



ECTA Annual Conference

28 June 2014 Sheldon Event Centre (In Grounds of Sheldon College)

Registrations online from 1 April and by personal invitation to members on 12 March 2014

Conference Fee structure on last page

2014 Keynote and Masterclass presenters' biographies



Presenter: Marc Armitage

Keynote Title: We all want 'more play' in our setting - so what's putting us off?

Title: The role of the adult in children's play: the play cycle

Marc Armitage specialises in exploring what children and young people do when they are not usually in the presence of adults. To understand children's play and how this knowledge can impact on our practice in playwork, early childhood education and schools, we need to know and understand what it is that children 'do' not what we think they do. As adults, we make a lot of assumptions about children - what they can do, what they can't do; where they spend their free time and what they do there. Very often those assumptions are wrong. It is common to hear adults say that children of today simply do not know how to play any more - it isn't true; people say the traditional games that they remember playing as a child just are not around anymore - this isn't true; and people say children much prefer screen time to playing out - I'm here to tell you this isn't true either. If we want to understand children and their wider social lives, we need to know and understand what they 'do' - not what we think they do or what we would like them to do but what they actually do in those places and those times in which they have control over their own choices. This can only be done by actively exploring children's lives - especially exploring those times and those places in which there are usually no adults present - the journey to and from school, recess time, the time after school, time at home away from parents, etc. 'The thing that children and young people do more than any other thing when adults are not watching ... is play!'



Presenter: Sally Foley-Lewis

Title: The big 3: the secret trio to management success

Sally Foley-Lewis fast-tracks manager productivity! She empowers managers to be conscious of their thinking and actions: to be strong, authentic and confident in their roles. Sally is the skill-builder and insight-igniter who prepares and helps managers to build their own management and leadership legacy from Day One. She's worked with managers at all levels, across a range of industries, such as aviation, shipbuilding, oil and gas, Telcos, finance, health and education. Sally brings diverse experiences to her training, speaking and coaching influenced by having been in management roles and lived in Germany, Outback Queensland, the United Arab Emirates and now living in Sydney, Australia.



Presenter: Professor Karen Stagnitti

Title: Pretend play and children with autism

Title: Pretend play and literacy

Professor Karen Stagnitti currently works as Professor, Personal Chair in the Occupational Science and Therapy program in the School of Health and Social Development at Deakin University, Australia. She graduated with a Bachelor degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Queensland. Over the past thirty-plus years she has mainly worked in early childhood intervention programs in community based settings as part of a specialist paediatric multidisciplinary team. Her area of research is children's play. Karen has over seventy national and international papers as well as fifteen book chapters, and a norm-referenced standardised play assessment, the Child-Initiated Pretend Play Assessment.



Presenter: Iain Hodge

Title: I remember it well

Our working memory is where conscious thought occurs and tasks are performed. This masterclass explores in a very practical sense how children learn new things and how they remember what they have learnt. How we can maximise the retention, and streamline the retrieval of concepts will be the focus of the session. Some implications for literacy and numeracy will be discussed during the session.



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2014 Conference Workshop presenters' biographies



Presenter: Adele Amorsen

Title: Integrating digital literacy in the early childhood classroom

Adele is a literacy lecturer in the School of Early Childhood at Queensland University of Technology. She has a keen interest in the integrated use of digital tools in the classroom, to engage and support young learners. Adele has 15 years of early childhood classroom experience; three young children of her own; and a special interest in how young children are engaging with and using digital tools to support their literacy learning, both in the home environment and the early years of schooling.



Presenter: Alaine Bull

Title: Konfident kids in the classroom

Bachelor Occupational Therapy
Registered Occupational Therapist (APHRA)
Certified Infant Massage Instructor (IAIM)

Alaine has extensive experience working with infants, children and adolescents with mild developmental delays through to complex developmental needs, including physical, intellectual and sensory impairments. She also has considerable experience working with children with autism. Alaine has developed her expertise over fifteen years working with children and families in Australia, Ireland and the United Kingdom in community, hospital and educational settings. She is currently working at Mater Children's Hospital and the Mater Health and Wellness Clinic.

Alaine works in partnership with families to:

- help them understand their child's unique developmental needs, and identify goals and strategies to build on their strengths to support on-going development
- help premature infants achieve their full potential
- assist younger children to get ready for Prep/school
- assist school aged children develop skills and independence in their daily activities.

As a busy mum, Alaine understands how important it is to provide intervention that is child and family friendly. Through the use of functional (and fun!) activities and play, she can help children and their families to achieve the goals that really matter to them.



Presenter Anne Marlay

Title: Sustainability and the environment

Anne is a passionate early childhood educator currently working at Chelmer Station Community Kindergarten. Anne has 40 years of community based learning experience that has included extensive early childhood classroom practice, professional consultancy, community arts based experiences for children and families, student mentoring and community organisational management. Through all of this, her interests have reflected a strong belief in the arts and the environment strengthening human endeavour. Anne continues to grow and learn alongside and supported by, children, families and the wider community.



Presenter: Anne Pearson

Title: Keeping kids cool, calm and connected in Prep 2014

Anne Pearson is a Prep teacher with Education Queensland. Passionate about maintaining a pedagogically appropriate early years curriculum, Anne has presented recently at The ACER Excellence in Teaching Conference; at ECTA conferences; C&K Professional Development workshops; as a guest lecturer on maintaining a play base in Prep; and on successfully implementing the Australian Curriculum. This has led to an investigation into why there is a difference for staff and children in Prep classes with the massive changes and challenges that have occurred over the past few years. Continued interests in practices stemming from Reggio Emilia Early Childhood Practices and Calmer Classrooms, add to her ongoing professional reflection and focus on developing current and appropriate pedagogy for our Prep classrooms.



Presenter: Caroline Hollis

Title: Investigating places: Australian Curriculum: Geography in Prep – Year 2

Caroline Hollis is a project officer at the Queensland Studies Authority who is currently on secondment to the Department of Education, Training and Employment. In 2012 she worked on the co-development of resources and professional development material to support teachers to implement the Australian Curriculum: Geography. Caroline has 20 years of experience teaching across primary and secondary schools in Queensland. She is particularly interested in assessment for learning and supporting teachers in making consistent judgments about students' work using **standards**.



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Presenter: Charlotte Bowley

Title: *More than just a veggie patch: sustainability and sustainable practices in early childhood education – the way forward.*

Charlotte is a Family Day Care Coordinator for Wesley Mission and cofounder of The Early Childhood Educators Place consultancy. Part of The Early Childhood Educators Place mission through the Facebook page is to share sustainable practice ideas and practices.

She is currently involved in assisting educators to implement the NQS & EYLF into their family day care environments. She is passionate about sustainable practice in the early years and setting the foundation for children and educators to practice this in their everyday life now and into the future.



Presenter: Danielle Bull

Title: *Sensory savvy classrooms*

Title: *Write ready*

Danielle is an occupational therapist with over ten years' experience. She has worked within organisations throughout Australia and the United Kingdom; in government, not for profit and private sectors. Danielle is the owner of Paediatric Occupational Therapy Services, with clinics located in Birkdale, Springwood and the Gold Coast.

Danielle has a particular interest in early childhood and passionately believes that the early years of schooling are the most important in a child's life. Positive early school experiences can only be achieved through good preparation, smooth transitions to school and supportive learning environments.

For more information go to: www.paediatricot.net



Presenter: Debra Ybarlucea

Title: *Investigating places: Australian Curriculum: Geography in Prep – Year 2*

Debra Ybarlucea is a Prep teacher at Holland Park State School. Over the past year, Debra has implemented the Australian Curriculum: Geography in a Year Two and Prep setting. Her main focus has been to engage the students with the new curriculum in a rich and meaningful way. Debra has taught in a range of classrooms from Prep to Year Three classrooms, including multi-age, in Brisbane and North Queensland schools over the last 13 years



Presenter: Desley Jones

Title: *Self regulation: the what, the why and the how – understandings and strategies*

Title: *Teaching maths in Kindergarten: one way or many ways*

Desley has over 25 years' experience in early childhood education and is director of Ballymore Kindergarten in Brisbane. Desley has a degree in education and an honours degree in psychology and was a 2011 recipient of a NEiTA ASG Inspirational Teaching Award. She was nominated for the award by kindergarten parents in recognition of her emphasis on children's social and emotional wellbeing in her educational program. Desley's framework for intentional teaching for relationships – Creating a Caring Community of Learners – was accepted for presentation at the Infants and Early Childhood Social and Emotional Wellbeing Conference (IECSEW) held in Canberra in 2013. In addition to teaching fulltime, Desley presents workshops and writes journal articles for educators



Presenter: Heidi Clausen

Title: *Maths extravaganza for the early years*

Dip Teach (Early Childhood) Grad Dip (Learning Support)

Heidi Clausen is a Support Teacher: Literacy & Numeracy at Strathpine State School in the Brisbane Region. She embraces a multisensory approach to learning when working with students with learning disabilities. Heidi supports teachers, parents and auxiliary staff to adjust their planning and modify their teaching strategies to suit the children's preferred learning styles and academic abilities.



Jane Taylor

Title: *Put on your oxygen mask*

Jane Taylor is an experienced coach, speaker, facilitator and educator who is committed to "Balancing Lives... One Habit at a Time", so we can connect with life authentically and live in peace and harmony. Jane began her career as a professional athlete competing on the world tennis stage before finding her passion – learning (or unlearning may be more accurate) and building relationships. This passion evolved in to a career in education as well as facilitating national coaching programs for Tennis Australia and co-ordinating national initiatives for education, before starting Habits for Wellbeing. Jane has trained over 13000 people in coaching, mindfulness meditation, mental health promotion and prevention and organisational wellbeing. If you would like to connect with Jane, please visit the Habits for Wellbeing website on www.habitsforwellbeing.com.



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Presenter: Jenny Christensen

Title: *The power of storytelling*

Based in Mackay, North Queensland, Jenny Christensen has been teaching Pre-prep children for ten years, in both kindergarten and day care settings, with six of these years spent in a Steiner-based Kindergarten. She has recently begun to make presentations to other educators focussing on play, storytelling and nature-based education. Prior to her recent re-location to Kingaroy, Jenny has been an active member of ECTA Mackay, serving as Secretary of her regional group.



Presenter: Jenny Clarke

Title: *More than just a veggie patch: sustainability and sustainable practices in early childhood education – the way forward*

Jenny is a Children's Services teacher at BNIT, Caboolture Campus and is currently undertaking a Master of Education degree at QUT. The topic of her research is *Quality standards process: sustainable practice and pedagogy in an early childhood education service*.

Jenny's research is a case study on how one long day care centre goes through the process of meeting or better National Quality Standard 3.3 towards Assessment and Rating and what professional learning is identified along the way.

She is passionate about inspiring educators to have confidence in embedding sustainable practices and education for sustainability in children's services.



Presenter: Joanne Sorensen

Title: *Sustainability and the Environment*

Joanne is an Early Childhood Teacher who has worked in a variety of teaching positions both in Australia and internationally, with various age ranges, since 1990. Joanne has worked for C&K for many years as a Teacher and Co-Director and in 2008 gained a position close to home at Arana Hills. Joanne's teaching and interactions have had a strong focus on Sustainability and Benefit Risk experiences, as well as this she is a member of QECSN -the Queensland Early Childhood Sustainability Network. Joanne has also had the opportunity to visit Denmark on several occasions where she has been able to interact and learn from several Nature Kindergartens programs– a great source of inspiration for her. Joanne is the recipient of the Sustainability award for Excellence in a service – presented at the C&K conference 2013.



Presenter: Julie Wright

Title: *Linking fine and gross motor with the early years/ Prep curriculum*

Julie Wright is an Advisory Visiting Teacher- Early Childhood Education + Speech Language Impairment in the Gympie area. Julie commenced working with the Department of Education in 1982. She has worked previously as a Pre-school teacher, Early Special Education Advisory Teacher, Inclusion Teacher and Prep teacher. She supports children, teachers and families in ECDP, Prep and those transitioning from Kindergarten with disabilities or suspected disabilities.



Presenter: Kath Lloyd

Title: *Discover the music within – how and where do I begin?*

Title: *'Art music' the littlies love! Using recorded music appropriately and creatively*

Kath is an early childhood music specialist, with a particular interest in interpersonal development. She has been a registered KMEIA (Kodaly Music Education Institute of Australia) teacher since 2000, up until 2014 running 'Do Re Mi, Music for Children' classes from her home studio in Manly West, Brisbane. She is the coordinator of the Early Childhood Music program at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, teaching there as well as running her music program at the Margaret Cribb Childcare Centre, University of Queensland. In order to better understand and therefore support children's varying behaviours, Kath has just commenced the part-time study of a Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology) at Queensland University of Technology. Kath believes that singing is a child's first language, the voice being their first instrument. When nurtured in the early years, music, as an innate form of communication and expression, can help build the Whole Child in all areas of their development: socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically, cognitively as well as musically. It enriches teaching programs and enriches lives, in the classroom and beyond.



Presenter: Kathleen Reilly

Title: *Art for early childhood: using a project style*

Kathleen has been making art with children over the past ten years but she has been making art for as long as she can remember. She grew up as one of the youngest in a family of nine children, so it was inevitable that she became creative – she was a visual person and loved to utilise and reinvent things, from 'hand-me-downs', to cardboard boxes. She currently facilitates art projects in numerous kindergartens and primary schools across Brisbane where she works as a resident artist, as well as holding private classes/workshops. Kath completed her formal training in 1999 at the Queensland College of Art, majoring in *Fine Art and Illustration* and began her involvement in children's art workshops. Having a background in nursing and early childhood, Kath combined her interest in humanities, early childhood and art to create her own art workshops with children. Kath likes to incorporate nature and recycling into her work with children, as well as in her own art. She hopes to one day write and illustrate a children's book that reflects her work with children and art. 'When I'm not painting, I am an art facilitator and when I'm not doing classes I'm still trying to catch up on my washing and enjoy the bedlam and bliss that comes with having three children.'



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Presenter: Margaret Sear

Title: Sustainability and the environment

Margaret Sear (B Ed Studies, Dip BKTC) has taught in community kindergartens since 1969 and is an educator at C&K Redlands Community Kindergarten. Margaret is a leading practitioner in the area of Education for Sustainability which is reflected in all areas of her program and throughout her Kindergarten. Margaret has been recognized by Redland City Council for her efforts to promote sustainable practices in industry and was awarded a World Environment Day Workplace Champion Award at the 2010 World Environment Day celebrations. Margaret is working to enrich the outdoor environment of the Kindergarten as a stimulating, challenging and natural play-space for children that encourages free choice, and constructive risk taking through the inclusion and use of natural play materials. In 2013 Margaret and her centre won the C&K Eco-Efficiency award for sustainability and featured in the PLP EYLF videos

<http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nqsplp/e-learning-videos/talking-about-practice/embedding-sustainable-practices> Margaret is President of and a long time member of QECSN Inc. She is a member of ROGI Redlands Organic Growers and promotes organic principles.



Presenter: Natasha Rogers

Title: Linking fine and gross motor with the early years/ Prep curriculum

Natasha is an occupational therapist based at Woody Point Special School. She has a keen interest in Early Childhood and she provides regular support and programs for children with disabilities or suspected disabilities and their teachers in Early Childhood Developmental Programs and Prep classrooms.



Presenter: Nicky Leonti

Title: From garden to grub: how to implement an effective gardening and cooking program

Nicky has been an Early Childhood Teacher for over five years. She launched Tiny Chefs as a combination of both her passion for education and love of food. Parents have unconsciously placed the responsibility of educating children about what nourishes their body on to teachers. Nicky's aim is to provide fun and engaging ideas and strategies on how teachers can teach children about what nourishes them and how children can make great food choices.

Her technique is through getting children involved in the growing of their foods, teaching them how to create fresh meals and how to think for themselves about what they want to create. Nicky has developed Tiny Chefs as a supportive hub for teachers to come and share ideas, learn new strategies and access amazing resources to implement a program for children from 3-8 years old.

The underlying message in all that she does is to educate teachers to be the healthy role model that our children are looking for. She supports teachers to make healthy choices themselves to show children just how fun and simple living a healthy life can be.



Presenters: Rachael Chapman-Oliver

Title: Collaborative partnerships: teacher and assistant

Rachel is a mother to two boys who keep her on my toes! She holds a Diploma in Children's Services and has worked as a group leader; teacher aide; inclusion support; and assistant over the past 17 years of her early childhood career. Rachel has worked in a variety of environments throughout Canberra, Sydney, Darwin and Brisbane.



Presenter: Rachel Towill

Title: An Australian approach to designing Reggio-Emilia inspired early learning spaces

Rachel has been specialising in architectural education design for over eleven years and has designed facilities for all ages. Originally from the ACT, Rachel has been designing for Queensland schools since 2008 as Director of Towill Design Group. Rachel has a strong passion for designing and delivering sustainable school buildings on time and under budget.

Designing the St Paul's Kindergarten has led to many opportunities for Rachel. She has:

- been invited by QUT to both lecture and teach design to Early Learning students, explaining the importance of design for young children
- led QUT Collaborative Design students in designing an early learning facility for a real project (Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary). This included facilities for Paediatric Occupational Therapy and for play opportunities. The students also explored the concept of a Sustainable Outdoor Classroom suitable for our Queensland climate.

Travelling to Italy in early 2013, Rachel attended the Reggio Emilia Conference to gain a better understanding and appreciation of this teaching philosophy. She was asked to present the St Paul's Kindergarten to teachers at the Reggio Australia Conference in July 2013



Presenter: Robyn Mercer

Title: Less is more when using ICT with kindergarten-aged children

Robyn is an Early Childhood Advisor for C&K. She supports centres in Logan and has also supported centres in more regional areas – Townsville, Central Queensland and Southwest. Prior to this, she worked for over 30 years in Logan community in a C&K kindergarten program. Since 2008, she has begun exploring and investigating how technology could be used with young children and this has remained a personal and professional interest. In 2012, Robyn was part of the C&K Research Team, investigating how newer technologies could be introduced into programs for children in



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kindergarten. As a C&K Early Childhood Advisor, Robyn participates in community partnership meetings and events, AEDI response groups and a range of other professional groups. She remains a passionate educator who continually encourages others to critically reflect on their pedagogy.



Presenter Roushini Devi

Title: Looking through the third eye – Indian people and their culture

Title: Bollywood bling: fun team building

Roushini has over 30 years' experience working with children, parents, educators and the wider community. She has worked as a family day care educator; a group leader for 0-5 year olds; she has been a coordinator for before and after school care, and vacation care; and has been a long day care centre director.

Creating, developing and presenting a variety of interactive multicultural shows for under-sixes; an accredited program for primary school – *Fitness after School*; vacation care excursions; and workshops for educators – has given Roushini opportunities to work around Australia and internationally.

Roushini's goal is to give participants a greater cultural awareness. She considers that the most effective way to share and teach any new subject to children or adults is through getting participants involved, interacting and learning by having fun and play. This hands-on approach deepens personal and professional development and provides a source of deeper appreciation and understanding of the messages shared throughout the presentation.

Roushini is recognised as a reputable presenter and entertainer who ensures positive engagement with all sectors, agencies and organisations. She is a cultural collaborator and professional artist for festivals and events. She is an experienced event organiser of annual Indian Festival of Colours (Holi) and Festival of Lights (Deepawali). She is an Education Queensland Accredited presenter for Prep to Year 7.

Roushini works with children on a daily basis. She has been a children's program and workshop coordinator at numerous festivals and events around Australia. Roushini's qualifications include Diploma in Early Childhood and Diploma in Community and Human Resources.

For more information: www.roushini.com



Presenter: Siobhan Gordon

Title: Konfident kids in the classroom

Siobhan holds a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy Honours Class 1

She has a special interest, experience and training in working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and their families and teachers, to support them in their home and school settings.

Siobhan has experience and training in sensory-processing assessment and treatment of self-regulation, attention and concentration, coordination, anxiety and coping with daily activities and routines. She has experience working with schools and families to collaboratively develop skills and strategies to support children to participate in their daily occupations. Her work experience includes The Mater Complex Child Development Clinic (0 to 6 year olds); the Mater Autism and Related Disorders Clinic (6 to 18 year olds); assessment and treatment of developmental delay related to complex conditions. She has also experience in private practice, community services, Autism Queensland, Queensland Health and hospital settings in Australia.

Siobhan works as an Occupational Therapist at Mater Children's Hospital and Mater Health and Wellness Clinic, a private allied health clinic, providing early intervention services for children (government and privately funded services).



Presenter: Sue Southey

Title: Teaching maths in Kindergarten: one way or many ways

Sue is co-director at Springwood Community Kindergarten. She is a regular presenter at workshops and conferences throughout Queensland and Australia. In 2009 she was a State and Territory recipient of the ASG NEITA award and in 2013 was awarded an Inspirational Teaching Award from the Down Syndrome Association. During 2013 Sue worked at Queensland Studies Authority in the K-12 Resources Team. Sue is Vice-president of Early Childhood Teachers' Association.



Presenter: Sylvia Bowles

Title: Conducting challenging conversations

Sylvia has worked in the early childhood field for over 30 years in child care, kindergartens and with Playgroup Queensland, as an advisor and curriculum manager. She is currently working with Goodstart Early Learning as a Senior Early Learning Consultant. During her working career, she has developed an interest in supporting the sector to develop communication skills that may help to avert conflict that arises in many situations where people are working and interacting together. She has achieved a Master's Degree in Dispute Resolution and is a certified mediator.



Presenter: Tapasii Holden

Title: Collaborative partnerships: teacher and assistant

Tapasii has worked in early childhood as teacher's assistant/group leader for twelve years and as a primary school music teacher for two. She has two daughters – one a toddler and one almost teen. She is currently studying for her Bachelor of Early Childhood whilst working part-time.



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Presenter: Tracey Lenarduzzi

Title: Yoga for kids, healthy body, healthy mind

Tracey is an experienced teacher, with a Masters in Special Education, and is a certified yoga teacher. In 2013, after teaching and practicing yoga with students at The Glenleighden School, Tracey combined her love of teaching and yoga to develop 'Tree of Mind'. Tracey now offers academic tuition and yoga to children and adults, with a focus on special needs. Tracey has also developed her 'Yoga in Schools program', which is fully aligned with the new Health and Physical Education Curriculum. Tracey is on the SPELD Qld. tutor referral list and is passionate about working with all children, particularly in helping them to develop strategies to assist with anxiety and emotional self-regulation. She is also very interested in the impact of yoga on the brain and the opportunities it offers in supporting young children's learning and ability to focus.



Presenter: Tui Benson

Title: How do leaves eat? The next step: embedding science in early childhood

Tui is currently working as a Kindergarten Director/Teacher (C&K). She has fourteen years' experience working with children and their families including working as a social worker and an Early Childhood Advisor. She has a Bachelor of Education (Teach), Grad Dip. Early Intervention/Special Needs.

Growing up immersed in a culture of science, including having her own working laboratory as a ten-year-old, has enabled Tui to see science everywhere, have a critical approach to life, and develop keen observational skills. As an early childhood educator, Tui believes educators must capitalise on their own experiences to enhance those of children. She believes in the need to value science and its role in the continued development of young children. She is currently involved with an 'Action Research Project' *Embedding Cultural Perspectives in our Program*. One aspect of this is developing an edible bush tucker garden.



Presenter: Victoria Kerlin

Title: How might we make it better? Using feedback in the early years to improve student learning

Victoria's passion is for early years education through play-based learning, child-centered curriculum, developmentally-appropriate practice and ICT. She has been an Early Years teacher and an advocate for play-based learning for over six years. Previously a dance teacher, her classroom context regularly includes a range of performing and creative art experiences. Victoria has recently become a part of a project called Design Thinking. This project has allowed her to successfully work with a play-based pedagogy alongside the Australian Curriculum. Her desire is to share this knowledge of Design Thinking with Early Years educators to support other teachers in continuing to offer play-based learning and teaching in their classrooms.

Registration Fees

Individual ECTA Members: \$195

Organisational ECTA Members first two staff: \$196

Organisational ECTA Members remaining staff: \$280

Concessional ECTA Members: \$110

Student ECTA Members: \$105

Non-Members \$315