

ICSDS 2009 to Include a K-12 Program:

The International Conference of the System Dynamics Society will feature a coordinated thread of activities designed to highlight the use of system dynamics and systems thinking in K-12 education. These activities will encompass:

1. **Parallel session(s) based upon full papers on Wednesday (July 29).** These will be papers addressing the use of system dynamics in education submitted through the normal process of paper reviews.
2. **A special poster session where K-12 teachers and students will display their work (also on Wednesday).** This may include poster presentations by K-12 teachers describing what is going on their classrooms, samples of education materials used for K-12 teachers and students, examples of student work, posters by high school students describing their system dynamics projects.
3. **A sequence of workshops tailored to the K-12 community on Thursday (July 30).** These six workshops will be short, one hour lessons taught by experienced teachers highlighting how teachers, from primary school through graduate school make system dynamics accessible to their students. Three of the workshops will be a primary, a middle school and a high school lesson taught by experienced teachers from the Creative Learning Exchange and Waters Foundation Networks. The other three workshops will be given by experienced system dynamics teachers from higher education, including George Richardson. The sessions should be exciting and interesting to everyone who is interested in education at all levels.
4. **A round-table discussion to advance collaborations between the system dynamics and K-12 communities on Friday (July 31).** This morning session will focus on the coordination between system dynamics practitioners and K-12 schools. There will be an opportunity for practitioners to brainstorm with teachers and K-12 education professionals to devise plans to increase the availability of SD expertise for our K-12 schools. The outcome of the session will be a plan to go forward with specific tasks for the coming year to increase the contact between K-12 and SD professionals.

We encourage K-12 educators and system dynamicists to join us at this exciting meeting and help to contribute positively to the utilization of system dynamics, a necessary critical thinking and problem solving skill for all students, in K-12 education.

There are scholarships available for K-12 participants to both the full ISDC program and the Wednesday-Friday education portion. Please contact Lees Stuntz (stuntzln@clexchange.org) at the CLE for more information.