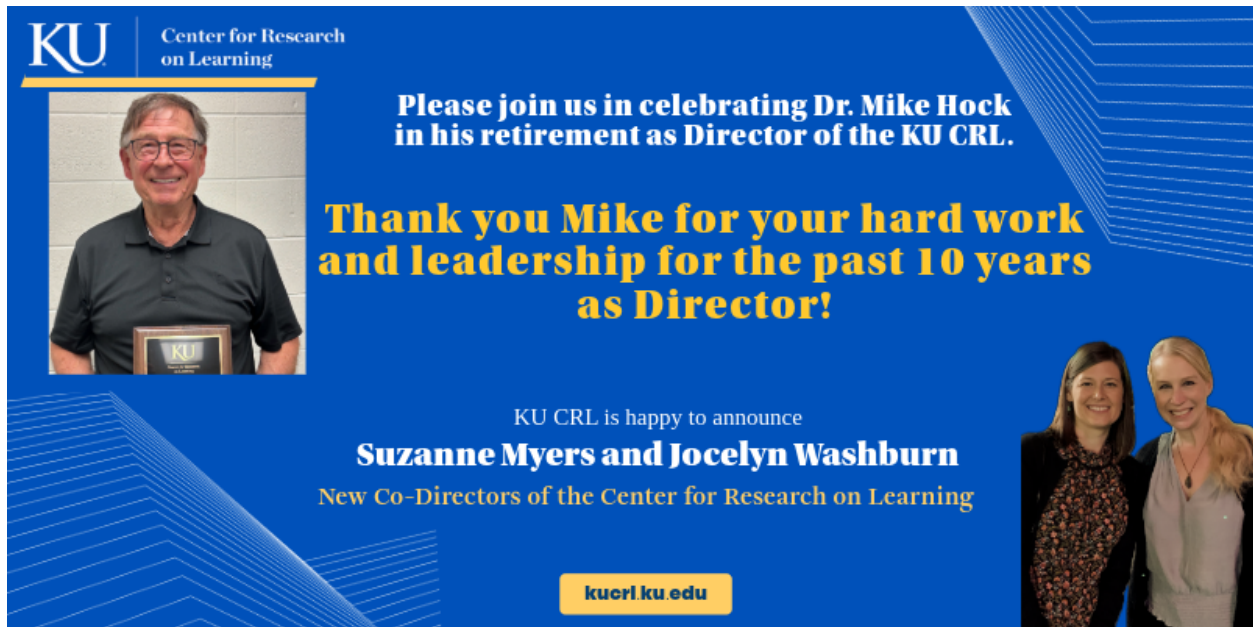


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The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning

SN Vol. 33, No. 6 | July/Aug. 2025



Please join us in celebrating Dr. Mike Hock in his retirement as Director of the KU CRL.

Thank you Mike for your hard work and leadership for the past 10 years as Director!

KU CRL is happy to announce
Suzanne Myers and Jocelyn Washburn
New Co-Directors of the Center for Research on Learning

kucrl.ku.edu

We celebrated Mike at the Center at the end of June in Lawrence. We're so happy that Mike will continue this mission with us as a part-time researcher. You can reach out to Mike about his retirement at: mhock@ku.edu

We are also thrilled to welcome Jocelyn Washburn and Suzy Myers as our new Co-Directors!

Learn more about Jocelyn and Suzy at:
<https://kucrl.ku.edu/researcher-directory>

SIM News

Teachers Testing Transformative Interventions

One of the research groups at CRL has completed an initial analysis of the IES-funded randomized controlled trial, *Teachers Testing Transformative Interventions (T3i)*. T3i explored how adolescents with learning disabilities envision their futures—their hopes, fears, expectations, and aspirations as individuals, learners, and future professionals. The study aimed to identify effective strategies for improving transition outcomes for students with disabilities. Our hypothesis: that Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) materials

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could play a key role in supporting these improvements. The interventions included the Possible Selves (PS) curriculum and a new, enhanced version that integrates the Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction (SDLMI)—soon to be available to the SIM Network.

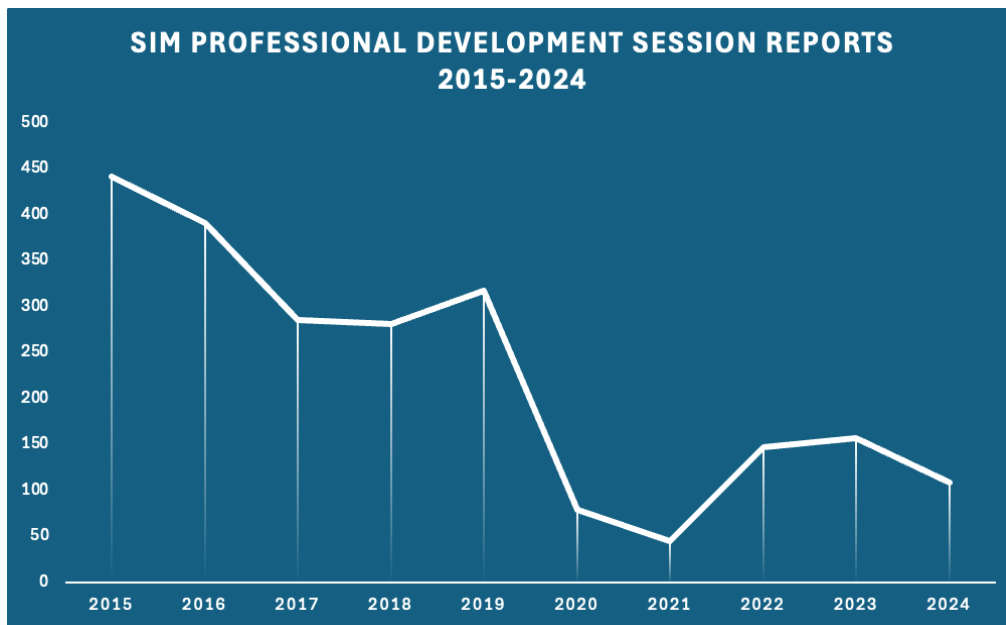
[Join us for a free webinar](#) where we'll share:

- What students revealed about their future selves and goals
- How different instructional approaches influenced their responses
- Practical ways to use these insights to inform IEPs, Transition Plans, and Postsecondary goals

We'll also discuss how this work can shape SIM's approach to meeting the unique transition needs of students with disabilities.

A look at the numbers

In 2024, there were 109 [Professional Development Session Reports](#). These numbers have never returned to pre-pandemic levels. We're curious how much of this is due to lower reporting numbers and how much is lower use of SIM. Here are the numbers from the past 10 years.



Reminders:

- [Report your SIM PD work](#) - We use this information to help us apply for grants and to share the impact SIM is having around the world. This is especially important

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right now with everything that is happening in the broader landscape of US education.

- [Update your StrateDirectory information](#) so that others in the network can find you. That is also where you let us know if you are interested in being contacted with referrals for PD in your area.

SIM in the Field

The **2025 Arkansas Regional SIM Conference** was hosted by University of Central Arkansas's Mashburn Center for Learning July 30-31. Thanks to all the wonderful people who put this conference together and everyone who attended! Here are a few pictures from the conference.



To find out more about the great work happening in Arkansas, check out the [Spring 2025 Mashburn Voice Newsletter](#).

Recent Publications by KU CRL Staff and SIM Network Members:

- **Myers, S., Washburn, J., Rowland, A., & Smith, S. (2025).** Developing an adaptive professional learning model: Educator insights on their infrastructure. *Teacher Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13664530.2025.2511739>

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- Carreon, A., Mosher, M., Goldman, S., **Smith, S.**, & Smith, B. (2025). A Ten-Year Review of the Journal of Special Education Technology: Innovations and Trends for Individuals with Disabilities. Journal of Special Education Technology, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/01626434251349414>
- Tanner, Emily & Slaven-Ruffing, Stephanie & Varjas, Kris & **Houchins, David** & Roach, Andrew & Reed, Deborah. (2025). Juvenile Correctional Administrators and Teachers Perspectives on the Implementation of Read 180®. Residential Treatment For Children & Youth. 1-23. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0886571X.2025.2506403>.
- Day, Jamie & Campbell, Aaron & **Kennedy, Michael**. (2025). Teacher Candidates' Self-Efficacy During Vanishing Equity Policies. Journal of Education. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00220574251360621>.
- **Boyle, Joseph** & Watson, Latesha & Frith, Danielle & Robinson, Hannah. (2025). Teaching Students With and Without Learning Disabilities to Use a Scientific Argumentative Writing Strategy in Inclusive Science Classes. Learning Disabilities Research & Practice. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09388982251359640>.

SIM Resources

Understanding the Value Behind Our Educational Materials

Over the years, we've worked hard to keep our manual pricing as accessible as possible. While inflation has steadily increased, meaning a \$12.50 manual in 2010 would cost over \$31 today. We've kept our prices well below that benchmark for as long as we could.

To continue delivering high-quality, up-to-date educational content and to cover the rising costs of production and processing, our current pricing now ranges between \$25 and \$50. Additionally, in light of the current funding environment, a portion of the production costs now goes to the University for their support of our center's work. This adjustment ensures we can maintain the standards you expect while still offering exceptional value compared to inflation-adjusted costs. Your purchase not only supports your learning but also contributes to sustaining the broader educational mission.

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Resources:

- 2025 SIM One-Page Flyer

Strategic Instruction Model

What is SIM?

For nearly 50 years, the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning (KU CRL) has led research on adolescent learning.

SIM, developed by KU CRL, is a research-based framework that improves academic success, especially for students struggling with reading, writing, and learning. It equips teachers with strategies to deliver clear, structured, and engaging instruction, making learning accessible for all students, including those with learning disabilities.

What does SIM offer?

Content Enhancement Routines: help teachers organize and present critical content in a way that is accessible and memorable. These routines use teaching tools designed to make learning more effective and applicable.

Learning Strategies: equip students with the skills they need to learn content successfully, targeting areas essential for academic and career success, from late elementary to post-secondary levels.

Fusion Reading: a two-year supplemental course typically used with students in grades six through twelve, reading two or more years below grade level (minimally at the third-grade level).

Xtreme Reading: a one-year supplemental course typically used with students in grades six through twelve, reading two or more years below grade level (minimally at the fourth-grade level).



SIM, commonly referred to as "Kansas Strategies," has created many mnemonics popular in today's classrooms, including:

- DISSECT
- COPS
- PIRATES
- RAP
- SLANT

Benefits for Teachers:

Structured Lesson Plans: Detailed, easy-to-follow lesson structures that save time and help stay organized.

Flexible and Adaptive: Can be tailored to suit diverse classrooms, ranging from struggling to advanced students.

Professional Development: Continuous teacher support, including training, resources, and classroom implementation assistance.

Immediate Impact: Teachers see immediate improvements in student engagement and comprehension.



Scan or visit sim.ku.edu for more information

- [Handout from the April 24, SIM Lunch & Learn](#) - with quick links to SIM resources (crosswalks and websites)

April 24, 2025



Topic	SIM Website Link
A Crosswalk: High-Leverage Practices (HLPs) with Disabilities	https://sim.ku.edu/sites/sim/files/documents/Resources/FINAL%20HLP%20and%20SIM%20Crosswalk%202024.pdf
A Crosswalk: The Marzano 9 and Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) Instructional Tools and Interventions	https://sim.ku.edu/sites/sim/files/documents/Resources/Marzano%20and%20SIM%20Crosswalk%202020-1.pdf
A Crosswalk: Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) and Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) Instructional Tools and Interventions	https://sim.ku.edu/sites/sim/files/documents/Resources/AVID%20and%20SIM%20Crosswalk%202020-1.pdf
Current SIM Events & Online Professional Learning Opportunities	https://sim.ku.edu/sim-events
SIM Microcredentials	https://sim.ku.edu/sim-micro-credentials

SIM Website	https://sim.ku.edu
Brochures for A SIM Overview, Learning Strategies, Content Enhancement Routines, The Writing Strategies, Higher Order Thinking and Reasoning Routines, & The Math Series	https://sim.ku.edu/sim-brochures
Integrating SIM with Other Programs, Strategies, and Initiatives	https://sim.ku.edu/sim-alignment-other-programs-strategies-and-initiatives

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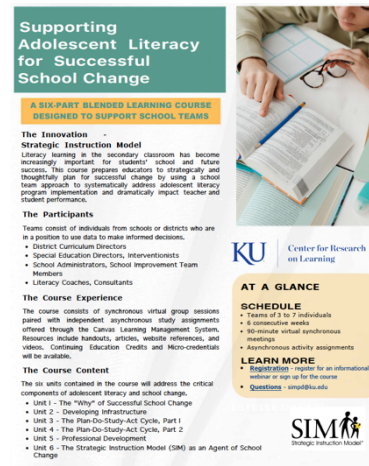
Upcoming SIM Events:

SIM Events for PDers and Specialists

- June-Oct. - [CLLI](#) for potential professional developers
 - This year we were able to have the first few days of our Content Literacy Leadership Institute (CLLI) in South Carolina. It was so great to be able to greet our potential new SIM Professional Developers in person and get to know them as they begin the certification process. If you know anyone else who may be interested in becoming a SIM Professional Developer (or a group who may) please have them check out the [CLLI web page](#) and submit an [Intent to Apply form](#). If we have enough regional interest, we're happy to arrange the next CLLI as an in-person event as well.
- October, 2025 - Fall Virtual SIM Conference

New Course: [Supporting Adolescent Literacy for Successful School Change](#)

- Is your school team looking for a course in adolescent literacy to dramatically impact teacher and student performance? We have a course for that! Our online learning course, Supporting Adolescent Literacy for Successful School Change, is a six-part course designed to support school teams in implementing a systematic approach to adolescent literacy using evidence-based learning tools. Follow the link above for more information and to register today!



The flyer for the course "Supporting Adolescent Literacy for Successful School Change" is a vertical document. At the top, it has a green header with the course title in white. Below the title, it states "A SIX-PART BLENDED LEARNING COURSE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT SCHOOL TEAMS". The main body of the flyer is white with black text. It includes sections for "The Innovation", "The Participants", "The Course Experience", and "The Course Content". To the right of the text, there is a photograph of a person's hands writing in a notebook. At the bottom right, there is a yellow box with the text "AT A GLANCE" and "SCHEDULE". The KU logo and "Center for Research on Learning" are at the bottom left, and the SIM logo is at the bottom right.

Supporting Adolescent Literacy for Successful School Change

A SIX-PART BLENDED LEARNING COURSE
DESIGNED TO SUPPORT SCHOOL TEAMS

The Innovation
Strategic Instruction Model

Literacy learning in the secondary classroom has become increasingly important for students' school and future success. The course prepares educators to strategically and thoughtfully plan for successful change by using a school team approach to systematically address adolescent literacy program implementation and dramatically impact teacher and student performance.

The Participants
Teams consist of individuals from schools or districts who are in a position to use data to make informed decisions.

- District Curriculum Directors
- Special Education Directors, Interventionists
- School Administrators, School Improvement Team Members
- Literacy Coaches, Consultants

The Course Experience
The course consists of synchronous virtual group sessions paired with independent asynchronous study assignments offered through the Canvas Learning Management System. Resources include handouts, articles, website references, and videos. Continuing Education Credits and Micro-credentials will be available.

The Course Content
The six units contained in the course will address the critical components of adolescent literacy and school change.

- Unit 1 - The "Why" of Successful School Change
- Unit 2 - Developing Infrastructure
- Unit 3 - The Plan-Do-Study-Act Cycle, Part 1
- Unit 4 - The Plan-Do-Study-Act Cycle, Part 2
- Unit 5 - Professional Development
- Unit 6 - The Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) as an Agent of School Change

AT A GLANCE

SCHEDULE

- Teams of 3 to 7 individuals
- 6 consecutive weeks
- 90-minute virtual synchronous sessions
- Asynchronous activity assignments

LEARN MORE

- Registration - register for an informational session or sign-up for the course
- Questions - [simpublic.edu](#)

KU Center for Research on Learning

SIM Strategic Instruction Model

SIM Online PD Classes for educators (self-paced courses on Canvas, with follow-up coaching time)

- Content Enhancement Routines:
 - [Cross-Curricular Argumentation Routine](#)
 - [Framing Routine](#)
 - [Unit Organizer Routine](#)
- Learning Strategies:
 - [Fundamentals of Paraphrasing and Summarizing Strategy](#)
 - [The Inference Strategy](#)
 - [The Paragraph Writing Strategy](#)
 - [Possible Selves Strategy](#) (1st or 2nd edition)
 - [Sentence Writing Strategies \(Fundamentals and Proficiency\)](#)



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