

## Pre-conference

**Pre-conference for Thursday, October 22, 2009 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Choose one session:**

- **Curricular and Instructional Strategies for Gifted Learners: A Practical Approach**  
*Catherine Brighton, Ph.D. and Holly Hertberg-Davis, Ph.D. – University of Virginia*  
**Target Audience:** *Teachers and Administrators K-12*

Participants in this pre-conference session will investigate, analyze, and experience a variety of curricular and instructional strategies appropriate for challenging gifted and talented learners in either self-contained or mixed-ability settings.

Additionally, participants will consider ways to differentiate the learning tasks for the diverse needs of gifted learners within each type of setting and school level. At key intervals, instructors will collect data about participants' needs, interests, and preferred learning modes and will use that information to model flexible grouping configurations during the session. The course will emphasize practical implementation of these strategies and approaches, so participants should come prepared to participate actively.

**Catherine Brighton, Ph.D.** is an Associate Professor at the University of Virginia, Curry School of Education and a Principal Investigator for the Javits-funded Project Parallax, a project aimed at developing talent in diverse elementary-level science, technology, engineering, and mathematics STEM. She is a former elementary and middle school classroom teacher, curriculum coordinator, and assistant principal. She is the Past President of the Virginia Association for Gifted and received the Early Leader Award from the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) in 2005.

**Holly Hertberg-Davis, Ph.D.** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia, Curry School of Education and a Principal Investigator for the Javits-funded AP Challenge Program. She is a former middle and high school English teacher and specializes in curriculum and instruction for gifted learners and teaching writing to a wide range of learners. Several of Dr. Hertberg-Davis' curriculum units have been published by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD).



- **Primary Source Invitations to Critical Thinking and Understanding**  
*Rhonda Clevenson, Ph.D. – Library of Congress*  
**Target Audience:** *Teachers and Administrators K-12*

In this interactive presentation, Rhonda Clevenson, shows how curiosity-provoking fragments of history provide invitations to learning that students with diverse skills simply can't resist. Through examples from different historical periods, she shares learning routines using digital primary sources that connect to students' lives and resonate with their natural desire to know and understand the world. Rhonda will demonstrate how to use a free Web site where classroom teachers can create differentiated online learning activities for their students in just a few minutes.

**Rhonda Clevenson, Ph.D.**, directs the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Northern Virginia Partnership. She spent many years teaching in both general and special education in both Arlington Public Schools and New York City Public Schools. Rhonda is one of the classroom teachers who developed the <http://PrimarySourceLearning.org> Web site. Rhonda is on the faculty of the Project Zero Classroom, Harvard Graduate School of Education and the George Washington University D.C. Teaching Fellows Program.

