

# Dr. Gene M. Kerns

VP and Chief Academic Officer  
Renaissance Learning, Inc.

As Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Kerns advises educators in both the US and the UK about academic trends and opportunities. Dr. Kerns is a leading authority on the Common Core State Standards, learning progressions, and formative assessment. He delivers highly sought-after presentations each year—often to standing-room-only crowds of educators and administrators.

## Prior to joining Renaissance:

Dr. Kerns served as the Supervisor of Academic Services for the Milford, Delaware school district, was an adjunct faculty member at the University of Delaware, and held various other teaching and administrative positions in Delaware and Virginia. He received Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Longwood College in Virginia, and holds a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Delaware. He is co-author of the book, *Informative Assessment: When It's Not About a Grade*.

## Former Clients include:

- Cooperative Council of Oklahoma School Administrators
- Illinois Coalition of Essential Schools
- Louisiana Association of School Administrators
- Louisiana School Boards' Association
- Michigan Association of School Administrators
- Ministry of Education of Singapore
- Mississippi Association of School Administrators
- New Jersey Principals' Association
- New Mexico Coalition of School Administrators
- New York State Unified Teachers
- Oklahoma Technology Association
- West Virginia Association of School Administrators



## Areas of specialization:

- Assessment
- Cognitive research
- Common Core State Standards
- Differentiated learning
- Educational leadership
- Integrated curriculum
- Learning progressions
- Multiple Intelligences (MI) Theory
- Response to Intervention

Cognitive science is advancing quickly and daily unlocking new secrets of how humans learn, serving to inform education like never before. Dr. Kerns reviews these findings about how people learn and how they align with and can support our work around the CCSS.

*See more about Dr. Kerns' information-rich presentations on the following page.*



Let Dr. Kerns lend his expertise to you and your colleagues.

Dr. Kerns dynamic, information-rich presentations deliver practical guidance and application practices educators need to meet the strict demands of the Common Core, including:

- **At the Core of the Core: Essential Details for School Leaders.** Tasked with overseeing all aspects of our schools, leaders can often be overwhelmed. Yet, their guidance is crucially important for any initiative to be successful. This keynote covers the essential, non-negotiable details of leading a Common Core implementation—those things every administrator in a Common Core state must know.
- **The Most Fruitful Ground: Where to Focus Your Time and Energy for the Greatest Return.** The pressures of student performance and educator effectiveness are ever increasing. Each day, schools allocate countless resources in an attempt to be successful in these two areas. But are they allocating their resources wisely? This session will review essential research around educator effectiveness and suggest key areas of focus likely to pay the greatest dividend, among them learning progressions and quality formative classroom assessment.
- **There's More than the Core: Reflections on Ideas Deeper than Any Standard Set.** While the choice of a standard set has profound impact on students' education, there are some truths that are far more universal—things that transcend language, culture,

and time. Cognitive science is advancing quickly and daily unlocking new secrets of how humans learn, serving to inform education like never before. Dr. Kerns reviews these findings about how people learn and how they align with and can support our work around any educational standards.

- **The Exciting New Frontier of Learning Progressions.** They go by different names and come in many shapes and sizes, but there is no debating the fact that learning progressions figure prominently in both the Common Core State Standards and other major standards sets around the globe. Learn more about how these tools can reframe our thinking and take us to a new level.

Multi-hour/full day sessions are also available. Current multi-hour training topics include:

- **Avoiding the Most Common Mistakes with Response to Intervention (RTI)**
- **Talking Common Sense About the Common Core: A Forum for School Leaders**
- **The Path Forward: Learning Progressions**
- **Informative Assessment: When It's Not About a Grade**

Contact your Renaissance Learning™ sales representative or call (800) 338-4204 today to inquire about his availability.