

NCHEA



Nebraska Christian Home Educators Association

CONFERENCE & CURRICULUM FAIR

March 7-8, 2025

Indian Hills Community Church

1000 S. 84TH ST.

LINCOLN, NE 68510

FEATURED SPEAKERS

VICKI BENTLEY

Homeschooling with Confidence

DR. DOUGLAS PIETERSMA

National Home Education Research Institute

“I have no greater joy than this, to hear of
my children walking in the Truth.” III John 1:4

YOU ARE GRACIOUSLY INVITED TO ATTEND

The NCHEA's 38th Annual Conference and Curriculum Fair (C&CF). The ultimate purpose of the C&CF is to bring glory and honor to our Lord Jesus Christ in all that is said and done. We hope that the workshops and keynote sessions serve to be a witness to the lost, encouragement to the downtrodden, provide fellowship for believers, and a time of rest for weary parents.

WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND?

- Be inspired and encouraged by our speakers
- Shop the exhibit halls and see what's new
- Meet and have fellowship with other like-minded home-educating parents
- Mentor new homeschooling parents
- Learn about homeschooling and parent-led education
- Enjoy "couple time" away from home and children
- Be blessed

Sincerely,

NCHEA Board, Officers, and Conference Committee

QUESTIONS?

Call after 6:00 p.m.

Janell Papke | cjpapke@yahoo.com | (402) 580-1374

Michelle Pietzyk | mdpietzyk@gmail.com | (402) 480-1347

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE FRIDAY, MARCH 7

8:30 a.m.
Registration Begins
8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Exhibit Halls Open for Shopping
9:30 –10:30 a.m.
Opening General Session
11 a.m.
Navigating the Exhibit Hall*
11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Workshop Sessions
2:15-2:45 p.m.
Exhibitor Workshops
5:00 p.m.
Exhibit Halls Close

* FOR NEW CONFERENCE ATTENDEES. MEET AT 11 A.M. FOR A FUN ORIENTATION SESSION IN ROOM 1422-23.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

8:30 a.m.
Registration Begins
8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Exhibit Halls Open for Shopping
9 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Workshop Sessions
10:15–10:45 a.m.
Exhibitor Workshops
12 p.m.–1:15 p.m.
Support Group Leader Luncheon**
3:30 p.m.
Exhibit Halls Close
3:30–4:30 p.m.
Closing General Session & Graduate Recognition

** SUPPORT GROUP LEADERS JOIN US FOR AN INFORMATIONAL AND INSPIRATIONAL SESSION. RSVP ON THE REGISTRATION FORM. BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH OR ORDER A SACK LUNCH BY 9AM ON SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH AT THE NCHEA REGISTRATION TABLE.

Pre-Registration & Payment

SAVE \$\$\$ WITH EARLY REGISTRATION!

Pre-registrations must be received by February 1, 2025. When your online registration is received, you will get an email confirmation. Please save this confirmation as your record of registration.

Each individual or couple that pre-registers will receive one C&CF syllabus at check-in. The syllabus contains outlines and resources. Additional copies may be reserved in advance on the registration form for \$15. Individuals or couples registering at the door receive a syllabus while supplies last.

FOR QUICK AND EASY REGISTRATION GO TO WWW.NCHEA.ORG

Pre-Registration is all online for 2025!

Visit [NCH EA.org](https://www.nchea.org) to pre-register today!

The pre-registration process has been updated and is easy to use! A few things to note for 2025:

- You will start by adding a ticket to the conference for you and your spouse
- Then you will walk through the pre-registration process adding on options as you go

PRICING FOR 2025:

Conference Ticket for husband/wife: **\$70**

OPTIONAL ADD ONS:

- Family attendance for the conference (different than the Teen or Kids Conferences) and/or Participation of your graduate in the Graduation Recognition: **\$35**
- Teen Conference: **\$40** for your first teen and \$30 for each additional teen sibling.
- Kids Conference: **\$40** for your first child and \$30 for each additional sibling.
- Extra Syllabus: **\$15**
- Pre-ordered MP3s: **\$45** (listed as \$65 but a \$20 discount will be applied at checkout!)

C&CF INFORMATION

PRE-REGISTRATION

Save \$\$\$ when you register by February 1, 2025! Register online at www.NCHEA.org. Please save your online confirmation as record of registration.

LODGING

Take advantage of the NCHEA special lodging discount. Spend time with other families.

Staybridge Suites Lincoln Northeast

1501 N. 86th St.

Call Staybridge Suites at (402) 484-6000. Reservations must be made by Thursday, February 6, 2025.

Hampton Inn South Heritage Park

5922 Vandervoort Dr.

Call Hampton Inn at (402) 420-7800. Reservations must be made by Thursday, February 6, 2025.

Fairfield Inn

8455 Andermatt Dr.

Call Fairfield Inn at (402) 325-6400. Reservations must be made by Thursday, February 6, 2025.

EXHIBIT HALLS

Your C&CF registration includes unlimited access to the Exhibit Halls featuring publishers, textbooks, and teaching materials. There is no discount to attend only the Exhibit Halls.

SOLICITATION

No unauthorized solicitation or distribution of material is permitted at the C&CF or in the parking lot.

CHILDREN/TEENS

For their safety and security, children/teens attending the conference with their parents must remain with a parent at all times. "Children" is defined as persons under the age of 18 years. Adult children in the home who want to attend must pay and register for the conference.

On-site childcare is not available. A room is available to change diapers, nurse babies or for mothers to have quiet time with their babies.

COFFEE SHOPPE

Do you need a break? Join us in the Coffee Shoppe in Room 1422-23 to enjoy some relaxation and catch up with friends. Specialty coffee and snacks are available for purchase.

VOLUNTEERS

The C&CF is planned and conducted by home-school parents like you. This undertaking requires

Take the Conference Home!

Pre-purchase MP3 downloads of all the workshops for just \$45. You will receive an email prior to the start of the conference with your download code. Please note the code expires 60 days.

many volunteers. Prayerfully consider volunteering. Please check the box on the registration form marked "volunteers" or call Janell Papke at (402) 580-1374, or Michelle Pietzyk at (402) 480-1347.

REFUND POLICY

No refunds or adjustments are made at the C&CF. All refund requests must be made in writing by February 28th. All refunds are subject to a \$5 cancellation fee. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope when requesting a refund.

FOOD

Food and drink are NOT permitted in the church, except in the Coffee Shoppe. Water is allowed in a sealed container.

EXHIBIT AND ADVERTISING

Advertising in the syllabus and exhibitor space is available. For information, contact NCHEA@NCHEA.org. Advertising and exhibiting is at the discretion of the C&CF committee and denials are without comment. Advertising must be received by February 1, 2025.

CALLS

The church does not sponsor this event and no calls should be directed to Indian Hills Community Church.

PHOTOS AND VIDEO

When you attend/enter the NCHEA C&CF, you will be entering an area where photography, videography, and/or audio recording may occur. By entering the event premises, you consent to photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction of the same to be used for the purposes of print, news, web casts, promotional purposes, telecasts, advertising, inclusion on websites, or any other purpose as required by the NCHEA, its affiliates, or its representatives.

Graduate Recognition

SATURDAY, March 8, 3:30 p.m.

Sign your senior up for Graduate Recognition.

The Closing Session and Graduate Recognition are open to the public.

Visit www.NCHEA.org for the graduate questionnaire, fees and information. Parents of graduates must register for the conference and choose the Family/Graduation add on option.

For questions, contact:

Janell Papke at cjpapke@yahoo.com

Michelle Pietzyk at mdpjetzyk@gmail.com

DYSLEXIA SCREENING

Shelli's Speech, Language and Reading is screening children of all ages. Screening takes 90 minutes and the fee is \$60. Shelli will be donating 20% of the proceeds to NCHEA. To schedule a screening, contact Shelli Cook at (402) 438-2143 or shelli777@hotmail.com.

SUPPORT GROUP LEADERS LUNCH

Thank you for all that you do! Saturday from Noon-1:15 p.m., join us for a great time to connect with other leaders and encourage one another--Room 1101-1102. Please bring your lunch or order a sack lunch at the NCHEA registration table.

FIND YOUR LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP

Stop by the NCHEA table in the lobby to find our information about local support groups and connect with people in your area. If you are a support group leader, please stop by the table and mark your group on the map. If you have not given us your support group information, please send it to Tina Gould at NCHEA@NCHEA.org.

BUY IT HERE AND WIN!

Support our exhibitors by purchasing your materials at the C&CF. Enter to win a \$100. Bring your receipts to the NCHEA table in the foyer. Receive one entry for every \$25 purchase. (Ex. \$25=1 ticket, \$50=2 tickets, etc.)

Drawing to win \$100 will be at 12:10 p.m. on Saturday at the NCHEA table. Must be present with ID to win.

Kids and Teen Conferences

March 7-8

Kids and Teens once again have their own fun and educational conferences during the C&CF, conveniently located at Indian Hills for 2025.

See the back of the brochure for registration information!

FEATURED SPEAKERS



VICKI BENTLEY

Speaker, Homechooler

Meet Vicki Bentley, a joyful mother of eight daughters, foster mom to fifty children, and proud grandma to 23 wonderful grandbabies (plus eleven great-grandchildren, so far). Alongside her husband Jim, she's homeschooled 17 children, and her workshops and articles reflect her understanding of the daily challenges facing homeschooling parents.

Since 1991, Vicki has been an integral part of support group leadership, providing invaluable guidance and support to homeschooling families in Virginia and beyond. Her past involvement in the executive board and convention committee of the Home Educators Association of Virginia and her 15+ years of service at HSLDA as an educational consultant and group services director underscore her commitment to empowering parents, students, and leaders on this homeschooling journey.

Vicki blogs at EverydayHomemaking.com and has authored countless magazine articles, as well as such essential resources as *My Homeschool Planner*, *The Everyday Family Chore System*, and *Home Education 101: A Mentoring Program for New Homeschoolers*, and she is a contributor to *Help! I Just Pulled My Kids Out of School!*

Through her writing and her workshops, Vicki shares practical insights and encouragement and has helped thousands of families to homeschool with confidence.



DR. DOUGLAS PIETERSMA

Researcher, Homechooler, Professor

Douglas Pietersma is a retired military intelligence officer and currently an education researcher holding a Doctor of Education degree from Regent University with a research emphasis on homeschooling and Christian education. His dissertation researched focused on the intersectionality of discipleship and the Christian homeschooling experience. Dr. Pietersma is a research associate with the National Home Education Research Institute where he serves as the editor of the *Home School Researcher*, a peer-reviewed journal which focuses on homeschool-related research work. He is also an adjunct professor of education in the School of Education at Regent University teaching graduate courses in education, mentoring graduate and post-graduate students as well as serving on and chairing dissertation committees. In addition to research and editing work, Dr. Pietersma is father to a homeschool graduate and continues to home educate his youngest, special-needs high school student.

TEEN CONFERENCE



TIMOTHY SCHMIDT

Timothy Schmidt is a home-school father of four and a graduate of The Master's Seminary. He has served as the preaching pastor at Firth Bible Church since 2008. He has taught a variety of home-school courses on apologetics, philosophy and logic.



ADAM LLOYD JOHNSON

Dr. Adam Lloyd Johnson earned his Ph.D. at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has taught for the Rhineland School of Theology in Wolmersen, Germany, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri, and serves as a Senior Research Fellow at the Center for the Foundations of Ethics at Houston Christian University. He is the president and founder of *Convincing Proof*, a ministry that provides good reasons and evidence to trust in Christ. He is the author, editor, or contributor of several published works including *A Debate on God and Morality: What is the Best Account of Objective Moral Values and Duties?*, co-authored with William Lane Craig, J. P. Moreland, Erik Wielenberg, and others. His most recent book, *Divine Love Theory: How the Trinity is the Source and Foundation of Morality*, was published in 2023 by Kregel Academic. His work has also been published in several peer-reviewed academic journals and he has spoken at numerous churches, schools, and conferences in North America and Europe. You can learn more about Adam and his work at www.convincingproof.org

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



TIM & ANGIE BATES

Tim and Angi are on their 22nd year of homeschooling. They have graduated two children and have one more currently homeschooling. They enjoy speaking with and encouraging new and existing homeschoolers.

MIKAELA BETKA, OD, FCOVD



Dr. Mikaela Betka is a Nebraska native. She graduated from Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry in 2015 and completed a residency in Developmental Vision and Neuro-Optometric Vision Rehabilitation in 2016. Dr. Betka is the co-founder and behavioral optometrist at inSIGHT Vision Performance Center. She is an expert in binocular vision and visual processing deficiencies and loves to help patients of all ages achieve their best possible vision. Her goal is to give patients the tools that they need to be successful in school, work, sports, and life.

DARA HALYDIER



Dara Halydier is an international author and national speaker with 21 years of experience as a homeschooling mom and 27 years of experience as a speaker and Bible teacher. She is the mother of five grown boys and grandma to thirteen beautiful children. Dara helped to start two local homeschooling support groups in Texas. She is the executive director of Abiding Truth Ministry and the author of the Practical Proverbs series, *Dancing in the Pain*, and *As They Sit and Stand: A Resource and Guide for Teaching Your Children the Bible*. Dara has learned life's lessons the hard way – experience! The lessons she shares come from truths that she has learned from dealing with chronic pain and a disability, from having moved over thirty times, having four boys with learning disabilities, and having overcome a past of abuse and shame to proclaim God's grace, forgiveness, and freedom. Dara teaches with humor, wisdom, and vulnerability as she reaches out to encourage and equip the next generation.

MONICA IRVINE



Monica Irvine is the President and creator of The Etiquette Factory, Co-Founder of FUNdamentals4Kids and a retired Home School Mom. Monica is a master motivator and dedicated instructor who excels at motivating children and parents to strive to be their best selves. As a Certified Etiquette Instructor and Life Coach and working in the hospitality industry for 34 years, Mrs. Irvine specializes in etiquette and professional instruction to help ensure the success of each individual both personally and professionally. Mrs. Irvine is the published author of six books on etiquette & parenting, including *Etiquette for Beginners*, *Life Skills for You*, *Etiquette Masters*, *A Dating Guide for Ladies & Gentlemen*, *Raising a Generation of Ladies and Gentlemen*, & *A Schedule Makes for a Happy Family* as well as the storybook series, *FUNdamentals4Kids*. Mrs. Irvine is a national speaker, speaking to thousands of parents, educators, professionals and children every year. Residing in Knoxville, TN with her husband, Charles, Monica spends her free time enjoying the outdoors of East Tennessee and spending time with her family of three boys and three grandchildren.

STEPHANIE MCPHILOMY



Homeschooling was never part of Stephanie McPhilomy's plan, but with God's leading, it became one of the best decisions her family ever made. After attending the University of Northern Colorado, where she studied business management, she spent nine years working in healthcare management. Eventually, God's gentle guidance led her to become a full-time homemaker and then a homeschool mom. Now, with three amazing children and a wonderful husband, she has eight years of homeschooling experience and is passionate about helping other families on their homeschool journey!

REBEKAH NAFZIGER



Rebekah is passionate about being a mom of six, ages 6-18, homeschooling, and discipleship. As a former classroom teacher, she enjoys the challenge of teaching multiple ages and needs simultaneously, including a son with Prader-Willi Syndrome. A lifelong learner, Rebekah rarely finds herself with nothing to do. Top on her list would be sharing a good book with her kids, plotting outside adventures, reading any number of books from her multiple piles, being creative in the kitchen for her family's dietary needs, and putting to use her music degree to teach her kids rhythm, part singing, and sight singing. Unfortunately, her love of the English language, her delight in a well-crafted sentence, and her eye for grammar were not passed down to her kids. Instead, her family practices daily habits of memorizing scripture, singing hymns, and learning to work together. Rebekah resides in rural eastern Kansas with her husband, six children, various canines, felines, poultry, bovines, ovines, four caprines, porcine, and one equine. Rebekah seeks to find continual strength, wonder, and hope in her King whose mercies are new every morning. Great is Thy Faithfulness!

MICHELLE PIETZYK



Michelle has volunteered on the NCEA Conference and Curriculum Fair Planning Committee for the last eight years and enjoys helping others as they start their homeschool journey. Michelle is a chemical engineer and works for a Lincoln engineering firm. Her daughter graduated in 2023 after homeschooling for eight years.

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WORKSHOP SCHEDULE



KEITH SOENCKSEN

Keith Soencksen is a Christian homeschooling advocate and father of one son and five daughters. His wife Karen has home schooled all of their children from kindergarten through high school, with Keith occasionally contributing as a part time teacher of high school math and science. Their five oldest have all graduated, and the sixth is due to graduate in 2026.

BRIAN YOUNG

Brian Young, an internationally known speaker and author, was a teacher and principal for ten years before becoming director of Creation Instruction Association and the Boneyard Creation Museum in Broken Bow, NE. He also serves as an instructor of many video-based science courses for homeschooling families at Master-BooksAcademy.com. Brian has been speaking on the topic of creation and biblical authority doing debates at universities, going into prisons, and sharing at churches, schools and camps around the world for over 25 years. He uses the Bible as the foundation for science and education. It's the lie that's captured generations, eroding a belief in the Creator God and the truth and authority of His Word: evolution and millions of years.



Friday

9:30-10:30AM

WELCOME SESSION

Robin Gould and NCHCA Board, Auditorium

HOMESCHOOLING 101: HOME-SCHOOLING IN NEBRASKA

Michelle Pietzyk, 1101-1102

11AM - 12PM

LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER: BENEFITS OF HOME EDUCATION

Dr. Douglas Pietersma, Auditorium

DYSLEXIA, ADHD, AUTISM & MORE: SIMPLE STRATEGIES TO TEACH OUR EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS ANYTHING!

Rebekah Nafziger, 1404

A MOM'S SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

Vicki Bentley, Chapel

2:15-2:45 PM

EXHIBITOR WORKSHOPS

NAVIGATING THE EXHIBIT HALL

Tim & Angi Bates, 1422-1423

3-4 PM

FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING IN HOME EDUCATION

Dr. Douglas Pietersma, Auditorium

SUPERNATURAL SELECTION: UNVEILING THE TRUTH BEYOND EVOLUTION

Brian Young, 1101-1102

EXPLORING CURRICULUM OPTIONS

Vicki Bentley, Chapel

THE REAL WORLD: ARE THEY READY?

Dara Halydier, 1404

VISION AND LEARNING

Dr. Mikaela Betka, 1101-1102

1-2PM

A FATHER'S ROLE IN HOME EDUCATION

Dr. Douglas Pietersma, Auditorium

RAISE DOERS OF THE WORD SO THAT YOUR CHILDREN WILL HAVE GREATER JOY AS THEY SERVE THEIR FELLOWMAN!

Monica Irvine, 1404

HOMESCHOOLING MIDDLES WHILE YOU STILL HAVE LITTLES

Vicki Bentley, Chapel

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Saturday

9-10AM

**HOMESCHOOLING MOTIVATIONS,
OBSTACLES, AND HOW TO
OVERCOME THEM**

Dr. Douglas Pietersma, Auditorium

**BLUEPRINT FOR HIGH SCHOOL
SUCCESS**

Vicki Bentley, Chapel

**SPARK & SUSTAIN: FUN, INTER-
ACTIVE LEARNING TO REDUCE
BURNOUT**

Stephanie McPhilomy, 1101-1102

**HOW ARE IMPERFECT AND FLAWED
PARENTS SUPPOSED TO RAISE
VALIANT CHILDREN?**

Monica Irvine, 1404

10:15-10:45AM

EXHIBITOR WORKSHOPS

11AM – 12PM

**HOME EDUCATING SPECIAL NEEDS
STUDENTS**

Dr. Douglas Pietersma, Auditorium

**WHEN LIFE BROADSIDES YOUR
HOMESCHOOL**

Vicki Bentley, Chapel

TO BE ANNOUNCED

1101-1102

**WHAT IS HOMESCHOOLING
SUCCESS?**

Dara Halydier, 1404

1:30-2:30PM

**POLITICS, ELECTIONS, AND THE
GLORY OF GOD**

Keith Soencksen, Auditorium

**ORGANIZED (WELL, ALMOST!) –
TIME MANAGEMENT FOR BUSY
MOMS**

Vicki Bentley, Chapel

TO BE ANNOUNCED

1101-1102

**EQUIPPING PARENTS WITH THE
BIBLICAL TRUTHS ON THE
HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA**

Brian Young, 1404

3:30-4:30PM

**CLOSING SESSION AND
GRADUATE RECOGNITION**

Dr. Douglas Pietersma, Auditorium

TEEN CONFERENCE

How do we know the Bible is from God?

Exodus 4:1 "What if they will not believe me and will not listen to my voice? For they may say, 'Yahweh has not appeared to you.'"

In this conference students will learn good reasons and evidence to believe that the Bible is from God. Students will be equipped to answer the following questions: Many people throughout history have claimed to have messages from God, but how do we know which are really from God and which are fake? How can the Bible be from God since it was written by humans? Why do Christians believe the Bible is completely true and contains no errors? How did Christians come to the conclusion that these 66 books in particular are truly messages from God? This conference will be led by Timothy Schmidt and Adam Lloyd Johnson.

Register online at www.NCHEA.org

Conference is at Indian Hills Community Church, 1000 84th St., Lincoln, Nebraska

SCHEDULE

Friday: Check-in 8:30 a.m., Conference 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday: Check-in 8:30 a.m., Conference 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Parents should meet their teens in the south lobby of the church.

Speakers: Timothy Schmidt and Adam Lloyd Johnson

PARENTS/GUARDIANS MUST:

- Pre-register for the parent C&CF.
- Pre-register and prepay for each teen online.
- Provide lunch if meals are not prepaid. (No refrigeration available.)
- Complete the online Medical Release and Indemnification Agreement found on the NCHEA website prior to February 15, 2025.

Questions? Contact Jean Benett at jben460@gmail.com

KIDS CONFERENCE

Explore heros of the Bible with the "His Story Museum"

Register your kids for an engaging and enriching two days with Bible time, crafts, music and games!

The Kids Conference will focus on the gospel and what it means to be a true disciple of Christ. Kids will learn what it means to be holy, how to pray, and learn about The Truth.

Register online at www.NCHEA.org

Indian Hills Community Church
1000 S. 84th St., Lincoln, Nebraska
East entrance by playground

SCHEDULE

Friday: Check-in 8:30 a.m., Conference 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday: Check-in 8:30 a.m., Conference 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Parents check in children at the East entrance of church and then go to Southwest entrance for the parent conference.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

- Pre-register for the parent C&CF.
- Pre-register and prepay for each child online.
- Bring a sack lunch, two snacks each day, and water bottles only. No refrigeration is available.
- Complete the online Medical Release and Indemnification Agreement found on the NCHEA website prior to February 15, 2025.
- Kids should wear tennis shoes for game time.

Questions? Contact Tina Gould at tinakgould@gmail.com.

Space is limited, so register early!

NOTE: There are no "walk-in" registrations at the Kids Conference.

