

GULF COAST LITERACY SYMPOSIUM BRAVING THE STORM

LiteracyTexas.org/GulfCoast



**FRIDAY,
JUNE 20 &
SATURDAY,
JUNE 21**

HCC SOUTHEAST,
HOUSTON



*Scan to find venue floorplans,
along with detailed breakout session descriptions
and presenter bios*

DAY 1 – FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2025

7:30 AM 108 **Check-in for registered attendees, breakfast**

8:00 AM 108 **Welcome, opening remarks**
Dr. Jenny McCormack Walker, Literacy Texas
Dr. Frances Villagran-Glover, HCC Southeast

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM **BREAKOUT SESSION 1 (90 min)**

108 **A Taste of AI: Hands-On EdTech for Adult Literacy**
Ed Tech Partners

204 **Effectively Moving Your ESL Class Online**
Amber Miller, TCALL

217 **Houston Citizenship & Naturalization in 2025 & What Adult Educators Need to Know**
Luis Garcia Alvarez, SEDES & USA Hello

218 **Structured Literacy Models: Differentiated, High-Quality Teaching and Learning**
Lara Speights, Neuhaus Education Center

219 **How to Develop a Digital Navigator Training Partnership Through Coursera –
The Goodwill Experience**
Amy Johnson, Goodwill Industries International

220 **Having Resource Challenges in Your Adult and Family Literacy Programming?
HPL CEET Team to the Rescue!**
HPL CEET Team



10:20 AM – 11:50 AM BREAKOUT SESSION 2 (90 min)

NOTE: For greater flexibility, the same breakouts will be offered in both Session 1 and Session 2.

11:50 AM – 1:00 PM WORKING LUNCH & KEYNOTE

Includes Special Recognition for Literacy Texas and HCC Southeast College on behalf of US Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia

108 **“Creative Programming for Stormy Times”**

Mahalia Baldini, Texas Workforce Commission

108 **Discovering Hidden Treasure: Networking to Build Career Pathways**

Jacqueline Aguilera, Mayor’s Office for Adult Literacy

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM BREAKOUT SESSION 3 (60 min)

108 **Elevating AEL Instruction:**

Seamless Workforce Integration Strategies for Texas Educators

Julio Medina, TCALL

2:15 PM 108 Farewell Day 1, door prizes

Don’t forget to visit exhibitors!

Burlington English

Brainchild

Essential Education

Houston Public Library

HPL Techlink

Learning Upgrade

Literacy ConneXus

TCALL

zSpace

Special thanks to -

Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation

The Learning Hub, HCC Southeast

TCALL

The Texas Workforce Commission

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DAY 2 – SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025

7:30 AM 108 Check-in for registered attendees

8:00 AM 108 Welcome, opening remarks
Dr. Jenny McCormack Walker, Literacy Texas
Dr. Frances Villagran-Glover, HCC Southeast

8:40 AM – 9:40 AM BREAKOUT SESSION 1 (60 min)

108 What Do Employers Need from Providers?
Houston Adult Literacy Providers & Employers Speak Out
Adriana Gonzalez, Cámara de Empresarios Latinos de Houston
Sabrina Lewis, Houston Money Week
Jha Allan, Endless 8 Marketing
Luis Garcia Alvarez, SEDES & USA Hello

9:45 AM – 11:15 AM BREAKOUT SESSION 2 (90 min)

108 Apprenticeships – The Future of Adult Literacy Programming
Traci Nolen, Texas Workforce Commission Office of Apprenticeship

11:20 AM – 12:20 PM WORKING LUNCH & KEYNOTE

108 “Organizational Resilience in the Eye of the Storm”
Mahalia Baldini, Texas Workforce Commission

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM BREAKOUT SESSION 3 (90 min)

108 Grant-Writing in Stormy Times
Dr. Jenny McCormack Walker, Literacy Texas

2:15 PM 108 Farewell Day 2, door prizes