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ACE-STEM SUMMER INSTITUTE

Program Booklet

Monday - Wednesday June 16- 18, 2025

Colgan Hall, Verizon Auditorium
George Mason University, SciTech Campus
10900 University Blvd, Manassas, VA 20110

Welcome Message

From Project Director Dr. Sujin Kim



On behalf of the ACE-STEM team, it is my utmost pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all the participants of our ACE-STEM Summer Institute 2025. As the Project Director of the ACE-STEM National Professional Development (NPD) Grant Project, funded by the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) at the U.S. Department of Education, I am thrilled to have you join us for this exciting event.

ACE-STEM is dedicated to supporting the education of English learners (ELs)/ Multilingual learners (MLs) by providing high-quality professional development for educators of ELs/MLs. Our goal is to equip educators with the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively meet the unique needs of MLs in today's fast-paced and ever-evolving multimodal world.

From June 16-18, we will be hosting a comprehensive teacher professional development institute. Throughout this institute, we will delve into contemporary approaches for teaching ELs/MLs, focusing on the intersection of language learning, STEM education, and inclusive instructional practices. Our program features a wide range of presentations and workshops, delivered by distinguished experts in the field of education.

I am confident that the ACE-STEM Summer Institute will serve as a platform for collaboration, exchange of ideas, and professional growth. I encourage you to actively participate in the sessions, engage with your peers, and take advantage of the expertise and knowledge shared by our esteemed presenters. Once again, I extend my warmest welcome to all participants of the ACE-STEM Summer Institute 2025. Let us embark on this transformative journey together, as we work towards empowering ELs/MLs and their families and creating a more inclusive and equitable educational environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Sujin Kim".

Dr. Sujin Kim
ACE-STEM Project Director



Time	Location	Activity
8:30 AM	Verizon Auditorium Lobby	CHECK-IN & LIGHT BREAKFAST
9:00 AM	Verizon Auditorium	INTRODUCTIONS & ICE-BREAKER ACTIVITY
9:30 AM	Verizon Auditorium	MODEL SCHOOL PRESENTATION <i>Benton's Heritage Night and Family Transliteracy Partnership</i> Presenters: Ms. Karen Edwards, Ms. Jerri Piacesi, Ms. Christina Devers, Ms. Sabrina Esteban, Ms. Fabiana Grant
10:30 AM	Verizon Auditorium	PANEL DISCUSSION WITH EDUCATIONAL LEADERS <i>Exploring Advocacy and Equity for Multilingual Learners and Families</i> Moderator: Dr. Kathy Ramos Panelists: Dr. Lynmara Colon, Mr. Inmar Romero, Dr. Jenn Santiago, Ms. Lisa Manikas, Mr. Matt Walker
11:30 AM	Verizon Auditorium/ Session Rooms	WORKING LUNCH: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION
12:30 PM	110 A 110 H 110 L	COHORT 2 TEACHER POSTER EXHIBITION
1:30 PM	Verizon Auditorium/ 110 A	EDCI 510 WEEK 5 CLASS or SCHOOL LEADERS CONVERSATION
3:00 PM	Verizon Auditorium/ 110 A	GoREACT ORIENTATION or MENTOR COACHES DISCUSSION
3:30 PM	Verizon Auditorium	REFLECTION, FEEDBACK, & CIEML MID-POINT SURVEY



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Schedule

Tuesday, June 17

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Time	Location	Activity
8:30 AM	Verizon Auditorium Lobby	CHECK-IN & LIGHT BREAKFAST
9:00 AM	Verizon Auditorium	OPENING & GREETINGS
9:30 AM	Verizon Auditorium	KEYNOTE PRESENTATION <i>Following La Corriente of Translanguaging: Shifts in Perspective and Practice for Emergent Bilingual Students</i> Presenter: Dr. Kate Seltzer
11:30 AM	Verizon Auditorium/ Session Rooms	WORKING LUNCH: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION
12:30 PM	Verizon Auditorium	SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION <i>Get Up and Sing! Engaging Young Learners Through Song</i> Presenter: Dr. Joan Kang Shin
1:30 PM Choose one session	Session Rooms (110H, 110E, 110A, 110L)	WORKSHOP SESSIONS 1 - Please choose one to join Dr. Jennifer Santiago - <i>Supporting Multilingual Learners Through an Equity Lens</i> Dr. Kate Selzer - <i>Following La Corriente of Translanguaging: An Open Discussion about Translanguaging in Action</i> Dr. Joan Kang Shin - <i>Navigating Bias in the AI Era: Media Literacy for English Language Educators</i> Dr. Greer Mancuso - <i>Cultivating Success: How to Engage and Support SLIFE Students</i>
2:30 PM Choose one session	Session Rooms (110H, 110E, 110A, 110L)	WORKSHOP SESSIONS 2 - Please choose one to join Ms. Karen Edwards - <i>Family Transliteracy Partnership: Benton Loves to Read</i> Dr. Greer Mancuso - <i>Cultivating Success: How to Engage and Support SLIFE Students</i> Ms. Nancy Schieda & Dr. Woomee Kim - <i>An Eclectic Approach to Teaching Multilingual Learners: A Day in the Life of a Math Educator</i> Ms. Angela Speights - <i>Empowering Multilingual Learners: Infographics in Science Classrooms</i>
3:30 PM	Verizon Auditorium	REFLECTION, FEEDBACK, AND DAILY SURVEY





Time	Location	Activity
8:30 AM	Verizon Auditorium Lobby	CHECK-IN & LIGHT BREAKFAST
9:00 AM	Verizon Auditorium	OPENING & GREETINGS
9:30 AM	Verizon Auditorium	KEYNOTE PRESENTATION <i>Teaching Mathematics with Multilingual Students isn't Always Intuitive</i> Presenter: Dr. Zandra de Araujo
11:30 AM	Verizon Auditorium/ Session Rooms	WORKING LUNCH: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION
12:30 PM	Verizon Auditorium	SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION <i>Harnessing the Power of Technology to Benefit All Learners</i> Presenters: Dr. Anya Evmenova and Dr. Jered Borup
1:30 PM Choose one session	Session Rooms (110H, 110E, 110A, 110L)	WORKSHOP SESSIONS 1 - Please choose one to join Dr. Jered Borup - <i>The Power of Generative AI in the Classroom</i> Dr. Zandra de Araujo - <i>Practical Changes to Capture Student Brilliance</i> Dr. Anya Evmenova - <i>Supporting ALL Learners with Universal Design for Learning</i> Ms. Holly Sawyer - <i>Try, Fail, Succeed, Repeat: Building Confidence, Taking Risks in STEM</i>
2:30 PM Choose one session	Session Rooms (110H, 110E, 110A, 110L)	WORKSHOP SESSIONS 2 - Please choose one to join Ms. Janira Collado-Toro - <i>"Share Your World With Us" - Using Translanguaging Practices and Funds of knowledge for the Empowering Creation of Unique Family Storybooks</i> Ms. Kenya Miles - <i>Tech Tools, Choice, and Voice for Multilingual Learners</i> Ms. Holly Sawyer - <i>Try, Fail, Succeed, Repeat: Building Confidence, Taking Risks in STEM</i> Dr. Manqian Zhao - <i>"I AM Not a Picky Eater" - Experiencing a Mandarin Lesson Through the Eyes of Multilingual Learners</i>
3:30 PM	Verizon Auditorium	REFLECTION, FEEDBACK, AND DAILY SURVEY



Presentations & Workshop Descriptions

Monday, June 16

MODEL SCHOOL PRESENTATION: Benton's Heritage Night and Family Transliteracy Partnership

Presenters: *Ms. Karen Edwards, Ms. Jerri Piacesi, Ms. Christina Devers, Ms. Sabrina Esteban, and Ms. Fabiana Grant*

Heritage Night is a community event that celebrates and showcases the cultural diversity of the Benton Middle School community. It is an event that allows time to appreciate and learn about different traditions, customs, and heritage through cultural performances, food samples, exhibits and artifacts. The event's success relies on family participation, and Benton families show up in style. Families create beautiful displays, share cultural dishes, and enrich our community with history. Members of the Benton team will share how to create a successful event that celebrates our community.

PANEL DISCUSSION WITH EDUCATIONAL LEADERS: Exploring Advocacy and Equity for Multilingual Learners and Families

Moderator: *Dr. Kathy Ramos*

Panelists: *Dr. Lynmara Colon, Mr. Inmar Romero, Dr. Jenn Santiago, Ms. Lisa Manikas, and Mr. Matt Walker*

In this session, school leaders and mentor coaches from ACE-STEM Cohort 1 will share their thinking about advocacy for Multilingual Learners and families. The issue of advocacy will be explored as it relates to collaboration among colleagues, instruction, and outreach beyond school settings. Panelists will also reflect on the importance of advocacy in supporting equity and social justice for MLs and families. The audience will have an opportunity to pose questions to the panelists as well.



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Presentations & Workshop Descriptions

Tuesday, June 17

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Following La Corriente of Translanguaging: Shifts in Perspective and Practice for Emergent Bilingual Students

Dr. Kate Seltzer

In her keynote, Kate Seltzer will discuss translanguaging, both as the communicative norm of bilingual homes and communities and as an approach to teaching multilingual learners that leverages their full linguistic repertoire for learning. Drawing on elements of her co-authored book, *The Translanguaging Classroom*, Dr. Seltzer will introduce translanguaging as both theory and practice and provide participants with examples of translanguaging in action across a variety of classrooms and settings.

SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION: Get Up and Sing! Engaging Young Learners Through Song

Dr. Joan Kang Shin

Ready to bring energy and fun into your English classroom? In this interactive session, discover five powerful tips for using songs to teach young learners English! We'll explore how to effectively incorporate singing and chanting into your lessons to make language learning exciting and memorable. Walk away with a lively collection of musical games, activities, and techniques that turn songs into engaging, meaningful content. Whether you're a seasoned singer or just starting to bring music into your teaching, this session will equip you with creative ways to captivate your students and enhance their language skills through song.

WORKSHOP SESSION 1: Following La Corriente of Translanguaging: An Open Discussion about Translanguaging in Action

Dr. Kate Seltzer

In this workshop, Kate Seltzer will address a series of Frequently Asked Questions about translanguaging as well as solicit questions and feedback from participants about applying translanguaging to classroom practice.

WORKSHOP SESSION 1: Supporting Multilingual Learners Through an Equity Lens

Dr. Jennifer Santiago

Participants will examine what it means to have an "Equity lens" when planning lessons. This session will also dive into ways in which teachers can differentiate for and advocate for their ML students access to core content. This session will also discuss possible uses of AI to support lesson development and differentiation based on language levels.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS 1 & 2: Cultivating Success: How to Engage and Support SLIFE Students

Dr. Greer Mancuso

This session will build background knowledge on the unique characteristics of students who have limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFE). Teachers will learn tips for planning instruction for SLIFE and what considerations need to be made when working with SLIFE. Resources and ideas will be shared that can immediately be applied in the classroom when working with all Multilingual Learners.

WORKSHOP SESSION 1: Navigating Bias in the AI Era: Media Literacy for English Language Educators

Dr. Joan Kang Shin

In today's dynamic, multimodal world, teaching English extends beyond language skills—it's about empowering students with media literacy to thrive in real-world communication. The rise of generative AI amplifies this need, as its outputs often reflect societal stereotypes and implicit biases, particularly in image generation, which can perpetuate racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination. This session explores how English language educators can identify and address these biases in AI-generated media, ensuring that the materials we create and use promote inclusivity and equity. Session participants will also learn strategies to help students develop critical literacy skills, equipping them to analyze and navigate AI-generated content thoughtfully and effectively. Together, let's ensure that the tools of the AI era serve as bridges, not barriers, to understanding one another through English.

WORKSHOP SESSION 2: Family Transliteracy Partnership – Benton Loves to Read

Ms. Karen Edwards

Benton Middle School's community joins to celebrate the school's diverse heritages through an evening of sharing the traditions and languages of our multicultural community. The ESOL department kicked off the Benton Loves to Read Family Partnership this spring funded by the ACE-STEM Multilingual Family Transliterations Project. Benton provides bilingual books, games that encourage translanguaging, and family education to encourage reading and literacy as a part of everyday life.

WORKSHOP SESSION 2: An Eclectic Approach to Teaching Multilingual Learners: A Day in the Life of a Math Educator

Ms. Nancy Schieda & Dr. Woomee Kim

Step into a day in the life of a math educator effectively supporting multilingual learners within secondary school context. This dynamic session will reveal how an eclectic approach seamlessly integrates into daily classroom routines and instruction. We'll explore practical strategies, including leveraging translanguaging to empower students' diverse linguistic skills and implementing various scaffolding like visual supports to help students digest complex mathematical and scientific concepts. You'll leave with actionable insights to transform your classroom into an inclusive and highly effective learning environment for all students.

WORKSHOP SESSION 2: Empowering Multilingual Learners: Infographics in Science Classrooms

Ms. Angela Speights

This interactive session equips PK-12 teachers with strategies for using infographics in science classrooms to support multilingual learners (MLs) in creatively representing their science knowledge in transmodal ways. Participants will engage with practicing teachers who collaborated with university researchers to invite MLs to use digital tools to create multimodal infographics!



Presentations & Workshop Descriptions

Wednesday, June 18th

PRESENTATION: Teaching Mathematics with Multilingual Students isn't Always Intuitive

Dr. Zandra de Araujo

Teaching mathematics with multilingual students requires specialized knowledge and skills. In this session, we will examine the pitfalls of some seemingly intuitive instructional strategies. We will then engage with productive, research-based strategies for teaching multilingual students mathematics as they also advance their language proficiency.

PRESENTATION: Harnessing the Power of Technology to Benefit All Learners

Dr. Anya Evmenova and Dr. Jered Borup

In this interactive keynote, Dr. Anya Evmenova and Dr. Jered Borup will share how technology can be harnessed to support all learners through the lens of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). We will discuss how to embrace strategies that celebrate learner variability, leverage technology's true affordances, and align methods with meaningful learning goals.

WORKSHOP SESSION 1: Practical Changes to Capture Student Brilliance

Dr. Zandra de Araujo

During this interactive session participants will learn about small suggestions that can be put into action in the classroom immediately. These practices focus on highlighting and elevating student thinking, particularly multilingual students, while increasing student engagement. We will engage participants in learning about instructional nudges that center the brilliance of students' thinking during group work and wrapping up a lesson.

WORKSHOP SESSION 1: The Power of Generative AI in the Classroom

Dr. Jered Borup

This workshop will be a combination of generative AI demonstrations, hand-on practice, and small-group discussions to better explore how teachers can leverage the power of generative AI to benefit English Learners in STEM classrooms. Rather than only focusing the benefits, the workshop will take a balanced perspective on generative AI, exploring its opportunities, drawbacks, and ethical implications.

WORKSHOP SESSION 1: Supporting ALL Learners with Universal Design for Learning

Dr. Anya Evmenova

In this session you will learn about how Universal Design for Learning (UDL) can be used to engage all learners regardless of their abilities and needs. Examples of ways to incorporate three UDL principles: multiple means of engagement, multiple means of representation, and multiple means of action/expression into instruction will be provided.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS 1 & 2: Try, Fail, Succeed, Repeat: Building Confidence, Taking Risks in STEM

Ms. Holly Sawyer

How can Multilingual Learners succeed in STEM classes if they're afraid to try (and fail)? Science, coding/robotics, math, and engineering provide unique opportunities for MLs to engage in problem-based learning, where solutions often fail on an attempt. Check out strategies and a project design framework that cultivate positive attitudes towards risk, to help students "fail forward."

WORKSHOP SESSION 2: "Share Your World With Us" – Using translanguaging practices and funds of knowledge for the empowering creation of unique family storybooks

Ms. Janira Collado-Toro

This workshop will empower multilingual students and their families to write about their stories, funds of knowledge and use their voice in a translanguaging space to create a unique family storybook. The experience facilitates the opportunity for students to develop their writing skills while sharing their stories with others.

WORKSHOP SESSION 2: Tech Tools, Choice, and Voice for Multilingual Learners

Ms. Kenya Miles

This hands-on session explores how digital tools can break down barriers for multilingual learners in math and science classrooms. Participants will learn how to use Adobe Express, Canva, and Book Creator to provide students with voice, choice, and creative ways to demonstrate understanding. Kenya Miles, an Instructional Technology Coach with a background in diversity and exceptionality, will guide educators through practical strategies for designing inclusive, tech-enhanced learning experiences. Attendees will leave with ready-to-use ideas and a renewed focus on equity through student-centered technology integration.

WORKSHOP SESSION 2: "I AM Not a Picky Eater" – Experiencing a Mandarin Lesson Through the Eyes of Multilingual Learners

Dr. Manqian Zhao

What does it feel like to learn in a language you don't yet understand? In this interactive workshop, participants will experience a primary-grade nutrition lesson taught entirely in Mandarin Chinese—mirroring the challenges multilingual learners face when navigating unfamiliar language and content. Through this immersive demonstration and guided reflection, participants will explore strategies for designing lesson units that simultaneously support content understanding, vocabulary development, literacy growth, and oracy skills. Attendees will leave with practical tools and insights for creating linguistically responsive and academically rigorous instruction.



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Keynote and Workshop Presenters

In alphabetical order by last name

Dr. Jered Borup



Dr. Jered Borup is an Associate Professor in the Division of Learning Technologies at George Mason University and a coordinator for the Learning Technologies in Schools Master's program that is devoted to improving teacher practices in online and blended learning environments. Dr. Borup taught history at a junior high school for six years and has taught online and blended courses since 2008. He currently researches student support systems in online and blended environments.

Dr. Lynmara Colón



Dr. Lynmara Colón, Director of Student Opportunity and Multilingual Services at Prince William County Public Schools, leads a comprehensive program supporting over 20,000 English learners and various federal initiatives. Her leadership fosters inclusivity, empowers staff, and engages families to ensure students have the resources and opportunities needed to thrive in a diverse educational environment.

Ms. Janira Collado-Toro



Janira Collado Toro is an experienced ESOL educator with a master's degree in educational psychology with ESOL teacher preparation. She is a strong advocate for translanguaging, and she collaborates with school leaders to promote parental involvement. Recently she published in Times Magazine American Educational Research Association about Dr. Steve Graham and self-regulated learning of writing skills.

Dr. Zandra de Araujo



Dr. Zandra de Araujo started her career as a high school mathematics teacher. Currently, she is the Chief Equity Officer and Math Principal at the University of Florida's Lastinger Center for Learning. Her research focuses on teachers' curriculum use, particularly with English learners. She is a board member in NCTM, the author of numerous mathematics education publications, the creator of the Mathematically Educated blog, and the co-creator of the Two-Minute Teacher's Guide.





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Keynote and Workshop Presenters

In alphabetical order by last name

Dr. Anya Evmenova



Dr. Anya Evmenova, Ph.D., is a professor at George Mason University, specializing in technology integration, special education, and research methods. She has received multiple awards for her UDL-based teaching, including the John Toups Presidential Medal. Her research focuses on assistive technology in inclusive education and Universal Design for Learning. Dr. Evmenova has secured over \$20 million in grants to support her research and development of technology-based interventions.

Ms. Karen Edwards



Karen Edwards is a teacher of English language learners at Benton Middle School. Karen is ACE-STEM Cohort 1 graduate who was awarded the grant to implement the Multilingual Family Transliterations Project at her school.

Dr. Sujin Kim



Sujin Kim, PhD is an Associate Professor of Education in the Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse & Exceptional Learners program at George Mason University. Her research and teaching areas include culturally and linguistically diverse students' academic achievement, content and language integrated instruction, translanguageing and transmodalising pedagogy, and critical discourse analysis. Dr. Kim has extensively worked with ESOL teachers and content teachers, led national professional development grant projects to enhance teacher capacity in serving English learners, and served as a teacher educator in higher education.

Dr. Woomee Kim



Woomee Kim, Ph.D. is a Postdoctoral Fellow at George Mason University. She is the Academic Co-Coordinator of the Teaching Culturally & Linguistically Diverse & Exceptional Learners program, and the Project Coordinator for Advanced Content-Integrated Education for English Learners with a STEM Focus project and Global Online Teacher Education Center. Dr. Kim's research and practice focus on teaching English as an additional language to multilingual and multicultural learners, and online TESOL education and professional development. She has taught in classrooms since 1999 within the U.S. and abroad, in public and private schools/university settings.





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Keynote and Workshop Presenters

In alphabetical order by last name

Dr. Greer Mancuso



Dr. Greer Mancuso is currently a Multilingual Learner Specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools. She taught as an ESOL teacher for 17 years at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. She holds a Ph.D. in Teaching and Teacher Education from George Mason University (GMU). Greer is a Nationally Board Certified Teacher in the area of English as a New Language. Additionally, she teaches graduate courses at GMU as an adjunct instructor.

Ms. Lisa Manikas



Lisa Manikas is a retired educator with 37 years of experience working with adolescents and faculties. Her last assignment was as a secondary English Learner Specialist for Prince William County Schools..

Ms. Kenya Miles



Kenya Miles is the Instructional Technology Coach at Rippon Middle School in Prince William County Schools. She holds a Master of Education from George Mason University, with a concentration in Diversity and Exceptionality. As a former ACE-STEM Cohort I teacher, Kenya developed a strong foundation in supporting culturally and linguistically diverse learners. In her current role, she helps educators integrate technology to make instruction more accessible and engaging for ESOL students.

Dr. Kathleen A. Ramos



Dr. Kathy Ramos began her career as a world language and ESOL teacher for 20 years in Pittsburgh Public Schools. She earned a Ph.D. in Language, Literacy, and Culture from the University of Pittsburgh in 2012. In TCLDEL, Dr. Ramos prepares in-service and preservice teachers, locally and internationally, to teach PK-12 multilingual learners with equity and excellence. Dr. Ramos is dedicated to enhancing teachers' practice around pedagogies that are promising for valuing and strengthening bilingualism and biliteracy. As a 2018-2019 Global Teacher Ed Fellow, her research interests include investigating ways to support educators in teaching for global competence through a social justice lens.





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Keynote and Workshop Presenters

In alphabetical order by last name

Mr. Inmar Romero



Dr. Inmar Romero is the principal of Fred Lynn Middle School. He started his teaching career at Gar-Field High School in 2010 as a Spanish, ESOL Teacher and Teacher on Administrative Assignment. He then served as an assistant principal at New Directions and New Dominion. He discovered his strengths in developing thriving pathways for all students, including ELs, students with disabilities, and gifted students, to excel in and out of the classroom.

Mr. Inmar Romero earned a bachelor's degree from James Madison University; a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction and Multicultural Education from George Mason University; and a second master's degree in Educational Leadership in Administration from George Mason University.

Dr. Jennifer Santiago



Jennifer Santiago, Ph.D. is the Director of Equity and Excellence for Falls Church City Public Schools (FCCPS). Dr. Santiago has been a stay-at-home-mom, an ESOL teacher specializing in working with newly arrived Americans at the secondary level, an ESOL Specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) leading ESOL programming at the middle school level for the division, and an ESOL Coordinator at FCCPS. Dr. Santiago received her Ph.D. in Multicultural Multilingual Education and Research Methodologies from George Mason University.

Ms. Holly Sawyer



Holly Sawyer is a secondary English Learner teacher and National Board Certified educator based in Chesapeake, VA, as well as a consultant and curriculum writer for CodeVA. She has taught ESL for 18 years and holds a BA in Spanish and an MA in Applied Linguistics and TESOL from Old Dominion University. Her classroom practices and students have been featured in Growing Language & Literacy (Honigsfeld) and Collaborative Assessment for Multilingual Learners & Teachers (Gottlieb & Honigsfeld). Holly has presented at the Annual WIDA Conference, TESOL International Convention, VATESOL, and VESA. She co-authored "Try, Fail, Succeed, Repeat" for TESOL Publications and is co-editor of New Ways of Teaching Young Learners for TESOL Press (forthcoming, Summer 2026).

Ms. Nancy Schieda



Nancy Schieda holds a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Lehigh University and an M.A.T. from New Jersey City University, along with an ESOL Certification from George Mason University through the ACE STEM Cohort 1. She has been teaching for nine years and currently teaches Pre-Algebra and Algebra I in Prince William County Schools. Nancy is committed to creating inclusive, engaging math instruction that supports all learners.





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Keynote and Workshop Presenters

In alphabetical order by last name

Dr. Kate Seltzer



Kate Seltzer is an Associate Professor of Bilingual and ESL Education at Rowan University. Her research focuses on helping schools and teachers build on students' rich language practices while also disrupting their own ideologies about these students and their ways of using language. She is co-author of the book, *The Translanguaging Classroom: Leveraging Student Bilingualism for Learning* as well as book chapters and articles in journals such as *Journal of Literacy Research*, *Research in the Teaching of English*, and *TESOL Quarterly*.

Dr. Joan Kang Shin



Joan Kang Shin, Ph.D. is a Professor of Education at George Mason University and Director of the Global Online Teacher Education Center (GOTEC). She is an award-winning author and series editor for National Geographic Learning. Some of her book titles include *Breaking Through the Screen*, *Teaching Young Learners English*, *Our World*, and *Impact*. She is also co-author of TESOL's *The 6 Principles for Exemplary Teaching of English Learners: Young Learners in a Multilingual World*. In 2021, she was named one of the top 30 English Language Specialists by the U.S. Department of State in recognition of her lasting impact on the Specialist Program and the field of TESOL.

Ms. Angela Speights



Angie Speights has taught grades 4-8 for the past 27 years in Stafford and Prince William County Schools. She continues to seek new ways to help students become more successful and empowered.

Mr. Matthew Walker



Matt Walker is an award-winning educator and activist based in Warrenton, VA, dedicated to making social studies fun and inclusive. With a background in history from Virginia Tech and a master's certificate in TESOL from George Mason University, he loves sparking curiosity in his students. He's known for creating an innovative classroom where everyone feels welcome and inspired to learn. Whether advocating for English learners' rights with the Virginia General Assembly or mentoring new teachers, Matt is committed to building a more equitable and engaging educational experience for all.





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Dr. Manqian Zhao



Manqian Zhao, Ph.D. is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and Exceptional Learners program at George Mason University, with research and teaching interests in multilingual students' literacy outcomes, dual language education, cross-linguistic transfer, and translanguaging pedagogy. Her research has focused on exploring the ways in which students can transfer their linguistic knowledge and skills across different languages, and how educators can best leverage these skills to promote academic success. In addition to her research, Dr. Zhao is an experienced teacher and has worked extensively with diverse student populations.

