

Continuing Conversations

VAGTC Conference 2009



Keynote Speaker

Carol Ann Tomlinson

Carol Ann Tomlinson's career as an educator includes 21 years as a public school teacher, including 12 years as a program administrator of special services for struggling and advanced learners. Currently, Tomlinson is a Professor of Educational Leadership at a university in Virginia, where she was named Outstanding Professor in 2004. She is also Co-Director of the university's Institutes on Academic Diversity.

Wednesday 12th August

Teaching in Noah's Ark: Why Differentiation Matters

Through much of the world, classrooms are becoming increasingly heterogeneous. Students from a wide range of economic, cultural, and experiential backgrounds are the norm in most classrooms—a trend that is likely to continue indefinitely. Nonetheless, many teachers prepared in educational backgrounds that mirror the “majority” experience and are not always comfortable in addressing the needs of students from other contexts. In this session, we'll examine the need for differentiation from perspectives of student diversity, the education students will need to prepare for a solid future, and ways we can maximize the likelihood that all students experience equity of access to excellence in our schools.

Thursday 13th August

The Non-Negotiables of Differentiation: Making Sure we Get it Right

Differentiation is not a set strategies but rather a way of thinking about teaching and learning. Differentiation that is likely to have a significant impact on student achievement is guided by a set of principles that bring together all aspects of the classroom to work interdependently to support student success. This session will examine several of these essential principles through examination of classroom examples.