

Stratenotes

The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning

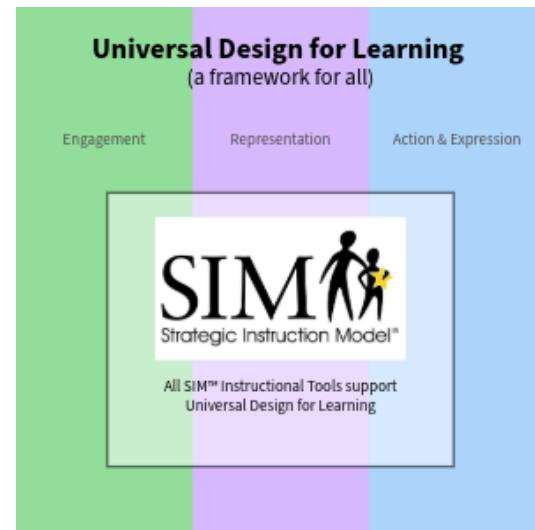
SN Vol. 34, No. 2 | Nov./Dec. 2025

A Crosswalk: Universal Design for Learning and SIM™ Instructional Tools and Interventions

by Maggie Hefner, SIM PD (NC) and Jocelyn Washburn, KU CRL Director of PD

This crosswalk was created to help educators understand how Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles align with the Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) Learning Strategies and Content Enhancement Routines. Both UDL and SIM provide research-based approaches for designing instruction that meets diverse learner needs. UDL offers a flexible framework grounded in neuroscience to remove barriers and promote engagement, representation, and expression for all students. SIM complements this by providing explicit, systematic tools and routines that empower students to become strategic, independent learners. Together, these resources support inclusive practices that optimize teaching and learning across varied classroom contexts.

[Check out the new crosswalk](#)

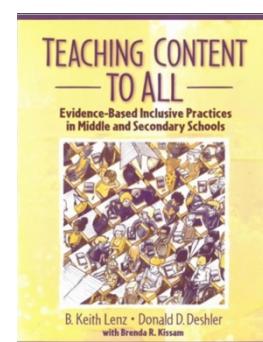
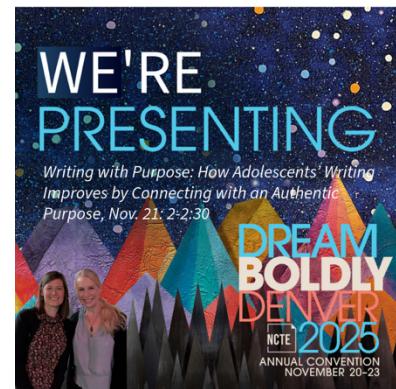


SIM News

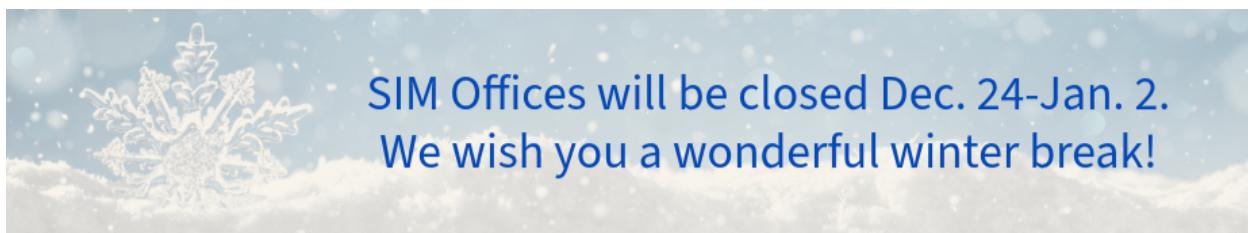
- **New SIM Canvas Courses!**
 - Understanding Academic Language Strategy on Canvas
 - Concept Comparison Routine on Canvas
- **Listen to Season 3, Episode 4 of Co-Teachers in Classrooms Getting Coffee** with KUCRL Co-Director, Dr. Jocelyn Washburn, to explore her personal experience with co-teaching and how High-Leverage Practices (HLPs) transform real classrooms.



- **Join us for a FREE webinar on Jan. 28**, with SIM PDer Karen Staley (NC), and learn about *Getting Started with SIM through the SLANT Strategy*.
- KU CRL Researchers, Suzy Myers and Jocelyn Washburn, presented *Writing with Purpose: How Adolescents' Writing Improves by Connecting with an Authentic Purpose* on Nov. 21 at the 2025 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Conference. Their **session (and SIM) were highlighted** (#3) in the Joyful Literacies' NCTE 2025 Wrap Up Blog!
- The *Teaching Content to All: Evidence-based Inclusive Practices in Middle and Secondary Schools* (Lenz, Deshler, & Kissam, 2003) book is now available in **KU ScholarWorks - free to download**. Among other uses, Pre-Service SIM Professional Developers may want to use this book as a course reading.



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 right now with everything that is happening in the broader landscape of US education. ***We don't mind if they're really old!***
- **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

- We enjoyed seeing everyone online for the **Fall Virtual SIM Conference** in November!
- **Celebrating 50 Years of IDEA!**



Welcome to the Fall Virtual SIM Update

Brought to you by your CRL SIM Team!
Using Webinar Facilitated by Jocelyn Washburn & Bonnie Palasak
Canvas Course Organized by Mona Tipton & Peony Allen



The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has transformed education—and we're proud to have been part of that journey. For 47 years, the CRL has partnered with educators to tackle challenges and create solutions that make a difference. Our commitment remains strong: improving the lives of teachers and students for years to come.

- **Jocelyn Washburn ran into her SIM Content Enhancement Routines Mentor, Judith Fontana, at the Virginia CEC Conference in November.** It's always wonderful to reconnect with friends and colleagues at events!
- **A big thank you to the Virginia and Montana teachers** who are collaborating as we co-create the Integrated Strategic Technology-based Adaptive wRiting (iSTAR) Program — your insights are shaping the future of writing instruction!
- **Check out the Fall 2025 SIM Educator Newsletter** in the SIM Forum for links to free educator resources.
<https://sim.ku.edu/sim-forum>



Recent Publications by KU CRL Staff and SIM Network Members:

- SIM Professional Developer Cathleen Beachboard (VA) recently published an article entitled “**3 Ways to Boost Students’ Motivation to Learn**” in *Edutopia*. She connects student-to-student feedback using *Glows and Grows* to motivation for learning.
- Cormier, C. J., Lindo, E. J., & Ford, D. (2025). Removing Shade From Their Light: Magnifying Minoritized 2e Learners With Strategies for Practice. *TEACHING Exceptional Children*, 57(6), 408-410. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00400599251353286>
- Mosher Ph.D., Maggie & Dieker, Lisa & Rowland, Amber. (2025). **Assessment and Communication through AI-Enhanced Extended Reality Simulations: Educating the Future Workforce.**

SIM Resources

- **2025 SIM One-Page Flyer**
- **Handout with quick links to SIM resources (crosswalks and websites)**



Strategic Instruction Model

What is SIM?

SIM, commonly referred to as “Kumon Strategies,” is an evidence-based instructional model popular in today’s schools and including:

- DISSECT
- COPPS
- FIVES
- SLANT

Benefits for Teachers:

Structured Lesson Plans: Simplified, predictable lesson structures that save time and help stay organized.

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

Professional Development: Continuous teacher learning, professional training, resources, and classroom support for successful implementation.

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

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 meaningful 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 (minimum) or the third-grade level.

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

Scan or visit sim.ku.edu for more information.

Topic	SIM Website Link
SIM Website	https://sim.ku.edu
A Crosswalk: High-Leverage Practices (HLPs) with Disabilities	https://sim.ku.edu/sites/sim/files/documents/R_resources/FINAL%20HLPs%20and%20SIM%20Crosswalk%20with%20Disabilities.pdf
A Crosswalk: The Marzano 9 and Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) Instructional Tools and Interventions	https://sim.ku.edu/sites/sim/files/documents/R_resources/Marzano%20and%20SIM%20Crosswalk%20with%20.pdf
Crosswalk 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 Yearlong High Order Thinking and Reasoning Routines, & The Math Series	https://sim.ku.edu/sim-brochures
Integrating SIM with Other Programs, Strategies, and Initiatives (Find the Crosswalks Here)	https://sim.ku.edu/sim-alignment-other-programs-strategies-and-initiatives

Upcoming SIM Events

SIM Events for PDers and Specialists

- 2026 Winter SIM Update Conference - Feb. 16- Mar. 19

New Course for teachers: 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!



Supporting Adolescent Literacy for Successful School Change

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

The Innovation - Strategic Instruction Model

Using a systematic, evidence-based classroom has become increasingly important for students' school and future success. This course will support school teams to thoughtfully plan for necessary change by using a school team approach to support the implementation of the program implementation and dramatically impact teacher and student outcomes.

The Participants

Teams consist of individuals from schools or districts who are interested in making informed decisions.

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

The Course Experience

The course consists of synchronous virtual group sessions paired with asynchronous individual study assignments offered through the Canvas Learning Management System. Participants will receive a certificate of completion and video, Continuing Education Credits and Micro-credentials will be available for purchase.

The Course Content

The six units contained in the course will address the critical components of adolescent literacy.

- 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 - The Plan-Do-Study-Act Cycle, Part 3
- Unit 6 - The Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) as an Agent of School Change

KU Center for Research on Learning

AT A GLANCE

SCHEDULE

- Teams of 3 to 7 individuals
- 90-minute synchronous sessions
- Asynchronous activity assignments

LEARN MORE

- <https://sim.ku.edu/sim-alignment-other-programs-strategies-and-initiatives>
- <https://sim.ku.edu/sim-events>
- <https://sim.ku.edu/sim-micro-credentials>

SIM Strategic Instruction Model

LEARN NEW SKILLS with SIM Online Classes - *self-paced professional development on Canvas, with follow-up coaching*

- Content Enhancement Routines:
 - NEW Dec. 2025 - **Concept Comparison Routine**
 - **Concept Mastery Routine**
 - **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)**
 - NEW Dec. 2025 - **Understanding Academic Language**

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