


**ArATE | SRATE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

# EDUCATION MATTERS

*Critical Issues. Meaningful Practice. Lasting Impact.*

ArATE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, FAYETTEVILLE

**OCTOBER 14-16, 2026**



# ArATE – SRATE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the Alpha Beta Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi & University of Arkansas School of Art



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences



School of Art

# EDUCATION MATTERS

*Critical Issues. Meaningful Practice. Lasting Impact.*

**Education Matters** is both a declaration and an invitation. It affirms that education is essential in shaping individuals, communities, and futures...and it simultaneously calls attention to the many “matters” within education that deserve thoughtful examination, dialogue, and action.

At a moment when educators and teacher educators face increasing complexity, scrutiny, and responsibility, **Education Matters** invites us to pause, reflect, and engage deeply with the work that defines our profession. From classrooms to communities, policy to practice, **Education Matters** centers critical issues, meaningful practice and lasting impact.

The conference theme intentionally:

- Honors values-driven work that prioritizes access, care, professionalism, and impact
- Invites diverse perspectives across roles, contexts, and career stages
- Balances research, practice, and lived experience as equally meaningful sources of knowledge
- Signals that education is consequential; what we choose to teach, how we teach, and whom we serve matters
- This year’s theme positions the ArATE-SRATE conference as a space where participants can engage with the issues, practices, and innovations that matter most in education in the southeastern region and education as a whole.

The Conference Planning Committee encourages session proposals that include teacher educators from all environments: P-12, higher education, and community settings, including undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, staff, teachers, administrators, and community educators. Multiple session formats addressing the conference themes will be accepted.

**Karmen V. Bell**  
University of Arkansas  
*Kappa Delta Pi Faculty Counselor*  
*ArATE President & Conference Chair*  
*SRATE President-elect*  
[kvbell@uark.edu](mailto:kvbell@uark.edu)



# CONFERENCE STRANDS

<p><b>Instructional Practice</b> <b>MATTERS</b></p>	<p>This strand focuses on the teaching practices that most directly shape student learning. Sessions may explore pedagogy, curriculum design, assessment, and instructional decision-making across content areas and P-20 grade levels. Presenters are invited to share research-based strategies, classroom innovations, and reflective practice that demonstrate why and how instruction matters.</p>
<p><b>Equity &amp; Access</b> <b>MATTERS</b></p>	<p>Education matters most when it serves <i>all</i> learners. This strand highlights issues related to equity and access (e.g., culturally responsive and sustaining pedagogies, multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and historically marginalized communities). Sessions may examine barriers, asset-based approaches, and/or practices that create opportunities for all students in educational spaces.</p>
<p><b>Teacher Preparation</b> <b>MATTERS</b></p>	<p>High-quality teaching begins with strong preparation and continues through ongoing professional growth. This strand centers preservice and in-service teacher development, including residency models, mentoring, coaching, supervision, and professional learning communities. Presentations may explore partnerships, program design, and practices that support teacher candidate readiness and retention.</p>
<p><b>Student Experience &amp; Well-Being</b> <b>MATTERS</b></p>	<p>This strand elevates the lived experiences of learners and educators. Sessions may focus on student engagement, motivation, social-emotional learning, school climate, and the well-being and sustainability of educators. Presenters are encouraged to examine how educational structures and relationships shape the academic success, well-being, and sense of belonging of both students and educators...and why these experiences matter.</p>
<p><b>Leadership &amp; Policy</b> <b>MATTERS</b></p>	<p>Educational outcomes are shaped by leadership decisions and systemic structures. This strand invites exploration of P-12 school and teacher preparation leadership, policy implementation, accountability. Sessions may address how leaders navigate complexity, align vision with practice, and advocate for systems that support learners, educators and teacher educators.</p>
<p><b>Community &amp; Partnership</b> <b>MATTERS</b></p>	<p>Education does not exist in isolation. This strand highlights the role of families, communities, cultural institutions, and schools/universities working together. Sessions may explore partnerships, place-based education, community-engaged research, and collaborative models that demonstrate how education matters within and beyond classrooms.</p>
<p><b>Innovation &amp; Future Direction</b> <b>MATTERS</b></p>	<p>As education evolves, so do the matters we must confront. This strand focuses on emerging ideas, technologies, and models shaping the future of education. Topics may include instructional technology, AI, interprofessional learning, design thinking, and reimagined approaches to schooling. Presenters are encouraged to consider what future-focused innovation means, and what should matter as we move forward.</p>

# THEMATIC SESSIONS

SUBMIT YOUR  
PROPOSAL

September 1<sup>st</sup> @11:59 pm



## Join the Conversation

We invite you to join us in a shared exploration of what matters most in education. Together, we will engage in meaningful conversations, share promising practices, and examine the ideas and commitments that shape our work as educators and leaders. All sessions are 50 minutes and will address the conference theme. Proposals of the following type are encouraged:

### Paper/Research Presentation

Paper/Research Presentations are **formal sessions** to provide an opportunity for scholars and practitioners to share original research, scholarly inquiry, program evaluations, or theoretical work related to the conference theme and strands. Presenters are encouraged to engage participants in discussion and consider the significance of their work for the field of education.

### Roundtable Discussion Format

Roundtables are **informal sessions** during which one or two presentations are seated at a table to discuss works in progress not ready for formal presentation. Each roundtable session is allowed 50 minutes. If two are scheduled, then approximately 15 minutes will be allowed for each presenter with 10 minutes for discussion.

# PROPOSAL REVIEW

All proposals are peer reviewed. The review of process is ongoing, and acceptance notifications will be sent on a rolling basis as decisions are made. All final acceptance decisions will be communicated no later than **September 8, 2026**.

## ACCEPTED PRESENTATION CHECKLIST

- ✓ Receive an acceptance email.
- ✓ Upon acceptance, all presenters listed in the submitted proposal register for the ArATE-SRATE Conference prior to the start of the event.
- ✓ Submit your presentation as a PDF to the 2026 ArATE/SRATE Presentations Google Folder [HERE](#).
- ✓ Presenters are encouraged to review accessibility guidance from the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA, developed by the World Wide Web Consortium, prior to submitting materials to ensure presentations follow best practices for accessibility.
- ✓ Be sure to test any audio or video elements prior to arriving at the conference.

## PRESENTATION TECHNOLOGY

Wi-Fi access will be available in all session rooms. However, presenters are strongly encouraged to download and save their presentation materials to their personal devices prior to the conference to minimize potential connectivity issues.

### Technology Notes

- Presentations cannot be projected from tablets, iPads, or similar devices.
- Mac laptops and HP laptops with HDMI or USB-C ports are supported by the conference projectors.
- ArATE/SRATE does not provide slide advancement remotes.
- Most session rooms are equipped with televisions for presentation display. Projectors and projection screens will not be available.
- No A/V equipment is provided for roundtable session presenters.

# ARATE | SRATE REGISTRATION

<b>ArATE Membership Renewal</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
ArATE/SRATE Professional Registration	\$175.00 (by 9/1/26)
ArATE/SRATE Professional Registration	\$190.00 (after 9/1/26)
P-12 Professional Registration	\$75.00
Student Registration	\$65.00
Retiree Registration	\$65.00



## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16
<p><b>MORNING</b></p> <p>9 AM – 5 PM Registration/Check-in 10:30 AM Opening Session</p>	<p><b>MORNING</b></p> <p>8 AM – 5 PM Registration/Check-in 8 AM – 10:50 PM Concurrent Sessions</p>	<p><b>MORNING</b></p> <p>8 AM – 10 AM Registration/Check-in 8 AM – 9:50 M Concurrent Sessions 10 AM – 11:30 AM SRATE General Session Business Meeting</p>
<p><b>AFTERNOON</b></p> <p>12 PM – 5 PM Concurrent Sessions</p>	<p><b>AFTERNOON</b></p> <p>11 AM – 1 PM Awards Luncheon 1:10 PM – 3 PM Concurrent Sessions</p>	<p>Included in Registration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President's Reception</li> <li>• Awards Luncheon</li> <li>• Crystal Bridges Excursion</li> </ul>
<p><b>EVENING</b></p> <p>5:30 PM – 7 PM President's Reception</p>	<p><b>EVENING</b></p> <p>3:30 PM Crystal Bridges Excursion</p>	

## VISIT CRYSTAL BRIDGES!

As part of the conference experience, attendees will have the opportunity to visit Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, a nationally recognized museum that serves as a powerful educational resource for learners of all ages.

Through its collections, exhibitions, and educational programming, the museum invites visitors to engage in critical thinking, cultural exploration, and meaningful dialogue. Admission and round-trip transportation from Fayetteville, AR to Bentonville, AR are included in conference registration.

**Secure your seat as part of conference registration.**

200 seats sponsored by the University of  
Arkansas School of Art

ART

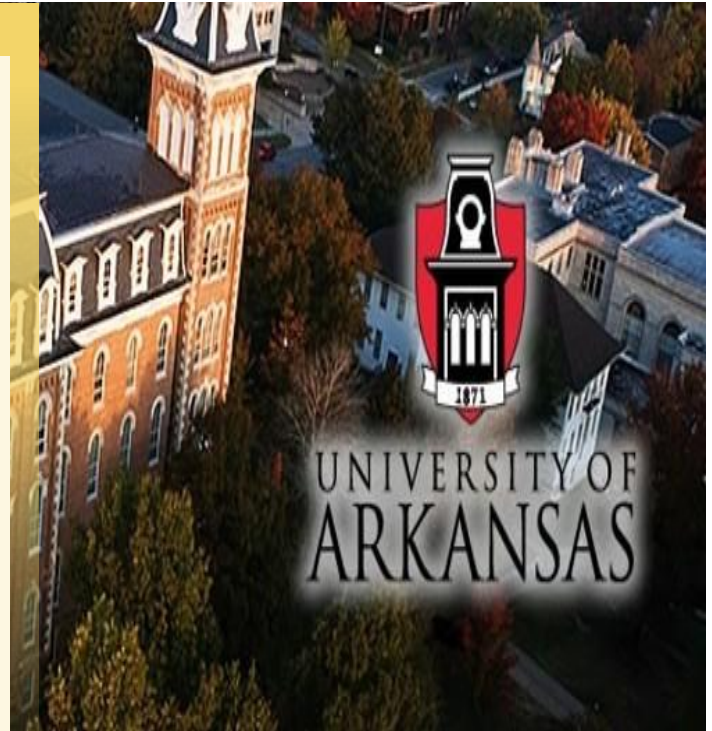


**CRYSTAL BRIDGES**  
MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

Learn more @ [crystalbridges.org](http://crystalbridges.org)

# HOST CITY & CONFERENCE VENUE

Nestled in Northwest Arkansas and in the heart of the Ozark Mountains, **Fayetteville, Arkansas** is a vibrant college town where natural beauty, culture, and community converge. Home to the University of Arkansas, the city blends the energy of a flagship research institution with the warmth and accessibility of a close-knit community.



## UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS UNION

The Arkansas Union serves as a hub for connection, collaboration, and campus life. The ArATE-SRATE conference will take place on the Union's fifth floor, utilizing its meeting rooms and the Verizon Ballroom, physical address:

**ARKU 634**  
**435 N Garland Avenue**  
**Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701**

## UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS PARKING



Parking on the University of Arkansas campus can be limited. The University of Arkansas campus maintains parking regulations year-round and enforcement will be active throughout the conference. Several convenient visitor parking options are located around campus and near the conference venue.

- **Stadium Drive Parking Garage** – Conveniently attached to the Arkansas Union and within easy walking distance of conference activities.
- **Visitor Parking Permit** – Daily visitor parking permits are available through the University of Arkansas Visitor Parking Application for **\$8.65 per day**, <https://parking.uark.edu/visitors/>

**We recommend allowing extra time for parking and arrival, particularly during peak campus hours.**

# TRAVEL INFORMATION

## AIRPORT

Northwest Arkansas National Airport (XNA), located between Fayetteville and Bentonville, is the primary airport in the area, offering 6 airlines and nonstop service to more than 27 destinations across the country.

Fayetteville is 25 miles from the Northwest Arkansas National Airport; expect a **35-minute drive** to and from the airport. Rental car and rideshare services are available at XNA.



## LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Razorback Transit provides fare-free fixed route bus and paratransit service to all University of Arkansas students, faculty, staff and the general public during all hours of operation. Razorback Transit buses are ADA accessible and are air-conditioned. For more information on Razorback Transit, including bus routes and a live map, please visit their webpage: <https://parking.uark.edu/transit/index.php>

## LODGING

Conference attendees will find a wide variety of lodging options conveniently located near the University of Arkansas campus. Fayetteville offers accommodations to fit a range of preferences and budgets. Many lodging choices are situated within a short drive of campus and provide easy access to conference activities, local dining, entertainment, and the vibrant downtown Fayetteville area. Two nationally recognized hotel brands are offering a special group rate of **\$139.00 per night for ArATE-SRATE attendees:**

*The Moxy Fayetteville* (Marriott)  
[Book Your Group Rate](#)

*The Graduate Fayetteville* (Hilton)  
[Book Your Group Rate](#)