CELEBRATING THE
21st ANNUAL
PLUM CREEK
CHILDREN’S LITERACY FESTIVAL
SEPT. 24, 2016

Peter Brown | David Carter
Matt de la Peña | Brian Floca
Loren Long | Linda Sue Park
Trent Reedy | Aaron Reynolds
Bob Shea | Salina Yoon
Louis Sachar | Sara Pennypacker
Harvey Daniels | Donalyn Miller
Dr. Maria Walther
## PLUM CREEK CONFERENCE ITINERARY

All presentations are located in the Thom Leadership Education Center, Weller Auditorium, and music building recital hall.

### 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Lower Level</th>
<th>First Floor</th>
<th>Second Floor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Maurna Rome</td>
<td>Harvey Daniels</td>
<td>Emily Arrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Brian Floca</td>
<td>Sara Pennypacker</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Aaron Reynolds</td>
<td>Dr. Maria P. Walther</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Shanna Opfer</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Brian Floca</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Dr. Jake Hollatz</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Dr. Jake Hollatz</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Luncheon Keynote Speaker**

Louis Sachar, author

“From Wayside School to Fuzzy Mud”

Louis Sachar wrote his first book at 22 years old and is now 61. His presentation will detail the beginnings of his career, and how his methods and motivations have changed over the years.

### Restrooms
Restrooms are located on each floor across from the elevators.

### First aid station/lost and found
First aid station/lost and found at the Information Booth in TLEC lobby.

### Autographing
Autographing 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and again from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Janzow Campus Center.

### Internet access code
Internet access code PlumCreek2016.
Peter Brown

Author and Illustrator

Peter Brown has always loved telling stories. While studying illustration at Art Center College of Design, Peter’s love of both words and pictures led him to take several courses on children’s books, and before long he knew he’d found his calling. Peter worked on animated TV shows before illustrating his first picture book, “Flight of the Dodo.” Since then, Peter has written and illustrated many books for children, and has earned numerous honors, including a Caldecott Honor for “Creepy Carrots.” Five of his titles have been New York Times best-sellers. He currently resides in New York.

David Carter

Author and Illustrator

David’s motto of “Have fun!” drives his work and passion for writing and illustrating books for children. A native of Salt Lake City, Utah, David worked many jobs as a graphic designer, including a job at Intervisual Communications Inc., where he learned the fine art of paper-engineering and pop-up bookmaking. It was there that he created his first pop-up book, “How Many Bugs in a Box?” He then left to start his own business and has created more than 50 pop-up books since.

Matt de la Peña

Author

An author of six New York Times best-selling young adult novels, Matt de la Peña is very familiar with the creative writing process. Matt, a Brooklyny, N.Y., resident, teaches creative writing and visits high schools and colleges throughout the country. Matt graduated from the University of the Pacific, where he attended school on a full ride scholarship for basketball. Along with many young adult novels, Matt has also written picture books, most recently, “Last Stop on Market Street,” which was awarded the 2016 Newbery Medal.

Brian Floca

Author and Illustrator

Brian Floca is a picture book author and illustrator born and raised in Temple, Texas. He now lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he spends his time writing and illustrating books. His book, “Locomotive,” won the Caldecott medal in 2014. In addition to the Caldecott medal, Brian’s books have received four Robert F. Sibert Honor awards. Brian has most recently illustrated a new novel by Avi, “Old Wolf.”

Loren Long

Author and Illustrator

Loren Long grew up in Lexington, Ky., in the 1970s. There were no artists in his family. His mother read to him a lot. Loren also liked to draw. His parents encouraged him to keep drawing. He entered the University of Kentucky not having any idea of what he would do with his life. He had five different majors in five years of college. But he took every art class they offered, and at the end of his junior year, he decided to try to be a professional artist. Loren got his first job as an illustrator at a greeting card company, where he worked for nearly four years. After many years as a freelance illustrator, an editor called him to do his first picture book, “I Dream of Trains” by Angela Johnson. He loved it. Now, he is the author and illustrator of the New York Times best-selling Otis picture books. He is the #1 New York Times best-selling illustrator of President Barack Obama’s picture book, “Of Thee I Sing,” the re-illustrated edition of “The Little Engine That Could” by Watty Piper, and “Mr. Peabody’s Apples” by Madonna.

Linda Sue Park

Author

Linda Sue Park was born in Urbana, Ill., and grew up outside Chicago. The daughter of Korean immigrants, she has been writing poems and stories since she was 4 years old, and her favorite thing to do as a child was read. Linda Sue went to Stanford University, competed for the gymnastics team and graduated with a degree in English. Then she took a job as a public-relations writer for a major oil company. This was not exactly the kind of writing she wanted to do, but it did teach her to present her work professionally and that an interested writer can make any subject fascinating (well, almost any subject ... ). Linda Sue Park is the author of the Newbery Medal book, “A Single Shard,” many other novels, several picture books and books of poems. She lives in Rochester, N.Y., with her family and is now a devoted fan of the New York Mets.
Trent Reedy

Trent Reedy was born in a small town in Iowa. For as long as he can remember, he has loved telling stories. After high school, he went to the University of Iowa to major in English, determined that he would one day be a writer. To pay for college, he joined the Iowa Army National Guard, serving one weekend a month and two weeks a summer as a combat engineer. In the National Guard, Trent learned many things, the most important being: writing is difficult. After graduating from college, Trent received a phone call from the Army National Guard Company. The first word of that call was the dreaded code word. Stampede. The message was real. Trent was going to war. When his time in the war was over and he returned to Iowa, Trent taught high school English and directed the school plays. Still, he wanted to improve his writing, and he had an important story to tell. That brought him to the Vermont College of Fine Arts, where he earned a master of fine arts degree in writing for children and young adults. He currently lives with his wife and his dog, Wiggles, in the state of Washington, where he is hard at work writing more books.

Aaron Reynolds

Aaron Reynolds is a New York Times best-selling author of many highly acclaimed books for kids, including “Carnivores,” “Chicks and Salsa,” “Joey Fly, Private Eye,” and the Caldecott Honor winning “Creepy Carrots!” However, Aaron wasn’t always an author. After graduating with a degree in theatre from Illinois Wesleyan University, he held many interesting and exciting jobs, including actor, businessman, waiter, dancer, carpenter and chef, before finally becoming an author. He lives in the Chicago area with his wife, two kids, four cats and between three and ten fish, depending on the day.

Salina Yoon

Salina Yoon was born as Yoon, Ah in Busan, Korea in 1972. She came to the United States in 1976 at the age of 4, which was when she was given her current name, Salina. Today, she is an author, illustrator and format designer of nearly two hundred innovative novelty books for young children. She loves creating books that have play-appeal and that make kids laugh and learn. Many of her books have flaps, tabs, die-cuts and wheels. Some are spiny, sparkly, bumpy and even pop-up! Some are soft and squishy, some are shaped and shiny and some are simply square. She works out of her home studio and lives in San Diego with her husband, artist Chris Polentz, and two sons.

Sara Pennypacker

When Sara Pennypacker was young, she loved reading, gardening, going to the beach, riding horses, getting presents and cake. And she still does. Even today, she is happiest reading, writing and making art. Sara is the author of seventeen children’s books, including the New York Times best-selling Clementine series. Her books have won numerous awards, including a Golden Kite award and a Christopher’s Medal. These days, she splits her time between Florida and Massachusetts, where she feels lucky to be able to write every day.

Louis Sachar

Louis Sachar is the creator of the entertaining Marvin Redpost books as well as the much-loved, “There’s a Boy in the Girls’ Bathroom,” winner of 17 child-voted state awards. Louis Sachar’s book, “Holes,” winner of the 1999 Newbery Medal, the National Book Award, and the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, is also an ALA Best Book for Young Adults, an ALA Quick Pick, an ALA Notable Book, and was made into a major motion picture. Louis writes one or two hours each day, calling them “small steps.” Louis says, “I have to go slow and give things a chance to take form and grow.” Louis is a law school graduate and passed the bar exam, all the while he worked on writing books. It wasn’t until 1989 that his books began selling well and he was able to stop practicing law and devote himself fully to writing. In his spare time, he likes to play bridge.

Bob Shea

Along with being an author and illustrator, Bob Shea has made many animations for PBS Kids and helped them develop a national literacy campaign. He has met Al Roker and Fonzie. His stories, artwork and characters have also appeared on Nick Jr. and Noggin. He was even on Noggin, reading one of his books to Ryan, his little boy. Bob has written several award winning children’s books, including the most recent Ballet Cat series. He lives in Connecticut with his wife Colleen and his son, Ryan. He and Colleen own Perfectly Nice, a graphic design studio.

Sara Pennypacker

When Sara Pennypacker was young, she loved reading, gardening, going to the beach, riding horses, getting presents and cake. And she still does. Even today, she is happiest reading, writing and making art. Sara is the author of seventeen children’s books, including the New York Times best-selling Clementine series. Her books have won numerous awards, including a Golden Kite award and a Christopher’s Medal. These days, she splits her time between Florida and Massachusetts, where she feels lucky to be able to write every day.

Aaron Reynolds

Aaron Reynolds is a New York Times best-selling author of many highly acclaimed books for kids, including “Carnivores,” “Chicks and Salsa,” “Joey Fly, Private Eye,” and the Caldecott Honor winning “Creepy Carrots!” However, Aaron wasn’t always an author. After graduating with a degree in theatre from Illinois Wesleyan University, he held many interesting and exciting jobs, including actor, businessman, waiter, dancer, carpenter and chef, before finally becoming an author. He lives in the Chicago area with his wife, two kids, four cats and between three and ten fish, depending on the day.
FEATURED AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR SECTIONALS

PETER BROWN, AUTHOR
WRITING WITH PICTURES
TLEC 113 (11:30, 9:00, 10:15, 3:30)
Peter discusses how he grew from being a creative little guy to being a big guy who makes picture books for a living. He will show the books he made as a child, talk about how he became a professional author and illustrator, read one of his books and share stories behind its creation. Peter will discuss his process of writing and illustrating and give a drawing demonstration including a quick, simple drawing lesson. Time will be included for questions and answers.

DAVID CARTER, AUTHOR
THE POP-UP ART OF DAVID A. CARTER
TLEC 106 (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)
Join pop-up book author and illustrator David Carter for an exploration of his artwork and process of paper engineering. Time will be included for questions and answers.

MATT DE LA PEÑA, AUTHOR
THE EVOLUTION OF HOW I WRITE DIVERSITY
TLEC 111 (9:00, 10:15, 2:15)
Matt will discuss how his approach to writing diverse characters and stories has shifted over the years. Matt will also discuss the We Need Diverse Books movement.

BRIAN FLOCA, AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR
HOW TO CATCH A TRAIN
TLEC 001 (11:30, 2:15, 3:30)
Join award-winning author and illustrator Brian Floca for a presentation about his creative journey, his research, his artistic process and the creation of his Caldecott Medal and Sibert Honor book, “Locomotive.”

LOREN LONG, AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR
THE PICTURE BOOK & ME
WELLER AUDITORIUM (11:30, 2:15, 3:30)
Join Loren Long for a presentation where he will discuss his career as a picture book author/illustrator, his experiences along the way and the importance of the picture book in our world today.

LINDA SUE PARK, AUTHOR
SAVING THE WORLD, ONE WELL AT A TIME: READER RESPONSE TO A LONG WALK TO WATER
MUSIC BUILDING RECITAL HALL (10:15)
Linda Sue Park will talk about the extraordinary response from schools, students and teachers to “A Long Walk to Water” and the impact readers are having on the real world.

A WRITER’S PROCESS: PICTURE BOOKS
MUSIC BUILDING RECITAL HALL (11:30)
“Yaks Yak” is a picture book for older readers, a deceptively simple text that demonstrates the power and importance of grammar and vocabulary—in fewer than 40 words! Hear how the book was created, from initial inspiration through final art.

A WRITER’S PROCESS: THE FANTASY NOVEL
MUSIC BUILDING RECITAL HALL (2:15)
Linda Sue Park will talk about the joys and challenges of writing her first fantasy novel, “Forest of Wonders.” She will focus on how the research and creation of her historical fiction books overlapped with fantasy in fascinating and helpful ways.

SARA PENNYPACKER, AUTHOR
A VISIT WITH SARA PENNYPACKER
TLEC 101 (11:30, 2:15, 3:30)
Sara will share an author’s view on several aspects of the importance of children’s books.

TRENT REEDY, AUTHOR
THE MISSION IS BOOKS: OUR BEST HOPE
TLEC 205 (9:00, 11:30, 3:30)
Trent Reedy will discuss how his time as a combat engineer in the war in Afghanistan helped him realize his lifelong dream of becoming a writer and what the experience taught him about the life or death importance of books in all of our lives.

AARON REYNOLDS, AUTHOR
AARON REYNOLDS: THE KID WHO HATED BOOKS
TLEC 011 (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)
Come discover how a kid who hated books became a best-selling author of dozens of books for kids! Explore the behind-the-scenes scoop about Aaron and how his books became books.

LOUIS SACHAR, AUTHOR
HOLES, “THE MOVIE”
TLEC 101 (9:00, 10:15)
Louis Sachar will detail the process of bringing his beloved book to the big screen.

BOB SHEA, AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR
SUPER FUN TIME WITH BOB SHEA
TLEC 102 (10:15, 11:30, 3:30)
This is a mandatory presentation for all attendees. Bob Shea is the greatest living author of this or any generation. Handsome, too. Bob will give you an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at unpublished work that was obviously too good and too really smart for anyone to print.

SALINA YOON, AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR
AGAINST THE ODDS
TLEC 105 (9:00, 11:30, 3:30)
Salina will speak about her unique background as an immigrant child, her publishing journey and how she beat the odds to become an award-winning, best-selling children’s book author and illustrator of nearly two hundred books worldwide.
Donalyn Miller is the author of “The Book Whisperer” (Josey-Bass, 2009) and “Reading in the Wild” (Josey-Bass, 2013) and serves as Scholastic Book Fairs’ Manager of Independent Reading and Outreach.

Dra. Maria P. Walther

The New Essentials of Literacy Instruction

TLEC 104 (1:15)

Audience: K-2 Classroom Teachers, Media Specialists, Book Lovers

Are you struggling to fit everything into your busy teaching day? Join Maria as she shares classroom-tested strategies for streamlining literacy instruction and focusing on the research-based essentials for young learners in the era of higher standards.

Fifty Nifty Picture Books and How to Use Them to Teach Young Writers

TLEC 104 (1:30)

Audience: K-2 Classroom Teachers, Media Specialists, Book Lovers

How can I inspire my young writers? Maria will answer this question by sharing her growing collection of mentor texts and engaging writing mini-lessons. Armed with an annotated bibliography of picture books, you will leave this session re-energized and ready to go back to help students read, think and write!

The Keys to Creating a Joyful Classroom Community

TLEC 104 (2:15)

Audience: K-2 Classroom Teachers, Media Specialists, Book Lovers

Learn easy-to-implement strategies for helping young children develop social skills and become self-directed, independent literacy learners. Maria will share experiences, picture book titles and a few classroom management tips!

As Maria tells her first-grade students, she went to school for a long time to learn as much as she could about teaching young children. As a result, she earned three degrees from Northern Illinois University, including a doctorate in elementary education. She currently teaches in Indian Prairie District 204. She earned National Board Certification and has served on numerous curriculum committees to improve literacy instruction. Maria also inspires other professionals through customized professional development experiences. Maria was honored in Illinois as Reading Educator of the Year and received the ICARE for Reading Award for fostering the love of reading in children. In addition, she received both the Outstanding Research Award and the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from Northern Illinois University.

Donalyn Miller is a classroom teacher and a college professor and now works as a national consultant and author on literacy education. Smokey is known for his pioneering work on student book clubs, as recounted in “Literature Circles: Voice and Choice in Book Clubs and Reading Group” and “Minilessons for Literature Circles.” Smokey works with teachers throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, offering demonstration lessons, workshops and consulting, with a special focus on creating, sustaining and renewing student-centered inquiry into discussions.

Harvey “Smokey” Daniels

The Close Reading of Images

TLEC Auditorium (9:00)

Audience: K-12 teachers, Administrators, Literacy Coaches

We know that state and national standards explicitly require students to deeply comprehend images as well as printed texts – but how do we teach these visual comprehension skills? In this session we will see how powerful content-related images can engage all kids, build background knowledge and activate curiosity, allowing us to build units of study from kids’ own questions.

Written Conversations Across the Curriculum

TLEC Auditorium (10:15)

Audience: K-12 teachers, Administrators, Literacy Coaches

Express the “best-kept teaching secret,” a student discussion model that works across all grades and subjects. These multiple dialogue journal variations build subject matter understanding, memory and engagement, leave tangible evidence of students’ thinking and provide the enjoyable daily writing practice kids need to develop longer, more polished reports and essays.

What’s New with Book Clubs and Literature Circles

TLEC Auditorium (11:50)

Audience: K-12 teachers, Administrators, Literacy Coaches

For nearly 30 years, American students have enjoyed various versions of a collaborative small-group discussion activity called “book clubs” or “Literature Circles.” Teachers around the country have developed solutions for the most common book club problems. We’ll try out a Lit Circle meeting ourselves and then share practical ideas for making groups work better.

Harvey “Smokey” Daniels has been a classroom teacher and a college professor and now works as a national consultant and author on literacy education. Smokey is known for his pioneering work on student book clubs, as recounted in “Literature Circles: Voice and Choice in Book Clubs and Reading Group” and “Minilessons for Literature Circles.” Smokey works with teachers throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, offering demonstration lessons, workshops and consulting, with a special focus on creating, sustaining and renewing student-centered inquiry and discussions.

Dead Presidents and Whales

TLEC Auditorium (2:15)

Audience: K-12 teachers, Administrators, Literacy Coaches

With renewed emphasis on reading nonfiction texts, teachers face a challenge. While many students enjoy (or prefer) nonfiction texts, some express disinterest or avoidance. How can we engage students with nonfiction when past reading experiences may be limited to dry textbook reading and research report assignments? In this session, Donalyn Miller shares instructional tips for engaging students with nonfiction (or any genre they avoid).
EMILY ARROW
STORYTIME SINGALONG WITH EMILY ARROW
TLEC 201 (9:00, 2:15, 3:30)
Audience: Elementary, Administrators, Media Specialists
In her sectionals, Emily Arrow will share how she uses music to bring stories to life in the classroom and library.

Emily Arrow creates literature inspired music for children, cultivating an appreciation and love for singing, songwriting, literature and art. This February, Emily’s debut children’s album “Storytime Singalong, Volume I” was released. Emily is a graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston and earned her graduate-level teaching certification in Off-Shulwerk Levels I & II. Following her studies, Emily became a K-6 music teacher at a performing arts-based private elementary school in Los Angeles. Emily is the 2015 Winner of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest in the Children’s Category for her song “The Curious Garden Song.”

LAURA BARTELS / HOLLY TRACY
ELL STRATEGIES SHOWCASE
TLEC 203 (9:00, 10:15)
Audience: Elementary, Middle Level, Secondary, Administrators, Media Specialists
In this sectional, participants will learn about four key strategies to aid in instruction for English learners. In addition to learning about the strategies, participants will “make and take” an example of each strategy to use in the classroom.

Laura Bartels is an ELL teacher at Lincoln North Star and an adjunct professor at Concordia University in the college of graduate studies.

Holly Tracy is an ELL Instructional Coach for Lincoln Public Schools and an adjunct professor for Concordia University in the college of graduate studies.

DR. GUY TRAININ
OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES EVERY LITERACY TEACHER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT
TLEC 005 (9:00)
Audience: Elementary, Middle Level, Secondary, Administrators, Media Specialists
We will explore no-cost online resources to supplement classroom lessons and textbooks across the curriculum. Learn about apps and websites to differentiate learning by reading level, language and interest. Bring your own device to explore collections of open educational resources, daily student news sources and collaborative projects to find the right resources for your students!

IDEAS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS CREATING AND COMMUNICATING INFORMATION USING A VARIETY OF MEDIA AND FORMATS
TLEC 005 (10:15)
Audience: Elementary, Middle Level, Secondary, Administrators, Media Specialists
The new Nebraska Language Arts Multiple Literacies standards require students beginning in Kindergarten and continuing through grade 12 to evaluate, create and communicate information in a variety of media and formats including textual, visual, and digital (LAL4.3). Bring your own device to explore presentations, digital stories, infographics, and collaborative options for your students to demonstrate learning using sharable multimedia.

Dr. Guy Trainin is a professor of Education and Graduate Chair at the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). He focuses his research in the areas of literacy development and literacy integration with technology and the arts. He teaches in pre-service education as well as graduate courses in field research methods, technology integration and literacy research. He and his colleague received the 2016 Innovative Use of Technology Best Practice Award from the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE).

ANTERO GARCIA
POSE/WOBBLE/FLOW: CULTURALLY PROACTIVE TEACHING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES
TLEC 106 (2:15)
Audience: Elementary, Middle Level, Secondary, Administrators
Cultural contexts of learning and teaching have shifted significantly in today’s world. In these uncertain times, how can we equip our students with literacy skills and ourselves with teaching practices that proactively address these challenges? Using a framework called Pose/Wobble/Flow (P/W/F), Antero Garcia will share strategies for identifying areas of professional growth and addressing the uncertainties we all face with an increasingly diverse student population.

PLAYING WITH CULTURE: UNDERSTANDING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, EQUITY, AND THE NEEDS OF ELA CLASSROOMS IN A CONNECTED LEARNING CULTURE
TLEC 106 (3:30)
Audience: Middle Level, Secondary, Administrators
In this workshop, participants will discuss how secondary ELA classrooms today are changing to meet the interests of students that are “always on.” Looking at case studies from popular young adult literature, film and comic books, participants will construct a framework to support “connected learning” in secondary ELA classrooms. Further, we will look at models of gameplay and consider how forms of “play” can create more equitable learning environments.

Antero Garcia is an Assistant Professor in the English Department at Colorado State University. Prior to moving to Colorado, Antero was an English teacher at a public high school in South Central Los Angeles. Antero completed his Ph.D. in the Urban Schooling division of the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research focuses on developing critical literacies and civic identity through the use of participatory media and gameplay in formal learning environments.

BLOGGING, PINNING AND TWEETING: SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE LANGUAGE ARTS CLASSROOM
TLEC 005 (2:15, 3:30)
Audience: Elementary, Middle Level, Secondary, English Language Arts Teachers
Bring the excitement of technology into your language arts classroom by incorporating social media tools and platforms. Discover the affordances technology brings to learning in the language arts classroom.

Dr. Jake Hollatz is currently principal of St. John Lutheran School in Orange, Calif. Prior to his new position, he was a literacy and educational technology professor at Concordia University Texas. He holds a master’s degree in literacy and a doctor of education degree in leadership. He has a passion and love for children’s and adolescent books as well as utilizing the affordances of technology to enhance literacy instruction.
SHANNA OPPER
START WHERE THEY ARE: DIFFERENTIATING FOR STUDENT READINESS
TLEC 001 (2:15, 3:30)
Audience: Elementary, Middle Level, Secondary, English Language Arts Teachers
Do you struggle to meet the various learning needs in your classroom? How do you keep highly capable students engaged and focused while also addressing the learning needs of students who struggle? Tiered lessons encourage achievement because the levels of activities promote success for all students without being too easy and boring or too difficult and anxiety producing.

Shanna Opper is an Assistant Professor of Education and Elementary Education Program Director at Concordia University, Nebraska. She is passionate about equipping future educators with research-based skills and instructional strategies, Christ-centered teaching dispositions and joyful enthusiasm for their vocation.

MAURNA ROME
THE LITERACY L.I.F.T. CLUB - EMPOWERING LITERACY LIVES BY “LINKING IMAGINATION, FUN AND TEXT”
TLEC 001 (9:00, 10:15)
Audience: Elementary and Middle Level Educators, Administrators, Media Specialists
Chosen as the first place “Teaching Award for Literacy” grant recipient by Penguin Random House, The Literacy L.I.F.T. Club is a successful after-school program designed to motivate students to read more by providing access to quality texts, tools to promote imagination and creative expression, author visits and adult mentoring. Participants will learn how to replicate The Literacy L.I.F.T. Club, secure grant funding and/or work with limited funds and build partnerships.

Maurna Rome is a National Board Certified Teacher in Early Childhood Literacy. She has shared her passion for teaching, learning kids and reading with students and colleagues for 25 years. Maurna currently teaches Humanities to fourth- and fifth-graders at Evergreen Park World Cultures Community School in Brooklyn Center, Minn. and shares ideas from her classroom in her column “Teach it Forward” at the online magazine Bookology.

VICKI WOOD
TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION: FANTASTIC NEW NONFICTION FOR YOUTH
TLEC 203 (11:30, 2:15)
Audience: All
It’s not just for homework any more. Youth nonfiction now encompasses such formats as the picture book biography and graphic format history, as well as a plethora of “recreational” reading choices, in areas such as science, history, art and culture. Come hear about, and peruse, some of the standout books from the past few years.

Vicki Wood is the Youth Services Supervisor for Lincoln City Libraries. She has been a Youth Librarian for over 25 years.
NEW! BREAKFAST AND BOOKS EVENT

Saturday, March 18, 2017
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Registration opens October 11
cune.edu/plumcreek

FEATURING...

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER AUTHORS
JANE YOLEN AND HEIDI STEMPLE

NCTE/NELAC HONOREES 2016-17

NCTE FUTURE TEACHER AWARD/NEBRASKA STUDENT TEACHER OF THE YEAR-TIE
STEPHANIE SHEARER, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, NEBRASKA, SEWARD, NEB.
AMANDA PETERSON, DOANE COLLEGE, CRETIC, NEB.

NCTE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AWARD
JILLIAN HARPSHER, LINCOLN NORTH STAR HIGH SCHOOL, LINCOLN, NEB.

NCTE EARLY CAREER TEACH OF COLOR
NIKKI BARNES, LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL, LINCOLN, NEB.

NCTE ACADEMIC FREEDOM AWARD - NEBRASKA
JANELLE SCHULTS, GERING HIGH SCHOOL, GERING, NEB.

NCTE NATIONAL ACADEMIC FREEDOM AWARD/INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AWARD
SENATOR AL DAVIS, HYANNIS, NEB.

NEBRASKA NCTE SECONDARY TEACHER OF ENGLISH/NELAC NEBRASKA ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER OF THE YEAR
JENNI ERHART, OSCEOLA HIGH SCHOOL, OSCEOLA, NEB.

NCTE/NELAC ENGLISH TEACHERS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES
CATHI MCMURTRY, OAKLAND-CRAIG HIGH SCHOOL, OAKLAND, NEB.
PAM WOLFORD, MCCOOK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, MCCOOK, NEB.
SALLY BURT, PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL, LINCOLN, NEB.
WILMA KUHLMAN, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA OMAHA, OMAHA, NEB.
2016 PLUM CREEK COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dylan Teut, Executive Director
Dr. Janell Uffelman, Director Emeritus
Karyn Backhus, Literacy on the Lawn
Marilyn Bork, CEU certificates, mailings
Sue Imig, Book sales and registration
Clark Kolterman, NCTE/NELAC liaison
Marj Komenda, Book sales
Dawn Navis, Hospitality
Vikki Gremel, Hospitality Assistant
Pat Ohlmann, Book sales
Dr. Leah Serck, Hospitality emeritus
Lila Thompson, Transportation, mailings
Barb Wallingford, Author hostess
Sue Sylwester, Book sales
Lavonne Reimer, Book sales emeritus

PRODUCED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE SEWARD COUNTY VISITORS COMMITTEE.

SPECIAL THANKS
Diana Boring and the Concordia Accounting/Business Office personnel
Concordia students and Seward community members
Aramark personnel and support staff
Dave Werner, Technology
Briianne Imig, Events Manager
Melissa Timmons, web design and photographs
Aaron Nix, video footage
Chelsea Wohlgemuth, junior at Concordia, graphic design
Rick Ihde, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Payton DeVencenty, photographs
The Holthus Family

Aksarben
Glenn & Pat Ohlmann
Chapters Books & Gifts
Suhr & Lichty Insurance Agency
Raymond & Bernita Neujahr
Seward Arts Council
Jim and Lana Daws
Luebbe Farms

Sid Dillon
Hackbart Chiropractic
Seward Woman’s Club
Jack & Myrna Swanson
Seward Jr. Woman’s Club
Hackbart Chiropractic
Zabka Funeral Home
Nate’s on the Nine

Thank you to our sponsors.