2005 Reading Conference

Closing the Literacy Achievement Gap: Preschool through Grade 12

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

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

Just for the Kids (www.jftk-ca.org)—California’s school improvement model—is a practical and effective Web-based school information 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)
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     Larry Rice
University         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    Gerald Treadway
University         treadmill@mail.sdsu.edu
San Francisco State Patricia Irvine
University         pirvine@sfsu.edu
San José State     Sandra Hollingsworth
University         samholl@comcast.net
Cal Poly           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

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

California County Superintendents Educational Services Association

California Department of Education

California Reading Association

California School Boards Association

California State PTA

CSU Chico
CSU East Bay
CSU Fullerton
San José State University
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
CSU San Marcos

Advisory Board

Linda Wisher
Joyce Wright
Sue Stickel
Rosemary Rankin
Holly Jacobson
Kathy Steinberg
James Richmond
Valerie Helgren-Lempesis
Hallie Yopp Slowik
Sandra Hollingsworth
Lisbeth Ceaser
Zulmara “Zee” Cline

Second Floor
Westin Hotel at Los Angeles Airport