



Meet our Keynote Speakers

Kim Cooke

Kim earned her B.A. degree from Catawba College and a Masters degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Kim, an Elementary Physical Education teacher for the past eleven years, was named 2004-2005 **Union County Schools Teacher of the Year**. At Walter Bickett Elementary, a high priority school in Monroe, test scores have increased from 47.9 to 82.3% since Kim joined the team! Kim has presented at numerous workshops in North Carolina including "Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Conference," "Distinguished Teacher's Forum," and "Share the Wealth PE Conference" held at Jekyll Island, GA in 2005. Her expertise is kinesthetically transferring classroom content into the gymnasium. Kim has created games such as Human Calculator, Grammar on the Go, ABC's on the Move, and Pathogen Attack. Kim is energetic, innovative, and motivational. Kim lives near Charlotte with her husband Court and 3 year old daughter Cora.



Rick Smith



Rick Smith is an education consultant and international presenter with a passion for working with beginning teachers. He has taught students in San Rafael, CA for over fifteen years (with a primary focus on students at-risk), and been a mentor/support provider and mentor coordinator for seven years. Currently, he teaches in the Elementary Credential Program at St. Mary's College in Moraga and mentors beginning teachers in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has taught in the Secondary Credential Program at Dominican University in San Rafael, and has trained American Peace Corps Volunteer Teachers in Ghana, West Africa. "Mentoring New Teachers: Strategies, Structures, and Successes" by Rick Smith was in [Teacher Education Quarterly](#), Autumn, 1993. "Assume the Best for Student Success" was published in ASCD's Classroom Leadership, October 2002.

Rick is the author of the book [Conscious Classroom Management: Unlocking the Secrets of Great Teaching](#).