



OFFICIAL EVENT PROGRAM

EVOLVED EDUCATORS: THRIVING SCHOOLS

THE REGION'S PREMIER DAY OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FOR AMERICAN CURRICULUM SCHOOLS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN DUBAI



COMMON CORE BOOT CAMP

collaborate. plan. learn.

FOUR VOICES. ONE SHARED COMMITMENT.

We are honored to welcome you to an exceptional professional learning experience designed to inspire, connect, and empower educators across the Middle East.



JEFFREY SMITH
Executive Director
Common Core Boot Camp

Welcome to Common Core Boot Camp 2026. Each year, educators from across the UAE and the wider region come together with a shared purpose—to learn, collaborate, and inspire one another. As you begin a new academic year, I hope this experience equips you with practical ideas, meaningful connections, and renewed confidence to lead positive change in your classrooms and schools.



DR. JACOB FRANCOM
Executive Director
Array Global Accreditation

High-quality professional learning is an investment in every student's future. Array Global Accreditation is proud to recognize Common Core Boot Camp as an accredited professional learning experience, awarding participants **eight hours of accredited professional learning (CPD)**. We congratulate every attendee for demonstrating a commitment to continuous growth and educational excellence.



DR. NADERA AL BORNO
Dean, Graduate School of Education
American University in Dubai

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the American University in Dubai Graduate School of Education. We are proud to host a conference that reflects our commitment to educational excellence, innovation, and lifelong learning. May today's conversations, workshops, and collaborations inspire new ideas and strengthen your impact as educational leaders.



SHAILENDRA SRIVASTAVA
Chief Executive Officer
Growmore Education

Growmore Education is proud to continue as the Principal Sponsor of Common Core Boot Camp. We believe that empowered educators build thriving schools, and we are honored to support a conference that celebrates innovation, collaboration, and professional growth. We wish every participant an engaging, rewarding, and inspiring learning experience.

OFFICIAL EVENT AGENDA



WELCOME & INSPIRATION



MASTERS OF CEREMONIES: MISTI-DAWN CURRY & CRYSTAL GOODWIN



WELCOME & INSPIRATION

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES: MISTI-DAWN CURRY & CRYSTAL GOODWIN

8:00 – 8:45 AM

Welcome Reception

Hosted by Growmore Education

8:40 – 8:55 AM

General Assembly Seating

9:00 – 9:03 AM

UAE National Anthem

9:05 – 9:08 AM

Welcome to Common Core Boot Camp

Misti-Dawn Curry and Crystal Goodwin

9:10 – 9:13 AM

Recitation from the Holy Qur'an

Wissam Kawas, North American International School

9:15 – 9:18 AM

Welcome Address

Jeffrey Smith, Executive Director and Co-Founder

9:20 – 9:23 AM

Host University Welcome

Kyle Long, President, American University in Dubai

9:25 – 9:28 AM

Meet the Facilitators

Tony Crawford, Vice President of Education

9:30 – 9:38 AM

A Special Surprise

Presented by Misti-Dawn Curry and Crystal Goodwin

9:40 – 9:43 AM

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker

Misti-Dawn Curry and Crystal Goodwin

9:45 – 10:10 AM

Keynote Address

Debra Alexander | Washington, D.C.

10:12 – 10:15 AM

Housekeeping, Event Norms and Dismissal

10:30 – 11:20 AM

Workshop Session One

11:30 – 12:20 PM

Whole-Group Experience: Meet the Parents

Facilitated by Audrey Hametner, The Bedrock Program

12:30 – 1:15 PM

Lunch and Networking

1:30 – 2:10 PM

Workshop Session Two

2:30 – 3:10 PM

Networking Carnival

Hosted by Copperstone Education

3:30 – 4:00 PM

Closing Ceremony

BOOT CAMP FEATURED ACTIVITIES

TWO CONVERSATIONS DESIGNED TO INFORM AND INSPIRE



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

DEBRA ALEXANDER

Organization Development Consultant | Executive Coach | Systems Transformation Leader

With more than 20 years of experience across public- and private-sector organizations in the United States and internationally, Debra Alexander helps leaders navigate change, strengthen teams, and build sustainable systems for success. As Principal and Senior Partner of Alexander Training and Consulting, she has trained more than 100,000 participants and serves on the faculty of Georgetown University's Organizational Consulting and Change Leadership Program. A member of the Copperstone Education Board of Directors, Debra brings insight, energy, and transformational leadership to the Boot Camp stage.



WHOLE-GROUP EXPERIENCE

AUDREY HAMETNER

Founder, The Bedrock Program | Moderator, Meet the Parents

Audrey Hametner will lead an honest, solution-focused conversation with five parents representing a range of school experiences in the UAE. Together, they will explore communication, trust, inclusion, student well-being, academic expectations, career readiness, and the everyday partnerships that help children thrive. Educators will hear directly from families about what builds confidence—and what can create distance—while identifying practical ways parents and schools can work together to make learning communities stronger, more responsive, and more connected.

THE WORKSHOPS

Two strands. Shared purpose.



collaborate. plan. learn.

Common Core Boot Camp workshops are designed for learning that travels. Every session combines clear outcomes, active participation, relevant content, and practical tools that educators can use immediately. Rather than “sit and get,” participants analyze, create, collaborate, test ideas, and leave with strategies ready for the classroom, team meeting, or school improvement plan.

EDUCATORS STRAND

For teachers, specialists, teaching assistants, and instructional practitioners seeking engaging approaches that strengthen student learning.

- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
- Inclusive Classrooms & Student Success
- Innovation, Technology & Artificial Intelligence
- STEM/STEAM Learning
- Future-Ready Learning

LEADERSHIP STRAND

For middle and senior leaders ready to improve systems, develop people, and lead thriving school communities.

- Career & College Guidance
- Culture, Inclusion & Community Engagement
- Instructional Leadership & Teacher Development
- Leading in the Age of AI

TWO STRANDS. ONE SHARED PURPOSE.

Different roles. Shared responsibility. One commitment to better learning.

EDUCATOR STRAND

+

LEADERSHIP STRAND

=

**THRIVING
SCHOOLS**

[TURN THE PAGE TO CHOOSE YOUR WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE >](#)

WORKSHOP SESSION ONE

FIND YOUR WORKSHOP. FIND YOUR ROOM.

SESSION ONE | 10:30–11:20 AM | Final workshop titles and room assignments to be confirmed

01	WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category EDUCATOR STRAND	ROOM —
02	WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category EDUCATOR STRAND	ROOM —
03	WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category EDUCATOR STRAND	ROOM —
04	WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category EDUCATOR STRAND	ROOM —
05	WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category EDUCATOR STRAND	ROOM —
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19	WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category LEADERSHIP STRAND	ROOM —
20	WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category LEADERSHIP STRAND	ROOM —

WORKSHOP SESSION TWO

FIND YOUR WORKSHOP. FIND YOUR ROOM.

SESSION TWO | 1:30–2:10 PM | Final workshop titles and room assignments to be confirmed

01 WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category EDUCATOR STRAND ROOM —	11 WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category EDUCATOR STRAND ROOM —
02 WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category EDUCATOR STRAND ROOM —	12 WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category EDUCATOR STRAND ROOM —
03 WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category EDUCATOR STRAND ROOM —	13 WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category LEADERSHIP STRAND ROOM —
04 WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category EDUCATOR STRAND ROOM —	14 WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category LEADERSHIP STRAND ROOM —
05 WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category EDUCATOR STRAND ROOM —	15 WORKSHOP TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED Facilitator • Topic / Category LEADERSHIP STRAND ROOM —
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EDUCATOR STRAND FACILITATORS

MEET THE FACILITATORS SHAPING THE DAY

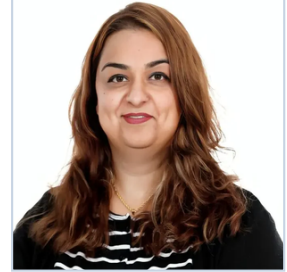
Our Educator Strand Facilitators bring practical expertise, creativity, and a deep commitment to student success. Through engaging, hands-on workshops, they will share classroom-ready strategies designed to inspire innovation, strengthen instruction, and enhance learning for every student.



Jessica Fetsko



Jennitha Lewis



Maaria Ahmed



Joshua Quinn



Katia Reed



Melanie Potgieter



Nida Habib



Mohamed Khalifa



Faten Matar



Alice Nazareth



Johnette Williams



Dr. Terrell Willis

LEADERSHIP STRAND FACILITATORS

MEET THE FACILITATORS SHAPING THE DAY

Experienced leaders sharing practical strategies to develop people, strengthen systems, and create school communities where educators and students can thrive.



Heath Bailey



Jamie Cardwell



Jailan Elost



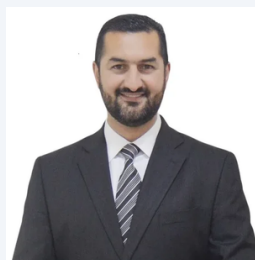
Dr. Catherine O'Farrell



Michael Norton



Agatha Schmidt



Aref Alabed



Jonathan D'Avignon

LEADERSHIP THAT MOVES SCHOOLS FORWARD

PRACTICAL THINKING. PURPOSEFUL ACTION.

Leadership learning designed to travel from the workshop into the work of schools.

01

BUILD STRONG TEAMS

02

DEVELOP PEOPLE

03

IMPROVE SYSTEMS

04

LEAD MEANINGFUL CHANGE

THE BOOT CAMP CHALLENGE

DON'T JUST ATTEND. TAKE SOMETHING WITH YOU.

Professional learning matters most when it travels back to school.

01

LEARN ONE.

Take away one idea that changes or strengthens your practice.

ONE THING I LEARNED

02

SHARE ONE.

Give another educator an idea, strategy, resource, or connection.

ONE THING I SHARED

03

COMMIT TO ONE.

Choose one action you will take back to your classroom, team, or school.

ONE ACTION I WILL TAKE

LEARN ONE. SHARE ONE. COMMIT TO ONE.

Bring the learning back to your students, colleagues, and school community.

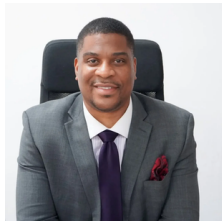
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



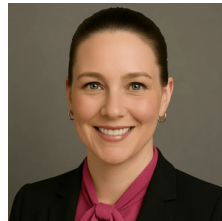
Maaria Ahmed

Academic Systems Lead
Mirdif American School



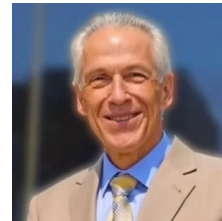
Heath Bailey

Principal
Dubai Modern Education School



Dr. Jamie Cardwell

Director of Curriculum
Emirates National Schools



Tony Crawford

Vice President of Education
Copperstone Education



Misti-Dawn Curry

Global Education Consultant



Lee Dabagia

Principal
Summit International School in Abu Dhabi



Kevin Dupont

Chief Education Officer



Dr. Catherine O'Farrell

CEO
Incluzun



Eli Ghazel

Director of PD
Copperstone Education



Crystal Goodwin

Middle School Principal
American International School



Dr. Tiffany Griggs

Assistant Principal
Mirdif American School



Jim Pastore

Principal
Sama International Schools



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

AZEEZAH SAHEED

Director of School Operations

The steady force behind the Boot Camp experience - coordinating people, operations, and countless details with exceptional care and precision.

WITH DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE BACKBONE OF OUR OPERATION



THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF

A THRIVING COMMUNITY

To every educator, school leader, facilitator, partner, volunteer, and supporter: thank you for bringing your ideas, energy, and commitment to a day designed by educators, for educators. Your willingness to learn together is what turns professional development into lasting impact.

OUR GRATITUDE

- **TO OUR HOST**
American University in Dubai and the Graduate School of Education for opening the campus to a community of learning.
- **TO OUR PRINCIPAL SPONSOR**
Growmore Education for investing in accessible, meaningful professional development for educators.
- **TO OUR ACCREDITATION PARTNER**
Array Global Accreditation for recognizing eight hours of professional learning.
- **TO OUR FACILITATORS**
For sharing your expertise, creativity, and passion with the wider education community.

LEARN. CONNECT. EVOLVE.

TOGETHER, WE BUILD THRIVING SCHOOLS.

WITH APPRECIATION TO OUR EVENT PARTNERS

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HOSTED BY



PRINCIPAL SPONSOR



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