

Towson University's Multilingual Learner Conference

Saturday, April 27, 2024 | 9 AM—1:45 PM | West Village Commons

	Room 304	Room 305	Room 306	Room 307	Ballroom C
9–9:30 AM	REGISTRATION (Lobby)				
9:30–9:50 AM	BREAKFAST AND CONFERENCE OVERVIEW (Ballrooms A/B)				
10–10:45 AM Session 1	Exploring Science of Reading	Let's Talk Texts: Using Mentor Texts to Teach Writing	Elevating Multilingual Learners' Happiness and Success: A Robotics-Infused Journey to Flourishing	ML HUB: Your Hub for Multilingual Learner Resources	Teaching Writing to Multilingual Students
10:55–11:40 AM Session 2	Beyond Science of Reading	Engaging Linguistically Diverse Families in Tiered Interventions and Special Education: Key Knowledge and Tips for Teachers	Diversity, Inclusion, and Representation through Environmental and Social Justice Young Adult Literature	Learn to Create an Interactive and Engaging Virtual Resource for Your Multilingual Classroom!	Successful Writing Instruction with Multilingual Learners
11:50 AM–12:35 PM	LUNCH (Ballrooms A/B)				
12:40–1:25 PM Session 3	Roundtable Discussions on Complexities and Science of Reading	Unleash Potential, Bridge the Gap: WIDA-Powered Coding Activities for ML Success		Cultivating Connections: Multilingualism in Autistic Children	Getting Students Talking: Encouraging Discourse Among Multilingual Learners
1:30–1:45 PM	CLOSING AND RAFFLE (Ballrooms A/B)				

Session 1, 10–10:45 AM

Exploring Science of Reading (Room 304)

Dr. Stephen Mogge and Dr. Meghan Liebfreund, Towson University

This session will present the main ideas related to the “science of reading,” including claims by proponents, responses from the literacy profession and MD schools, and instructional content and practices.

Let’s Talk Texts: Using Mentor Texts to Teach Writing (Room 305)

Dr. Bethany Rice and Dr. Stephanie Moody, Towson University

In this session, participants will learn how to select mentor texts, and use them to guide writing instruction for multilingual learners. The session will provide instruction resources and an opportunity to engage in the planning process. Participants will learn how to pair mentor texts and writing instruction alongside any required curricular materials.

Elevating Multilingual Learners’ Happiness and Success: A Robotics-Infused Journey to Flourishing (Room 306)

Dr. Suzhen Duan, Dr. Qijie Vicky Cai and Dr. Liyan Song, Towson University

In this session, we will present an engaging course designed for multilingual learners in grades 1-3 at Howard County Chinese School. This inventive curriculum seamlessly weaves together positive psychology principles with immersive robotics-based activities, with the goal of fostering the well-being, happiness, and creativity of multilingual learners.

ML HUB: Your Hub for Multilingual Learner Resources (Room 307)

Dr. Clare Kruft, Towson University

Join us for a scavenger hunt through our new free multilingual learner platform housing engaging practical resources and professional learning opportunities for teachers, administrators, and families. Tell us how we can continue to build this Multilingual Learners Hub to support you and your school.

Teaching Writing to Multilingual Students (Ballroom C)

Dr. Vicki McQuitty and Dr. Pamela Hickey, Towson University; Norma Camorlinga, Brittney Chikwere, Celia DeBord, Amanda Duni, Valeria Maldonado Ortiz, Robin Palomares, Amy Penn and Kaitlyn Ruff, Baltimore County and City Public Schools

This session will share classroom-tested strategies for teaching writing to multilingual students. Hear from Maryland Writing Project teacher leaders about the effective strategies they have used to support their ESOL students.

Session 2, 10:55–11:40 AM

Beyond Science of Reading (Room 304)

Dr. Perpie Liwanag, Dr. Xiaoming Liu, Dr. Lijun Jin and Dr. Keri-Anne Croce, Towson University

This session will examine literacy instruction beyond the central tenants of the “science of reading,” including assessment practices, research evidence, and a more complex understanding of literacy instruction beyond basic skills.

Engaging Linguistically Diverse Families in Tiered Interventions and Special Education: Key Knowledge and Tips for Teachers (Room 305)

Dr. Patty Rice Doran and Betsy Neville, Towson University

Schools are often unfamiliar with how to engage and support linguistically diverse families in the referral, intervention, and problem-solving process. This interactive presentation provides clear, user-friendly best practices and strategies for engaging and supporting multilingual families throughout all aspects of the intervention and special education processes.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Representation through Environmental and Social Justice Young Adult Literature (Room 306)

Chelsea McClure and Dr. Laura Jacobs, Towson University

In this session, we will share about an ongoing interdisciplinary project. Secondary and Middle Education Department teacher candidates serve as researchers to investigate and address environmental change and social justice themes through a young adult literature (YAL) mentor text. The student research team is working to develop secondary science and ELA curriculum to highlight perspectives of diverse cultures and personalities.

Specifically, teams are developing instruction on how to make this content accessible for multilingual learners and leverage the cultural representation found in the YAL.

Learn to Create an Interactive and Engaging Virtual Resource for Your Multilingual Classroom! (Room 307)

Rebecca Cazes, Towson University

This presentation will walk through how to create an interactive and engaging virtual resource for teachers and families of multilingual learners. We will show what the resource is, how it can be used in any content area, and how to create one for your classroom. It will be helpful if participants have access to Google Slides on their laptop or phone during this presentation.

Successful Writing Instruction with Multilingual Learners (Ballroom C)

Dr. Vicki McQuitty and Dr. Clare Kruft, Towson University

Join us to learn specific ideas to build scaffolds and create opportunities to elevate the voices of your multilingual learners for writing success within your classroom. Learn how to incorporate mini-lessons and writing conferences into your curriculum to provide more effective results for informational writing with your multilingual learners.

Session 3, 12:40–1:25 PM

Roundtable Discussions on Complexities and Science of Reading (Room 304)

Roundtable Facilitators: Dr. Shelly Huggins, Becky Maloy, Jennifer Pett and Dr. Bethany Rice, Towson University

This session will invite participants to discuss practical applications of literacy instruction including and beyond Science of Reading.

Unleash Potential, Bridge the Gap: WIDA-Powered Coding Activities for ML Success (Room 305)

Dianne O’Grady-Cunniff and Tim Dixon, Maryland Center for Computing Education

Explore ways to connect WIDA standards to computational activities that will support language skills and computer science literacy.

Cultivating Connections: Multilingualism in Autistic Children (Room 307)

Aisha Alfadhlah and Nicole Tricia dela Paz, Autism Parents Platform and Prince George’s County Public Schools

The session will discuss how affirming multiple languages in autistic multilingual learners does not hinder their language development - but instead may benefit their social communication. Participants will learn how to collaborate with parents/community members and learn strategies to implement within their classrooms/environments.

Getting Students Talking: Encouraging Discourse Among Multilingual Learners (Ballroom C)

Stephanie Gerhold and Rachel A. Jones, Baltimore County Public Schools

Join the conversation as we focus on encouraging multilingual learners to actively and enthusiastically engage in classroom discussions across the content areas. Attendees will walk away with strategies to strengthen students’ abilities to use academic language in context while also developing their confidence in the domain of speaking.