

# Welcome to *Venture Upward's* Virtual Home Education Conference 2024



Join us to be inspired by great speakers,  
connect with the home education community, and leave  
energized for your home-educating journey.

# Venture ward™

Monday, July 29 – Friday, Aug 2, 2024

*“Welcome to the Venture Upward’s second annual Home Education Conference! As we come together to discover new perspectives in education, we are reminded of the boundless potential within each of our students and the transformative power of personalized learning. Our commitment to fostering an environment where every family can thrive is stronger than ever. Together, we are building a community that not only supports academic excellence but also nurtures the unique strengths and dreams of our learners. Let’s embrace this opportunity to connect, share, and inspire one another as we continue our journey upward.”*

**Jessica Breuer**

President  
Venture Upward

Monday, July 29 – Friday, Aug 2, 2024

# Conference LINKS

Google Meet joining info

1—**Video call link:** <https://meet.google.com/vre-shft-zzj>

• *This is a LIVE Link* •

2—**SCAN this QR code**



3—**Dial:** (US) +1 252-591-2193 • PIN:181 786 133#



## Conference Session Times

### Session One

8 am HST • 11 am PDT • 12 pm MDT • 1 pm CDT

### Session Two

11 am HST • 2 pm PDT • 3 pm MDT • 4 pm CDT

**Conference Session Format:** 45-50 minute talks  
Prize Drawing • 10-15 minute Q&A

Monday, July 29 – Friday, Aug 2, 2024

# Conference Sessions

**Session One:** 8 am HST • 11 am PDT • 12 pm MDT • 1 pm CDT

**Session Two:** 11 am HST • 2 pm PDT • 3 pm MDT • 4 pm CDT

**Monday, July 29**

## Session One

- Andee Martineau—*How to Get Your Kids to Want to Learn* (Keynote)

## Session Two

- AnnMarie Norton—*Merging Business and Family for Entrepreneur Families*

**Tuesday, July 30**

## Session One

- Leah Spencer—*The Art of Narration*

## Session Two

- Bonnie Wiscombe—*Controlling Your Own Emotions (When Kids Are Home All Day)*

**Wednesday, July 31**

## Session One

- Amanda Webb—*Strategies for Struggling Spellers*

## Session Two

- Marci Layton—*The Magic of Morning Time*

**Thursday, August 1**

## Session One

- Scott Burns—*How to Teach Homeschool Science Your Kids Will Love*

## Session Two

- Experienced Home Education Mom Panel

**Friday, August 2**

## Session One

- Experienced Home Education Mom Panel

## Session Two

- Scott Burns—*Prepare Your Students for Real World Careers* (Ending Key Note)

# Meet Our Speakers

Monday, July 29 • Session One

## Keynote Speaker



*Andee Martineau*

### **Topic: *How to Get Your Kids to Want to Learn***

#### **Session Summary**

Put down your parenting manual, shiny gold stars, and that oh-so-perfect educational curriculum, because none of those are what's going to make your kids actually WANT to learn. Forget the latest tips and tricks to get them through their schoolwork. We're diving into what truly creates that elusive intrinsic motivation—which I know has felt about as likely to happen as finding the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

But don't worry, this isn't just a pie-in-the-sky pep talk. Get ready to revamp your learning environment and set your kids up for a smashing success this school year. I'm here to challenge how you look at learning and parenting, using a new foundation based on developmental psychology and human development.

Tune in, take notes, and let's transform your school year from the get-go. It's time to make learning fun, engaging and something your kids actually look forward to!

#### **Speaker Bio**

Andee is a mom of 6, a reformed yeller, a bestselling author, and the creator of Connect Method Parenting, a methodology that helps parents stay calm, confident, and connected, building strong relationships with their kids that last. It's the parenting playbook every parent is looking for. Andee believes it's time to radically change the way we think about parenting. Her background as a registered nurse, years of hands-on experience raising her own children, intensive coursework in developmental psychology as well as multiple coaching certifications give her the credentials that cause parents to "listen up." Andee helps parents replace the typical parenting tools with the most powerful and influential parenting tool available: connection.

(cont) Her approach helps parents discover why their kids don't listen and why most traditional parenting mindsets and practices fail. Andee reveals the strategies she's taught to over 10,000 parents to help them move past corrective parenting and into a new world of Connect Method Parenting. Andee makes parenting fun again with easy, doable, science-backed steps that actually work. She offers a coaching program called the League of Extraordinarily Connected Parents where parents get courses, coaching, and support as they implement Connect Method Parenting.

## Monday, July 29 • Session Two



### *AnnMarie Norton*

#### **Topic: *Merging Business and Family for Entrepreneur Families***

#### **Session Summary**

If you are a working mom that also wants to homeschool your children, then this is the class for you. AnnMarie is a master at systems and will show you how to reverse engineer a balanced life that gets rid of the mom guilt and allows for just the right amount of time for homeschooling, nurturing relationships, managing a household and building a business. We all want to belong to ourselves AND others. Come to this class to explore how to cultivate the perfect balance for YOU!

#### **Speaker Bio**

AnnMarie Norton is a homeschooling mompreneur of 10 kids! She and her husband Jerry own and operate multiple businesses and spend their time living on the ocean in Puerto Rico part of the year and at their Lake house in Montana the other part of the year. With such a large family and so many logistics with their back-and-forth lifestyle, AnnMarie has cracked the code on how to merge business and family. With over 17 years of homeschooling experience she has lots to share!



## *Leah Spencer*

### **Topic: “Narration to Know”**

#### **Session Summary**

Have you ever considered the power of narration and its practical applications in your homeschool or just in daily life in general? Join us as we unravel the mysteries of narration, exploring its significance and creative potential. You'll leave inspired and empowered with fresh ideas to wield this powerful tool not just for your children, but for yourself as well!

#### **Speaker Bio**

Leah's journey led her “home” 15 years ago after a corporate job loss, and she hasn't looked back since. Her passion for all things “home,” from homeschooling and home birthing to homesteading and homeopathy, defines her lifestyle. Overseeing the homeschool education of her six children for 15 years has already seen two high school graduates. Leah thrives on community building, hiking, yoga, reading and immersing herself in the great outdoors. Married for 25+ years, she cherishes time with her family. As the Founder of LifeExponential, her decade-long business, Leah serves as a faith-based life coach and foot zone therapist.



## *Bonnie Wiscombe*

### **Topic: *Controlling Your Own Emotions (When Kids Are Home All Day)***

#### **Session Summary**

This class will teach you the basics of learning to manage the negative emotions that come with homeschooling multiple children, including frustration, disappointment, anger and overwhelm. We'll discuss what it looks like to regulate your nervous system, how emotions are created within our brains, how to choose what we want to feel about a situation and how to prioritize self care in order to show up as an emotionally regulated parent.

#### **Speaker Bio**

Bonnie Wiscombe is a certified life coach, entrepreneur and homeschooling mom of 10 children. She teaches other parents and business owners how to become emotional adults and manage their minds in order to reach their greatest potential.





## *Amanda Webb*

### **Title: *Strategies for Struggling Spellers***

#### **Session Summary**

This session will provide homeschooling parents with effective strategies and practical tips to support students who struggle with spelling. Learn how to implement multisensory techniques, phonemic awareness activities, and interactive tools to enhance spelling skills and boost confidence. Empower your students to become proficient and confident spellers in a supportive homeschool environment.

#### **Speaker Bio**

We are happy to introduce to you Amanda Webb, our Director of the Student Success Team! Since joining us in October 2021, Amanda has played a pivotal role in guiding our students toward excellence.

Living in Central Arizona with her husband of thirteen years and their six children, aged between two and fourteen, Amanda is a devoted educator and very family-oriented.

As a seasoned educator, Amanda holds a Master's Degree in Special Education Cross-Categorical K-12 and an undergraduate degree in Elementary K-8 and SPED Cross-Categorical K-12. She brings over 15 years of valuable experience to the community.

Amanda's educational philosophy is centered around providing a supportive environment for families. She relays, "I love unlocking that 'aha' moment and being a safe space for families that feel judged or insecure in their home education journey." Her favorite subject to teach is math, appreciating its predictability and the clarity it brings to students.

Amanda Webb's journey and commitment to education highlight the core values of Venture Upward, where fostering student success and family support are priorities. Her story is not just one of personal achievement but is a testament to the power of finding one's calling and the impact of dedicated teaching.



*Marci Layton*

## **Title: The Magic of Morning Time**

### **Session Summary**

As a mother of seven children, ages 25 down to 9, I have found Morning Time to be the best thing we've ever done in our 16 years of home educating! Come learn why it's such a vital part of our family's education, how we've done Morning Time through the years, including recommendations for our favorite books and resources, along with practical tips and ideas. I hope you will be encouraged and inspired as you see how Morning Time can bring more joy and connection into your educational journey.

### **Speaker Bio**

Marcina has seven children, ages 25 down to nine years old (several of whom are neurodiverse), and has been home-educating for 16 years. Classic literature is her passion and after years of taking classes from Angelina Stanford, she recently got accepted into the Fellowship, a two-year literary mentorship program at The House of Humane Letters. Morning Time with her children is her favorite part of the day, and she is deeply grateful for all the moments spent learning together with story, poetry, art, music, and song. Through the years, she's been discovering what matters most and how to resist the fear of failure that every mother comes up against. She is excited to share her experiences with you.



*Scott Burns*

## **Home Science Tools: *How to Teach Homeschool Science Your Kids Will Love***

### **Session Summary**

This dynamic workshop will inspire families like you to cultivate a lifelong love for science in your homeschooling journey. This session will give you practical strategies and resources to confidently teach science whether you are a seasoned homeschooler or just starting out. Scott Burns will pull from Home Science Tools' 30 years of homeschooling experience to provide valuable insights and practical strategies for selecting science topics, choosing the right curriculum, understanding scope and sequence, and implementing hands-on teaching methods. You will also have access to free downloadable resources including a science planning eBook, a printable weekly planner and a scope & sequence planner.

### **Speaker Bio**

I am a passionate educational sales leader that has been in the industry for over 22 years. I have always believed that being an Educator is one of the most challenging and rewarding professions. As a student who struggled in school, I never would have reached my potential or be the person I am today without an amazing educator who did everything to inspire me to never give up and to believe in myself. I now have an opportunity to help any educator or parent bring that same joy of learning with hands-on science resources in school and at home.

Thursday, August 1 • Session Two

Friday, August 2 • Session One

There will be two:

*Experienced Home Education Mom Panels*



*Jessica Breuer*

### Speaker Bio

Jessica Breuer is the mother of seven amazing children ranging from eight to twenty. Her family's mission statement embraces various values, including faith, family, leadership, education, charity, empathy, joy, and living on purpose. It was upon embracing that family mission statement twelve years ago that Jessica put her own doctoral pursuits, distinguished academic awards, publications, and nationally presented research on hold to dive into homeschooling!

Several years into her homeschooling journey, an opportunity presented itself to pursue a career in the home education world that she had fallen in love with; again, she dove in. Along the way, Jessica realized her passion for helping other women grow professionally while continuing to homeschool. She has helped many women grow into their roles as both professionals and homeschooling moms.

With a deeply rooted belief in the power of encouragement and community, Jessica hopes to inspire others to live on purpose, thus allowing productivity, light, and joy to flood their lives and the lives of others.





## *Rebekah Clark-Benavides*

### **Speaker Bio**

Rebekah Clark-Benavides is the Arizona Venture School Coordinator. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with a focus on economics and linguistics from the University of Utah and is a certified Montessori Teacher with an Arizona teaching certificate. With over 12 years of experience teaching in private schools and public after-school programs, she brings expertise in the Charlotte Mason philosophy and a passion for books, science, art, and music. Rebekah grew up on a farm and enjoys being around animals, and she also has a love for sewing and traveling. Having homeschooled her five children for over 20 years, Rebekah is proud of her ASU Summa Cum Laude graduate and currently supports her other children's diverse educational paths, including homeschooling a high school junior and a 5th grader. She is also actively involved as a leader in Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, 4-H, and Girl Scouts, and finds joy in volunteering for her church and community.



## *Sarah Flake*

### **Speaker Bio**

Sarah is a dedicated home-educating mom with nearly 25 years of experience. Residing in Tucson, AZ, she and her husband have successfully taught their seven children, four of whom will be enrolled in various stages of college this fall, with just one left at home. With a background in music and a love of history and literature, she brings a rich and diverse educational perspective to her home education journey. She has followed an eclectic style of education and is trained in both TJEd (Thomas Jefferson Education) and LEMI (Leadership Education Mentoring Institute). Her extensive experience and training make her a valuable resource and advocate for the home education community.



## *Sandy Foutz*

### **Speaker Bio**

Sandy Foutz and her family reside in Northern Arizona, they have been homeschooling for 20+ years, across three states, graduating their oldest two. Strengthening family relationships by working, learning, playing, and serving together has been the heart of their family's homeschool with their four earth-side children and two heavenly daughters.



## *Marci Layton*

**Speaker Bio** – see Marci's bio on page 10



## *Ashlee Mecham*

### **Speaker Bio**

Hi! I'm Ashlee--wife to 1, mom to 5, and 15 year homeschool veteran. I love a good book, mountains and green grass, and will never say no to peanut butter and chocolate. Our homeschooling journey was fueled by a passion for books, personalized education, and a love of learning. When I'm not teaching, I enjoy hiking, reading, and playing games with my family.



## *Nancie Pratt*

### **Speaker Bio**

Nancie Pratt is a veteran homeschool mom of 20 years. She enjoys reading, watercolor painting, hiking, visiting national parks, and spending time with family. She is a lifelong learner and has degrees in English, Humanities, and Management. Nancie has worked in the virtual education field for 12 years and is currently the curriculum director at Venture Upward.



## *Christy Skousen*

### **Speaker Bio**

I live in rural Arizona where I am blessed to be married to my sweetheart of 25 years and raising my eight children, ranging in ages from eleven to twenty-four. In 2018, I graduated with honors from Brigham Young University- Idaho. Since then I have worked with Kindergarten- 3rd graders in a public school setting as a personal reading tutor. I love working with students and being present as they make new discoveries. My family started our homeschooling journey years ago. This year marks the beginning of our seventeenth year of homeschooling. I have taught all grade levels in my home (Pre-K - 12th grade) and some of them several times. My family joined Venture Upward in 2020; we have enjoyed being part of this phenomenal program.

## Ending Keynote Speaker



*Scott Burns*

### **Beyond the Books: *Prepare Your Students for Real World Careers***

#### **Session Summary**

In this session, discover how to ignite your child's passion for 21st-century careers. Join us on an inspiring journey with Ashley Chelberg, founder of Stella Maris Environmental Research, as she shares her story of transforming a childhood love for Sea Turtles and manta rays into a thriving career as a Marine Biologist and Researcher. Explore the wonders of the world beneath the waves and unravel the mysteries of science that surround us. From delving deep into the ocean's secrets to understanding the dynamics of ecological food webs and vital ecosystems, this session goes beyond theoretical knowledge. Gain insights into the practical applications of marine biology in solving real-world problems and witness how studying sea turtles has sparked a revolution in homeschooling. Ashley's experiences will not only inspire but also provide valuable guidance on integrating real-world perspectives into your homeschooling journey. Dive into the transformative power of marine biology and discover how it can captivate students and parents alike, reshaping the landscape of homeschool education. Join us for an exploration that transcends traditional learning boundaries and prepares your student for a future beyond the books.

#### **Speaker Bio**

I am a passionate educational sales leader that has been in the industry for over 22 years. I have always believed that being an Educator is one of the most challenging and rewarding professions. As a student who struggled in school, I never would have reached my potential or be the person I am today without an amazing educator who did everything to inspire me to never give up and to believe in myself. I now have an opportunity to help any educator or parent bring that same joy of learning with hands-on science resources in school and at home.



# Upcoming Events

Check out our upcoming events to learn more about the program powered by Venture Upward! We are excited to support students in with premium curriculum, fun field trips, engaging community events, and optional weekly in-person extracurricular classes.

## Arizona

July 31 **10 am** Virtual Open House

## Idaho

July 31 **4 pm** Cloverleaf Creamery–Buhl

## Minnesota

July 29 **1:50 pm** Classic Gymnastic–Buffalo

July 30 **4 pm** Grand Slam Family Fun–Coon Rapids

July 30 **7:30 pm** Online Informational Event

Aug 1 **9 am** Crosby Memorial Park–Crosby

Aug 1 **1 pm** Brainerd Public Library–Brainerd

Aug 1 **3 pm** Jack’s House Bowl–Brainerd

Aug 1 **1 pm** Back Alley Bowl–Milaca

Aug 3 **9 am** Caribou Coffee–Princeton

Aug 15 **11 am** Princeton Splash Park–Princeton



## Utah

Aug 6 **1 pm & 4 pm** Impact Ninja Gym–Sandy

Aug 7 **11 am & 2 pm** Coconut Cove–Centerville

Aug 8 **11 am & 2 pm** Lowes Xtreme Air Sports–Provo



**LINK:** [ventureupward.org/events](https://ventureupward.org/events)

▲ Use this **Link** for more information  
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Home Science Tools is your one-stop shop for everything you need to add interest to your science studies!

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# Educational Partnership

## Empowering students and igniting learning!

We are passionate about creating strong home-educating communities with a love of learning. This starts with families and their students. Each family and child is unique, and we celebrate that by supporting them in creating a customized learning experience in order to have a beautifully enriching and successful educational journey.

- A Community of Support
- Customized Educational Plans
- Dedicated Teacher Support
- Home Education Mentorship
- Academic Enrichment!
- Engaging Community Events
- Fun Family Field Trips
- Weekly In-person Extracurricular Classes
- Goal Setting & Accountability
- And more!

Whether you are just starting out on your educational journey or have years of experience, Venture Upward has something that will benefit you! Email us at [contact@ventureupward.org](mailto:contact@ventureupward.org) to find out how Venture Upward can partner with you to make all the difference!

## Venture Upward™



LOVE of Learning



scan here  
for more info

VentureUpward.org • 716.427.2677

*“At Venture Upward,  
we are here because of our families.  
We are here to serve them,  
not in just any way,  
but in the best possible way.”*

**Jon Funes**

CEO & Founder  
of Venture Upward

**Venture Upward™**

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