



Subject: Curriculum Update
Date: November 12, 2024

ARC Midwest Summit: On Oct. 23, District 45 and Berkeley District 87 co-hosted ARC's Midwest Literacy Leaders Summit: Designing at the Margins. The Summit gathered leaders from across the country to share best practices for supporting all students. The day's agenda included:

- Success Stories: District leaders from Berkeley and DuPage County show the impact of targeted support on student outcomes.
- Instructional Techniques: Open talks on supporting multilingual students, students with IEPs, and other key student groups.
- Expert Inspiration: Learn from national experts and peers to apply successful methods in every classroom.

The summit ended with a panel discussion with Alfred Tatum, Alicia Grunow, Irvin Scott, and Stephen Peters. The panelists' CVs are as follows:

- Alfred W. Tatum, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Metropolitan State University of Denver

Dr. Alfred W. Tatum is a literacy professor in the School of Education at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Prior to his move to Colorado, he served as the dean of the College of Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago from 2013 to 2020 and directed the UIC Reading Clinic from 2007 to 2020.

His research and advocacy aim to advance the literacy development of African American boys, both struggling and non-struggling readers and writers in the United States. He focuses on the roles of texts and instruction to nurture social and scientific consciousness across the disciplines as a path toward intellectual and personal development.

Professor Tatum is the author of *Teaching Reading to Black Adolescent Males: Closing the Achievement Gap* (Stenhouse Publishers, 2005); *Reading for Their Life: (Re)building the Textual Lineages of African American Adolescent Males* (Heinemann, 2009); *Fearless Voices: Engaging a New Generation of African American Male Writers* (Scholastic Teaching Resources, 2013); and *Teaching Black Boys in the Elementary Grades: Advancing Disciplinary Reading and Writing to Secure Their Futures* (Teachers College Press, 2021).

- Irvin Scott, Ed.D., Senior Lecturer at Harvard Graduate School of Education
Irvin Scott joined the Harvard Graduate School of Education faculty in 2016 after five years as the deputy director for K–12 education at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and 20 years as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, and chief academic officer.

Scott is currently working on an initiative that examines the intersection of faith and education in schools. One goal of the initiative is to enable educators to safely stay in touch with their full identities as they do their work on behalf of schools and communities. Another goal is to build strong partnerships between faith organizations and the schools in their communities.

- Alicia Grunow, Ph.D., Co-Founder of the Improvement Collective, Improvement Specialist, and Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Foundation

Dr. Alicia Grunow is an educational improvement expert specializing in how to apply the science of improvement to help teams, organizations, and networks reach their improvement goals. Alicia started her career as a bilingual teacher in Denver Public Schools and then in New York City, working to improve outcomes for students who speak a language other than English. Through this work, she discovered a passion for redesigning systems to better meet the needs of students. She pursued a specialization in improvement science and spent seven years adapting these methodologies for education at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, where she coauthored the seminal book on the topic—*Learning to Improve: How America’s Schools Can Get Better at Getting Better*.

Alicia remains senior fellow at the Carnegie Foundation and co-founded the Improvement Collective, a partnership dedicated to helping organizations build their improvement capacity to solve important problems in education and the broader social sector.

- Stephen Peters, Ed.D., CEO and President of The Peters Group

Stephen is the CEO and president of The Peters Group, a national education consulting company in the United States. The Peters Group has a track record of creating and sustaining success in schools and districts by supporting educators through a three-step process of teaching and learning.

Stephen is founder of the nationally recognized The Gentlemen’s Club and The Ladies’ Club programs which provide options for thousands of at-risk and honor students throughout the United States. His mentoring and self-empowering program, The Gentlemen’s Club, has been featured on The Oprah Winfrey Show as well as America, America, which broadcasts to two million viewers in Portugal and Brazil.

He served as principal-in-residence at Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School during the 2015–2016 school year. While at Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School in 2016, Stephen was featured in the BBC documentary, *An American High School*. The documentary was named "Best Documentary of 2016" in London and aired on the National Geographic channel in the U.S. during 2017.

His book *Choosing to Believe: Creating a Framework for School Success*, is a tool that provides a comprehensive framework for school improvement. Through his

books, *Do You Know Enough about Me to Teach Me*, *Teaching to Capture and Inspire All Learners*, *ONE: A Process for Building Schools of Excellence for Every One and Everyone* (co-authored with Dr. Mark Wilson), and *Inspired to Learn: Why We Must Give Children Hope*, Stephen not only outlines his vision for the children in our schools, he goes on to share how he and his staff turned their vision into operationalist strategies.

In preparation for the Oct. 23 Summit, Dr. Tatum and Dr. Grunow spent the previous day visiting classrooms at North and Jackson. At the end of the day, both national leaders noted the magical relationships between teachers and students.