Stratenotes

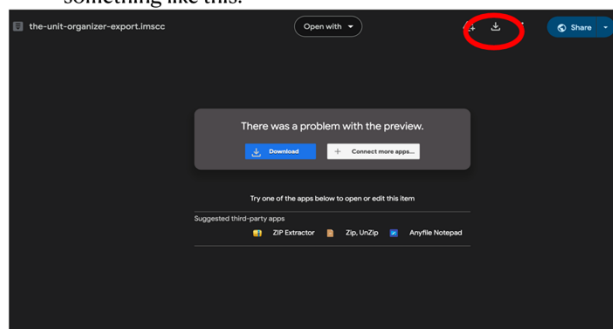*The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning*

If you're interested in facilitating virtual SIM Professional Development (PD) for teachers but don't have the time to create an online course, you can now use KU CRL's Canvas courses for free and adapt them for your context!

Thank you to all the SIM Professional Developers and educators who helped create these online courses! Your work continues to strengthen and support our SIM community and further the mission of getting SIM instructional tools and programs into the hands of teachers, to empower teachers and enable students to better succeed in school and beyond.
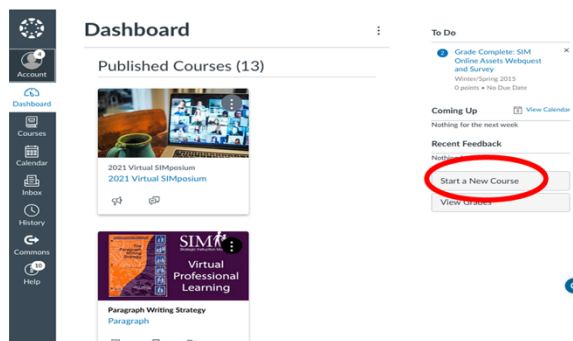
More Canvas Courses are being developed right now by SIM network members who are sharing back with their SIM community. Check back for more options in the future, and consider developing one, too! Visit the SIM Events Page for a list of online Canvas Courses we currently offer.

Instructions to Acquire KUCRL SIM Canvas Courses for Your Own Use

1. Email simpd@ku.edu to request your own copy of a specific KUCRL SIM Canvas course.
2. You will receive a link to download the file of the SIM Canvas Course. When you open it, it will look something like this:

6. Click on "Start a New Course" on the right side of your Canvas Dashboard screen.

Click here or on the image above to view the full set of instructions.

SIM News

Employee *Spotlight*

Bonnie Palasak

iSTAR Research Project Coordinator
SIM Professional Development Leader

Welcome to our newest staff member, Bonnie Palasak. Bonnie has been a part of the SIM Network since 2010 as a reading specialist in Arkansas. Since then, Bonnie's work has included both SIM and Xtreme Reading professional development in FL, MT, IL, MN, TN, and beyond. We're so excited to have Bonnie join us as part of the SIM team here at KU CRL.

- **We're so excited to welcome Bonnie Palasak to the SIM Team!**

- We felt very lucky to be a part of Dr. Lisa Lowen's Journalism/Marketing/Communications 640 Capstone Course project this semester. The students presented us with some fantastic **SIM marketing plans and great ideas** to build upon.

- Some things we've already implemented from this group:
  - An expanded SIM Social Media Calendar
  - Increased SIM social media presence and updated SIM social media posts
  - New SIM Mnemonics page

- New How to Buy SIM page and handout
- Updated SIM FAQs page

o **We'd love to have your help gathering testimonials and content for posts.** These can be short 5-10 sec. video clips of you walking into school saying something like "I'm going to be working with teachers on the SIM Sentence Writing Strategies today", photos (with permissions), or even just some words you'd like us to post. You can also send us longer stories about how SIM has impacted your teaching and your students (here's a great example: https://www.facebook.com/KUCRL.SIM/videos/579015081619307/). Please feel free to share any words, videos, pics, or graphics, or tag us in a short 5-10 sec. selfie video the next time you're doing SIM PD. simpd@ku.edu Thanks!

SIM in the Field

The **2025 Florida Virtual Conference** has begun and runs through the end of February. **Congratulations to SIM Professional Developers, Mandy Horton Walker and Kristen Redding**, this year's recipients of the Don Deshler Making a Difference Legacy Award and the Jane Langenbach Award. We were so happy to celebrate all their amazing work during the opening session!

- **Recent Publications** by KU CRL Staff and SIM Network Members:
  o Mosher Ph.D., Maggie & Carreon, Adam & Lane, Kathleen & Sailor, Wayne & Smith, Sean & Frey, Bruce & **Rowland, Amber** & Jackson, Haidee & Goldman, Samantha & Ruhter, Lindsay & Williams, Angie & Bhattashali, Ankita. (2025). *The Social Validity of*

Video Modeling Versus Virtual Reality for Improving the Social Communication Skills of Middle School Students. Issues and Trends in Learning Technologies. 12. 10.2458/itlt.5830.

- o Dukes, Lyman & **Faggella-Luby, Michael** & Gelbar, Nicholas & Mendoza, Melissa & Charles, Shea & Madaus, Joseph. (2025). *Getting Global with It: The Rapid Growth in Higher Education and Disability-Focused Professional Literature.* Disabilities. 5. 13. 10.3390/disabilities5010013.
- o Coleman, Olivia & Kunemund, Rachel & Waterfield, Danielle & McClain, Suzanne & McDonald, Sean & Welker, Nathan & **Kennedy, Michael**. (2025). *Using Multimedia Instruction to Improve Science Vocabulary Knowledge: Investigating Impact of Three Formats.* Journal of Special Education Technology. 10.1177/01626434251314006.

- Join the SIM Professional Developer Facebook Group at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/SIMPDers
- Have an idea for a SIM StoryCorps to highlight your work with SIM? please feel free to share it simpd@ku.edu

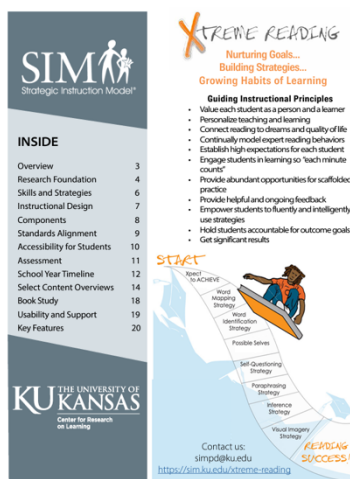## SIM Resources & Reminders

Reminders:

- As we mentioned in the last edition of StrateNotes, we were required to change the pricing structure for KU CRL products, due to new KU guidelines. **You can find the new prices in the Online Store or on the Order Forms.**
- Update your StrateDirectory information so that others in the network can find you and/or we can contact you with referrals for PD in your area.
- 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 right now with everything that is happening in the broader landscape of US education.

Resources:

- Have a listen to the **Notebook LM (AI) created podcast overviews** for: SIM, Learning Strategies, and Content Enhancement Routines.

- **2024 Xtreme Reading Sampler**

Upcoming SIM Events:

- **SIM Update Conferences** for PDers and Specialists
  - **March 17-18, 2025 - Southeast Conference (Charlotte, NC)**
  - **April 2025 - Spring Virtual SIM Conference**
  - October, 2025 - SIM Virtual Conference
- **Do you know someone who wants to Become a SIM Professional Developer? Tell them about the Content Literacy Leadership Institute (CLLI)**, a one-year path for those with some SIM experience.
  - Next session: June - October, 2025
  - Intent to apply form due: March 1,   Application due: April 1
- **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 Paragraph Writing Strategy
    - Possible Selves Strategy (1st or 2nd edition)
    - Sentence Writing Strategies (Fundamentals and Proficiency)

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KU Center for Research on Learning
1200 Sunnyside Ave, Haworth 3107
Lawrence, Kansas 66045
simpd@ku.edu
785-864-0626