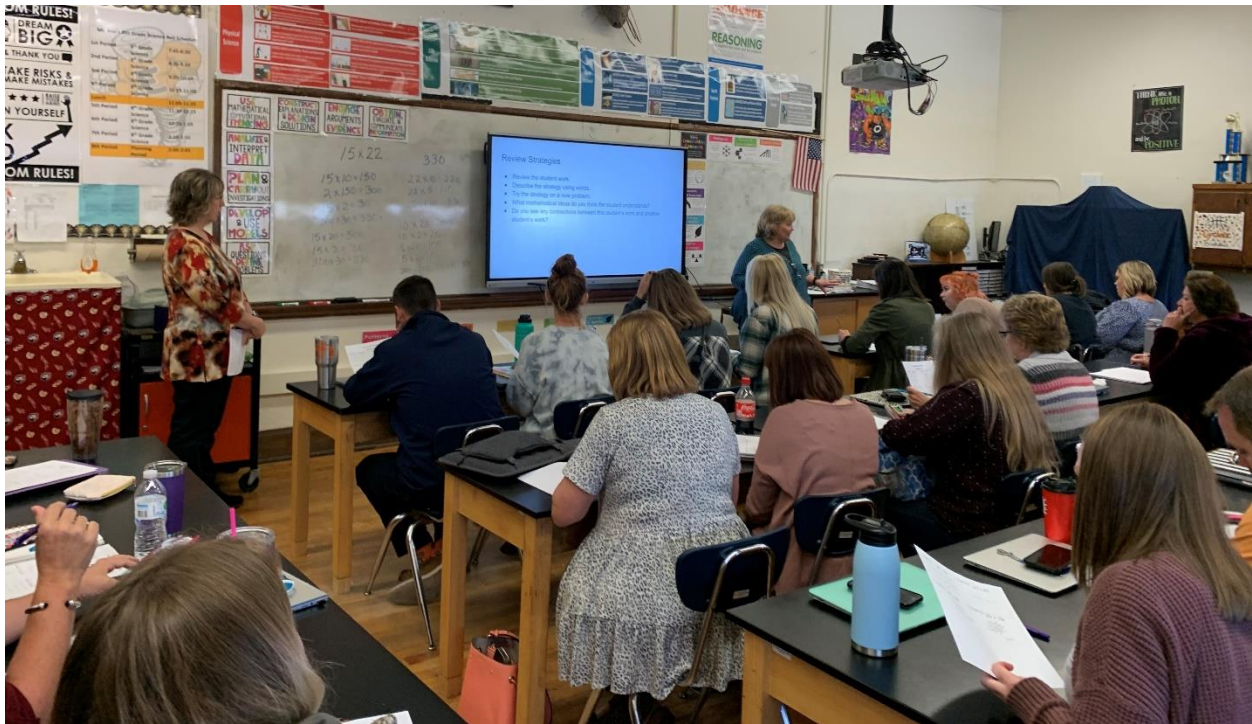




"Learning Together Day" Hosts Educators from Across the Region



Educators across Northeast Tennessee joined their colleagues for a professional development day centered on the theme of **"Learning Together - One Region, One Purpose, Every Child."** More than 4200 educators, representing all subject areas, gathered at thirteen locations across ten school districts for stimulating presentations (specific to their subject areas), discussion and relationship building with their colleagues.

Food City joined the Niswonger Foundation as the major sponsor of the 2022 Learning Together Day. Other sponsors included East Tennessee State University, King University, Milligan University, TCAT Elizabethton, Tusculum University, Walters State Community College, Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents, Ballad Health, ten Northeast Tennessee School Districts, and University School. **Food City generously provided lunch for all participants.**

SCHOOL DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING

Carter County Schools
Elizabethton City Schools
Greene County Schools
Hamblen County Schools

Hawkins County Schools
Johnson County Schools
Kingsport City Schools
Newport City Schools

Sullivan County Schools
University School
Washington County Schools

OPENING ACTIVITIES LIVE-STREAMED

While teachers gathered at thirteen locations across the region (listed below) at 9:00 a.m., the Opening Activities were live-streamed from the Martin Center for the Performing Arts, at East Tennessee State University. Joining in-person were Dr. Brian Noland, President of East Tennessee State University; Scott Niswonger, Chairman and Founder of the Niswonger Foundation; Alan Levine, Executive Chairman, President and CEO of Ballad Health; and Steve Smith, President and CEO of Food City. Dr. Nancy Dishner, President and CEO of the Niswonger Foundation hosted the opening event.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Keynote Speaker, Jamie Winship, addressed the topic “Overcoming a Crisis of Identity.” Educators heard a message about guiding students in identifying core belief systems and developing a clear understanding of the inner conflict between a “false identity” (wrong beliefs about themselves) and a “true identity” (knowing their inherent value). Winship developed a unique language acquisition program based on the Identity Method. His work has drawn the attention of Fulbright and other educational institutions worldwide over the past several decades. He has worked with leaders in professional sports, business, education, law enforcement, government, non-profit and other sectors. His message is about the transformative power of living fearlessly in your true identity.

LOCATIONS

- **East Tennessee State University – The Martin Center for the Performing Arts and Millennium Center, Johnson City**
- **Tennessee Center for Applied Technology (TCAT) Elizabethton**
- **Elizabethton High School, Elizabethton**
- **T.A. Dugger Jr. High School, Carter County**
- **Newport Grammar School, Newport**
- **Daniel Boone High School, Washington County**
- **West Ridge High School, Sullivan County**
- **Chuckey Doak High School, Greene County**
- **Chuckey Doak Middle School, Greene County**
- **Dobyns Bennett High School, Kingsport**
- **Volunteer High School, Hawkins County**
- **Morristown East High School, Morristown**
- **Roan Creek Elementary School, Johnson County**

TOPICS AT LOCATIONS

Following the opening session, educators moved through two breakout sessions, depending on topics of interest. More than 380 presenters lead “best practices” discussions.

Topic

- **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and Career Technical Education**
- **Benchmark Assessments and State Standards 2-5**
- **Benchmark Assessments and State Standards 6-8**
- **Literacy Development Grades K-2**
- **Literacy Development Grades 3-5**
- **Literacy Development Grades 6-12**
- **School Counselors K-12**
- **Fine Arts and Physical Education**

Location

West Ridge High School
TA Dugger Jr. High School
Elizabethton High School
Chuckey Doak Middle School
Chuckey Doak High School
Morristown East High
Martin Center (ETSU)
Volunteer High School

- **Advanced Placement, World Languages, Higher Level Math & Science**
- **Library Media Specialists**
- **Pre-Kindergarten**
- **Special Education, Interventionist, Alternative Education, Recovery, English as a Second Language, Nursing, Testing Coordinators**
- **Administrators**

Daniel Boone High School

**Newport Grammar School
Roan Creek Elementary
Dobyns Bennett High School**

TCAT Elizabethton