

Thursday, February 20, 2025, Pre-Conference Sessions

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM Pre-Conference Institute

Sabal Palm

High Impact Literacy Triangle: Reading, Discussing, and Writing Across all Grade Levels and Content Areas
LeAnn Nickelsen

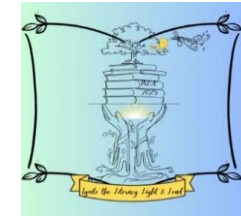


"Ignite the Literacy Light & Lead"

49th Annual Palmetto State Literacy Association Conference

February 20-22, 2025

**Hilton Beachfront Resort & Spa
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina**



Pre-Conference Sessions 8:00 AM -10:00 AM

Ballroom A

Ignite the Literacy Light and Lead: Supporting Multilingual Learners with Using Academic Language
Dr. Bobbi Siefert & Ms. Melissa Oliver

Ballroom C

An Educator's Guide to Artificial Intelligence
Dr. Lori Vinson & Dr. Ann Aust

Ballroom E

Shifting From Word Walls to Sound Walls
Keegan Wilson

Featured Authors

Ashley Belote
Victoria Benton Frank
Shannon Hitchcock
Lester Laminack
Natalie Lloyd
Angela May
Kwame Mbalia
Tanisia Moore
Jerry Pallotta
Allan Wolf

Pre-Conference Sessions 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Ballroom A

Nurturing Authentic Writing in the Age of AI: Cultivating Ideas and Critical Thinking
Dr. Dave Leshock & Cynthia Goodman

Ballroom C

Lighting the Fire of Repeated Readings
Angela Compton & Anna Williams

Ballroom E

Bringing the Magic Back to Literature with the Lost Art of the Read Aloud
Landra Jennings & Kinla Nelson

Join our authors in the Exhibition Hall for autographs.

Pre-Conference Sessions 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Ballroom A

Enhancing Learning Through Kidwatching: A Responsive Feedback Approach
Beth White, Dr. Elizabeth Crocker & Jenny Powell

Ballroom C

Cogitate My Coaching
Becca Doswell

Ballroom E

Letters? Words? Sentences? Oh My! Let's give comprehension a try!
Dr. Stacey Wilson , Jessica McCormick & Dr. Jennifer Logan

WI-FI Code: PSLA2025

Opening General Session

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Hip Hop Culture and Literacy of Youth Vision



Join us for the
Meet & Greet

**5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Exhibit Hall**

Meals

Exhibit Hall
Thursday Breakfast 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM
Friday Breakfast 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM
Friday Lunch 11:00 AM – 1:15 PM
Saturday Breakfast 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Dr. Shuaib Meacham

<p style="text-align: center;">General Session 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Beliefs and Actions that Nurture Engaged Writers</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matt Glover</p> 	<p>Friday, February 21, 2025, Concurrent Sessions</p> <p><i>"Ignite the Literacy Light & Lead"</i></p>
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11:00 AM - 1:00 PM The Cafe (downstairs) Authors on the Move

Ashley Belote, Victoria Benton Frank, Shannon Hitchcock, Lester Laminack, Natalie Lloyd, Angela May, Kwame Mbalia, Tanisia Moore, Jerry Pallotta, & Allan Wolf

(Ticketed Event - registration required)

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Concurrent Sessions

<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #add8e6;">Ballroom A</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hip Hop Culture and Literacy of Youth Vision</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Meacham</p> <p>Audience: All</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #add8e6;">Ballroom B</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Using Morphemic Analysis with Graphic Organizers to Improve Vocabulary</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Javion Simpson, Orangeburg County School District</p> <p>Audience: PreK, Primary & Elementary</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #add8e6;">Ballroom C</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lighting the Way: Using Stories to Unite and Resolve Conflict</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Madison Siekman & Juliana Smyth, Greenville</p> <p>Audience: Primary & Elementary</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #add8e6;">Ballroom D</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>But I Don't Know How to Teach Writing</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jennifer Hamrick & Dr. Lori Poole, Lexington School District One</p> <p>Audience: Primary & Elementary</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #add8e6;">Ballroom E</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>An Educator's Guide to Artificial Intelligence</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Lori Vinson & Dr. Ann Aust, North Greenville University</p> <p>Audience: All</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #add8e6;">Ballroom F</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Unlock the Power of LETRS: Supercharge Your Tier 1 Instruction!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Keegan Wilson, Hand2Mind</p> <p>Audience: PreK & Primary</p>	
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #add8e6;">Captain Jack Stoney</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>ABC's of Student Engagement</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Missie Van Bebber & Kelli Kilbourn, Aiken County Public School District</p> <p>Audience: Middle</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #add8e6;">Bayley's Baroney</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Assessing and Building Knowledge: The Essential First Step in Supporting Students' Reading Comprehension</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Bobbi Siefert, Furman University</p> <p>Audience: All</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #add8e6;">Lord Proprietors</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ignite the Literacy Light: Sparking Success in South Carolina Classrooms</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. LaKeshia Adams, SCETV</p> <p>Audience: All</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #add8e6;">Carolina Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Igniting the light with Poetry in Social Studies</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Jayson Evaniuck, Anderson University</p> <p>Audience: Primary, Elementary & Middle</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #add8e6;">Palmetto Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Choosing Books that Inspire All Learners</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Eliza Braden</p> <p>Audience: All</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #add8e6;">Private Dining Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Targeted Intensive Tutoring in Reading: A Strategy to Improve Reading Instruction in Pre-Service Teachers</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Patricia Jones & Dr. Tammy Graham, Presbyterian College</p> <p>Audience: PreK & Primary</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #add8e6;">Sabal Palm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Science of Reading 2:0: From Metaphors to Methods</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Diana Betts, 95 Percent Group</p> <p>Audience: All</p>

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM Concurrent Sessions

<p>Ballroom A</p> <p><i>Using Immersion and Oral Rehearsal To Support Engagement at the Beginning of a Writing Unit</i> Matt Glover Audience: All</p>	<p>Ballroom B</p> <p><i>Engaging Young Readers through Culturally Relevant Texts: A Focus on Comprehension</i> Dr. Stacy Wilson & Dr. Jennifer Logan, Voorhees University & Saudah Collins, Jackson Creek Elementary Audience: Primary</p>	<p>Ballroom C</p> <p><i>So, LETRS-What Happens Next?</i> Dr. Russell Clark, Anderson University Audience: PreK, Primary & Elementary</p>	<p>Ballroom D</p> <p><i>The Secret to Writing Success: Transform Reluctant Writers Into Rockstar Writers</i> Pam Olivieri, Rockin Resources Audience: Elementary</p>	<p>Ballroom E</p> <p><i>Words and Wonders: Exploring the Intersection of Literacy and STEAM</i> Jaclyn Wallace, Lexington Richland Five & Kimberly Parker, Columbia Audience: Primary, Elementary & Middle</p>	<p>Ballroom F</p> <p><i>Relay to Read: Teaching Foundational Skills to Mastery in Small Groups</i> Katharine Bonasera, Collaborative Classroom Audience: PreK & Primary</p>
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<p>Captain Jack Stoney</p> <p><i>Igniting Writer's Voice</i> Judy Arnold & Tiffany Smith, Chesnee Middle School Audience: Middle</p>	<p>Bayley's Baroney</p> <p><i>Readers are Leaders: Close Reading Literary Practice Volume I</i> Dr. Nicholas Mercer, Rockdale County Public Schools Audience: Middle & High</p>	<p>Lord Proprietors</p> <p><i>Enhancing Reading Proficiency in English Language Learners: Educator Strategies and Their Impact on Literacy Achievement</i> Alexis Lawton, West Coast University Audience: All</p>	<p>Carolina Room</p> <p><i>Creating a Culture of Curiosity: Sparking Students' Willingness to Wonder Across the Content Areas</i> Alyssa Likens, Greenville County Schools & Sarah Brower, Spartanburg School District 6 Audience: Primary, Elementary & Middle</p>	<p>Palmetto Room</p> <p><i>Centering Readers: Analyzing and Responding to Children as Readers</i> Dr. Catherine Compton-Lilly, University of South Carolina Audience: All</p>	<p>Sabal Palm</p> <p><i>A Tale of 3 Cities with Embedded Mnemonics!</i> Caitlin Padgett, Letterland Audience: Primary</p>
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1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Concurrent Sessions

<p>Ballroom A</p> <p><i>The True Story of the Who Would Win? Books</i> Jerry Pallotta, Author Audience: All</p>	<p>Ballroom B</p> <p><i>Literacy Centers Lead to Student Growth and Engagement</i> Nancy Breeyea, Hand2Mind Audience: PreK, Primary & Elementary</p>	<p>Ballroom C</p> <p><i>A Good Story Is Not So Hard to Find: The Art and Function of Reading Aloud</i> Lester Laminack, Author Audience: All</p>	<p>Ballroom D</p> <p><i>Ignite Fluency with Reader's Theater</i> Jen Roberts, Rachel Brewington & Amanda Newton, Union County Schools Audience: Primary & Elementary</p>	<p>Ballroom E</p> <p><i>The A-to-Z Playbook of Effective Teaching</i> Jennifer Dunn, Greenwood 50 Audience: All</p>	<p>Ballroom F</p> <p><i>Nurturing Authentic Writing in the Age of AI: Cultivating Ideas and Critical Thinking</i> Dr. David Leshock HMH Audience: All</p>
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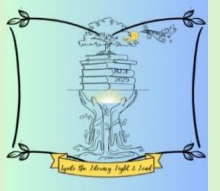
<p>Captain Jack Stoney</p> <p><i>Seeing Test Questions in a New Light: Using the VIEW Strategy to Ignite Student Engagement</i> Maddison Rippon, Orangeburg County School District Audience: Middle & High</p>	<p>Bayley's Baroney</p> <p><i>Finding Power in Balance: Reading With and Against Text</i> Dr. Mary Styslinger, University of South Carolina Audience: Middle & High</p>	<p>Lord Proprietors</p> <p><i>Council Development</i> Missy Lark, ILA/PSLA State Coordinator Audience: All</p>	<p>Carolina Room</p> <p><i>Transforming Instruction: The Power of Integrated Literacy</i> Michelle Ruhe, Fort Mill Schools Audience: Primary & Elementary</p>	<p>Palmetto Room</p> <p><i>Four Steps to Transforming Your Writing Classroom</i> Nicole Pegan, Empowering Writers Audience: PreK, Primary, Elementary & Middle</p>	<p>Sabal Palm</p> <p><i>Creating A Culture for Coaching Tier One Instruction Through Collaboration, Connection, Consistency, and Clarity</i> Dawn Mitchell Spartanburg 6 Audience: Literacy Coaches</p>
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2:45 PM - 3:45 PM Concurrent Sessions

<p>Ballroom A</p> <p><i>Focusing on Engagement While Building Knowledge and Skills</i> Marcus Ferrara, Diana Cullison & Kelly Brown Scholastic Audience: All</p>	<p>Ballroom B</p> <p><i>More Than A Number: Multi-tiered Systems of Support for the Whole Child</i> Beth Mitchell, Courtney McSwain, Paulette Moore; Kristi Patterson, Hannah Fairfax; Jenny Hill & Jane Wallace, York School District One Audience: PreK, Primary & Elementary</p>	<p>Ballroom C</p> <p><i>Author's Panel</i> Angela May & featured Authors Audience: All</p>	<p>Ballroom D</p> <p><i>More Than Just Definitions</i> Dr. Lori Poole & Jennifer Hamrick, Lexington One School District Audience: Elementary</p>	<p>Ballroom E</p> <p><i>Intervention: Lighting the way for Coaching Partnerships</i> Tiffany Besch, Chesterfield County School District & Karen Humann, Cheraw Intermediate School Audience: Primary & Elementary</p>	<p>Ballroom F</p> <p><i>Igniting Literacy: Assess, Lead, and Illuminate</i> Angela Wolfe & Dr. David Leshock, HMH Audience: All</p>
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<p>Captain Jack Stoney <i>Motivational Learning Strategies To Ignite All Learners</i> Tiffany Smith & Judy Arnold, Chesnee Middle School Audience: Middle</p>	<p>Bayley's Baroney <i>Supporting Literacy and Language Development with Multilingual Learners</i> Fred Pleis, Charleston County School District Audience: All</p>	<p>Lord Proprietors <i>The How and Why of Handwriting</i> Marcia Baxter, Zaner-Bloser Audience: Primary & Elementary</p>	<p>Carolina Room Enhancing Literacy Skills with PBS and SCETV Resources Caitlin Woodard, South Carolina Educational Television Audience: PreK & Primary</p>	<p>Palmetto Room <i>Strategies for Older Students When Approaching Multisyllabic Words: Syllable Division and Morphology</i> Kim Collins, Institute for Multi-Sensory Education Audience: Elementary, Middle, Special Education Teachers & Interventionists</p>	<p>Sabal Palm <i>The Future is Already Here: Harnessing the Power of AI in the ELA Classroom</i> Dr. Christie Adams, Spartanburg One Audience: Elementary & Middle</p>
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Saturday, February 22, 2025
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Concurrent Sessions
"Ignite the Literacy Light & Lead"



<p>Ballroom A <i>Bringing Word Meanings To Light: Vocabulary Strategies to Illuminate Literacy</i> Scarlett Pack & Kimberly Smith, Spartanburg Two Audience: Elementary, Middle & High</p>	<p>Ballroom C <i>Words Meet Math: Using a Literacy Lens to Teach Math</i> Jennifer Dunn, Greenwood 50 Audience: Primary & Elementary</p>	<p>Ballroom E <i>The Third Teacher: Designing a Writing Environment with Purpose</i> Jordan Page, University of South Carolina Audience: All</p>	<p>Ballroom B, D, F Moving Beyond the Page: Enhancing Reading Comprehension Lindsay Kemeny Sponsored by Scholastic Audience: All</p>	<p>Sabal Palm <i>A Good Story Is Not So Hard to Find: The Art and Function of Reading Aloud</i> Lester Laminack, Author Audience: All</p>
<p>Captain Jack Stoney <i>Literacy Teaching and Learning with Discus</i> Kristen Rebolgar, South Carolina State Library Audience: Middle & High</p>	<p>Bayley's Baroney <i>Ignite the Little Spark in Little Minds</i> Dr. Patrica Massengale, Dr. Kim Tisi, Emma Grace James, Jenna Grace Beiers, Miss Emily Rheaume & Miss Abby Gustafson Anderson University Audience: PreK & Primary</p>	<p>Lord Proprietors <i>History is Lit!</i> Karley Watkins, Newberry County Audience: Elementary & Middle</p>	<p>Palmetto Room <i>The Science of Reading 2.0: From Metaphors to Methods</i> Diana Betts, 95 Percent Group Audience: All</p>	<p>Carolina Room <i>Panel Presentation: Remaining Responsive to Learners In Challenging Times</i> Dr. Catherine Compton-Lilly, University of South Carolina, Cathy Jones-Stork, Lexington 2, Dr. Paul Thomas, Furman University, & Dr. Rachele Savitz, East Carolina University</p>

Saturday's Closing General Session
9:15 AM - 10: 45 AM
7 Mighty Moves for Reading Success
Lindsay Kemeny
Sponsored by Scholastic



Save the Date!
50th Annual Palmetto State Literacy Association Conference
February 19 - 21, 2026

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"Lighting the power of literacy empowers us all to lead with knowledge, purpose, and vision."

2025 PSLA Sponsors

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Exhibition Hall Hours

Thursday 2:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Friday 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Saturday 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Please visit our exhibitors to see the wonderful resources they have.