



13th Annual Reading Conference
 Friday, September 25, 2020
 10:00 am - 2:15 pm

Virtual Conference Agenda

10:00 – 10:05 am	INTRODUCTION Zoom Instructions and Etiquette Dr. Suzi Parsons, Associate Professor Literacy Education, Oklahoma State University
10:05 – 10:10 am	OPENING REMARKS Dr. Goldie Thompson, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Teacher Preparation and Special Programs Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
10:10 – 10:30 am	WELCOME DR. GLEN D. JOHNSON, CHANCELLOR Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
10:30 – 11:30 pm	MORNING KEYNOTE <i>Brown Girl Dreaming: The Power of Literacy and Liberation</i> Dr. Marsha Herron, Chief of Equity and Student Supports Oklahoma City Public Schools
11:30 – 12:00 pm	LUNCH & LEARN Participants will network and discuss conference focus during lunch breakout
12:00 – 1:00 pm	AFTERNOON KEYNOTE “SHHH, THE CHILDREN ARE CRYING: What, Why, When and How to Help the Children Who Need us Most.” Mr. Lee Roland, Director of Diversity and Inclusion Epic Charter Schools
1:00 – 2:00 pm	BREAKOUT SESSIONS (See Pages 2 and 3)
2:00 – 2:10 pm	ANNOUNCEMENTS Oklahoma Literacy Association (OKLA) Sylvia Hurst, President University of Central Oklahoma Oklahoma Higher Education Reading Council (OHERC) Roxann Clark, President Northwestern Oklahoma State University
2:10 – 2:15 pm	WRAP-UP AND CLOSING REMARKS

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Session One

The Road to Literacy: Implication of Race, Ethnicity, Poverty, and Social-Emotional Well-Being

Facilitator

Dr. Kathren Stehno, Southwestern Christian University

Panelist

Ms. Leslie Baxter, Epic Charter Schools

Dr. Belinda Biscoe, University of Oklahoma

Dr. Lea Ann Garcia, University of Central Oklahoma

Ms. Jessica Ponder, Epic Charter Schools

Literacy has been and will continue to be a social justice issue. Our panel believes, it is the best defense against poverty, and contributes to health promotion and social development in children and youth. Given these benefits, it is concerning that Oklahoma's fourth grade and eighth grade performance outcomes on the 2019 NAEP Scores in Reading placed our state at 42nd among all states. Literacy is everybody's business. Oklahoma's students who are eligible for the national school free and reduced-price lunch program on average scored 21 points below their non-eligible peers in reading. This performance gap, no doubt, will widen due to the adverse effects caused by the pandemic this past spring. Students coming from poverty most assuredly suffer significantly often due to their lack of access to high-quality instructional resources, enrichment activities and opportunities that support and promote literacy. In addition to poverty, this panel will address the importance of understanding race, ethnicity, and culture to promote literacy among diverse student groups. Along with understanding these factors by themselves the interaction of these factors with each other helps us understand the unique needs our students bring to the classroom and how to best address these. Another often overlooked factor associated with literacy is social and emotional well-being. For example, as students learn to self-regulate and learn to focus these are also important skills to be a successful reader.

This panel will discuss potential strategies and resources for creating accessible spaces and places for equitable literacy development with the end goal of breaking the cycles of poverty and illiteracy on student achievement. Finally, this panel will challenge us all to address a variety of other factors that will help us address the literacy needs of all students through a lens of personalized learning.

Other Related Information: The four panelists will share their experiences, expertise, and research that will provide participants with heightened awareness and potential strategies that could contribute to making spaces and places more accessible while increasing equitable learning based on students' individualized needs. Audience members will be asked to submit questions in the chat box that will be answered as time will allow or be addressed through post conference communication.

Session Two

Equity: Every Child Deserves a Comprehensively Prepared Reading Teacher

Dr. Tobi Thompson, Northeastern State University
Dr. Sheri Vasinda, Oklahoma State University

This session will highlight the importance of having a comprehensively prepared reading teacher in every classroom. Reading and literacy are essential for students to excel academically in all subject areas. The idea of what good reading and literacy instruction looks like has been at the forefront of discussions by educators and policy makers for many years. It is still a serious focal point today.

As we move forward in advancing the educational landscape on effective reading and literacy instruction, it is important to cultivate instructional practice that reaches all learners and addresses all challenges that students may have in reading and literacy. Additionally, current practice must be continuously revisited to ensure that future teachers are properly prepared to teach reading.

This session will explore these ideas and show how reading instruction in Oklahoma higher education has impacted current teachers in the classroom. We will present videos of their experiences and discuss aspects of those videos with participants.