

# Neuroscience and Classroom Engagement : Strategies for Maximizing Students' Attention, Focus and Potential

Engage in intensive training on the topics of engagement and attention that have applications in classrooms.

Co-sponsored with the Neuroscience Research Institute, University of California, Santa Barbara

## Join Us This Summer in Santa Barbara for a Hands-on Workshop

*Learning & the Brain* is offering this Summer Institute on the ocean side campus of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

This Institute will focus on the applications of neuroscience research to teaching and learning and examine ways to maximize and maintain student attention, focus and cognition. Brain imaging studies and cognitive neuroscience are providing a clearer picture of how individuals respond to sensory stimuli and perform cognitive tasks, which has allowed for a better understanding of the brain's neural systems and how they relate to focus, learning and creative problem solving. Through lectures and facilitated discussion, participants will explore neuro-*logical* approaches for understanding and meeting the diverse academic, social and emotional needs of students. The Institute is hands-on and is **limited to 40 participants**.

## The Summer Institute Is for:

- PreK-12 Teachers, Administrators
- School Psychologists and School Clinicians
- Education Professors and College Professors

## You Will Learn to:

- Examine ways to maximize and maintain student attention and focus
- Teach students at all grade levels about their brains to empower their learning
- Decrease the fear of mistakes to increase student and class participation
- Increase encoding and mental manipulation for memory retrieval and retention
- Employ brain-friendly strategies to advance student achievement and problem solving
- Use advances in neuroscience research to ignite student motivation and engagement
- Apply the benefits of the video game model, such as reaching individual challenge levels and

self-recognition of incremental progress, to increase student motivation, effort and perseverance

## Format

This program is designed to help individuals and school teams develop the knowledge, skills and strategies necessary to responsibly apply neuroscience and cognitive science findings to the classroom to improve teaching and learning. Active participation is expected throughout this Institute.

Class sessions will be held in the afternoon on the first day and on mornings each subsequent day amounting to a program total of 20 hours. You will have afternoons free to collaborate with fellow institute participants, read, and explore beautiful Santa Barbara.

All sessions will take place at the Loma Pelona Center on the UC Santa Barbara campus and participants will be housed close by on campus. Lodging, some meals, and course materials are provided. See online schedule for meals provided.

## About the Institute

This *Learning & the Brain* Summer Institute will be led by **Dr. Judy Willis** and assisted by **Malana Willis**. This program is designed to help individuals and school teams develop the knowledge, skills and strategies necessary to responsibly apply neuroscience and cognitive science findings to the classroom to improve teaching and learning. The program offers participants an intensive professional development experience, drawing on the most up-to-date findings in affective and social neuroscience.

The Institute emphasizes attention, emotion, memory and retention and their roles in learning, motivation and long-term conceptual understanding.

This course is designed for educators with *no prior background in neuroscience*.

All sessions will take place at the Loma Pelona Center on the UC Santa Barbara campus and participants will be housed close by on campus. Lodging, some meals, and course materials are provided. See online schedule for meals provided.

#### About Dr. Judy Willis



**Judy Willis, MD, MEd**, is a neurologist and credentialed teacher. She has combined her training in neuroscience and neuroimaging with her teacher education training and years of classroom experience. Dr. Willis is an authority in the field of learning-centered brain research and teaching strategies derived from this research and has spoken at national and international educational conferences.

Dr. Willis has taught in elementary and middle schools and is currently an adjunct lecturer at the **University of California, Santa Barbara**. She is also a staff writer for *Edutopia* and *Psychology Today*, and a media spokesperson for the American Academy of Neurology.

Dr. Willis has written six books on this topic, contributed extensively to educational journals and conducts interactive professional development workshops throughout the United States and internationally. Her most recent books include *Research-Based Strategies to Ignite Student Learning (2006)*, *Brain Research Based Strategies for the Inclusion Class (2007)*, *How Your Child Learns Best (2008)*, *Inspiring Middle School Minds: Gifted, Creative and Challenging (2009)* and *Learning to Love Math (2010)*.

#### About Malana Willis



**Malana Willis, MEd**, teaches elementary school in Santa Barbara, CA. Previously she taught elementary school in Oakland, CA for over five years, taught at the American School of Bilbao in Spain and worked at the UCSB Autism Clinic. She received her Masters Degree in Education and Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from **UC Berkeley** and her BA in psychology from **Williams College**. She has been writing and presenting with her mother, Judy Willis, for several years. She co-presented a Neuroscience and the Classroom professional development course in Seville, Spain and this will be her sixth year assisting with the UCSB Summer Institute.