Research issues & writing strategies

Julie Tollefson and Patty Graner KUCRL

Writing skills, writing instruction, and related professional development issues take center stage at the 2011 International SIM Conference. Keynote speaker Steve Graham, professor and Currey Ingram Chair in Special Education and Literacy at

Vanderbilt University, will draw on his extensive knowledge about writing and adolescent learning when he presents Why We Must Teach Writing and How To Do It Effectively.

Graham is co-author of two reports that we highly recommend you read to prepare for the conference: *Writing Next: Effective Strategies to Improve*

Writing of Adolescents in Middle and High Schools (2007, Alliance for Excellent Education) and Writing to Read: Evidence for How Writing Can Improve Reading (2010, Alliance for Excellent Education).

Both reports consist of large-scale statistical reviews of research. Writing Next summarizes the authors' meta-analysis of research on writing instruction, and the Writing to Read meta-analysis identifies writing practices that help students improve reading skills and comprehension. Writing Next

recommends 11 elements of effective writing instruction (see box at left). Writing to Read groups effective writing practices into three core recommendations (see box on page 2).

One question that may arise as you review these reports is "Where is SIM?" Only one study* associated with work conducted at the Center for Research on Learning is included in either of the reports. Both Writing Next and Writing to Read restricted studies included in the meta-analyses to those that employed an experimental or quasi-experimental design. Other designs—correlational, qualitative, and single-subject designs, for example—were not included in the meta-analyses. However, the authors clearly state that these other research designs contribute significantly to our understanding of the two main topics of the reports.

*Graner, P.G. (2007). The effects of strategic summarization instruction in the performance of students with and without disabilities in secondary inclusive classes. Unpublished dissertation, University of Kansas.

Eleven elements of effective adolescent writing instruction

—Writing Next: Effective Strategies to Improve Writing of Adolescents in Middle and High Schools (2007, Alliance for Excellent Education)

- Writing strategies
- Summarization
- Collaborative writing
- Specific product goals
 - Word processing
- Sentence combining
 - Prewriting
 - Inquiry activities
- Process writing approach
 - Study of models
- Writing for content learning

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Writing practices that enhance students' reading

—Writing to Read: Evidence for How Writing Can Improve Reading (2010, Alliance for Excellent Education)

Have Students Write About the Texts They Read

- Respond to a text in writing
- Write summaries of a text
- Write notes about a text
- Answer questions about a text in writing, or create and answer written questions about a text

Teach Students the Writing Skills and Processes That Go Into Creating Text

- Teach the process of writing, text structures for writing, paragraph or sentence construction skills
- Teach spelling and sentence construction skills
- Teach spelling skills

Increase How Much Students Write

The SIM writing strategy studies employed a single-subject, multiple baseline research design. This type of research is challenging but extremely useful for several reasons (Kazdin, 1982). First, researchers are able to answer a number of questions in regard to individuals, single groups, or multiple groups. Next, how each procedure affects students' performance can be seen directly because of the "continuous frequency measures" over time. Third, the design allows researchers to pinpoint changes, including progress, that would be hidden by averaging several students' performance, a common element of group design studies. Fourth, researchers are able to detect changes in performance by changing the conditions presented and observing systematic changes over time. Finally, how the subject performs before, during, and after the independent variable is presented can be

compared. Therefore, this research design is particularly applicable to students with disabilities.

The intense, one-on-one instructional conditions in which we con-

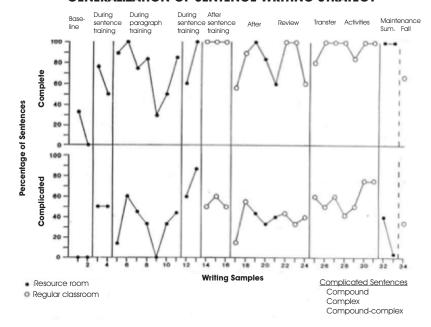
ducted the research may be more challenging to carry out in today's classrooms. Nonetheless, our research is just as valid and relevant today as when first conducted. Researchers using single-subject studies seek to demonstrate the same results three times, the standard of quality for such research designs. Our studies exceeded this standard. Each study included six to nine students, and we achieved the same results each time. What is even more remarkable is that we accomplished these results in real classrooms.

The following review gives you a snapshot of the studies and statistics behind the SIM writing strategies.

Fundamentals and Proficiency in the Sentence Writing Strategy

Research has shown that students who receive instruction in the *Sentence Writing Strategy* consistently produce written products that contain 100 percent complete sentences and at least 40 percent complicated sentences (compound, complex, or compound-complex). In addition, their written products include more

GENERALIZATION OF SENTENCE WRITING STRATEGY



words, more sentences, and a greater variety of sentences than those of low achievers who have not received strategy training. (See graphic on page 2.)

Paragraph Writing Strategy

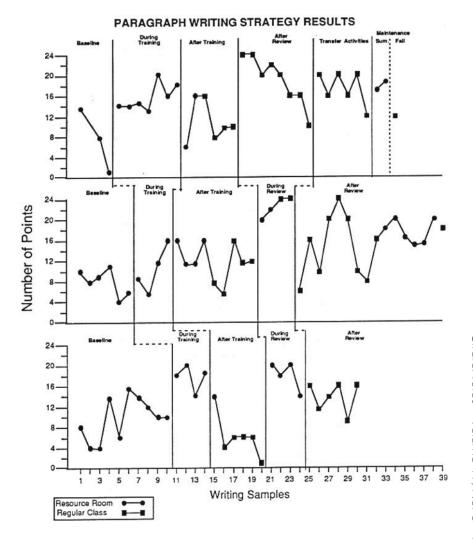
Research has shown that students who complete instruction in the *Paragraph Writing Strategy* consistently produce written products that contain topic, detail, and clincher sentences. In addition, the sentences are written from a consistent point of view, the tense is consistent throughout, the ideas are logically sequenced, and appropriate transitions are included between ideas. (See graphic at right.)

Theme Writing Strategy

Research has shown that at-risk students who complete instruction in the *Theme Writing Strategy* consistently produce written products that begin with an introduction, include several supporting paragraphs, and end with a conclusion. Their ideas are organized, and their themes flow from beginning to end. In addition, they are able to generalize their use of the strategy to general education classes, and they perform on average comparably to their typically achieving peers on district writing competency exams. (See graphic on page 4.)

EDIT Strategy

Research on the *EDIT Strategy* shows that students who master the strategy were able to detect and correct 80 percent of the errors in a written passage, compared to 28 percent



Further reading: Writing strategy research

Carranza, M., & Hughes, C.A. (in prep.) The effectiveness of an editing strategy with upper-elementary and middle school students with learning disabilities.

Schmidt, J.L., Deshler, D.D., Schumaker, J.B., & Alley, G.R. (1989). Effects of generalization instruction on the written language performance of adolescents with learning disabilities in the mainstream classroom. *Reading, Writing, and Learning Disabilities*, 4(4), 291-309.

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of the errors before learning the strategy. Students who did not learn the strategy had five times more errors in their written work than students who learned the strategy. (See graphic at bottom right.)

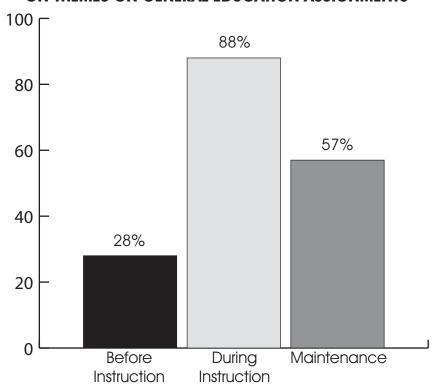
References

Graham, S., & Hebert, M.A. (2010). Writing to read: Evidence for how writing can improve reading. A Carnegie Corporation Time to Act Report. Washington, DC: Alliance for Excellent Education.

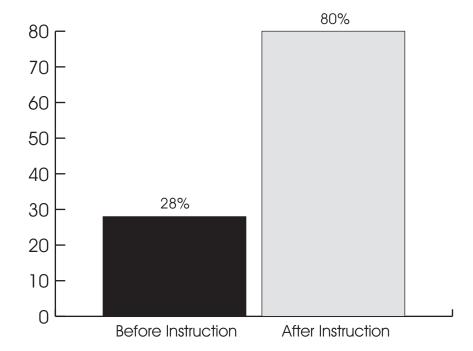
Graham, S., & Perin, D. (2007). Writing next: Effective strategies to improve writing of adolescents in middle and high schools—A report to Carnegie Corporation of New York. Washington, DC: Alliance for Excellent Education.

Kazdin, A.E. (1982). Single-case research designs: methods for clinical and applied settings. Oxford University Press: New York.

THEME WRITING: MEAN PERCENTAGE OF POINTS EARNED ON THEMES ON GENERAL EDUCATION ASSIGNMENTS



EDIT STRATEGY: PERCENTAGE OF ERRORS DETECTED AND CORRECTED IN WRITTEN PASSAGES



THE WRITE STUFF



The 2011 International SIM Conference July 13-15, 2011 • Preconference: July 12, 2011

Plans for the 2011 International SIM Conference are beginning to fall into place. We are filling in the conference website (http://sim2011.kucrl.org) with lots of information, including descriptions for the many terrific sessions we have planned.

This conference continues our in-depth exploration of issues in literacy and education as they relate to the work that we do within the International Professional Development Network. This year's focus is on writing skills instruction and related professional development issues.

Here is a sample of the sessions you can look forward to attending during the conference:

Capacity Building + A PD Sustainability Model = Successful Implementation in Arkansas: The Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) has become an integral part of educational reform in Arkansas and is used by districts all over the state. In this session, Mark Cooper and Patty Kohler Evans will outline the sustainability model used in Arkansas and address strategies for building capacity for successful statewide interventions.

Closing the Gap Between Professional Development Sessions and Classroom Implementation—What Can Professional Developers Do to Partner with Administrators? Do you ever leave a workshop feeling great about teachers' plans to implement SIM in their classrooms but

2011 keynote address:

Why We Must Teach Writing and How To Do It Effectively

This presentation first will examine why writing is critical to youngsters' school, social, and occupational success. It then will explore evidence-based practices that are effective at Tier 1 (regular classroom instruction) and beyond.



Steve Graham, professor and Currey Ingram Chair in Special Education and Literacy at Vanderbilt University

unsure how the administrators will support implementation? Ken Geisick and Barb Millikan, both administrators with years of experience in school and district implementation of SIM, will offer concrete ideas about how professional developers can work with administrators to help them support and monitor implementation effectively.

Literacy Leadership Team: One of the Keys to Successful Blast-Off! School leaders are looking for help in redesigning their approach to literacy in secondary schools. When they look to us, SIM Professional Developers, it is critical that we prepare a school for success. Sue Woodruff will lead this discussion about the roles and responsibilities of a SIM Professional Developer when work-

ing with a school and the roles and responsibilities of the team itself.

Using Content Enhancement to Support Writing and Reading. Back by popular demand, this session (originally presented during the 2010 International SIM Conference) will explore the many uses of Content Enhancement devices. Jan Bulgren and Keith Lenz will consider use of Content Enhancement devices to support writing and will offer suggestions for incorporating reading and comprehension strategy supports into Content Enhancement instruction.

These are just a few of the many great sessions you can expect to attend during the 2011 conference. Register by **June 15** to get the early bird discount. For more descriptions

and more information, visit http://sim2011.kucrl.org.

Strands

Thursday of conference week will be dedicated to tightly focused strands designed to allow you to delve deeply into a topic. Two of the strands will be specifically related to writing: Content Enhancement and Writing, led by Jan Bulgren and Keith Lenz, and Learning Strategies and Writing, led by Jean Schumaker. The other strands represent three important aspects of our work. School Change and the CLC recognizes the sense of urgency for educators to find ways to create changes in schools that will result in high levels of performance by all students. Strengthen Your SIM Core will explore knowledge, techniques, activities, and tools to strengthen you and your work as a SIM Professional Developer. Designing Professional Learning to Have an Unmistakeable Impact, led by Jim Knight, describes high-leverage activities educational leaders can employ to design professional learning that has an unmistakable impact on teaching. You will be able to participate in two of the strands. Each strand will be offered once in the morning and once in the afternoon.

Handouts

Conference handouts will be posted to the conference website, and you will be able to download them to your laptop or print them before your arrival in Lawrence. Unlike the past few years, we will not distribute handouts on a USB drive; handouts will be available only on the website. Handouts and other materials likely will be added to the website throughout the conference. We encourage you to bring a

laptop to the conference so you will have access to up-to-date information and materials.

Getting to know...

This year's conference offers several ways for you to meet with SIM authors and KUCRL researchers one-on-one and in small groups. See the conference schedule for details. If these opportunities do not meet your needs, you also have the option of requesting a personal meeting with any KUCRL researcher or staff member. Email Mona Tipton (monatipton@ku.edu) or use the contact form on the conference website. Specify which staff member you want to meet with and what topic you want to discuss.

2011 Venue: Oread Hotel

The 10-story Oread Hotel, located on the edge of the University of Kansas campus, offers stunning views of the university and downtown Lawrence. The hotel offers several dining options and is only a block from the Kansas Union, where there are more food options as well as retail stores that cater to your every Jayhawk need. The hotel is taking reservations now for the SIM conference.

- Phone reservations: 877.263.6347 or 785.843.1200
- Group name: SIM conference 2011
- Group number: 417i450
- Group rate: \$109

See the conference website, http://sim2011.kucrl.org, for more travel

2011 International SIM Conference Tentative Schedule

July 13-15, 2011 • Oread Hotel • Lawrence, Kan.

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Preconference

6 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Orientation for first-time participants

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

7:15 a.m. Registration 8 a.m.-8:45 a.m. Welcome

8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Keynote: Steve Graham

10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Breakout sessions

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Optional luncheon & panel discus-

sion; otherwise, lunch on your own

1 p.m.-4 p.m. Breakout sessions 4:10 p.m. Certificate ceremony

5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Social

Thursday, July 14, 2011

7:30 a.m. Registration
8 a.m.-9 a.m. General session

9:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Strands

12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own

1:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m. Strands

4:45 p.m.-6 p.m. Meet the researchers & authors

Friday, July 15, 2011

8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Poster session

9:40 a.m.-11:20 a.m. Affinity groups, breakout sessions

11:30 a.m.-noon Closing session, raffle

and lodging information, including a link to make online reservations.

• •

In *The Right Stuff*, Tom Wolfe's 1979 examination of the adventures of post-World War II test pilots and early astronauts, the "right stuff" was a combination of bravery and bravado, mental and physical toughness, and drive to be the best. In 2011, the *Write Stuff* means having the knowledge and professional development tools to help teachers provide effective writing instruction so they can help students achieve new heights as writers and as literate individuals. Isn't it time to make sure you've got the *Write Stuff*?

Summer conference to introduce new manuals for math, taking notes

Three new manuals will make an appearance during the 2011 International SIM Conference. Two of the manuals target math strategies for solving problems that require regrouping. The other manual offers a strategy for taking notes. The authors will present sessions on the new materials; see the conference schedule (http://sim2011.kucrl.org) for details.

- Subtraction with Regrouping by Susan Miller, Bradley Kaffar, and Cecil Mercer. This instructional program contains all the step-bystep procedures and materials needed to teach students a strategy for solving subtraction problems that require regrouping. Covered are two- and three-digit problems, computation and word problems, and problems containing zeros. The instructional methods follow the same concrete-representational-abstract sequence found in the other programs in the Strategic Math Series.
- Addition with Regrouping by Susan Miller, Bradley Kaffar, and Cecil Mercer. This instructional program contains all the step-by-step procedures and materials needed to teach students a strategy for solving addition problems that require regrouping. Covered are two- and three-digit problems, computation and word problems, and problems containing zeros. The instructional methods follow the same concreterepresentational-abstract sequence found in the other programs in the Strategic Math Series.
- Listening and Note-Taking Strategy by Gwen Berry, Don Deshler, and Jean Schumaker. This strategy helps students identify important information during a lecture, write that information quickly in a format that will be easy to use, and study the information so they can earn the best grades possible on their tests.

Need to know: Check http://sim2011.kucrl.org for all current conference information

The 2011 International SIM Conference website, http://sim2011.kucrl. org, is your one-stop shop for all of your conference needs. You'll find a general overview of the conference, including plans for each day; registration forms for both the conference and preconference; hotel and travel information; schedule and session descriptions; and links to recommended reading (two reports co-written by our keynote speaker).

Closer to the conference, we will post all conference handouts in the About section of the site. Paper handouts will not be available at the conference, and we will not distribute USB drives. Handouts obtained from presenters at the last minute will be posted during the conference. We highly recommend that you bring a laptop with you to have access to all of the latest conference information throughout the week.

SIM & CRL Online Resources

www.kucrl.org

Strategic Instruction Model

http://kucrl.org/sim

Content Literacy Continuum

http://clc.kucrl.org

Stratepedia

http://stratepedia.org

SIM Workshops and Updates

http://www.kucrl.org/classes

SIMville

User name: Network Password: strategic

CRL News

http://www.kucrl.org/news

CRL Learns

http://crllearns.kucrl.org

CRL Project Profiles

http://www.kucrl.org/profiles

CRL Multimedia Archives

http://media.kucrl.org

CRL Publication List

http://www.kucrl.org/research

CRL Divisions

Advanced Learning Technologies

http://www.altec.org

Division of Adult Studies

http://das.kucrl.org

e-Learning Design Lab

http://elearndesign.org

Institute for Research on Adolescent Learning

http://iral.kucrl.org

Kansas Coaching Project

http://instructionalcoach.org

Professional Development Research Institute

http://pdri.kucrl.org

Special invitation for conference participants

Lunch & panel discussion

As a registered participant in the 2011 International SIM Conference, you will have an opportunity to attend a panel discussion and luncheon featuring keynote speaker Steve Graham. Don Deshler will lead a discussion following up on issues Steve addresses during his presentation. Panelists also will make explicit connections between the keynote and our professional development work.

The luncheon, which will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday, is optional and the cost is not included in your registration fee. You must register for the luncheon; you will not be able to sign up at the last minute.

Use the form below to register and to make your meal selection for the luncheon. Send payment to

KUCRL, Joseph R. Pearson Hall • 1122 West Campus Rd., Rm. 517 Lawrence, KS 66045-3101 • fax: 785.864.5728 • email: pmynsted@ku.edu

Name:		
Email:		
Select payment method: Make check payable to KUCRL PO#		
Institute issuing PO:		
□Credit Card # (VISA or MasterCar	d)	
Expiration Date:		
□Personal Card		
or Name of Institution:		
Billing address (required):		
Signature Authorization:		
Select one: Steak Salad (\$15) Field greens, toasted walnuts, shaved cheese with honey balsamic dressing		\$
□Greek Salad (\$15) Crisp romaine lettuce, grape tomatoe onion, feta cheese, and pepperoncin vinaigrette on the side		\$
□Chicken Caesar Salad (\$15) Crisp romaine lettuce, garlic croutons, creamy Caesar dressing on the side	, and sliced grilled chicken with	\$
	Total	Ś

2011 International SIM Conference

SIM Professional Developer Registration Form

July 13-15, 2011 • Oread Hotel • Lawrence, Kan.

Name:
Work Address:
Work Phone:
Home Address:
Home Phone:
Preferred mailing address: ☐ home ☐ work
Email Address:
Summer Email Address:
Emergency contact name and phone number:
 Certified SIM Professional Developer and Apprentice Registration Fee: \$250 For registrations postmarked after June 15, 2011, add \$25 late fee. 2011-2012 Strateworks renewal (optional): \$35 Total Enclosed: \$
Select your payment method:
□ PO#
Institute issuing PO:
□ Credit Card # (VISA or MasterCard) □ Personal Card or □ Name of Institution: Expiration Date:3-digit security code (req.): Billing address (required):
Signature Authorization:
Your receipt will be available at the conference.

How many previous International SIM Conferences have you attended?

☐ This is my first International SIM Conference as a professional developer

We will list participant names and email addresses on the conference website. If you **do not** want to be included, check here: □

Note: You may be videotaped during the conference.

Non-Professional Developers

We have a limited number of spaces available for individuals who are not certified SIM Professional Developers to attend the conference with a SIM PD sponsor. The registration fee for non-professional developers is \$350, if registration is received before June 15, 2011. After June 15, a \$35 late fee will be assessed. For registration forms and more information, contact Patty Graner (pgraner@ku.edu) or Mona Tipton (monatipton@ku.edu).

Return completed registration to KUCRL, Joseph R. Pearson Hall, 1122 West Campus Rd., Rm. 517, Lawrence, KS 66045-3101 Fax: 785.864.5728 • or email pmynsted@ku.edu

Cancellation Policy

If you cannot attend the conference, you must **notify KUCRL by June 30, 2011**, to receive a full refund of your registration fee. We will be unable to issue any refunds after June 30, 2011.

Events & Materials

Your conference registration fee includes the following:

- Social (Wednesday)
- Professional development materials
- Refreshments during breaks

Hotel & Transportation

See our website, http://sim2011.kucrl. org, for more information about the conference, including hotel and transportation details.

- 1100 VOV • NO 8 • MOV 2011

2011 International SIM Conference

Preconference Registration Form

July 12, 2011 • Oread Hotel • Lawrence, Kan.

Nume:	
Work Address:	
Work Phone:	
Home Address:	
Home Phone:	
Preferred mailing address: ☐ home ☐ work	
Email Address:	
Summer Email Address: We email important conference information.	
Emergency contact name and phone number:	
☐ I will NOT be able to bring a laptop computer to the preconferen	
ALL-DAY SESSIONS: SELECT ONLY 1	PAYMENT INFORMATION
NOTE: THESE ARE FULL-DAY SESSIONS. DO NOT REGISTER FOR ANY PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS.	OTHER Total Enclosed: \$
□ Classroom Culture: The Cooperative Thinking Series, Commu Building Strategies, and Socially Wise Program: \$150 For registrations postmarked after June 15, 2011, add \$25 late fee.	Select payment method Make check payable to KUCRI
☐ Creating an Impact School: \$80 For registrations postmarked after June 15, 2011, add \$25 late fee.	PO#: Institution issuing PO:
MORNING SESSIONS: SELECT ONLY 1	☐ Credit Card #
Feeling a Little Wordy? \$70 For registrations postmarked after June 15, 2011, add \$25 late fee.	(VISA or MasterCard)
☐ Fusion Reading for SIM Professional Developers: \$40	Expiration date: 3-digit security code (req.)
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Introduction to the All-New GIST 2.0: \$65 For registrations postmarked after June 15, 2011, add \$25 late fee.	Personal Card OR Name of Institution:
For registrations postmarked after June 15, 2011, add \$25 late fee.	Billing address (required):
AFTERNOON SESSIONS: SELECT ONLY 1	
□ Content Enhancement Tutorial: Order, Clarifying, and Questic Exploration Routines: \$70 For registrations postmarked after June 15, 2011, add \$25 late fee.	Signature Authorization:
	\$
3	Return completed registration to KUCRL, Joseph R. Pearson Hall, 112:
The Word Mapping Strategy: \$50 For registrations postmarked after June 15, 2011, add \$25 late fee.	West Campus Road, Rm. 517, Law- rence, KS 66045-3101
Note: Minimum registration for each session is 10 participants. We will a	cancel any Fax: 785.864.5728 or email pmynsted@ku.edu

Cancellation Policy

If you cannot attend the preconference session(s), you must **notify KUCRL by June 30, 2011,** to receive a full refund of your registration fee. We will be unable to issue any refunds after June 30, 2011.

KUCRL CALENDAR 2011

May 31-June 3, 2011

SIM Learning Strategies for Preservice Educators Lawrence, Kan.

May 31-June 3, 2011

Teaching Content to All: SIM Content Enhancement Routines for Preservice Educators Lawrence, Kan.

June 14-17, 2011

SIM Reading and Writing Strategies Lawrence, Kan.

June 14-17, 2011

More SIM Strategies Lawrence, Kan.

June 20-24, 2011

SIM Learning Strategies Potential Professional Developers Institute Lawrence, Kan.

June 20-24, 2011

SIM Content Enhancement Potential Professional Developers Institute Lawrence, Kan.

June 21-24, 2011

Introduction to Teaching with SIM Content Enhancement Routines Lawrence, Kan.

June 22-24, 2011

SIM for Administrators Lawrence, Kan. http://kucrl.org/classes

July 12, 2011

International SIM Preconference Lawrence, Kan.

July 13-15, 2011

International SIM Conference Lawrence, Kan.

Aug. 8-10, 2011

Instructional Coaching Level 1: Progress through Partnership Lawrence, Kan.

Aug. 11-13, 2011

Instructional Coaching Level 2: Instruction that Makes an Impact Lawrence, Kan.

Aug. 15-16, 2011

Intensive Learning Teams that Make an Impact Lawrence, Kan.

Oct. 3-5, 2011

Instructional Coaching Level 1: Progress through Partnership Lawrence, Kan.

Oct. 6-8, 2011

Instructional Coaching Level 2: Instruction that Makes an Impact Lawrence, Kan.

Oct. 10-12, 2011

Instructional Coaching Conference Lawrence, Kan.

Oct. 13-14, 2011

Creating an Impact School: An Overview Lawrence, Kan.

Oct 14-15, 2011

Arkansas SIM Professional Developers Update Conference Conway, Ark.

November 4-5, 2011

Northeast Region Update Location TBA

More information and a complete calendar of coming events at http://kucrl.org

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No more waiting! Get e-Stratenotes

In our continuing efforts to "go green" with the Strategic Instruction Model, we are offering a new, greener *Stratenotes* option. Starting in the fall, all professional developers will be able to choose between the traditional, paper-based *Stratenotes* received by mail and *e-Stratenotes*, delivered to your email inbox as a pdf file.

We are looking for early adopters who would like to begin receiving *e-Stratenotes* now. If you are interested, email **simpd@ku.edu** to sign up, and *e-Stratenotes* will be sent to your email address at the same time as we send it to the printer. You'll get your SIM news first—no more waiting on the printing and mailing process. (Please make sure your email address is correct in *Stratedirectory Online*, http://directory.kucrl.org).

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