

For Such A Time As This

by Carol Campbell, PhD

Vice President for Education • Southwestern Union Conference

We are at a time in history when the world is in need of brave leadership—leaders who are unafraid to step out with a vision and a commitment to change. The Adventist church is no exception; we need leaders who have vision and the capacity to respond continuously to change.

When speaking of change, it is useful to differentiate between first- and second-order change. First-order change works within an existing structure and involves doing more or less of something. The outcomes of the system remain the same; it is the means of producing the outcomes that change.

Second-order change involves seeing the world in a different way and challenging assumptions. It is sometimes described as transformational or disruptive, which involves new ways of doing things, changing beliefs and goals, new learning, and structural change. Brave leadership subscribes to this second type of change.

Powerful examples abound on the topic of second-order change. For the purpose of this discussion, however, we will focus on the stories of Esther and the beginnings of Adventist education. In both stories, God chose leaders that saw the world in a different way “for such a time as this.”

For if you remain silent at this time,
relief and deliverance for the Jews
will arise from another place, but you
and your father's family will perish.
And who knows but that you have
come to your royal position



Esther 4:14 says, “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

What traits did Esther possess that qualified her to be a brave leader? First, Esther showed extraordinary courage, perseverance, and empathy, risking her own life to approach the king to plead for the lives of her people. Working closely with Mordecai and other Jewish leaders, she developed a plan that was adapted to influence the king and reverse the edict against the Jews. Finally, Esther was humble and acknowledged her dependence on God throughout her story, refusing to compromise her faith or identity.

Our second example takes us to 1862, eighteen years after the Millerite Disappointment. W. H. Ball and James White are having the following conversation: W. H. Ball—Is it “right and consistent for us who believe with all our hearts in the immediate coming of the Lord, to seek to give our children an education?” James White—“The fact that Christ is very soon coming is no reason why the mind should not be improved. A well-disciplined and informed mind can best receive and cherish the sublime truths of the Second Advent.” Ellen White was said to be of the same opinion.

As a result of this ongoing dialogue, the General Conference established the School Committee in 1872. The first Adventist school was established in Battle Creek that same year. Today there are over 8,000 Adventist schools around the globe—the largest Protestant school system in the world. All due to the extraordinary vision, faith, and perseverance of James and Ellen White, along with other early Adventist leaders.

Today we need more brave, visionary leaders (principals and teachers) who will accept the challenge of second-order change in our educational institutions. As were Esther and James and Ellen White, they will be chosen of God “for such a time as this,” initiating change that is timely and relevant to further the Great Commission.



EDUCATION

Matters

in the Southwestern Union Conference

Volume 29 • Issue 2

PURPOSE

Leadership Camp—Leadership Camp will be held September 11–14, 2025 at Lone Star Camp.

Education by Design Scholarship—In summer 2025, you will receive information from the Union treasury regarding the Education by Design Scholarship.

Education by Design

Recruitment of Teachers—Two initiatives regarding the recruitment of teachers have been developed: [SWUC Teacher Education Scholarship](#) and SWAU Intro to Teaching Dual Credit Course. Contact Dr. The at SWAU if an academy would like to offer the Intro to Teaching Course.

Aspiring Teacher Club—Scholarships are available to inspire the next generation of teachers from among our academy students. Contact Jackie Downs (jdowns@sffcfoundation.org) from the SFFC Foundation if you are interested.

Pew Research Center Report—<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2025/04/22/teens-social-media-and-mental-health/>

PLAN

Library Resources—The Southwestern Adventist University Library has developed a collection of open-source resources for academy students that can be found [here](#).

Elementary Curriculum Timeline—See the attached chart for timeline information.

Library and Science Materials—Funds are available annually to junior and senior academies for library and science materials. [Junior Academy Library Subsidy Application](#); [Junior Academy Science Subsidy Application](#); [Senior Academy Library Subsidy Application](#); [Senior Academy Science Subsidy Application](#)

NAD AEtch—Technology resources and pricing can be found [here](#).

Creative Products 4 Reading—Email Melissa Hanson at creativeproducts4reading@gmail.com to gain access to an Orton–Gillingham Based Reading Program. See attached flyer.

“I Love U Guys” Foundation—Programs for crisis response and post-crisis reunification are used in more than 50,000 schools, districts, departments, agencies, organizations and communities around the world. They are created through the research-based best practices of school administrators, psychologists, public space safety experts, families, and first responders.

Generative AI Guidelines—The NAD Generative AI Guidelines are attached. They may be adjusted to fit your context.



SOUTHWESTERN UNION

2024-2025

Excellence in Teaching Award

Teresa Smith

Harrison SDA School
Arkansas–Louisiana Conference

Rebekah Cadwallader

Parkview Adventist Academy
Oklahoma Conference

Marie Maillard

Houston Adventist Academy
Texas Conference

Adeline Scherencel

Burton Adventist Academy
Texas Conference

Jennifer Dominguez

Dallas Christian Academy
Texas Conference

Edith Cummings

Crestview SDA Academy
Texico Conference

Excellence in Leadership Award

Violet Dean

Southwest Adventist Jr. Academy
Southwest Region Conference



K–2 Phonics—UFLI and Heggerty (Bridge to Reading) have been adopted as the K–2 word recognition component of Pathways. Area trainings will be scheduled.

Lifeline—Updated Lifeline supports for multi-grade administrators is available—<https://adventisteducation.org/subsites/multigrade/overview-3>

Robotics Grant—[Robotics Grant Applications](#) are due July 1. The grant will enable your school to purchase some basic equipment to begin a robotics program.

PRACTICE

PL Funds—[Professional learning funds](#) are available for attending a convention, workshop, or webinar every four years.

ASCD—The annual Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) Convention is June 29–July 2, 2025 in San Antonio.

K–12 STEM Summer Institute—See the attached flyer for the STEM Institute. Contact your superintendent if you would like to attend.

Webinars—See the attached flyer for 2025–2026 Educator Webinars.

Science Teachers' Workshop—During the fall of 2025, the Union will collaborate with SWAU to have a workshop for secondary science teachers. Details will be shared when they are available.

LEADS—The LEADS Principal Mentorship Program is a one-year training initiative for new and current Southwestern Union principal-teachers in small Adventist schools. It is predicated on Christ-centered Leadership, Engagement, Adaptability, Development, and a Scheduling framework to grow faith-based leaders who effectively manage instruction, finances, and school culture. Each quarter focuses on a critical area, such as vision-setting, student engagement, financial stewardship, and retention. By the end of the year, participants will have completed a full strategic plan and earned certification in Adventist Principal Leadership. See attached flyer.

ASDASA—The next NAD ASDASA Convention is February 9–12, 2026 at the Hilton Woodlands.

SWUC Educators' Convention—The next SWUC Convention is August 3–6, 2026 in Frisco, TX. See the attached flyer.

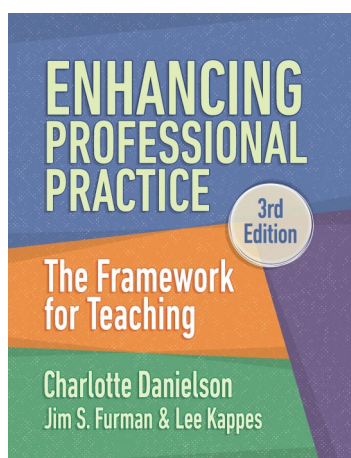
Featured Book Review—

Enhancing Professional Practice, The Framework for Teaching, 2025

Authors: Charlotte Danielson, Jim S. Furman, & Lee Kappes

This is the third edition of the popular Danielson Framework for Teaching, used by teacher preparation programs and schools for a better understanding of excellent instruction. The Framework's four domains, 22 components, and 73 key elements provide an expansive, holistic definition of what teachers across the K–12 spectrum should know and be able to do for instructional excellence. One of the key benefits of the Framework is that it gives practitioners a common language for visualizing, talking about, and reflecting on their work as they chart their ongoing progress toward instructional excellence.

The Danielson Framework forms the foundation for the Southwestern Union Teacher Evaluation process.



NAD Educators' Convention—The next NAD Convention is August 7–10, 2028 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Robotics Tournaments

March 8, 2026—Lone Star Camp—Register [here](#).
March 24, 2026—Bentonville, AR—Register [here](#).

ASI Resources for young preachers in training—<https://asiministries.org/newbeginnings/>

Mental Health Resources—Set of 7 booklets on mental health issues published by Advent Source.

PRODUCT

MAP Testing Windows

Fall—August 18–September 5, 2025

Winter—January 5–23, 2026

Spring—April 20–May 8, 2026

Surveys—Student, Staff, and Parent Surveys are scheduled for February 9–20, 2026.

Program Data—Survey Data is available on Union-wide implementation of [Continuous School Improvement \(CSI\)](#) and [Standards-based Learning \(SBL\)](#).

CSI Plans—In addition to a CSI Plan, it is recommended that schools develop the following plans:

[Spiritual Master Plan](#)
[Marketing and Recruitment Plan](#)
[Technology Plan](#)
[Emergency Preparedness Plan](#)
[Professional Learning Plan](#)
[Social Media Policy](#)

Portrait of a Graduate—The 7Cs have been renamed Portrait of a Graduate. Please see the attached flyer.



Tara Bailey

New Superintendent of Education

Oklahoma Conference



SOUTHWESTERN UNION

SouthwesternAdventistEducation.com

Contact: Education@SWUC.org