

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Heather Kardeen, OAGC President

The Ohio Association for Gifted Children (OAGC) recently hosted its highly anticipated Annual Fall Conference from October 15 to 17, 2023, bringing together educators, parents, and advocates from across the state, dedicated to nurturing the talents and potential of gifted children. Held at the Hilton Columbus at Easton, the fall conference served as a platform for the exchange of knowledge, networking, and inspiration, making it a crucial gathering for those involved in the field of gifted education.

The OAGC Annual Fall Conference is renowned for its commitment to promoting excellence in gifted education. Educators, parents, and professionals gathered to discuss innovative strategies, best practices, and the latest research in the field. The conference's diverse range of presentations and workshops catered to the unique needs of gifted learners, enabling attendees to stay at the forefront of gifted education.

One of the highlights of the conference was the impressive lineup of keynote speakers, Colin Seale and Dr. Brian Housand, who shared their insights and expertise. These speakers are leaders in the field of gifted education and inspired attendees with their knowledge and passion. Their presentations covered a wide range of topics, including the importance of critical thinking for gifted children, strategies for developing equity and creativity, and the role of technology in enhancing gifted education.

The annual OAGC Fall Conference has long been a hub for the latest developments and innovations in gifted education, and the 2023 conference was no exception. One of the standout presentations was by Dr. Brian Housand.

Dr. Housand is a household name in the field of gifted education. With an extensive background in both teaching and research, he has dedicated his career to advancing the education of gifted children. As a coordinator, author, and sought-after speaker, Housand has always been at the forefront of educational trends. His presentation on ChatGPT, a cutting-edge technology that is making waves in the educational



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community, lived up to his reputation for pushing the boundaries of what's possible in gifted education, and provided a captivating glimpse into the future.

ChatGPT is a state-of-the-art AI language model developed by OpenAI. It can engage in text-based conversations, answer questions, and provide valuable information on a wide range of topics. This technology has the potential to transform the way educators interact with students and how students learn.

In his presentation, Dr. Housand delved into the myriad ways in which ChatGPT can enhance the education of gifted children. He highlighted several key points:

- **Personalized Learning:** ChatGPT can adapt to individual students' needs, providing a customized learning experience. This level of personalization is invaluable in catering to the unique requirements of gifted learners.
- **Accessibility:** ChatGPT can help bridge the gap in access to resources and support, making high-quality educational content available to all students, regardless of their location or background.

- **Enrichment:** With its vast knowledge base, ChatGPT can introduce students to advanced topics and challenge them with complex questions, fostering intellectual growth and curiosity.
- **24/7 Support:** ChatGPT is available around the clock, allowing students to seek help and guidance whenever they need it, thus promoting independent learning.

The attendees at the OAGC Fall Conference 2023 were captivated by Dr. Housand's presentation on ChatGPT. Many educators and parents saw the potential for this technology to transform the way gifted education is delivered, making it more accessible, engaging, and effective. There was a palpable sense of excitement in the room as educators began envisioning how they could integrate ChatGPT into their classrooms.

The OAGC Annual Fall Conference also provided invaluable networking opportunities for attendees. Educators had the chance to connect with like-minded professionals, share experiences, and discuss strategies to better serve gifted students. Parents and advocates could exchange ideas and resources to support gifted children in their communities. The conference facilitated collaboration among all stakeholders, ensuring a collective effort to advance gifted education in Ohio.

As always, this year's conference featured an exhibition area where educational publishers, organizations, and vendors showcased their products and services. Attendees had the opportunity to explore a wide array of educational resources, including books, teaching materials, software, and programs designed to support gifted education. This not only enriched the conference experience but also provided attendees with practical solutions for their educational needs.

One of the key themes of the conference was the recognition of the diverse needs of gifted children. The presentations and workshops covered a range of topics, from gifted students with disabilities to those from underrepresented backgrounds. This inclusive approach highlighted the importance of identifying and nurturing the potential of all gifted children, regardless of their background or challenges.

The Ohio Association for Gifted Children Annual Fall Conference at the Hilton lived up to its reputation as a vital event in the field of gifted education. The conference's commitment to promoting excellence, the outstanding keynote speakers, networking opportunities, and the diverse array of resources made it a resounding success. It served as a powerful reminder

of the importance of providing gifted children with the support and opportunities they need to reach their full potential.

Dr. Brian Housand's presentation on ChatGPT, as a standout, provided a glimpse into the future of education for gifted children. As technology continues to advance and educators harness its potential, the possibilities for nurturing the talents and abilities of gifted students seem limitless. ChatGPT is just one example of the innovative tools that can help shape the future of education and create a more inclusive, personalized, and enriching learning experience for all students. As gifted education continues to evolve, the Ohio Association for Gifted Children's conferences play a pivotal role in shaping the future of education in Ohio and beyond. We have a commitment to staying at the forefront of these developments to ensure Ohio's gifted learners will continue to receive the best education possible.

Heather Kardeen
OAGC President¹

¹ Full disclosure - while I did some tweaking, I did not write this article. Brian Housand's presentation on *Welcoming our Robot Overlords: ChatGPT, Midjourney, and the Ever Evolving World of AI*, inspired me to see the capabilities of what ChatGPT could do. I believe If used correctly with our gifted students, the possibilities are endless. We just need to open our minds and welcome those robot overlords.