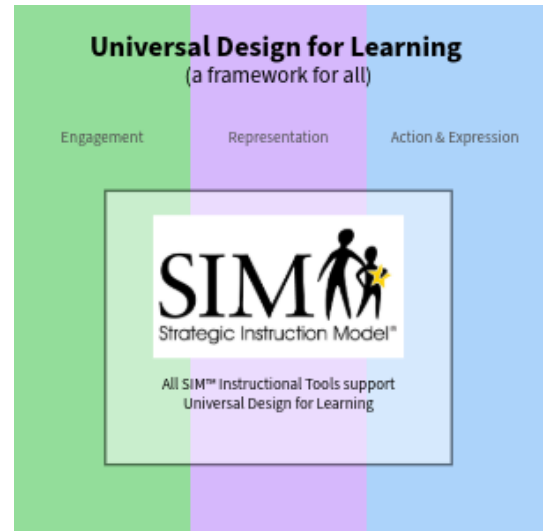


A Crosswalk: Universal Design for Learning and SIM™ Instructional Tools and Interventions

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.

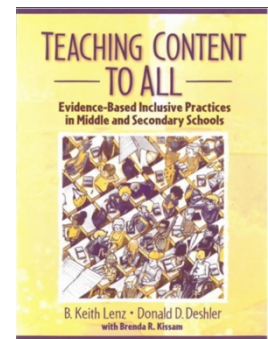


- **Join us for a FREE webinar on Jan. 28**, with SIM PDer Karen Staley (NC), and learn about *Getting Started with SIM through the SLANT Strategy*.

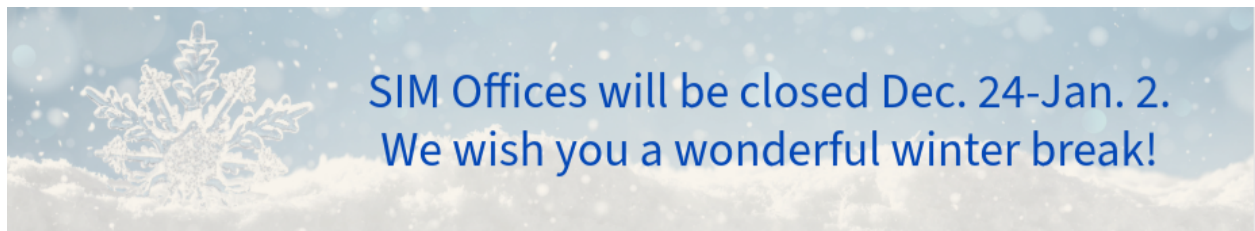
- KU CRL Researchers, Suzy Myers and Jocelyn Washburn, presented *Writing with Purpose: How Adolescents' Writing Improves by Connecting with an Authentic Purpose* on Nov. 21 at the 2025 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Conference. **Their session (and SIM) were highlighted (#3) in 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.

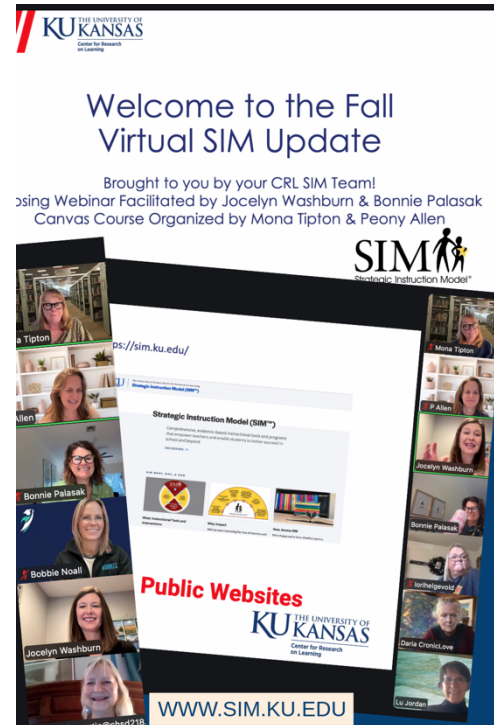
SIM in the Field

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



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>



- 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.**

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

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 to improve teaching and learning, especially for students struggling with reading, writing, and mathematics. SIM includes strategies to deliver clear, structured, and engaging instruction, making it more effective for all students, including those with learning disabilities.

What does SIM offer?

Content Enhancement Routines: Help teachers organize content to provide a more coherent, clear, and memorable. These routines use teaching tools designed to make learning more effective.

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 novels a year (twice a month) at the third-grade level.

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

Similes

- DISSECT
- COPY
- PARAPHRASE
- RAVE
- BLANT

Benefits for Teachers

Structured Lesson Plans
Detailed, easy to follow lesson plans for classroom use and time to help stay on track


Flexible and Adaptive Content
Lesson plans that can be modified to meet students' classroom, ranging from struggling to advanced

Professional Development
Continuous learning and growth through ongoing, research-based, and classroom-tested strategies

Immediate Impact
Teachers can implement strategies immediately to increase student engagement and comprehension

Similes


Go on to sim.ksu.edu for more information

 SIM Strategic Instruction Model®	
Topic	SIM Website Link
SIM Website	https://sim.ksu.edu
A Crosswalk: High-Leverage Practices (HLPrs) with Disabilities	https://sim.ksu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/2020-21/HLPrs%20with%20Disabilities%20Crosswalk%202020-21.pdf
A Crosswalk: The Marzano 9 and Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) Instructional Tools and Interventions	https://sim.ksu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/2020-21/Marzano%20and%20SIM%20Crosswalk%202020-21.pdf
A Crosswalk: Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) and Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) Instructional Tools and Interventions	https://sim.ksu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/2020-21/AVID%20and%20SIM%20Crosswalk%202020-21.pdf
Current SIM Events & Online Professional Learning Opportunities	https://sim.ksu.edu/sim-events
SIM Microcredentials	https://sim.ksu.edu/sim-micro-credentials
SIM Website	https://sim.ksu.edu
Brochures for A SIM Overview, Learning Strategies, Content Enhancement Routines, The Writing Strategies, Higher Order Thinking and Reasoning Routines, & The Math Strategies (at the Crosswalks Here)	https://sim.ksu.edu/sim-brochures
Integrating SIM with Other Programs, Strategies, and Initiatives (at the Crosswalks Here)	https://sim.ksu.edu/sim-alignment-other-programs-strategies-and-initiatives

SIM Events for PDers and Specialists

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

- 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 Learning for Successful School Change

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

The Innovation

Strategic Instruction Model

Literacy learning is the necessary foundation that becomes important to all students' success. However, many students struggle to learn to read and write. This course provides a comprehensive, research-based, and thoughtfully plan for student achievement for using a **Strategic Instruction Model** to understand the needs of students, design and implement a literacy program implementation and dramatically impact teacher and student performance.

The Participants

Teams consist of individual teachers or districts who are in a position to use this course to make informed decisions.

- School Principals
- Special Education Directors, Interventionists,
- Literacy Specialists, School Improvement Team Members
- Teachers, Coaches, Consultants

The Course Experience

The course consists of synchronous virtual group sessions and asynchronous individual assignments offered through the Canvas Learning Management System. Participants will receive a combination of synchronous and videos, Continuing Education Credits and Micro-credentials and a Certificate of Completion.

The Course Content

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

- Unit 1 - "Why of Successful School Change"
- Unit 2 - "How Successful School Change"
- 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"



Center for Research and Learning

AT A GLANCE

SCHEDULE

- Access the course at any time
- 12-week course
- 10-min virtual synchronous sessions
- 10-min virtual synchronous sessions
- Asynchronous activity assignments
- 10-min virtual synchronous sessions
- **Registration:** contact us for an informational session or to register
- **Questions:** email us!



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**

Follow SIM@ on: [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

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