Stratenotes

Visit the new SIMville

Same excellent resources; updated design & organization

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Coming July 15, SIMville will take on a sleek new look. The new design adopts standards established by the University of Kansas for university web sites and will echo elements of the design unveiled last year for www.kucrl.org. The changes are not just cosmetic. We've put a great deal of effort into making much-needed changes to the organization of the information. The old SIMville lists of links to important information often became long and unwieldy, making it difficult to find the right handout or article quickly. The new SIMville groups the same content into manageable pieces and improves your ability to navigate through its treasures.

This issue of *Stratenotes* gives you a brief overview of the new organization and takes you through some of the related changes, including important changes to the password process.

User ID & password

The first change you'll notice when you enter SIMville after July 15 is that you will now need a user ID in addition to a password to gain access. Have no fear! The user ID and password will be standard for all SIM Professional Developers:

User ID: Network
Password: strategic

Note that the "N" in network is capitalized and that all letters in

"strategic" are lower case. Both the user ID and password are case-sensitive, so this is important.

Important Change! In the old SIMville, visitors could bypass the password screen by bookmarking specific SIMville pages. **It will no longer be possible to bypass this screen.** Please remember the user ID and password.

SIMville by the dashboard lights

The SIMville home page has a new feel, and we're calling it the SIMville Dashboard. We designed the dashboard's graphic layout to provide visually appealing clues about where to find the materials you need. We hope the dashboard increases the ease with which you navigate SIMville. The photos used in the graphic were carefully chosen to represent a sense of place—and a bit of whimsy. Look closely to see whether you can figure out the underlying theme (Hint: Rock chalk!)

The new organization divides information into two main sec-

SIM Strategic Instruction Model™

The SIMville Dashboard

SIM: GENERAL INFORMATION

LEARNING STRATEGIES

CONTENT ENHANCEMENT

CONTENT LITERACY CONTINUUM
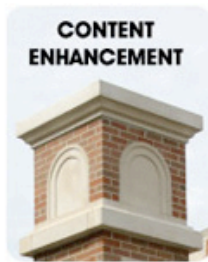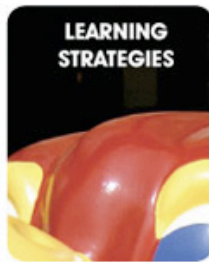
SIM Main Page
CLC
Instructional Coaching
Partnership Learning
Xtreme Reading

Expanded Professional Development Collection

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPER SKILLS & STANDARDS

RESOURCES FOR NEW PROF. DEVEL.

ARTICLES, BROCHURES, & HANDOUTS

IMPORTANT FORMS

SIMville

Jayhawk Blvd.

tions—"SIM & CLC Professional Development Materials" and "Expanded Professional Development Collection"—with four subsections under each.

SIM & CLC Professional Development Materials

This section offers collections of documents, ideas, articles, and other materials that KU-CRL has produced over the years in support of the Strategic Instruction Model. Archives of *Stratenotes* and *Strategram* articles, information about CDs you can purchase to use in your professional development sessions, and other resources related to SIM, its components, and CLC are all collected here.

SIM: General Information
- Overview of SIM
- SIM brochure (pdf)
- SIM logo

- Introduction to Strategic Instruction CD
- *Strategram* archives
- *Stratenotes* archives
- Stratellite Connections information

Learning Strategies
- Learning Strategies brochure (pdf)
- Learning Strategies presentations CD
- Possible Selves Trees (ppt)
- Study guides

Content Enhancement
- Content Enhancement brochure (pdf)
- Content Enhancement presentations CD
- Content Enhancement binders
- Content Enhancement devices
- Content Enhancement implementation handouts (pdf) | (Word)
- *Learning is like...like...* article
- SMARTER planning

Content Literacy Continuum
- Content Literacy Continuum overview
- CLC brochure (pdf)
- The CLC logo

Expanded Professional Development Collection

These sections contain a wealth of materials for you to use in your workshops, to share with teachers, or to build your own knowledge base. The materials include advice for improving your professional development skills, brochures to use as handouts, background articles for you or the teachers and administrators with whom you work, among other things. The Resources for New Professional Developers section is a must-read for new SIM PDs and is full of great reminders for more experienced PDs. And don't forget to check the Important Forms section for the most up-to-date order forms, StrateDirectory information forms, and Strateworks renewal forms.

Professional Developer Skills & Standards
- Mentoring new SIM Professional Developers
- Critical team behaviors
- Framework for evaluating SIM programs
- Literacy reports
- National Staff Development Council standards (Note: clicking this link will take you outside of the SIMville area)
- School Finance 101
- Using video clips

Resources for New Professional Developers
- Requirements for SIM Learning Strategies Professional Developers

- o Required readings
- o Supplemental readings
- o Frequently asked questions
- Requirements for SIM Content Enhancement Professional Developers
  - o Required readings
  - o Supplemental readings
  - o Frequently asked questions
- Anita Archer shares thoughts on staff development
- FEDORA: Wearing your new professional developer's hat
  - o Do's and Don'ts of professional development sessions
- Generic strategy session
- Guidelines for setting up SIM professional development
- Tips for new professional developers
- PROCESS: Presenting Learning Strategies

Articles, Brochures, & Handouts
- Articles
  - o Another Freakin' Thing We've Got to Do: Teacher Perceptions of Professional Development (DRAFT)
  - o Ensuring Content Area Learning by Secondary Students with Learning Disabilities
  - o Parents: How to Help
  - o Partnership Learning: Putting Conversation at the Heart of Professional Development (DRAFT)
  - o SIM and Muskegon High School
  - o We've Been Waiting for This Moment...Are We Ready?

- Brochures
  - o Content Enhancement Overview (Summaries of Content Enhancement Routines, including data)
  - o Content Enhancement Video Brochure
  - o CRL & SIM Overview (Brief Q&A regarding CRL, one-page high-level description of SIM, one-line description of each Learning Strategy and Content Enhancement Routine, and short list of example student successes)
  - o CRL Brochure (Two-page description of KU-CRL)
  - o CRL Video Brochure
  - o Learning Strategies Overview (Summaries of Learning Strategies, including data)
  - o SIM Overview (Two-page description of SIM)
  - o Stratellite Connection Video Brochure
- For Administrators: Strategic Instruction FAQ (pdf)
- Other Materials
  - o Content Enhancement handouts
  - o kucrl.org handout
  - o Performance Gap handout
  - o SIMTRAINER-L subscription information
  - o SIMville handout
  - o Success Formula handout

Important Forms
- Order forms
- StrateDirectory information form
- Strateworks renewal form

CALENDAR

The Treasures of SIM
July 18-20, 2007

Here is a sample of some of the sessions you can expect to see during this summer's Treasures of SIM conference:

- **Can Students Learn Social Skills and How to Give a Speech through Computerized Instruction? They Can!** Presented by Sue Vernon and Kristin Vernon, Edge Enterprises. This presentation focuses on two interactive multimedia programs for teaching at-risk students skills and strategies.

- **Focusing Together: Promoting Self-Management Skills in the Classroom.** Presented by Gail Cheever, SIM Professional Developer, Trophy Club, Texas. *Focusing Together*, the fifth manual in the Community Building Series, is an instructional program that promotes self-management skills in association with a set of classroom expectations that defines responsible work habits, respect, and emotional and physical safety.

- **Fundamentals of Paraphrasing and Summarizing.** Presented by Jim Knight, KU-CRL. This new manual contains lessons on paraphrasing words, phrases, and sentences, as well as lessons on identifying main ideas and details in paragraphs and short essays.

- **Fusion Reading: A Comprehensive Multi-Strategy Adolescent Reading Program.** Presented by Irma Brasseur and Mike Hock, KU-CRL. The Fusion Reading program consists of newly developed reading interventions organized into three components: (1) The Motivation Program, (2) The Bridging Program, and (3) The Comprehension Program.

- **LOTI: Levels of Technology Implementation: A Tool for Assessing Authentic Technology Use in the Classroom.** Presented by Jana Craig Hare and Amber Rowland, KU-CRL's ALTEC division. This session will help expand your awareness and understanding of the use of technology for teaching and student learning.

- **Mentoring for SIM PPDI in Florida.** Presented by Connie Gentle, SIM Professional Developer, Winter Park, Florida. An effective mentoring process for Apprentice SIM Professional Developers requires helpful guidelines. This session will share the guidelines given to individuals in Florida who serve as SIM mentors.

- **Neatest Things: Content Enhancement** and **Neatest Things: Learning Strate-**

gies. These sessions will provide an opportunity for a number of SIM Professional Developers to offer ideas for adding bling to professional development sessions.

- **SIMville Renovation: Explore Your New SIM Treasure Chest.** Presented by Julie Tollefson, David Gnojek, and Ali Abrams, KU-CRL. This session will offer hands-on opportunities to explore the riches of SIMville.
- **Stratepedia: Recipes for Online Collaboration.** Presented by Aaron Sumner and Amber Hoffman, KU-CRL. Learn what we're doing to create and nurture collaborative, interactive environments for online professional development.

- **Word-Level Learning and the Revised Word Identification Strategy.** Presented by Mike Hock and Irma Brasseur, KU-CRL. The presenters will share results of a descriptive study that informs teachers, administrators, and SIM Network about the word-level component skills of struggling adolescent readers.
- **Xtreme Reading: A New SIM Reading Course.** Presented by Jean Schumaker, Edge Enterprises. This session will give an overview of Xtreme Reading and descriptions of the new strategies and instructional methodology developed for the course.

Tentative Conference Schedule
Wednesday-Friday, July 18-20, 2007
SpringHill Suites • Lawrence, Kan.

Wednesday, July 18

8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	Welcome, opening session
8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.	Keynote address, Patricia Alexander
9:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.	Breakout sessions
11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Lunch on your own
1:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.	Breakout sessions
3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Kaleidoscope
5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	Social

Thursday, July 19

8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	KU-CRL overview, awards recognition
9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.	General session: Data
10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Breakout sessions
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Lunch on your own or buffet (with RSVP)
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Breakout sessions

Friday, July 20

7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m.	Poster session and continental breakfast
8:15 a.m.-8:45 a.m.	New professional developer recognition & attendance pins
8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Breakout sessions, grab-and-go lunch
12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m.	Closing session

2007 Preconference Workshops
July 16-17, 2007

Although several of the preconference sessions have reached their maximum capacity, space still remains in the following:

- **Instructional Coaching**
  Jim Knight, KU-CRL
  8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
  Tuesday, July 17

- **Coaching Classroom Management**
  Jim Knight, KU-CRL
  12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
  Tuesday, July 17

Registration forms are available on the conference web site: www.kucrl.org/conferences/sim

Cracker Barrel for StrateReaders

Attention all StrateReaders and StrateReader wannabes: Our first year has been a huge success, and now it's time for a little review.

A special cracker barrel session for StrateReaders is scheduled for noon on Thursday, July 19. We'll meet in one of the conference rooms. This will be an opportunity for experienced StrateReaders to discuss ideas for improving our virtual book club and increasing participation as well as an opportunity for those who want to join the club to ask questions, such as how do I log on and use the blog?

A soup-and-salad buffet for conference participants will be set out at 11:30 a.m. **(You must RSVP for this lunch; see your Participant Information Form for details.)** Stop by the buffet, then bring your lunch, your questions, and your ideas to the StrateReaders cracker barrel.

INSIDE:

- **SIMville renovation:**
  Reorganized for better navigation and wrapped in a sleek new design, a new SIMville will make its debut July 15. Read all about the changes on page 1.
- **Sampling of sessions:**
  Plans for the Treasures of SIM conference are coming together. Descriptions of some of the sessions that will be offered begin on page 4.

More Calendar
(continued from page 4)

August 9-11, 2007
Coaching Classroom Management
Lawrence, Kan.
Contact: Mona Katz or Kathy Schmidt
(crl@ku.edu | 785.864.0626)

October 10-12, 2007
Instructional Coaching
Lawrence, Kan.
Contact: Mona Katz or Kathy Schmidt
(crl@ku.edu | 785.864.0626)

KU LEARNING
CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON
The University of Kansas