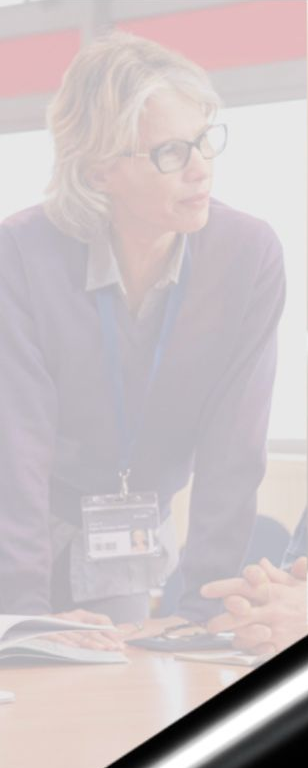




EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST TEACHER



Webinar Agenda

3:00 PM EDT - Kick-off and introductions

3:05 PM EDT - Intro to the why behind simulation and the potential power of simulations

3:10 PM EDT - Each Panelist will share their work and research, and/or their practical application of the tool within courses (up to 2-5 minutes each)

3:25 PM EDT - Facilitated Discussion among Panelists

3:50 PM EDT - Open up to Q&A from attendees.

4:00 PM EDT - Ken will wrap up.

LIVE PANEL WEBINAR

ENHANCING SCHOOL LEADER DECISION-MAKING



**JONATHAN
ENNS**

WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC
SCHOOL SYSTEM



**DAMIEN
SWEENEY**
Ed.D.

KENTUCKY
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



**SUZY
HARDIE**
Ph.D.

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA



**MICHAEL
JOHANEK**
Ed.D.

UNIVERSITY OF
PENNSYLVANIA



**TAMI
WILLIAMS**
Ed.D.

UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA AT OMAHA



**DANITA
ISHIBASHI**
Ed.D.

EWING PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

3:00 PM EDT | NOON PDT



KEN SPERO

President & Founder

kspero@schoolsims.com

Ken is an avid believer in the adage that **Experience is the Best Teacher** and, for over 30 years, has been utilizing computer-based simulations to allow professionals to safely learn from decision-making mistakes around some of the most challenging Problems of Practice. For the past six years, Ken has been focused on the challenge of the “Silent Crisis of Leadership in K-12,” working to enhance leadership capacity and improve critical thinking amongst school administrators.



EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST TEACHER

SIMULATIONS DEMONSTRATE REMARKABLE EFFECTIVENESS IN HIGH-STAKES INDUSTRIES



Healthcare



Aviation



Military

Why, despite their proven effectiveness in high-stakes industries, aren't educators embracing simulations for their preparation?

Simulation-Based Experiential Learning

PRACTICE CRITICAL DECISION-MAKING IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

SchoolSims offers a transformative learning experience for professional development in public, private, and independent schools, as well as for future educators in colleges and universities. Simulations are a series of linked scenarios in a choose-your-own-adventure format, where we use both live actors and artificial intelligence to allow learners to experience the consequences of their decisions while bridging the gap between theory and practice.



HOW CAN SCHOOLSIMS BE USED?



Synchronously



Asynchronously



In-Person



Video Conference

SchoolSims is a versatile educational tool that can be seamlessly integrated into various learning environments, offering educators and learners valuable experiences in decision-making and leadership skills development. Whether used synchronously in live classrooms, asynchronously for self-paced learning, in-person workshops, or via video conferences, SchoolSims adapts to meet educators' and students' unique needs and preferences, enhancing their ability to tackle real-world challenges in educational leadership effectively.

SIMULATION TOPICS & TITLES

LeaderSims

- Synergistic Leadership
- Uncovering Hidden Inequity
- Navigating the Politics of Equity Based Budgeting
- Cultural Competency
- Middle School Turnaround (Implementing Change)
- Value-Based Leadership
- Emerging Challenges of Distributed Leadership
- Managing Diversity in a Growing Community
- Middle School Budget Challenge
- Administrator: First Week On The Job

TeacherSims

- Building Inclusive Classrooms: Affirming Diverse Families
- Building Inclusive Classrooms: Positive Learning Environment
- Facilitating Alignment (IEP)
- Special Education: Annual Case Review
- Disruptive Teacher
- New Teacher Evaluation
- Academic Goal Setting
- Difficult Conversation: Race

CounselorSims

- Comprehensive Role of School Counselors
- Virtually Leading a School Counseling Program
- Data Driven Counseling
- School Safety
- Planning for Student Achievement (Fall 2022)
- Student Support (Transgender)
- Student in Crisis

Including many more available in the SchoolSims Library of Simulations!





Michael Johaneck, Ed.D.

Senior Fellow

Policy, Organizations, Leadership, and Systems Division
Director, Mid-Career Doctoral Program in Educational
Leadership, Inter-American Educational Leadership
Network, Penn Educational Leadership Simulations
Program, and The Judgment Project
University of Pennsylvania



Penn GSE
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Tell us about your Program

UPENN's Mid-Career Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership serves experienced P12 leaders from all across the country and its various sectors. Our cohort-based, three-year, in-person intensive doctoral program is intensely practice-centered, toward developing an inquiry stance leadership practice, and runs classes one weekend a month and one week each summer. We are now recruiting our 23rd annual cohort.

How are you using or have used Sims in your work?

In the Mid-Career Doctoral Program, we use simulations within our admissions process, in our coursework, and in some dissertation work. Our students are also involved currently in the school's Penn Educational Leadership Simulations (PELS) Project, which has years of working in this space, as well as in the Red Interamericana de Liderazgo Educacional (RILE), a regional ed leadership network now conducting cross-national research and professional development leveraging school principal-based leadership simulations. Finally, the recently-launched Judgment Project at UPENN is engaged in developing the field of situated judgment globally and across human services professions, including medicine, nursing, business and policing. Simulations figure centrally in that work as well.



Damien Sweeney

Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
Office of Teaching and Learning
Kentucky Department of Education



Our Vision

Each student and educator in Kentucky feels a sense of belonging.

Our Mission

Create and deepen partnerships to remove long-standing barriers to equity by providing supports in developing an equity lens, elevating student, family and educator voice, and promoting equitable, inclusive and healing learning communities.

How I Am Utilizing SchoolSims

Our graduate program is utilizing School Sims for future school counselors and future principals. This allows future educators to wrestle with making difficult decisions about a variety of topics while trying to balance other tasks and distractions. Going through this platform as a future principal myself allowed me to see how in many circumstances, there is not a single correct answer but a variety of just-okay solutions that force you to be decisive while moving on to the next task.





Jonathan Enns
Southwestern Area Superintendent
Wake County Public School System



Tell us about your District:

The Wake County Public School System serves approximately 160,000 students making it the 14th largest public school district in the nation. We have nine diverse regions and the county as a whole adds approximately 60+ people per day. Our magnet schools program is nationally recognized.

How are you using or have used Sims in your work?

WCPSS uses SchoolSims within our:

- New Principal Academy
- Area Principal Meetings
- New Assistant Principal Onboarding
- Assistant Principal Meetings
- Wake Assistant Principal Leadership Academy
- Administrative Intern Institute

This year we are expanding our library offerings and incorporating SchoolSims to advance learning with respect to SPED and the Office of Equity Affairs.



Danita Ishibashi, Ed.D
Assistant Superintendent
Ewing Public Schools



Tell us about your District

Ewing Public Schools has approximately 3400 students in central New Jersey. As a Title I district, our student backgrounds are socio-economically, ethnically and linguistically diverse. Our multilingual learners encompass 18 different languages and over 50% of students receive free/reduced lunch.

How are you using or have used Sims in your work?

Sims has played a crucial role in elevating leadership capabilities and readiness throughout the district. Assistant principals have immersed themselves in SIMS, simulating the role of a principal. Our District Content Supervisors regularly cover elementary buildings without Assistant Principals. Sims provides a safe space to rehearse scenarios they may encounter when assuming principal responsibilities.

This approach enhances leadership skills and preparedness across the district.



Suzy Hardie, Ph.D.

Clinical Associate Professor

Masters and Ed.S. in Educational Leadership Program
Coordinator

University of South Carolina



Tell us about your Program

The University of South Carolina in the College of Education offers a Master's degree where graduates earn their principal certification and an Education Specialist degree where graduates earn their superintendent certification. These programs are **100% Online**. Students choose the program format that works for them. Courses are available in synchronous format with live online class sessions and real-time discussions **or** asynchronous format allowing students to view sessions when their schedule allows. The M.Ed. in Education Administration prepares transformative leaders for a variety of formal and informal leadership positions at the school level. These roles include, but are not limited to: teacher leadership, instructional leadership, and principal leadership. The Education Administration, Ed.S. program will prepare graduates for a variety of formal and informal leadership positions at the district level. These roles include, but are not limited to district-level leadership, district coordinators, assistant superintendent and superintendent.

How are you using or have used Sims in your work?

At USC, we started to use Sims during the school closures of 2020, but then we realized that the decision making process that the students were given helped them to encounter a variety of scenarios in a psychologically safe environment. We embed Sims throughout the entire master's program so that students practice putting their theory and research into formulating decisions. Often times administrative interns want to have "the correct" answer, but unfortunately there is not one correct answer, sometimes one has to make the best decision with the information that one has.



Tami Williams, Ed.D.
Associate Professor & Department Chair,
Educational Leadership
University of Nebraska at Omaha, CEHHS



UNO EDL offers three degrees (MS, EdS, and EdD) and three certifications (Principal, Special Education Supervisor, and Superintendent). All coursework is delivered in a combination of synchronous online and asynchronous. We also host two annual in-person convenings to facilitate community networking and continued personal connections. UNO EDL is also the home of the Nebraska Education Policy Research Lab. NEPRL is a collaboration between Educational Leadership programs, graduate Data Science programs, local school districts, and the Nebraska Department of Education. Students identify education problems of practice and work together to investigate possible solutions or further deep understanding of the problem.

How are you using or have used Sims in your work?

UNO EDL integrates Sims into classroom group learning and discussion as well as independent practice. All students have access to the Sims library as soon as they enter the program.

Discussion Facilitation Questions/Prompts:

Of the most pressing challenges facing current school leaders, which seem most matched to the potential developmental support sims can provide?

As Ken mentioned judgment, particularly perhaps in-the-moment judgment calls leaders make daily, what is your understanding of what that is? What sort of capacity or set of capacities do you think are captured by someone having “good judgment” as a school leader?

In what ways do sims help you both understand someone’s judgment capacity, and develop that capacity further? In addition to what sim participants decide along the way, are there ways in which they participate that seem relevant to assessing/supporting them?

Finally, you likely work to develop lots of attributes in the leaders you support. Which of those attributes seem most related or important to the capacity to make good judgment calls? Are there certain leader characteristics that seem more important than others in this regard?

Panelist Contact Information:

Danita Ishibashi | danitaishibashi77@gmail.com

Jonathan Enns | ennsj@wcpss.net

Tami Williams | tamarawilliams@unomaha.edu

Suzy Hardie | SEHARDIE@mailbox.sc.edu

Damien Sweeney | damien.sweeney@education.ky.gov

Michael Johanek | johanek@upenn.edu

REQUEST INFORMATION

Ready to learn more about the
SchoolSims Library of Simulations?



<https://content.schoolsims.com/live-demo>



**THANK YOU
FOR ATTENDING!**

STAY CONNECTED

