



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### PROPOSAL SELECTION CRITERIA

Each proposal will be carefully reviewed based on the following criteria:

Definition and Focus of the Topic;

Practical Application of Material;

Overall Proposed Session Content and Quality;

Alignment to Conference Strands; and

Previous Evaluations, if applicable.

The annual Synergy Conference convenes attendees at different levels of experience, so please consider how your proposed workshop can target this diversity. Keynote addresses should encourage active learning, demonstrate innovative thinking, and present relevant research/best practices. Speakers should have significant expertise in their topic area and have comfort presenting their plenary for the virtual conference.

### LIVE PLENARY INFORMATION

All plenaries will be presented live and viewed on-demand by conference attendees throughout the virtual conference experience.

Live plenaries must be a maximum of 60 minutes.

Since this is a practitioner focused conference, all PowerPoint Presentations and applicable handouts must be provided for public access to conference attendees on the virtual platform. All approved speakers must submit their workshop recording, PowerPoint and handouts by March 14, 2021.

### SUBMISSION DETAILS

Incomplete proposals will not be considered and all proposals must be submitted electronically by midnight on January 31, 2021 here: <https://publicschoolforumofnc.wufoo.com/forms/rokhqtd0oc8j4h/>. Please review the guidelines carefully before submitting your proposal. Keynote Speakers will be notified about the status of their proposal by February 12, 2021. All speakers will be required to attend a virtual pre-conference briefing to present at the Virtual Synergy Conference 2021. Please contact Sheneika Simmons at [ssimmons@ncforum.org](mailto:ssimmons@ncforum.org) with questions.

### CONFERENCE STRANDS



Closing Gaps



College & Career  
Readiness

Organizational Capacity



Public/Private  
Partnerships

Social & Emotional  
Learning



Youth Development





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## CONFERENCE STRAND DESCRIPTIONS

### ARTS & LITERACY

Workshops on creating opportunities for self-expression through the arts in a creative and constructive manner; leveraging the creative, academic and developmental benefits of arts education; supporting grade-level reading in expanded learning programs, infusing literacy into all areas of programs; and literacy-specific activities to support English-language learners.

### ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Workshops on fundraising, grant writing and stewardship of donors and funds; social media outreach; recruitment, retention, supervision, evaluation, development and coaching of staff and volunteers; afterschool advocacy through engagement of elected officials and policymakers; and leveraging parent and family engagement.

### CLOSING GAPS

Workshops on effective practices associated with improving academic performance, school attendance, and decreasing misconduct and limiting behaviors among minority youth and students with a low socioeconomic status in afterschool and extended learning programs.

### COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Workshops on affording youth with early exposure to college standards and employable skills; identifying connections between current interests and future aspirations for youth; leveraging partnerships with local colleges, universities, businesses and military branches for college and career exposure; and involving families in post-secondary planning.

### PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Workshops on developing and sustaining school-community partnerships; cultivating cross-sector collaboration with the health, education, and juvenile justice sectors; recruiting local businesses and corporate partners; rural and urban program models; engaging the faith-based community; higher education organizations or clubs; and working with local foundations and organizations.

### SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Workshops on social and emotional learning in out-of-school and in-school settings; the science of social and emotional learning; whole child, whole setting approaches to social and emotional learning; core principles and strategies for integrating SEL into everyday practices and routines; adult role in building youth SEL skills; and aligning SEL across settings.

### S.T.E.M.

Workshops on aligning with the school day and incorporating standards into program activities; engaging youth in real world application of STEM concepts and processes; successful local, state, and national models; strategies for implementing inquiry-based learning and project-based learning; and leveraging partnerships to expand content.

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Workshops on healthy out-of-school time programming; nurturing youth social, emotional and cognitive development; implementing inclusive programs that welcome all youth; civic engagement; trauma-informed practices for working with youth and adults; and equipping youth with tools for advocacy and social change.