



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Successful Learning Conference 2026

Thriving together: Psychosocial and academic wellbeing in education

Program | Tuesday 30 June 2026

8.45am	Zoom opens
9.00 - 9.10am	Acknowledgement of Country and opening address David Evans, Professor, Special and Inclusive Education, Sydney School of Education and Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of Sydney
9.10 - 10.20am	Keynote address Understanding the fine-grained nuances in anxiety-achievement relations Sarah Fishstrom, Assistant Professor, Department of Special Education - College of Education, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, US
10.20 - 10.40am	Morning Tea
10.40 - 11.30am	Feature presentation The role of education within an ecosystem of supports for psychosocial disability Jen Smith-Merry, Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow and Professor of Health and Social Policy in the Sydney School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney
11.30 - 12.20pm	Workshop presentation Finding Joy: A transformative approach to educator practice and wellbeing Cathy Little, Associate Professor and Deputy Head of School, Sydney School of Education and Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of Sydney; and Dr Olivia Karaolis, Senior Lecturer in Special and Inclusive Education, University of Notre Dame, Sydney
12.20 - 1.00pm	Lunch
1.00 - 1.50pm	Feature presentation Thriving Minds: Designing for safety, belonging and learning Aaron Lanou, Inclusive Education Coach, Aaron Lanou Consulting, New York, US
1.50 - 2.40pm	Workshop presentation Using positive behaviour and trauma informed practice to enhance student learning and wellbeing Andrew Krisenthal, Deputy Principal - Inclusion and Support, Cambridge Park High School, Western Sydney
2.40 - 2.50pm	Beverage break
2.50 - 3.40pm	Professor of Practice presentation Eddie Woo, Professor of Practice - Mathematics Education, Sydney School of Education and Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of Sydney
3.40 - 4.30pm	Feature presentation The first fifteen minutes: How Daily Review supports learning to read Lorraine Hammond AM, Professor of Early Years Literacy, School of Education, The University of Notre Dame, Fremantle, WA
4.30pm	Conference closing remarks David Evans, Professor of Special and Inclusive Education, Sydney School of Education and Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of Sydney

Proudly hosted by the Sydney School of Education and Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of Sydney