

Linking Arms for Language and Literacy

Friday, February 6th, 2026

1:00-2:00	Skill Check-In	North Atrium (outside of Rendering Room)
2:00	<p>Welcome to the Linking Arms Skills Clinic: Audience: Teachers new to the science of reading Site or district leaders looking for a program-agnostic, duplicatable outline to support evidence-aligned instructional routines.</p>	3 CEU's
2:15-5:00	<p>Literacy in Action: Skills Clinic (Grand Ballroom)</p> <p>5-30 min rotations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High-Impact Vocabulary: Teaching Specific Word Instruction with Precision 2. Cracking the Code: Effective Strategies for Teaching Tricky and Unpredictable Words 3. Fluency in Action: Leveraging Decodable Readers for Confident, Automatic Reading 4. Sound-by-Sound Mastery: Building Phonemic Proficiency Through Phoneme–Grapheme Mapping 5. Unlocking Meaning: Morphemic Analysis to Strengthen Vocabulary and Comprehension 	
4:45-5:00	Closing and Thank you	
5:00-6:30	<p>5:00- Conference Check-in (North Atrium) 5:30- Cash Bar and light appetizers 5:00-6:30</p>	<p>Room - A SWIDA Awards and annual meeting (100 people max)</p>
6:30-7:00	<p>Welcome (Grand Ballroom) Land Acknowledgement (Nicole) Understanding the language and literacy needs of Indigenous Students (15 min)</p>	
7:00-8:00	<p>Kari Kurto (TRL) Conducting a Literacy Symphony: Evidence-Aligned Practices in Harmony</p>	2 CEU's

Saturday, February 7th, 2025 (7:15-4:30) - 6 CEU's

★ Virtual and in person attendance available

7:30 - 8:15	Registration and Breakfast			
8:00-8:15	Welcome and Introductions			
8:15-9:15	Keynote ★ Dr. Claude Goldenberg: Bilingual Education in the United States: Past, Present, and Future			
9:15-9:30	Break			
9:30-10:45	★(S1) Nicole Florez & Nereida Antunez-Gamon Bridging Spanish and English: Using Cross-Linguistic Phonology to Strengthen Early Literacy Instruction for English Learners	★ (S2) Sarah Brown MLSS for Reading Improvement	(S3) Erin Brown Dyslexia Up Close: A Hands-On Introduction, Key Dyslexia Definition Updates and Whole-Child Support <i>(*Limited Attendance Available)</i>	(S4) Ginny Simank Linking Oral & Academic Language Through Explicit Vocabulary Instruction
11:00-12:15	★(S5) Sarah Brown & Jennifer Bowles Boost Intervention Success with Layer 1 Improvement	★(S6) Kari Kurto Comprehensive Literacy Instruction with a Focus on Syntax, Morphology, and Writing in Content Area	(S7) Allison Slone & Nicole Florez Building Strong Voices: Purposeful Oral Language Practices	(S8) Allison Caldwell & Ginny Simank Pulling Weeds and Planting Flowers: How Teachers can Make Room for What Works in Literacy Instruction
12:30-1:15	Grand Ballroom Lunch - Grand Ballroom Buffet served in the atrium			
1:30-2:45	★(S9) Rachel Eggleston From Talkers to Readers: How Neuroscience Informs Literacy Development	★(S10) Claude Goldenberg Integrating ELD to support early English reading development for English Learners	(S11) Sunania Shenoy MTSS Models in Reading in New Mexico Schools	(S12) Allison Caldwell Developing Language Comprehension through a well-planned read-aloud for secondary learners
2:45-3:00	Snack and Stretch Break - Served in the atrium			
3:15-4:30	★(S13) Sarah Brown From Data to Action: Pinpointing Student Needs	★(S14) Rachel Eggleston Empowering Multilingual Learners Through Morphology	(S15) Allison Slone The Language and Literacy Link: Strengthening Oral Language for Reading Success	(S16) Amy Miller Teaching Students to Fish: Fostering Self-Regulation for all Students