Literacy Leaders

The Writing's On the Wall: Literacy for All

Ninth Annual Literacy Leaders Conference
March 25, 2023

Shepherd University
Department of Education
Graduate Studies, Continuing Education

JEFFERSON COUNTY READING COUNCIL

Workshops Overview

	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
Room 102	**Get Your Shift Together: How to Transition to the Science of Reading** (Elementary)	**Opening the Gate for Children's Book and Technology Using STEAM** (Elementary)	**Developing Well-being Literacy: Using Stories to Promote Teacher and Student Well-Being** (Elementary)	**Prompt Twists** *(Elementary)*
Room 103	**Very Relevant Vocabulary: Ideas to Connect Vocabulary to all Content Areas** (Elementary)	**Super Syllables** (Elementary)	**Don't Forget the Writer in Writers' Workshop: Where Creativity and Structure Meet** (Elementary)	**You Can Do All That With a Picture Book? (Elementary)**
Room 106	**Super Highways to College Level Writing: Using Feedback to Grow Your Students' Writing Attitude and Skill** (Secondary)	**Writing in Content Areas: Supporting Effective Writing Skills while Building Content Knowledge** (Secondary)	**The Science of Reading in the Secondary Classroom** (Secondary)	**Like Trying to Move Heaven and Earth: Getting Teens to Want to Read** (Secondary)
Room 109	**Tech It! Using 21st Century Technology to Foster Emergent Literacy in Early Education** (PreK/K)	**Light Up Their Brains with Stories of Kindness** (PreK/K)	**I CAN Plans – Incorporating STEAM Into Scaffolded Writing Instruction** (PK/K, Elementary)	**Raising Readers: Engaging Students with Daniel Tiger and Wild Kratts** (PK/K, Elementary)
Room 111	**What's the Scoop on NBCT?** (PK/K, Elementary, Secondary)	**National Writing Project Round Table for Teachers** (PK/K, Elementary, Secondary)	**Silent Messages: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Stories We Read** (Pk/K, Elementary, Secondary)	

Shepherd University's Department of Education and the Jefferson County Literacy Council would like to thank all the presenters and volunteers who make our annual Literacy Leaders Conference possible.

The Writing's On the Wall: Literacy for All

2023 Literacy Leaders Conference

8:00-9:00 Registration and Poster Session - See list of posters at the back of the program.

9:00-10:00 Welcome and Keynote Address - Auditorium

Every Child a Writer: Composing in the 21st Century
Mary Tedrow

Dr. Mary K. Tedrow, NBCT taught in the high school English classroom beginning in 1978, ending her K-12 career as the Porterfield Endowed English Chair at John Handley High School in 2016. Tedrow graduated from Shepherd University in 1977 with a BA in English and Journalism. She currently teaches and directs the Shenandoah Valley Writing Project at Shenandoah University in Winchester VA. Tedrow is also a lecturer at Johns Hopkins University and the author of Write, Think, Learn: Tapping the Power of Daily Student Writing Across Content Areas.

Workshops (Choose your favorite sessions from the attached list)

10:15-11:15 Session 1 _____

11:30-12:30 Session 2 _____

12:30-1:15 Poster Session and Lunch Break: Follow signs to the ballroom for lunch.

1:15-2:15 Session 3 _____

2:30-3:30 Session 4 _____

3:30-4:00 Closing Remarks and Door Prizes in the Auditorium

4:00 EDPD 699 Credit Option Follow-up Expectations Overview in the Auditorium.

Please No Food or Drinks in the Auditorium or Classrooms
Don't forget to turn in your conference evaluation as you leave.

10:15-11:15 Workshop Session 1

Room 102
Get Your Shift Together: How to Transition to the Science of Reading
Suggested Audience: Elementary

This session will provide participants with an introduction to the research behind the science and offers resources to help primary educators transform their literacy instruction to align to the Science of Reading. Come learn about practical strategies that will assist classroom teachers, interventionists, and instructional coaches in the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, heart words, decodable readers, sound walls, orthographic mapping, and more!

Dr. Krista Ematrudo is the proud principal of Opequon Elementary School in Martinsburg, WV and an adjunct professor at Shepherd University. A former teacher, and assistant principal, Dr. Ematrudo has spent the last 16 years in public education. She earned her bachelor's degree from Southern Connecticut State University, a master's degree from WVU and a doctorate from Shenandoah University.

Mrs. Amanda Freeman is a reading specialist at Opequon Elementary School in Martinsburg, WV. As a National Board-Certified Teacher, Mrs. Freeman has spent the last 15 years in public education. She earned her bachelor's degree from Shepherd University and a master's degree from WVU.

Mrs. Shelly Sexton is a reading specialist at Opequon Elementary School in Martinsburg, WV. As a National Board-Certified Teacher, Mrs. Sexton has spent the last 20 years in public education and earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Hood College.

Room 103
Very Relevant Vocabulary: Ideas to Connect Vocabulary to all Content Areas
Suggested Audience: Elementary

Do you feel like vocabulary is an aspect of literacy that gets swept under the rug? Do you wish there was a way to incorporate vocabulary into all content areas, to save time, and allow for students to make meaningful connections with new vocabulary? This workshop is for you, including ideas for vocabulary routines, cross curricular ideas, and activities to take with you.

Allison Shifflett is a Reading Specialist at Redbud Run Elementary in Frederick County, Virginia. A Shepherd Alumna in Elementary Education, Allison has a master's degree in reading and is an Orton-Gillingham Institute of Multi-sensory Instruction Certified teacher and has a Literacy Coaching Certificate from Old Dominion University.

Room 106

Super Highways to College Level Writing: Using Feedback to Grow Your Students' Writing Attitude and Skill
Suggested Audience: Secondary

Writing skills significantly impact college success making writing growth in middle and high school extremely important. However, writing growth is directly linked to the feedback students receive. In this session, you will explore how to incorporate writing across the curriculum in ways that will strengthen student attitudes towards writing and provide turbocharged feedback that will ensure that your students are on the highway to becoming successful college writers.

Heidi M. Hanrahan is a Professor of English at Shepherd University, where she also serves as the Assistant Dean of Interdisciplinary and Integrative Studies. She teaches literature, literary theory, composition, and gender and women's studies. Her research interests include nineteenth-century American and British literature, composition, and pedagogy. She was named the 2018 West Virginia Professor of the Year by the Faculty Merit Foundation.

Room 109
Tech It! Using 21st Century Technology to Foster Emergent Literacy in Early Education
Suggested Audience: PreK to Grade 3

This interactive workshop will allow participants the opportunity to engage in cooperative, hands-on experiences in planning for and using emergent technology as a springboard to engage young children in developing their emergent writing and literacy skills and to encourage problem solving in developmentally appropriate ways for all learners. Bring your smart device (phone and/or tablet) and get ready to dive into a few developmentally appropriate, tech-based emergent writing and literacy applications you can implement immediately into your classroom!

Terresa Kepner is currently serving as the Specialization Coordinator for Shepherd University's Early Education program. She has taught students of all ages from birth through adult and has worked specifically in the field of early childhood education as classroom teacher, college professor, and administrator for almost two decades.

Room 111
What's the Scoop on NBCT?
Suggested Audience: PreK/K, Elementary, Secondary

Are you Interested in becoming a National Board Certified Teacher? This presentation will focus on all aspects of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher. The topics will include available certifications, eligibility, component directions, costs, resources, and incentives. We will also navigate the National Board Certification website so that you continue to learn about National Board Certification after this session.

Anne Laskey, NBCT, is currently the Mathematics Instructional Specials for K-12 and the National Board Certification Coordinator for Berkeley County Schools. Prior to her present role in Berkeley County Schools, Anne taught math at Hedgesville High School for many years. In 2004, Anne received her National Board Certification in Adolescent and Young Adult Mathematics and renewed this certification in 2014. Along with other Berkeley County NBCT's, she has led the very successful National Board Certification program in Berkeley County Schools since her initial certification in 2004.

Session 2 11:30 - 12:30

Room 102
Opening the Gate for Children's Book and Technology Using STEAM
Suggested Audience: Elementary

Come take a look at children's books and technology and how you can integrate the two into your STEAM lessons. We will look at numerous children's books and make connections through science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. Through these lessons we will extend our lessons using coding robots, makey makeys, and other cool ideas. The goal of this session will be to guide teachers into a deeper learning using children's books and STEAM.

Denise Orndorff is an instructional technology coach at Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School and Senseny Road School in Frederick County, Virginia. She has over 25 years of experience with an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction in computer education. She is a Google certified trainer, a team member of Unison EDU and actively involved in using assistive technology in special education. She loves technology and everything it has to offer in our ever changing world.

Room 103 Super Syllables
Suggested Audience: Elementary

Super Syllables! Would you like to help students to decode multisyllabic words with ease? This session focuses on implementing strategies and activities using the 7 Syllable Types so that students can easily decode words. Applying these strategies leads to word recognition and language comprehension. Syllables fall under the Phonological Awareness strand of Scrarborough's Reading Rope. Walk away with new, engaging strategies, skills, and activities for your language toolbox!

Jennifer Szemborski has been an elementary educator for almost 30 years. She has taught 2nd, 4th, and 5th grades before becoming a reading interventionist and an instructional coach. Half of her career has been in Jefferson and Berkeley Counties in WV. She recently moved to Winchester Public Schools in VA. Ms. Szemborski earned a Bachelor's Degree from Loyola University in MD and a Master's in Curriculum & Instruction from Shepherd University. As a lifelong learner, Jennifer attends a myriad of continuing education opportunities and shares her knowledge and skills with her colleagues during professional development, PLCs, model lessons, and coaching cycles.

Room 106
Writing in the Content Areas: Supporting Effective Writing Skills while Building Content Knowledge
Suggested Audience: Secondary

The primary responsibility of content teachers is to teach content, right? But have you ever considered how student writing can be used to support content learning? In this workshop, we'll look at a variety of methods for using writing in content classrooms in ways that will not only lead to strong content learning, but will also increase your students' abilities to write informational text.

Kristie Parkinson enjoys her time spent on her family's hobby farm and teaching her four kids the wonders of nature...and just as a side note- worms in pockets and washing machines don't get along. Her claim to fame is that she once taught an incarcerated juvenile criminal who proudly exclaimed, "Hey! I'm a nerd!" when she helped him finally understand a math concept. She received her Bachelor of Science in Biology Education from Brigham Young University-Idaho and a Master of Science in Biology from the University of Nebraska-Kearney. She has taught in the public schools, at a juvenile detention center, as an online instructor, and contributed to curriculum development for content area reading at Shepherd University.

Dr. LeAnn Johnson worked as a special education teacher in New York before moving to Maryland where she completed a MS in Reading Instruction and a Ph.D. in Learning Disabilities. While there, she took a year off to teach an Elementary ELL class in Poland the year after the Berlin wall came down and just returned from teaching for 6 months in Kenya. After teaching many years at UMD she is now the Master of Arts Program Coordinator here at Shepherd University where she has focused on working with both inservice and preservice teachers in exploring new and innovative methods that will engage students of all ages in literacy development.

Room 109
Light Up Their Brains with Stories of Kindness
Suggested Audience: PreK/K

Did you know that kindness creates positive changes in the brain? Learn the neuroscience explaining this phenomenon and kindness activities to promote you and your students' well-being. Explore children's books and activities that promote kindness, thereby improving mood and enhance thinking skills such as creativity and flexibility.

***Karin H. Spencer**, Ed.D. has 25 years of experience in the field of early childhood education and care as a teacher, teacher coach, administrator and teacher educator. She is dedicated to fostering high quality environments and interactions for infants, toddlers and young children with or at-risk for disabilities or special needs. She is a frequent local, regional and national presenter on early intervention and early childhood education and care topics including resilience, mentally healthy environments, challenging behavior, physical activity, inclusion, culturally responsive practice, and universal design for learning.*

Room 111
National Writing Project Round Table for Teachers
Suggested Audience: PK/K, Elementary, & Secondary

Shepherd University has just been approved as a National Writing Project site. This means that a variety of opportunities for teachers will become available. Join with us to discuss the demands teachers at all grade levels are expected to meet, current programs and initiatives in writing that are being run in area schools, and what best writing practices are being promoted in PK-12 instruction. This round table discussion will form the basis of determining how Shepherd can serve our teachers through this new resource.

Brian Santana is a Visiting Assistant Professor of English and the Director of Writing and Rhetoric at Shepherd University. His diverse research interests include rhetoric and composition theory, writing pedagogy, 19th-century American literature, horror and gothic literature, and film theory. He has presented his research at the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), the world's largest professional organization for researching and teaching composition, and other major venues like the National Popular Culture Association.

Heidi M. Hanrahan is a Professor of English at Shepherd University, where she also serves as the Assistant Dean of Interdisciplinary and Integrative Studies. She teaches literature, literary theory, composition, and gender and women's studies. Her research interests include nineteenth-century American and British literature, composition, and pedagogy. She was named the 2018 West Virginia Professor of the Year by the Faculty Merit Foundation.

Session 3 1:15-2:15

Room 102
Developing Well-being Literacy: Using Stories to Promote Teacher and Student Well-Being
Suggested Audience: Elementary

Come explore how you can promote your own and your students' well-being through the popular children's book, The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse. Connect the book's timeless messages to positive psychology concepts and leave with simple, yet effective strategies to increase well-being.

***Karin H. Spencer**, Ed.D. has 25 years of experience in the field of early childhood education and care as a teacher, teacher coach, administrator and teacher educator. She is dedicated to fostering high quality environments and interactions for infants, toddlers and young children with or at-risk for disabilities or special needs. She is a frequent local, regional and national presenter on early intervention and early childhood education and care topics including resilience, mentally healthy environments, challenging behavior, physical activity, inclusion, culturally responsive practice, and universal design for learning.*

Room 103
Don't Forget the Writer in Writers' Workshop: Where Creativity and Structure Meet
Suggested Audience: Elementary

Workshopping? Explicit curriculum? Differentiation? Motivation? Learn how a writers' workshop can integrate structure with a creative process in this make it take it session.

Dr. LeAnn Johnson worked as a special education teacher in New York before moving to Maryland where she completed a MS in Reading Instruction and a Ph.D. in Learning Disabilities. While there, she took a year off to teach an Elementary ELL class in Poland the year after the Berlin wall came down and just returned from teaching for 6 months in Kenya. After teaching many years at UMD she is now the Master of Arts Program Coordinator here at Shepherd University where she has focused on working with both inservice and preservice teachers in exploring new and innovative methods that will engage students of all ages in literacy development.

Dr. Tracy Nichols is an Assistant Professor of Elementary Education at Shepherd University. She teaches elementary methods courses and supports teacher candidates in the field. Dr. Nichols' background includes twelve years teaching in elementary classrooms with various leadership roles, including Gifted Education Specialist, Reading Specialist, Structured English Immersion, Model Math Classroom, and New Teacher Mentor. Her professional development workshops promote the development of creative and collaborative learning environments, inquiry-minded critical thinkers, and cultivating independent learners.

Room 106
The Science of Reading in the Secondary Classroom
Suggested Audience: Secondary
Read the book. Define the words. Take an assessment of what you just read. Rinse and repeat. NO! NO! NO! There is much more to learning how to read. Gone are the days of balanced literacy. The science of reading has shown us that reading is more complicated than what we were taught in college. Learn more about the science behind reading and why it's important in the secondary classroom.

Amy Hall, BA English (1991, Saint Vincent College), MSED Secondary Education (2003, Shenandoah University), MSED Administration and Supervision (2011, Shenandoah University), and EdD. Doctor of Education (2026, Radford University) is a Supervisor of English, Reading, Libraries, and Performing Arts for Frederick County Public Schools, Winchester, VA. Prior to her 13 years in this role, she was a middle school English teacher in Pennsylvania and Virginia for 17 years. She is a lifelong learner: a teacher consultant for the Northern VA Writing Project (NVWP), a student of American Sign Language I, a participant in classes offered by the Institute of Multi-Sensory Education (IMSE), and a doctoral student who is focusing on the problem of why students with disabilities leave middle school still struggling to read. She resides in Stephens City, VA, with her husband and pets.

Room 109
I CAN Plans – Incorporating STEAM Into Scaffolded Writing Instruction
Suggested Audience: PK/K and Elementary

Join our **LITERACY HUDDLE!** This presentation will demonstrate a scaffolded writing approach that can be implemented by creating I CAN plans. The approach builds inquiry skills during STEAM activities and positively impacts emergent writing acquisition in early childhood.

Keri Law is a Title I Reading Interventionist at Bedington Elementary in Berkeley County. She is also an adjunct instructor at West Virginia University and Shepherd University. Keri is a recipient of the West Virginia Public Education Collaborative (WVPEC) Sparking Early Literacy in WV grant. She currently serves as the Project Director for the 'I CAN' STEAM Journal Writing Club project. She graduated from WVU with a B.S. in Child Development & Family Studies, M.A. in Educational Psychology, M.A. in Reading, and is currently pursuing her doctorate. She holds certification in Reading, Elementary Education, Pre-K Special Needs, and Early Education.

Melissa Workman is the Director of the WVU Laboratory School in the College of Applied Human Sciences at West Virginia University. She has many years of experience working in early childhood education and is passionate about educational leadership. She graduated from West Virginia University with a BS in Child Development Family Studies, MA in Child Development, MS in Special Education, and has certification in school administration. She is currently seeking an Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction from Liberty University. Current research interests are appropriate uses of technology in early childhood settings, educational leadership, and Reggio-Inspired STEAM project-based learning experiences.

Room 111

Silent Messages: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Stories We Read
Suggested Audience: PreK/K, Elementary, Secondary

In this session, designed for all grade levels, come learn about ways to empower all students in your classroom through stories across the curriculum. Examining both fiction and non-fiction, we will practice strategies to engage readers of all abilities while examining our own inventory of resources. Come join us for learning, engagement, and strategies you can use right away.

Dr. Jodi Zeis has taught every grade level K-12 in a combination of general and special education classrooms. After also serving as a school-based administrator, she worked with a statewide STEM organization serving districts across the state of South Carolina before taking a position as Assistant Professor, working with pre-service teachers at Francis Marion University. She recently oved to Virginia with her family where she works in Frederick County. She loves serving educators as an adjunct in the School of Education at Shepherd.

Session 4 2:30-3:30

Room 102
Prompt Twists
Suggested Audience: Elementary

Spark interest, motivate reluctant writers, and challenge your high-level students with these easy-to-apply twists to writing and instructional prompts that promote creativity and higher-level thinking, and get students writing in any subject.

Dr. Tracy Nichols is an Assistant Professor of Elementary Education at Shepherd University. She teaches elementary methods courses and supports teacher candidates in the field. Dr. Nichols' background includes twelve years teaching in elementary classrooms with various leadership roles, including Gifted Education Specialist, Reading Specialist, Structured English Immersion, Model Math Classroom, and New Teacher Mentor. Her professional development workshops promote the development of creative and collaborative learning environments, inquiry-minded critical thinkers, and cultivating independent learners.

Room 103
You Can do All That With a Picture Book?
Suggested Audience: Elementary

Discover how we intentionally integrate instructional technology, STEM, social emotional learning, and children's books to support essential literacy skills in the elementary classroom.You will leave this session with ideas, resources, lesson plans, and the information you need for successful integration. We will share authentic student work and how we capture evidence of student learning supported by available technology.

Melissa Culp was a teacher for 18 years and has been an elementary school Instructional Coach in FCPS for 4 years. This role allows her to provide professional development that supports the implementation of instructional strategies and practices that are most effective for learning. She is passionate about collaborating with other educators to bring cross curricular teaching and learning experiences to life in the classroom. She currently serves on the Inspire 2025 team for FCPS.

Dana Dembeck is a champion for integrating instructional technology and children's literacy. As an FCPS Elementary Instructional Technology Coach, she leads, guides, and mentors teachers in implementing best practices for teaching and learning with instructional technology support. She presents at state and regional conferences and serves on the Shenandoah Valley Regional Computer Science Partnership team. She is an adjunct professor for Shenandoah University and has a Master of Science in Literacy Education.

Room 106
Like Trying to Move Heaven and Earth: Getting Teens to Want to Read
Suggested Audience: Secondary

How can we get teenagers to read when there are video games such as Among Us vying for their attention? This session focuses on a variety of strategies that will get your students wanting to read, both inside and outside the classroom, even when they have other options! From connecting to student interests to providing time to read in your classroom, these strategies are easy to implement and worth their (and your) time!

Dr. Kimberly McCuiston is an Associate Professor of Education at Francis Marion University. She is currently the Director of Student Teaching for undergraduate students and the Director of the Center of Excellence for Teacher Retention and Induction in the Pee Dee. Her research interests include motivation and engagement in reading and teacher attrition.

Room 109
Raising Readers: Engaging Students with Daniel Tiger and Wild Kratts
Suggested Audience: PK/K, Elementary

This session will focus on strategies and activities that West Virginia Public Broadcasting can offer through free resources like PBS Kids and PBS Learning Media to engage students of all ages. Topics include family engagement and unique ideas to inspire unmotivated and struggling readers.

Maggie Holley is the Education Director at West Virginia Public Broadcasting. Their mission is to educate, inform, and inspire. She came to WVPB after 16 years in public education, which included more than nine years as a middle school science teacher and six years in administration. Her passions include social-emotional learning and enhancing educator support. She is a native of Floyd County, Kentucky, and one of five daughters in a coal mining family. She is a current resident of Jackson County, West Virginia, where she is a wife, mother, and active member of her local church.