

# Stratenotes

The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning

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## Featured Article: Smooth Sailing

by Dawn Schlick, Sixth Grade Reading/Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher, CEPD Professional Developer Apprentice

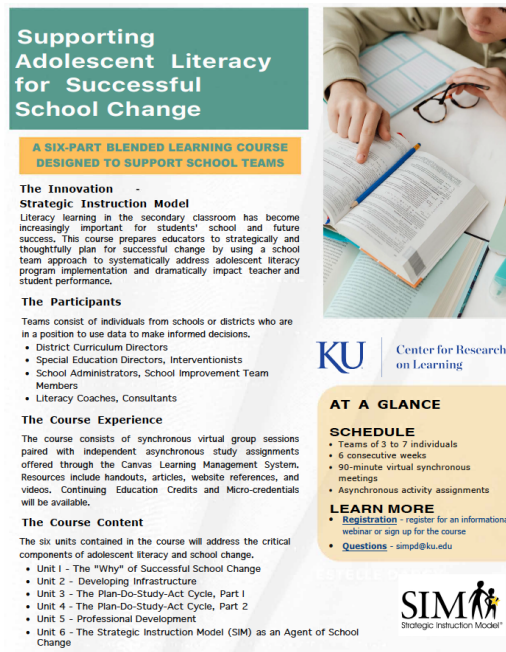


About five years ago, I had the privilege of going on a Norwegian cruise with my mom and three of my siblings. The scenery was spectacular, and I found myself itching to get onshore and just experience all Norway had to offer. While cruising though, I was content to watch people and participate in various activities. One of the activities was to take a tour of the ship. It was fascinating. So much was being done below deck that we didn't see or even know was happening. It made me appreciate how much goes into any activity that largely remains unnoticed. This reminder applies to teaching and professional development.

[Click here to read the full article](#)

## SIM News

- **New Adolescent Literacy Leadership Course** - Typically, around February, schools begin planning for the next school year: analyzing data, considering new initiatives, selecting new evidence-based practices, planning for professional learning, etc. If you are supporting a team or teams of decision-makers through this planning process, you may like to participate in this opportunity. Three experienced SIM Professional Developers are co-facilitating a six-week online course (meet once per week for 90 minutes each session) to guide teams through key planning decisions. **As a SIM Professional Developer, this course could complement your work and assist with planning for and engaging stakeholders in the conversation to support adolescent literacy instruction.** [Check out this flyer and webpage for more details](#), and email [simpd@ku.edu](mailto:simpd@ku.edu) if you'd like to watch the recording of the informational webinar from Nov. 14th.



**Supporting Adolescent Literacy for Successful School Change**

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

**The Innovation - Strategic Instruction Model**  
Literacy learning in the secondary classroom has become increasingly important for students' school and future success. This course prepares educators to strategically and thoughtfully plan for successful change by using a school team approach to systematically address adolescent literacy program implementation and dramatically impact teacher and student performance.

**The Participants**  
Teams consist of individuals from schools or districts who are in a position to use data to make informed decisions.  
• District Curriculum Directors  
• Special Education Directors, Interventionists  
• School Administrators, School Improvement Team Members  
• Literacy Coaches, Consultants

**The Course Experience**  
The course consists of synchronous virtual group sessions paired with independent asynchronous study assignments offered through the Canvas Learning Management System. Resources include handouts, articles, website references, and videos. Continuing Education Credits and Micro-credentials will be available.

**The Course Content**  
The six units contained in the course will address the critical components of adolescent literacy and school change.  
• 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 - Professional Development  
• Unit 6 - The Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) as an Agent of School Change

**Center for Research on Learning**

**AT A GLANCE**

**SCHEDULE**

- Teams of 3 to 7 individuals
- 6 consecutive weeks
- 90-minute virtual synchronous meetings
- Asynchronous activity assignments

**LEARN MORE**

- **Registration** - register for an informational webinar or sign up for the course
- **Questions** - [simpd@ku.edu](mailto:simpd@ku.edu)

**SIM**  
Strategic Instruction Model

- **Please help us to plan for upcoming in-person Regional Update Conferences by taking this quick [Interest Survey](#)**
- **SIM Story Corps - [Becoming a Better Teacher with SIM, Janet Atallah and Bonnie Palasak](#)**



## SIM Resources & Reminders

We have a New SIM Overview Video - [feel free to share!](#)

### Links to new brochures:

- [SIM Overview Brochure](#)
- [SIM Learning Strategies Brochure](#)
  - [Writing Strategies Brochure](#)
- [SIM Content Enhancement Routine Brochure](#)
  - [Higher Order Thinking and Reasoning Brochure](#)
- [SIM Math Strategies Brochure](#)

### Reminders:

- Don't forget to sign up for the [Winter Virtual Conference](#) if you're due for an update!

- [Update your StateDirectory information](#)
- [Report your SIM PD work](#)

## **SIM in the Field**

- Thank you to Jeff Adams, Ed.D., the State Director of Special Education for the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), for sharing [this handout from his keynote presentation](#) during the AR SIM update conference! This interactive handout shares how SIM helped Arkansas reach their state reading goals within their coherent system of support for all learners. Please feel free to share this handout if you'd like.
- Congratulations to SIM Professional Developer **Alice Schmitges** on her new job as Bureau Chief at The Florida Department of Education!
- We were so sorry to hear about the passing of long-time Florida SIM advocate, **Mary Ann Ahearn** after a lengthy battle with kidney failure. If you have a memory with Mary Ann that you'd like to share, visit her [memorial page](#).
- **New Publications from the SIM Network:**
  - SIM PD Leader, **Rosemary Tralli** has released a new book, *Specially Designed Instruction for Special Education: A Guide to Ensuring Quality IEP Implementation*.
  - **Bulgren, J., Minarik, D., & Washburn, J.** (2024). Higher order thinking and reasoning through primary source document analysis. In S. Waring (Ed.), *Teaching with primary sources for cultural understanding, civic mindedness, and democracy* (pp. 47-63). Teachers College Press.

## **Upcoming SIM Events:**

- **Jan. - Feb., 2024** - [Winter Virtual SIM Update Conference](#)
- **Feb. - Mar., 2024** - [Adolescent Literacy Leadership Course](#) (registration deadline: Feb. 1)
- **June - Oct. 2024** - [Content Literacy Leadership Institute \(CLLI\)](#) - For Prospective SIM Professional Developers (intent to apply deadline: Feb. 1)

**SIM Online PD Classes** for educators (self-paced courses on Canvas, with follow-up coaching session)

- [Framing Routine](#)
- [Fundamentals of Paraphrasing and Summarizing Strategy](#)
- *NEW:* [The Paragraph Writing Strategy](#)
- [Possible Selves](#) (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition)
- [Sentence Writing Strategies](#) (Fundamentals and Proficiency)
- [Unit Organizer Routine](#)

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