



TX
**REGIONAL LITERACY
 SYMPOSIUM
 GULF COAST**



FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026 | HCC SOUTHEAST: THE LEARNING HUB



Scan for floorplans, along with detailed descriptions of the sessions and to find out more about each presenter

8:15 AM – 8:30 AM **CHECK-IN for pre-registered attendees**
Room 108 **BREAKFAST – sponsored by Intercambio Uniting Communities ♥**

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM **WELCOME, opening remarks**
Room 108 Jacqueline Aguilera, Literacy Texas | Dr. Frances Villagran-Glover, HCC Southeast

8:45 AM – 9:15 AM **OPENING ADDRESS: “A Business Case for Literacy” (30 min)**
Room 108 Erika D. Jones, Frost Bank

9:15 AM – 9:45 AM **NETWORKING: “Real People. Real Needs. Real Opportunities.” (30 min)**
Room 108 Jacqueline Aguilera, Literacy Texas

9:50 AM – 11:20 AM **BREAKOUT SESSION #1 (90 min)**

Room 204 **Preparing Adult Education Teams for Digital & AI-Enabled Teaching ★**
 Jha Allen, Endless 8

Room 205 **Structured Literacy: Reading Instruction for All**
 Sarah Finley, M.S., LDT, CALT, Neuhaus Education Center

Room 217 **Building Digital Skills with the Texas Digital Literacy Toolkit ★**
 Gareth Wingfield, TCALL

Room 218 **Unlocking Your Team’s Potential: GRIT & Growth Mindset**
 Theresa Sands, TCALL

Room 219 **Literacy to Workforce: Designing Career-Connected Learning...**
 Traci Nolen, Gulf Coast Workforce Board

Room 220 **Entrepreneurship as a Workforce Strategy**
 Gloria Spruce, Refined Solutions Group

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM **WORKING LUNCH (60 min) + PANEL DISCUSSION (45 min)**
Room 108 **“Connecting the Dots: Adult Literacy & Workforce Development in the Greater Houston Area”**
 Dedre M. Smith, Literacy Council of Fort Bend County (MODERATOR)
 Luis A. Garcia-Alvarez, USAHello
 Traci Nolen, Gulf Coast Workforce Board
 Tanaz Choudhury, TanChes Global Management, INC.

12:35 PM – 1:20 PM SPOTLIGHT SESSION (45 min)
Room 108 **FinLit Fusion in Language Skills, Workforce Prep, and Family Literacy Learning**
Jacqueline Aguilera, Literacy Texas

1:20 PM – 1:40 PM Exhibitor Activity: The 20-Minute Mission
Room 108 Jacqueline Aguilera, Literacy Texas
Exhibitors (see list below)

1:45 PM – 3:15 PM BREAKOUT SESSION #2 (90 min)

Room 204 **Preparing Adult Education Teams for Digital & AI-Enabled Teaching** ★
Jha Allen, Endless 8

Room 205 **Powerful Reading Instruction: Word Parts + Morphology**
Sarah Finley, M.S., LDT, CALT, Neuhaus Education Center

Room 217 **Building Digital Skills with the Texas Digital Literacy Toolkit** ★
Gareth Wingfield, TCALL

Room 218 **Accent Reduction to Enhance Verbal Communication – Fricatives, Glides, OH MY!!!!**
Theresa Sands, TCALL

Room 219 **Building Community Capacity, Strategic Partnerships, and Funding**
Dedre M. Smith, Literacy Council of Fort Bend County

Room 220 **Beyond Conversation Classes**
Gloria Spruce, Refined Solutions Group

3:15 PM FAREWELL, door prizes
Room 108

★ Denotes a repeated session

Don't forget to visit special guests:

*Cambridge University Press & Assessment | Essential Education
Houston Public Library | Intercambio Uniting Communities | Pearson | PVAMU Extension*

🌟 Special thanks to our partners 🌟

*The Texas Workforce Commission
Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy & Learning (TCALL)*

Connect with more Literacy Texas training:

