

Enhancing Literacy: Meeting the Needs of K-12 English Language Learners

Second Annual National-Louis University/ Fox Valley Reading Council Conference

Thursday, October 8 & Friday, October 9, 2009

National-Louis University - Lisle Campus

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2009

Registration	8:30-9:00 am
Introductions & Keynote Luis Moll	9:00-11:00 am
Question & Answer with Luis Moll	11:00-11:30 am
Lunch	11:30 am-12:15 pm
Raffle & Logistics	12:15-12:30 pm
Session I	12:45-1:45 pm
Break	1:45-2:00 pm
Session II	2:00-3:00 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS FOR OCTOBER 8, THURSDAY

CHOICES FOR FIRST BREAKOUT SESSION - 12:45-1:45 pm

Title: *Libros en voz alta/ Books Aloud*

Presenter: Patti Johanson, Bilingual Reading Specialist, West Chicago Elementary School District #33

Target audience: K-2 classroom teachers, reading teachers

Description *(Also offered 2nd Session 2:00-3:00 pm)*

This presentation describes a classroom-based homework project involving students of Mexican-origin, in a bilingual first grade classroom and a modification of the project by a reading specialist involving second language learners in Title I programs. Students were given backpacks to take home bi-weekly on a rotating basis filled with a tape recorder, their "Family Journal," a picture book in Spanish (later in English), and a recording of the text. After listening to a book on tape (or CD) and to oral and written prompts, students and family members wrote or drew responses in their Family Journals.

During home visits and conferences earlier in the year several parents had expressed concern about reading with their children due to their own limited experiences with formal education. Subsequently, they expressed positive feedback about *Libros en voz alta*, so that this project served as a bridge for parents to experience literature with their children and to share life experiences in a non-threatening environment.

Title: *Teaching Academic Content to English Language Learners (ELL): Strategies on How to Help ELLs succeed academically*

Presenter: Karla Garjaka, NLU Instructor ESL/Bilingual

Target Audience: 5-12 grade teachers who have ELL in their classrooms

Description

This workshop will show how mainstream teachers can make academic content more comprehensible to English Language Learners (ELL) without diluting the curriculum. More specifically, it will expose participants to strategies on how to keep ELL students at grade level while developing their English language proficiency. Participants will benefit from this session by: (i) developing greater fluency on how educators can help ELL succeed academically; and (ii) becoming better prepared to face the challenges of working in a diverse school.

Title: *Cultural Conflicts in Educational Expectations: Latino Educational Leaders Examine Existing School Norms to Develop Stronger School Communities*

Presenter: Dr. Susan McMahon, NLU Reading and Language Department Faculty

Target Audience: Teachers, reading specialists, bilingual teachers, principals, and area administrators.

Description

This session will provide information gathered by several local Latino educators who have examined times when the cultural norms of the educational context and that of the families they serve have resulted in conflicting expectations and resulting in a breakdown of communication. Serving in multiple capacities—bilingual lead teachers, building principals, and divisional leaders—these educators have examined how bridging these cultural difference can support learning and enable inner city children to thrive when students perceive a safe environment at school. This session reports their findings and provides opportunities for discussion among participants.

Title: *Digital Resources and the ELL Student*

Presenter: Jackie Plourde, NLU Instructor

Target Audience: Teachers, reading specialists, bilingual/ELL teachers

Description (Also offered 2nd Session 2:00-3:00 pm)

What digital resources are available and how can they be accessed? How does reading the physical book differ from reading a book online? How can students and their families benefit from digital resources? What websites do you use with your students? These and other questions will be discussed and shared as a variety of websites are explored.

Title: *Learning from the NLU "Americas" library collection: New book titles for Spanish-language ELL students*

Presenters: Barbara Evans, NLU Librarian & Instructor and Dr. Ruth Quiroa, NLU Reading and Language Department Faculty

Description (Also offered 2nd Session 2:00-3:00 pm)

Come and hear about the Americas Collection of children's books located at the NLU campus in Lisle, and learn about venues for purchasing such books for your own classroom and school library. This collection consists of books originally written in Spanish by Latin American authors from many different countries, as well as bilingual books (Spanish and English), texts published in English with Latino themes, and some Spanish translations from recommended book lists. These books are appropriate for grades PreK-12, and represent a broad range of genres and formats. The presenters attended the Feria internacional del libro (FIL) in Guadalajara, Mexico last December 2008 through the American Library Association Free Pass Program and were able to purchase books there which more than doubled the size of the collection to about 600 texts. You will learn more about FIL at this presentation, listen to book talks from a range of age groups and genres, and review a large sampling of the books, including award-winning texts.

CHOICES FOR SECOND BREAKOUT SESSION – 2:00-3:00 pm

Title: *Libros en voz alta/ Books Aloud*

Presenter: Patti Johanson, Bilingual Reading Specialist, West Chicago Elementary School District #33

Target audience: K-2 classroom teachers, reading teachers

Description (Also offered 1st session 12:45-1:45 pm)

This presentation describes a classroom-based homework project involving students of Mexican-origin, in a bilingual first grade classroom and a modification of the project by a reading specialist involving second language learners in Title I programs. Students were given backpacks to take home bi-weekly on a rotating basis filled with a tape recorder, their "Family Journal," a picture book in Spanish (later in English), and a recording of the text. After listening to a book on tape (or CD) and to oral and written prompts, students and family members wrote or drew responses in their Family Journals. During home visits and conferences earlier in the year several parents had expressed concern about reading with their children due to their own limited experiences with formal education. Subsequently, they expressed positive feedback

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Title: *Creating Partnerships Between Classroom and ESL Teachers*

Presenters: Gustavo Gonzalez, ELL Support Teacher, Indian Prairie School District 204 & Amy Stuckey, Instructional Specialist, Indian Prairie School District 204

Target Audience: classroom teachers and ELL support teachers

Description

As a former ELL student himself, Gustavo knows the frustrations ELL students face every day as they try to apply the learned ELL skills into their English classrooms. Now as an ELL Support Teacher Gustavo is trying to make this transfer of skills easier on the students by working alongside classroom teachers. Join Gustavo and Amy as they share practical suggestions for getting started with co-teaching & lessons for bridging the gap between core instruction and ELL support.

Title: *How to Develop a 'Culturally Aware' Classroom Environment*

Presenter: Karla Garjaka, NLU Instructor ESL/Bilingual

Target Audience: K-12 teachers who have a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Classroom

Description

The student body in today's school is becoming more diverse than ever before and the cultural and linguistic differences these students are bringing into the classrooms need to be carefully acknowledged and addressed! In this workshop participants will learn how they can make their classroom environment more 'Culturally and Linguistically aware.' Participants will benefit from this session by: (i) learning how to provide Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CLD) students with a respectful and safe environment, and (ii) developing greater fluency on how to help ELL students feel more welcome.

Title: *Learning from the NLU "Americas" library collection: New book titles for Spanish-language ELL students*

Presenters: Barbara Evans, NLU Librarian & Instructor and Dr. Ruth Quiroa, NLU Reading and Language Department Faculty

Description *(Also offered 1st session 12:45-1:45 pm)*

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SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2009

Registration	8:30-9:00 am
Opening Session	9:00-9:30 am
Institutes	9:45-12:30
Lunch	12:30-1:15 pm
Keynote Francisco Alarcon	1:15-2:30 pm
Book signing with Francisco Alarcon	2:30 pm +

CHOICE FOR INSTITUTES 9:45 am -12:30 pm

Title: *Knowing Our Communities and Families--Gathering and Teaching from "Funds of Knowledge"*

Presenters: Dr. Sunday Cummins, NLU Reading and Language Department, Andrea Schaal, Gifted and Talented Teacher, Plainfield District 202, Janey Sarther, Education and Community Engagement Coordinator, McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage, Karen Ringas, Reading Specialist, Community Unit School District 200

Description

Are you looking for ways to engage students in rich, personally and socially meaningful experiences? The presenters will share case studies from their own work focused on moving beyond a narrow, skills-based definition of literacy to a broader definition that embraces and builds-on the authentic literacy practices of their students and members of the local community. Artifacts presented will include student work and children's literature. Participants will have the opportunity to evaluate these case studies using the principles of a socio-cultural approach to teaching as a basis for discussion.

Title: *The Power of the Teacher: Integrating Latino-themed literature in the K-12 classroom*

Presenters: Dr. Ruth E. Quiroa, NLU Reading & Language Department, Francisco X. Alarcón, author/poet, Dr. Susan McMahon, NLU Reading & Language Department, with Barbara Evans, NLU Librarian & Instructor

Description

High quality books with culturally specific themes offer wonderful opportunities to access the background knowledge and personal connections of students with similar cultural heritage. However, the simple addition of the "right" multicultural books in the classroom is not enough to ensure that students engage in deep level responses involving culture. The teacher's role in such conversations is critical and the focus of this session. Presenters will share examples from their work with students of Mexican origin and Mexican American-themed books published in the U.S. Participants will also have opportunities to take part in Book Clubs using Latino-themed children's literature, respond to these texts in multiple formats, and examine notable Latino-themed texts.

Title: *How to Combine Language Arts and ESL Strategies into the K-5 Classroom*

Presenters: Gustavo Gonzalez, ELL Support Teacher, Indian Prairie School District 204 & Amy Stuckey, Instructional Specialist, Indian Prairie School District 204

Target Audience: K-5 classroom teachers and ESL teachers

Description

This session is on how to use practical ESL tools during your literature block. How to modify language arts lessons for ESLs at different language acquisition levels. You will walk away with some practical strategies to better assist your ell.

KEYNOTE

Keynote address title: "El Poder de la Palabra / The Power of the Word: Connecting the Dots in Writing Toward Empowerment Through Poetry"

Francisco X. Alarcón, award-winning Californian poet, educator will share with the audience his discovery of the power of the word and the magic of poetry and art, and his journey to self-empowerment as a writer that includes exploring his Mesoamerican roots and the past and present realities of Latin American and the United States.