



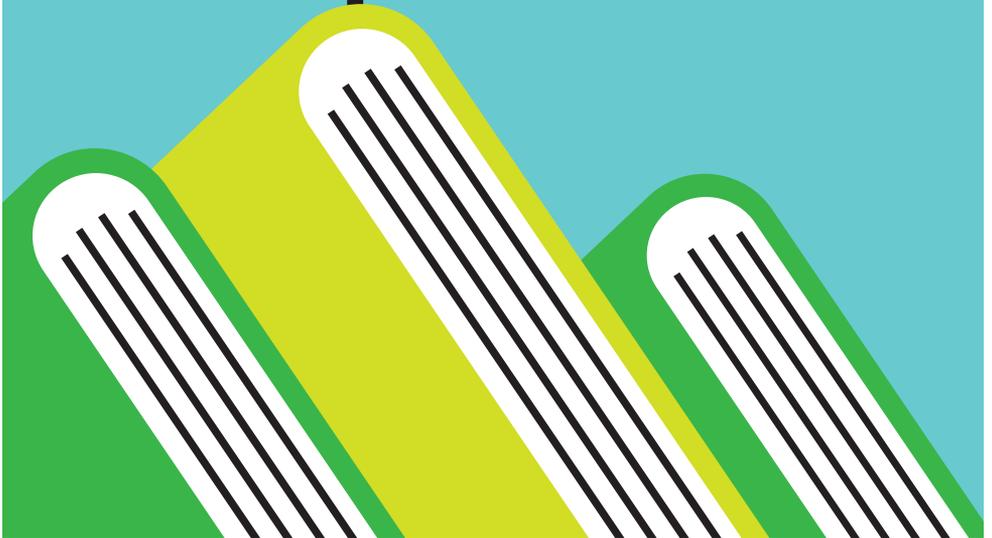
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*COMMUNITY LITERACY SUMMIT 2018*

**READING BY THIRD GRADE:  
OUR SHARED OPPORTUNITY, OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY**

An orange banner with a white border and a black vertical line on its right side, containing the date 'THURSDAY 01.25.18' in white text.

**THURSDAY  
01.25.18**



**ABOUT****Literacy Center of West Michigan**

Founded in 1986, the Literacy Center of West Michigan is committed to bringing about a just and vibrant West Michigan through the power of literacy. We advance our mission by addressing the literacy needs of adults, both native speakers of English and English language learners, who read below a ninth grade level. We are at the forefront of adult literacy instruction. Our programs meet learners where they are, offering one-on-one tutoring, employment-focused classes, and family literacy opportunities at no cost to the learners. The Community Literacy Initiative is part of this work, convening literacy providers to align efforts and accelerate improvement of literacy levels in our community.

**Stay connected:**

 LiteracyCenterWM

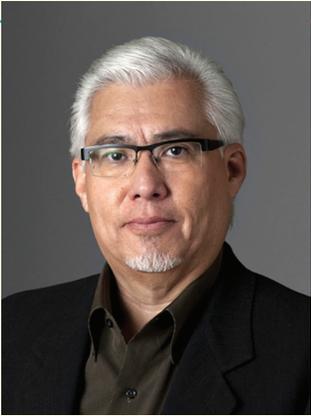
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 literacycenterwm

[www.literacycenterwm.org](http://www.literacycenterwm.org)



- 7:30 AM**      **Registration and Light Breakfast**
- 8:30 AM**      **Opening Remarks**  
 Dr. Wendy V. Falb  
*Literacy Center of West Michigan Executive Director*  
 Mr. Luke Wilcox  
*Math Teacher, East Kentwood High School*  
*2017-2018 Michigan Teacher of the Year*
- 8:45 AM**      **Keynote Presentation**  
 Mr. Claudio Sanchez  
*NPR Education Correspondent*  
 Introduced by  
 Mr. Mike Nassar  
*Community Literacy Initiative Director*
- 9:40–10:25 AM**      **Breakout Session I**
- 10:40–11:25 AM**      **Breakout Session II**
- 11:30 AM**      **Lunch and Panel Discussion**  
*Panelists*  
 Mr. Claudio Sanchez  
*NPR Education Correspondent*  
 Ms. Jill Macauley  
*Second Grade Teacher, Stocking Elementary,*  
*Grand Rapids Public Schools*  
 Ms. Matinga Ragatz  
*Educational Consultant,*  
*2010-2011 Michigan Teacher of the Year*  
*Moderated by*  
 Ms. Tracy Horodyski  
*Instructional Coach, Kenowa Hills Public Schools,*  
*2016-2017 Michigan Teacher of the Year*
- 12:45 PM**      **Call to Action and Closing Remarks**  
 Ms. Teresa Weatherall Neal  
*Superintendent, Grand Rapids Public Schools*



**Mr. Claudio Sanchez**  
NPR Education Correspondent

Former elementary and middle school teacher Claudio Sanchez is the education correspondent for NPR. He focuses on the “three P’s” of education reform: politics, policy, and pedagogy. Sanchez’s reports air regularly on NPR’s award-winning newsmagazines “Morning Edition,” “All Things Considered,” and “Weekend Edition.”

Sanchez joined NPR in 1989 after having served a year as executive producer for the El Paso-based Latin American News Service, a daily national radio news service covering Latin America and the US-Mexico border.

From 1984 to 1988, Sanchez was news and public affairs director at KXCR-FM in El Paso. During that time, he contributed reports and features to NPR’s news programs.

In 2008, Sanchez won First Prize in the Education Writers Association’s National Awards for Education Reporting for his series, “The Student Loan Crisis.” He was named a Class of 2007 Fellow by the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University. In 1985, Sanchez received one of broadcasting’s top honors, the Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University Silver Baton for a series he co-produced, “Sanctuary: The New Underground Railroad.” In addition, he has won the Guillermo Martinez-Marquez Award for Best Spot News, the El Paso Press Club Award for Best Investigative Reporting, and he was recognized for outstanding local news coverage by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Claudio Sanchez is a native of Nogales, Mexico, and a graduate of Northern Arizona University, with post-baccalaureate studies at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

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**Learning from Leading Education States**

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ROOM NUMBER: 215 B

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Amber Arellano  
*Executive Director,*  
*The Education Trust—Midwest*

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Mary Grech  
*Data and Policy Analyst,*  
*The Education Trust—Midwest*

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In October 2016, Michigan became the 37th state to adopt third grade reading legislation. The law requires that third grade children who score a grade level behind on the state’s English Language Arts assessment may be retained and not continue to fourth grade. This presentation will look at best practices for successful outcomes from other states. Presenters will also share research and data that demonstrate the most critical levers for early childhood outcomes in Michigan. Participants will gain an understanding of the challenges facing Michigan students as they strive to attain reading proficiency by the end of third grade.

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**The Sound Reading Framework: Development, Implementation, and Evaluation of a Comprehensive Literacy Program**

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ROOM NUMBER: 215 G

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Wendy Miller  
*Reading Supervisor,*  
*Grand Valley State University Charter School Office*

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Angela O’Brien  
*Executive Communications & Community Initiatives Specialist, Autocam Medical*

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Andrea Smith, Ph.D.  
*Professor, Early Childhood,*  
*Western Michigan University*

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The Sound Reading Framework (SRF) is a comprehensive literacy program for kindergarten through third grade students in three high-need urban schools. This presentation will share supporting research and processes used to develop the SRF program, implementation challenges and related modifications, and ongoing processes for assessing this project to better enhance work with students. Attendees will be introduced to programmatic data trends highlighting learning among elementary students as well as among participating teachers and SRF Student Assistants.

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**Tutoring for the Future: A Collaboration between GVSU College of Education TESOL and Cathedral of St. Andrew**

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ROOM NUMBER: 215 A

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Rui Niu-Cooper, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Education/Director, ESL Program and TESOL Program at College of Education, Grand Valley State University

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John Shinsky, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean of Community Engagement at College of Education, Grand Valley State University

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Lisa McManus  
A member of Circle of Friends at the Cathedral of St. Andrew

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How do you prepare college students for active citizenship? How do you address the many factors that impact literacy development in refugee families? The English for the Future (EFF) program is working to address some of these questions by engaging college students in supporting the basic needs of refugee families. The program utilizes GVSU College of Education TESOL and School Leadership students to work alongside families at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Grand Rapids.

This panel presentation highlights the important leadership skills that students develop to help families secure food, shelter, medical, emotional, educational, and employment support. It is the expectation that GVSU students will be a valuable resource to families, which will ultimately create an environment that supports successful literacy development.

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**The Literacy Practices of Early Childhood Education: What the Kent ISD Great Start Readiness Program is Doing to Increase Third Grade Reading Proficiency**

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ROOM NUMBER: 201

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Jacqueline Billingsley  
Early Childhood Specialist, Great Start Readiness Program, Kent ISD

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Early childhood education is a critical component of children reading at grade level, and the Kent ISD Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is at the forefront of collecting and analyzing data to address it locally. This presentation will show how the GSRP is using data to promote a variety of programs and supplements to strengthen kindergarten readiness and build solid foundational reading skills to support children throughout their educational career. Attendees will learn what the data says about early childhood kindergarten readiness in our community, and how evidence-based practices are being implemented to strengthen the literacy skills of young children in West Michigan.

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**Our Local Libraries: Creative Programs for Getting Books into the Hands of Children**

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ROOM NUMBER: 215 H

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Jessica Anne Bratt  
Youth Services Supervisor, Grand Rapids Public Library

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Julie Ralston  
Youth Librarian, Kent District Library

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Elizabeth Guarino-Kozlowicz  
Branch Manager, Kent District Library

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Monica Walen  
Youth Specialist, Kent District Library

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This presentation features two programs from our local library systems. Both programs are focused on the importance of getting books into the hands of children in our community.

1000 Books before Kindergarten, a program run by the Kent District Library and the Grand Rapids Public Library, is focused on promoting the reading of books prior to children starting kindergarten. Books on the Bus, a program through the Kent District Library, is designed to connect libraries with local school districts to provide bus riding students with high interest, high quality reading materials for their trips to and from school. Participants will learn how both programs are successfully connecting children with books to help develop their literacy and reading fluency at a young age.

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**NOTES:**

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**Working Together and Learning Together: K-12 and Higher Education Partnering for Literacy**

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ROOM NUMBER: 215 B

Paula Lancaster, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Education, Department Chair,  
Grand Valley State University*

Joann Riemersma  
*Principal, Stocking Elementary,  
Grand Rapids Public Schools*

This presentation begins with the premise that teachers with less than five years of experience will dominate the landscape of high poverty schools. As a result, beginning-level teachers must be well-prepared to provide skilled instruction and meet the demands of a diverse classroom on day one in order for students to meet proficiency levels.

Using a local example, the presenters will highlight the unique, multi-layered partnership established between Stocking Elementary School and Grand Valley State University. This partnership simultaneously addresses the preparation of beginner-level teachers and the literacy levels of the children attending a school characterized as "low-income" and "high-minority." Attendees will learn about the layers of collaboration occurring in the school, the outcomes both entities are expecting to see, and aspirations for future work.

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**The Little Tutoring Program That Could: Essentials from a Successful Tutoring Program**

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ROOM NUMBER: 215 G

Holly Windram, Ph.D.  
*Executive Director, Michigan Education  
Corps at Hope Network*

How did a "little" tutoring program that started in rural Minnesota scale to become the largest AmeriCorps tutoring program in the country, serving over 40,000 children in 13 states annually? This presentation by Hope Network's Michigan Education Corps (MEC) will address how the Minnesota Reading Corps is being replicated in the state of Michigan with AmeriCorps members serving as full-time tutors in preschool classrooms and elementary school buildings. The members, many who do not have experience in education, are trained to deliver language and literacy interventions. Through the example of MEC, this presentation will describe key, empirically-supported elements used in training and coaching for successful literacy program implementation.

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**Understanding the Third Grade Reading Law and Its Impact on Schools and Students**

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ROOM NUMBER: 215 H

*Former State Representative*  
Amanda Price

Chris Glass  
*Director of Legislative Affairs,  
West Michigan Talent Triangle*

As a state representative, Amanda Price worked for four years to craft the third grade reading legislation that is now law. Former Representative Price and Mr. Glass, lobbyist and education policy analyst, will walk attendees through the intent behind the law and the components that will require additional early literacy structures and supports for schools and students. Their presentation will include a discussion of the requirements within the law and the results they hope to see for early literacy in our state. It will also address the issue of state school funding as it relates to third grade legislation, equity, urban learners and funding by need.

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**Addressing Two Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy for Vocabulary Development and Family Engagement**

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ROOM NUMBER: 201

Shana E. Rochester  
*Ph.D. Candidate, Ford Foundation  
Pre-Doctoral Fellow, University of Michigan*

Crystal N. Wise  
*Ph.D. Candidate, University of Michigan*

Research shows that early interactions with vocabulary are key to children's vocabulary development both inside and outside of school. This presentation will describe the findings of two research projects designed to develop children's ability to understand new word meanings in different contexts and test the impact of a series of family literacy workshops for African American elementary school children. The presenters will share research-based strategies for selecting vocabulary words and teaching these words in meaningful contexts. The discussion will also include alternative approaches for engaging families that may be harder to reach. Attendees who work inside and outside of school settings will leave this presentation with information about practices that can support literacy learning for young children.

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**NOTES:**

**How Art Can Advance Literacy**

ROOM NUMBER: 215 A

Peter Markus  
*Senior Writer, InsideOut Literary Arts Project*

Monique Salinas, Ph.D.  
*Executive Director, Mind Meets Music*

Christopher Bruce  
*Director of Learning and Creativity,  
Grand Rapids Art Museum*

*Moderated by Wendy V. Falb, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, Literacy Center  
of West Michigan*

Most of the focus on how children achieve literacy proficiency is on instructional strategies. The role of content and the importance of relevancy is often overlooked. In this panel discussion, participants will learn how the power of the arts can be used in both method and content to advance children’s literacy. Participants will hear from the senior writer of InsideOut Literary Arts project in Detroit on his experience and approach to teaching poetry over two decades in Detroit Public Schools. Mind Meets Music, a nationally recognized Grand Rapids based program, will share how they use music methodologies to engage the whole child to develop foundational skills in literacy. “Language Artists,” a partnership between Kendall College, the Grand Rapids Art Museum, and area schools, will present on how they are using the visual arts to advance children’s literacy.

*Please pick up a boxed lunch on your way into the panel discussion.*

Our panel will tackle the issue of reading by third grade from a variety of perspectives. Audience members will have an opportunity to ask questions during the discussion.

**PANEL MEMBERS**

**Moderator: Ms. Tracy Horodyski**

Tracy, the 2016-17 Michigan Teacher of the Year, is currently an elementary reading interventionist and instructional coach at Kenowa Hills High School. In addition to teaching math, science, and third grade, Tracy has led summer writing camps through the Lake Michigan Writing Project, and developed Classroom Learning Labs that are now the norm for professional learning in her district. She revels in the joyful understandings acquired through the messy work of learning alongside students and colleagues.

**Mr. Claudio Sanchez**

Please see biography outlined in the front of the program.

**Ms. Jill Macauley**

Jill’s extensive educational experience over the past 29 years includes teaching kindergarten, first and second grade ESL students in Grand Rapids Public Schools. She has served as an English Language Arts K-5 instructional coach, and led Tier 2 and 3 interventions at multiple schools while an active member of Instructional Leadership Teams. Additionally, she has trained and modeled Project Lead the Way (STEM), Content Literacy and Backwards Design Instruction and curricula for her colleagues. Currently teaching second grade at Stocking Elementary, she is working with Midwest Trust and Teaching Works, two organizations that support and mentor teacher leaders and future teachers for work in urban populations.

**Ms. Matinga Ragatz**

Matinga has over twenty years of experience as an educator, speaker and consultant. She was recognized as Michigan Teacher of the Year in 2010-2011, and was inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame in 2017, one of only five teachers to receive the honor that year. In addition to teaching Grand Ledge High School students social studies and world languages for 17 years, she has led educational tours to cultural locations in Spain, Morocco, Germany, Italy, England, Canada, Greece, Turkey, China, Japan, Mexico and several States in the United States. Her background and variety of experiences inspire a unique perspective on classroom instruction, learning and innovation.

## SUMMIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cierra Craig

*Literacy Center of West Michigan*

Anissa Eddie

*K- Connect*

Wendy V. Falb, Ph.D.

*Literacy Center of West Michigan*

Tracy Horodyski

*Kenowa Hills Public Schools*

Oogje Lamar

*Kent Intermediate School District*

Mike Nassar

*Literacy Center of West Michigan*

Carol Paine-McGovern

*Kent School Services Network (KSSN)*

Mark Raffler

*Kent Intermediate School District*

Marcia Warner

*Grand Rapids Public Library*



**LITERACY CENTER  
OF WEST MICHIGAN**

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