Request for Proposal (RFP) for Future-Ready Conference 2024 Workshops

Overview

21stCentEd in partnership with the University of Technology, Jamaica is hosting the Future Ready Conference 2024 at UTech, Ja in Kingston from April 22 to April 26. We invite prospective workshop presenters to submit proposals for our conference sessions. The conference is dedicated to addressing the multifaceted challenges and opportunities in modern education. We are seeking workshops that align with our seven distinct themes: (1) evolving education, (2) future-proofing students and educators, (3) individualizing education for all students, (4) leveraging technology, (5) workforce development, (6) entrepreneurship and financial literacy, and (7) upskilling and reskilling educators.

Note: Prospective conference workshop presenters are invited to select from a comprehensive array of workshops as the foundation for their presentation (see Table 1 below). Each workshop encompasses one of the seven distinct themes integral to the evolution of education. Presenters have the freedom to modify the title and description of their chosen workshop, provided that these alterations maintain the essence and intended purpose of the original session. This flexibility allows presenters to tailor their approach while ensuring alignment with the conference's overarching goals and themes.

Workshop Elements

- Choose Workshop Slot: Using Table 1 below, choose a title/description during the day and time that you are available to present. There are morning and afternoon time slots available for flexibility.
- Workshop Format Options:
    - 60-minutes: lecture style
    - 75-minutes: round table style to encourage active participation and discussion
    - 90-minutes: hands-on activity and experience style
- Goals of the Workshop: Proposals should clearly define participant goals aligned with the conference theme and title/description chosen. Remember, you are able to change the title and description as appropriate.
- Active Learning: Methods to promote active, participatory learning over passive listening are essential.

- Practical Tools: Workshops should provide tools for bridging the gap between current and ideal states in school culture, climate, and teaching.
- Best Practices/Relevant Research: Proposals should incorporate best practices and research to aid participants in leading their organizations.
- Resources: Include reference resources in your workshop for attendee engagement and further learning.
- Introductions and Q&A: Workshops should include participant introductions and allocate time for questions and answers.
- Degree of Difficulty: Clearly state the intended audience level – early career, experienced educators, or a general audience.

Presenter Profiles

We encourage diversity among workshop presenters from various roles within education, businesses, and industry.

Requirements for Speakers
- Commitment to present the workshop at the designated time
- Permission for the distribution of supplemental resource material in hard copy and online
- Responsibility for obtaining permission for any copyrighted material in supplemental resources

Important Dates
- February 9, 2024, 11:59 pm: Presentation proposal due date.
- February 21, 2024: Notification of selected presenters and workshops.
- March 1, 2024: Confirmation to present received from selected submissions.
- April 22-26, 2024: Conference dates.

Proposal Content Requirements
- Presenter Name, Credentials, Contact Information
- Title of Workshop
- 50-word Workshop Summary
- Workshop's alignment with conference theme and goals
- Target Audience/Level (Foundation, Intermediate, Advanced)
- Workshop format:
  - 60-minutes: lecture style
  - 75-minutes: round table style to encourage active participation and discussion

- ○ 90-minutes: hands-on activity and experience style
- Abstract (150 words or less)
- Learning Objectives (x3)
- Presenter Bio and Headshot
- Presenter CV/Resume
- Enrollment Limit (~30 participants)
- Equipment Needs
- Handouts/Uploads details

Submission Instructions

Submit your RFP to rfp@futurereadyconference.com no later than February 9, 2024, 11:59 pm. For any queries, please contact rfp@futurereadyconference.com.

This RFP is your opportunity to contribute to an event shaping the next generation of learners and leaders in an ever-evolving educational landscape. Join us in creating an impactful and enlightening experience at the Future-Ready Conference 2024.

Table 1. Recommended Workshop Titles & Descriptions

April 24, 2024 - Afternoon Sessions (1:30 pm - 3:00 pm)
Workshop 1.1: **"Revolutionizing Classrooms: The Evolving Face of Education"** Description: Discover the latest trends reshaping today's educational landscape. This workshop examines how traditional learning environments are evolving, emphasizing innovative teaching methods and curriculum design to meet the needs of the modern student.
Workshop 1.2: **"Career-Ready Learning Paths: Personalizing Education for the 21st Century Workforce"** Description: This workshop delves into the concept of personalized education with a focus on preparing students for the 21st Century workforce. It offers strategies for developing customized learning paths that align with emerging career opportunities and workforce demands.
Workshop 1.3: **"Tech-Powered Teaching: Integrating Digital Tools in Education"** Description: Uncover the potential of technology in enhancing teaching and learning. This session explores various digital tools and platforms that can transform classrooms into dynamic, interactive, and engaging learning environments.
Workshop 1.4: **"Skills for Tomorrow: Preparing Students for a Dynamic Workforce"** Description: Focus on equipping students with the skills necessary for success in the future workforce. This workshop discusses the importance of soft skills, technical know-how, and industry insights in preparing students for a rapidly evolving job market.
Workshop 1.5: **"From Classroom to Boardroom: Fostering Entrepreneurship and Financial Acumen"** Description: Learn how to nurture entrepreneurial skills and financial literacy among students. This session provides educators with strategies to teach practical business skills, encouraging a mindset of innovation and financial responsibility.
Workshop 1.6: **"Teaching the Teachers: Upskilling Educators for a Changing World"**

Description: Aimed at educators, this workshop focuses on self-development and upskilling strategies in the face of technological advancements and changing educational demands. It offers tools and techniques for lifelong learning and adaptability in teaching.

Workshop 1.7: **"Future-Proofing the Curriculum: Designing Agile and Relevant Learning Experiences"**

Description: This workshop centers on updating curriculum modules to equip students for future challenges, focusing on integrating emerging technologies and skills. Through a design thinking process, it involves empathizing with industry demands, redefining curriculum gaps, and ideating on innovative teaching methods. Participants will prototype and test new curriculum modules, ensuring education remains agile and relevant in a rapidly changing world.

April 25, 2024 - Morning Sessions (9:30 am - 11:00 am)

Workshop 2.1: **"Next-Gen Learning: Adapting Education for a Digital Era"**

Description: Explore the integration of digital literacy and technology in modern education. This workshop delves into innovative teaching methods that align with today's digital-native students, preparing them for a technology-centric future.

Workshop 2.2: **"Building Resilient Learners: Skills for an AI-Driven Future"**

Description: Discuss the impact of AI on education and the skills students need to thrive. This session focuses on cultivating adaptability, resilience, and a growth mindset in students to navigate a future dominated by AI and automation.

Workshop 2.3: **"Personalized Learning: Tailoring Education to Unique Student Needs"**

Description: This workshop is focused on equipping educators with pedagogical strategies that ensure equity, diversity, and inclusion in STEM education and 21st Century skill development. It aims to empower teachers to create learning environments where students with unique needs can engage and excel alongside their peers. Utilizing a design thinking framework, the workshop guides participants through empathizing with diverse learning challenges, ideating innovative solutions, and developing adaptable, interactive educational tools for learning for all students.

Workshop 2.4: **"Harnessing EdTech: Innovative Approaches in Modern Classrooms"**

Description: Investigate the role of EdTech in revolutionizing education. This session showcases cutting-edge educational technologies and how they can be effectively integrated into teaching to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes.

Workshop 2.5: **"Career Readiness in the 21st Century: Aligning Education with Industry"**
Description: Discuss strategies for aligning education with current industry demands. This workshop focuses on developing curricula and programs that equip students with the skills and knowledge required in the modern workplace.

Workshop 2.6: **"Entrepreneurial Mindset: Integrating Business Skills into Education"**
Description: Focus on embedding entrepreneurial thinking and business skills in education. This session provides insights into teaching methods that foster creativity, innovation, and a proactive approach to problem-solving.

Workshop 2.7: **"Continual Growth: Professional Development Tactics for Educators"**
Description: Emphasize the importance of ongoing professional development for educators. This workshop offers practical approaches for teachers to continuously evolve their skills and stay abreast of the latest educational trends.

Workshop 2.8: **"Collaborative Curriculum Design: Engaging Stakeholders in Education Planning"**
Description: This workshop is designed to guide participants in engaging stakeholders effectively in education planning for collaborative curriculum design. The focus is on ensuring schools stay current with technological advancements and the evolving needs of the global workforce and industries. Participants will learn strategies for involving students, parents, and community members in curriculum development, emphasizing the importance of aligning educational goals with technological trends and industry demands. The workshop includes practical methods for empathy sessions, stakeholder brainstorming, and developing a curriculum that is both inclusive and forward-looking, preparing students for future challenges.

April 25, 2024 - Afternoon Sessions (1:30 pm - 3:00 pm)

Workshop 3.1: **"Creative Classrooms: Unleashing Student Innovation and Creativity"**
Description: This workshop is dedicated to fostering creativity and innovation in the classroom. It explores strategies and methodologies for encouraging creative thinking and problem-solving skills in students. The session includes discussions on integrating arts,

multimedia, and collaborative projects into the curriculum to create a stimulating and dynamic learning environment.

Workshop 3.2: **"Anticipating the Future: Equipping Students for a Tech-Driven Tomorrow"**
Description: Delve into the skills and knowledge required to thrive in a future dominated by technology. This session highlights the importance of digital fluency, coding, and computational thinking in equipping students for the challenges and opportunities of a tech-driven future.

Workshop 3.3: **"Integrating Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in 21st Century Education"**
Description: This workshop focuses on incorporating Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) into current curricula, with the goal of fostering emotional intelligence in students to become leaders in 21st Century education. It involves a streamlined process of empathy, ideation, and testing, leading to the development of SEL-enriched lessons that enhance student well-being and engagement in various subjects.

Workshop 3.4: **"Digital Literacy and Beyond: Integrating New Technologies in Learning"**
Description: Explore the expanding role of digital literacy in education. This session examines how emerging technologies like AR/VR, AI, and IoT can be integrated into the curriculum to provide immersive and interactive learning experiences, enhancing student engagement and understanding.

Workshop 3.5: **"Pathways to Prosperity: Nurturing Workforce Skills in Young Minds"**
Description: This workshop focuses on developing essential workforce skills in students from a young age. It covers how to instill entrepreneurial thinking, teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving skills, preparing students to meet the demands of the modern job market.

Workshop 3.6: **"Cultivating Young Entrepreneurs: Financial Skills for the New Generation"**
Description: This workshop targets the integration of financial literacy into education, focusing on nurturing entrepreneurial skills in students. It will explore innovative teaching methods for imparting financial knowledge and responsibility, aiming to prepare the new generation for economic challenges.

Workshop 3.7: **"Educator Advancement: Embracing AI for Teaching Excellence"**
Description: Aimed at modernizing educators' skill sets, this workshop concentrates on the incorporation of AI in teaching. It will cover essential reskilling techniques, showcasing how AI can personalize learning and discussing its ethical use in the classroom.

Workshop 3.8: **"Future-Ready Teaching: Reskilling Leaders and Educators in the Digital Age"**

Description: This workshop is designed for current school leaders and classroom teachers, focusing on best practice strategies to reskill them for creating a learning environment enriched with emerging technologies. The goal is to ensure that all students are not only exposed to but are also proficient in the technologies shaping our world. Participants will explore innovative approaches to integrate these technologies into their teaching, preparing students for the demands of the 21st Century and the global workforce. The workshop will cover essential skills and knowledge needed by both school leaders and teachers to adapt to rapid technological advancements, foster a culture of continuous learning, and effectively guide students in navigating and contributing to a tech-driven future.

Lecture Workshop Sessions (60 minute sessions held daily in the lecture hall)

Workshop 4.1: **"Restorative Practices in 21st Century Education: Building a Collaborative and Empathetic Learning Environment"**

Description: This work explores the integration of restorative practices in 21st Century Education, focusing on how these practices can enhance learning environments by promoting empathy, collaboration, and effective communication. The goal is to demonstrate how restorative practices can be used not just for conflict resolution, but also as a proactive approach to build a more inclusive and supportive educational culture. This approach aligns with the needs of modern education, which requires not only academic skills but also emotional intelligence and teamwork abilities. The work will delve into practical strategies for implementing restorative practices in classrooms, emphasizing their role in developing critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and preparing students to be empathetic leaders in a diverse and interconnected world.

Workshop 4.2: **"Empowering Leadership through Restorative Practices: Cultivating Growth Mindsets in Students"**

Description: This workshop is designed to demonstrate how restorative practices can be pivotal in building growth mindsets among students, empowering them to become proactive leaders and global contributors in the 21st Century. Participants will explore the synergy between restorative practices and growth mindset principles, learning how to create an educational environment that encourages resilience, open-mindedness, and collaborative problem-solving. The workshop will provide practical tools and strategies for educators to facilitate constructive dialogues, foster a culture of continuous learning and adaptability, and guide students in recognizing challenges as opportunities for growth and leadership. By the

end of the session, educators will be equipped to inspire their students to embrace a growth mindset, preparing them to navigate and contribute to an ever-evolving global society.

Workshop 4.3: **"The Restorative Educator: Transforming Schools with Inclusive Practices for 21st Century Learning"**

Description: This workshop is tailored for educators and school leaders looking to harness the power of restorative practices as a fundamental framework in their approach to leadership, classroom instruction, and student engagement. The focus is on transforming schools into inclusive, 21st Century learning environments where every student, particularly those facing challenges along their educational journey, feels valued and supported. Participants will explore how restorative practices can be effectively implemented to foster a sense of community, encourage empathetic interactions, and build stronger, more meaningful connections among students and staff. The workshop will offer practical strategies for using restorative practices to create a nurturing, inclusive educational atmosphere conducive to learning, growth, and success for all students, setting the stage for a transformative educational experience.