



2005 Reading Conference

*Closing the Literacy
Achievement Gap:
Preschool through
Grade 12*

**Friday, October 28, 2005
Westin Hotel at
Los Angeles Airport**

 **Washington Mutual**

*Sponsored by the Washington Mutual Foundation, the CSU Office of the Chancellor,
and the CSU Center for the Advancement of Reading*

Conference Agenda

The California State University wishes to thank the Washington Mutual Foundation for providing funding for this conference. Thanks also to the Conference Planning Committee: Nancy Brynelson and Dana L. Grisham, Center for the Advancement of Reading; Valerie Helgren-Lempesis, CSU East Bay; Marcy Merrill, CSU Sacramento; Lisa Hutton, CSU Dominguez Hills; and Geri Mobler, CSU Bakersfield.

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **Registration and Coffee**

Concourse Ballroom Foyer

9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Opening General Session**

Concourse Ballroom A/B, 2nd Floor

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Nancy Brynelson and Dana L. Grisham, Co-Directors, Center for the Advancement of Reading, California State University, Office of the Chancellor

Beverly Young, Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Teacher Education and Public School Programs, California State University, Office of the Chancellor

Keith Boyum, Associate Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, California State University, Office of the Chancellor

Antonio Manning, First Vice President and Regional Manager—Corporate and Employee Giving, Washington Mutual

Keynote Presentation

The Critical Role of Preschool in Bridging the Literacy Achievement Gap



Dr. David K. Dickinson, Professor, Vanderbilt University

The foundation for literacy success is laid in preschool, with strong support for language being vital. This position will be linked to theory, supported by data, and illustrated with video.

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Preschool Strand

Distinguished Panel on Preschool Literacy (*Sea-Tac*) ***Closing the Gap Before it Begins***

Moderators:

Dr. Hallie Yopp Slowik, Professor, CSU Fullerton

Dr. Valerie Helgren-Lempesis, Associate Professor, CSU East Bay

Distinguished Panelists:

Ms. Shelia Arnold, Regional Director, California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN)

Ms. Ada J. Hand, Early Literacy Consultant/Program Manager, Orange County Early Literacy Network

Ms. Betsy Hiteshew, Coordinator, ECE Programs, UCLA Education Extension, Past President, CAEYC

Dr. Barbara Metzruk, California Department of Education, Child Development Department

Ms. Emily Nahat, Deputy Director for Program Management, First 5 California Children and Families Commission

Dr. Graciela Italiano-Thomas, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (*LAUP*)

Part 1 (morning session)

The early years are characterized by rapid growth and development, and children's experiences during this time have a profound impact on their futures. This panel of experts representing California district, county and state agencies and IHEs will provide insights into longstanding and recent efforts to help our youngest students achieve their potential, with a focus on literacy development.

Part 2 (afternoon session)

The discussion of literacy in the early childhood years will continue. Conference participants will be given the opportunity to raise questions and concerns to the panel. Responses will be gathered and distributed at a later date.

Middle School Strand

Rethinking Vocabulary Instruction: Strategies that Help Struggling Readers Catch Up (*O'Hare*)

This session provides an overview of a multifaceted, meta-cognitive vocabulary development program and research results demonstrating increased comprehension and a narrowing of the achievement gap as a result of instruction.

Dr. Shira Lubliner, Assistant Professor, CSU East Bay

Improving Adolescents' Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary through Universally Designed Tools and Hypertexts with Embedded Literacy Learning Supports (*National*)



This session presents the results of recent research on universally designed tools and hypertexts with embedded supports to help struggling adolescent readers decode text, build background knowledge,

develop reading strategies, and improve vocabulary. Examples and resources will be shared.

Dr. Bridget Dalton, Chief Educational Officer, CAST, Inc.

High School Strand

Closing the Achievement Gap: One High School Solution Using the 12th Grade Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum (*Logan*)

Learn how to close the achievement gap through the CSU Expository Reading and Writing curriculum, which teaches critical thinking skills and reading and writing skills that better match what is expected of students in college and in the world of work. In this session, we share information on the EAP, 12th grade curriculum, and one teacher's insights into the curriculum, its practical uses, and outcomes for students.

Dr. Marcy Merrill, Assistant Professor, CSU Sacramento

Ms. Kari Mann, Teacher, Winters High School

The Power of Story in Closing the Literacy Achievement Gap: Helping Students Connect (*Midway*)

Exploring literature in various genres helps learners make connections; learn about the world, themselves, and others; and deepen their comprehension skills, abilities, and achievement. This session focuses on the power "story" plays in providing opportunities for meaningful engagement, relevant talk with peers, and increased literacy achievement.

Dr. Armin Schulz, Professor, CSU Stanislaus

Special Presentation

Just for the Kids (*Orly*)

Just for the Kids (www.jftk-ca.org)—California's school improvement model—is a practical and effective Web-based school infor-



mation system used by educators to achieve academic improvement in public schools. The site records academic improvement over time and links it to proven teaching strategies. The free public website, built and paid for by California's business community, is a valuable resource for teachers, principals, and other educational stakeholders that want to measure student academic performance and use that information for improvement purposes. The model identifies educational best practices based on what high-performing districts, schools, and classrooms in California are doing to achieve academic excellence.

Dr. Jim Lanich, President, California Business for Educational Excellence (CBEE)

12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Literacy Luncheon and General Session

(*Concourse Ballroom A/B*)

Keynote Presentation

Following the Power of Flow: Motivational Principles for Closing the Achievement Gap

This interactive keynote speech will explore how the latest research into literacy and motivation supports the notion of literacy development as engagement. The presentation will explore how the principles of engagement can be put into practice when designing curriculum and instructional practices that will help close the achievement gap.

Dr. Jeffrey Wilhelm, Associate Professor, Boise State University

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

(*Repeat of Morning Sessions, Same Rooms*)

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Refreshments and Conversation

(*Concourse Ballroom A/B*)

Council of Faculty Representatives

The CAR Council of Faculty Representatives consists of one literacy faculty member from each of the 22 CSU campuses that prepares teachers and reading specialist, plus a representative from CalStateTEACH. The representatives serve as liaisons to their campuses and assist in carrying out the mission of the Center. The Center website may be accessed at <http://www.calstate.edu/car/>.

CSU Bakersfield	Geri Mohler gmohler@csub.edu
CSU Channel Islands	Lillian Vega-Castaneda lillian.castaneda@csuci.edu
CSU Chico	James Richmond jrichmond@csuchico.edu
CSU Dominguez Hills	Lisa Hutton lhutton@csudh.edu
CSU East Bay	Valerie Helgren-Lempesis valerie.lempesis@csueastbay.edu
CSU Fresno	Glenn DeVoogd glenn.devoogd@csufresno.edu
CSU Fullerton	Hallie Yopp Slowik hyopp@fullerton.edu
Humboldt State University	Larry Rice lsr2@humboldt.edu
CSU Long Beach	Joan Theurer jtheurer@csulb.edu
CSU Los Angeles	Joan Fingon jfingon@sbcglobal.net
CSU Monterey Bay	Irene Nares-Guzicki irene_nares-guzicki@csumb.edu
CSU Northridge	Marilyn Joshua-Shearer marilyn.joshua@csun.edu
Cal Poly Pomona	Christine Kolar ckolar@csupomona.edu
CSU Sacramento	Marcy Merrill merrills@csus.edu
CSU San Bernardino	Ina Katz ikatz@csusb.edu
San Diego State University	Gerald Treadway treadway@mail.sdsu.edu
San Francisco State University	Patricia Irvine pirvine@sfsu.edu
San José State University	Sandra Hollingsworth samholl@comcast.net
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	Lisbeth Ceaser lceaser@calpoly.edu

CSU San Marcos	Zulmara Cline zcline@csusm.edu
Sonoma State University	Hee-Won Kang hee-won.kang@sonoma.edu
CSU Stanislaus	Susan Neufeld sneufeld@csustan.edu
CalStateTEACH	Karen DeVoogd karen.devoogd@csufresno.edu

Advisory Board

The CAR Advisory Board represents both CSU literacy faculty and representatives from educational stakeholders and the public. Their work assists the Center in fulfilling its mission and determining the policies and directions of CAR.

Association of California School Administrators	Linda Wisher
California County Superintendents Educational Services Association	Joyce Wright
California Department of Education	Sue Stickel
California Reading Association	Rosemary Rankin
California School Boards Association	Holly Jacobson
California State PTA	Kathy Steinberg
CSU Chico	James Richmond
CSU East Bay	Valerie Helgren-Lempesis
CSU Fullerton	Hallie Yopp Slowik
San José State University	Sandra Hollingsworth
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	Lisbeth Ceaser
CSU San Marcos	Zulmara "Zee" Cline

