



LITERACIES FOR ALL SUMMER INSTITUTE
2019 CALL FOR PROGRAM PROPOSALS

Embracing Diversity through Meaningful Inquiry
Columbia, South Carolina
July 11–13, 2019

We look forward to welcoming the Literacies for All Summer Institute to Columbia, South Carolina, during Summer 2019! Our theme for the conference highlights three important ideas: diversity, inquiry, and learning. Each idea has particular significance when we consider the historical and current state of literacy education.

Diversity has a contested history in relation to progressive education. While progressive educators often proclaim the importance of attending to diversity in all its forms, truly honoring a full range of differences—race, culture, language, gender, sexuality, ability, and beyond—is by far the greatest challenge educators face. While our intentions are sincere, what it means to teach for social justice and how those practices are realized require careful introspection, self-reflection, and generally several attempts. There are no formulas, only tenacity and hope.

Inquiry reminds us of the significance of our practice and the careful reflection on what we observe and experience. Meaningful inquiry is key to exemplary literacy teaching because it places students and their learning at the center of our work. It has played a significant role in the history of progressive education and will continue to do so.

Finally, we must consider professional learning and how we can support each other as literacy educators. What do teachers need to understand about literacy? How can we develop our abilities to help children and youth become engaged and capable designers of learning? Please join us in this celebration and exploration of literacy teaching and learning as we reaffirm what we know and explore new possibilities.

This Summer Institute affords educators the opportunity to come together to learn and explore these issues through a variety of forums including workshops, symposia, panels, poster presentations, conversations, and social/political action.

We invite proposals focusing on welcoming diversity through meaningful inquiry including sessions focusing on

- Collaborations between learners, teachers, parents, and community members, including community study, service learning, critical pedagogy, and social action.
- Collaborative projects that cross boundaries within and across communities, states, and countries
- The use of technology and digital, visual, and critical literacies to bring us together across time and space and across political, social, economic, and geographic boundaries
- How literacy and access to it positions us socially, economically, and politically
- What it means to be literate in varied languages and cultures
- How the meaning of literacy has changed and continues to evolve
- Including and nurturing diverse languages and literacies in bilingual, multilingual, and monolingual English settings
- Reading literature that reflects the lives of our students and broadens our scope to lived experiences other than our own
- How meaningful teaching and authentic learning engagements support individuals' social and emotional well-being.

In addition to other sessions, the NCTE Early Childhood Education Assembly sponsors an early childhood strand pertaining to the education of children from birth to age eight, their families, and teachers. Early literacy sessions also address diversities in early childhood and highlight practices and processes that are situated in social, historical, and cultural contexts.



The WLU Summer Institute also offers a **Pre-Conference Workshop**, a five-hour, cosponsored, intensive workshop taking place the afternoon before the opening session and focusing on the complex political and critical issues that surround whole language philosophy and teaching. With goals of teacher support and professional development, advocacy, and political action, participants actively engage in dialogue and small- and whole-group interactions. A separate Pre-Conference Proposal form should be submitted by the dates indicated on the proposal form. It can be downloaded at www.ncte.org/wlu/institute.

The Literacies for All Summer Institute is a peer-reviewed conference. All proposals addressing whole language themes will be considered. Look for more information about the conference and the proposal form on the WLU website, www.ncte.org/wlu/institute, and Facebook page, and follow us on Twitter, #wlu19.

Important Notes: Because WLU is a not-for-profit organization, the financial viability of its Annual Convention depends upon the support of everyone who attends. **Invited participants are required to register for the conference when they accept their invitation.** NCTE/WLU is unable to reimburse program participants for travel or living expenses. Session proposers should advise all involved in their proposal that submission of a proposal does not constitute an invitation to appear on the program. Invitations will be sent in April following the Program Planning Committee's peer-review and selection process.