



# TX REGIONAL LITERACY SYMPOSIUM FAR WEST



JANUARY 22 & 23, 2026 | YSLETA COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER



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

## DAY 1 – THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

<b>8:15 AM – 8:45 AM</b> <i>Multi-Purpose Building</i>	<b>CHECK-IN for pre-registered attendees, breakfast snacks</b> <i>Breakfast on Thursday is sponsored by Grand Canyon University. Thank you!</i>
<b>8:45 AM – 9:00 AM</b> <i>Multi-Purpose Building</i>	<b>WELCOME, opening remarks</b> Jacqueline Aguilera, Literacy Texas Rubina Flores-Jurado, Ysleta Community Learning Center
<b>9:00 AM – 9:30 AM</b> <i>Multi-Purpose Building</i>	<b>OPENING ADDRESS (30 min)</b> Leila Melendez, Workforce Borderplex
<b>9:30 AM – 10:00 AM</b> <i>Multi-Purpose Building</i>	<b>NETWORKING: “Real People. Real Needs. Real Opportunities.” (30 min)</b> Jacqueline Aguilera, Literacy Texas
<b>10:10 AM – 11:40 AM</b>	<b>BREAKOUT SESSION #1 (90 min)</b>
<i>Room 5</i>	<b>ELL Lesson Planning (Part 1 of 2)</b> Amber Miller, TCALL (Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy & Learning)
<i>Room 13</i>	<b>From Classroom to Career: Strategic Partnerships for Workforce Readiness</b> Joanne Michaud, UpWardly Global
<i>Lab 16</i>	<b>My Career Path: A Personal SWOT Analysis</b> Georgina Tena, Ysleta Community Learning Center
<i>Room 3</i>	<b>SPARK! Workforce Development Program</b> Francisco Mendez, El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank Carlos Requena, El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank
<i>Room 4</i>	<b>Student Persistence and Motivation (Part 1 of 2)</b> Dr. Irene Ramos, TCALL (Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy & Learning)
<i>Room 1</i>	<b>The Importance of Libraries in the Community</b> Norma Martinez, El Paso Public Library

**11:40 AM – 12:40 PM**

*Multi-Purpose Building*

**WORKING LUNCH**

**PANEL DISCUSSION: “Connecting the Dots: Adult Literacy and Workforce Development in El Paso” (45 min)**

Rubina Flores-Jurado, Ysleta Community Learning Center (MODERATOR)

Hector Enriquez, T&T Staff Management

Dominique Olivares, CPSP, El Paso Promise

**12:50 PM – 1:35 PM**

*Multi-Purpose Building*

**SPOTLIGHT SESSION: FinLit Fusion in Language Skills, Workforce Prep, and Family Literacy Learning (45 min)**

Jacqueline Aguilera, Literacy Texas

**1:45 PM – 3:15 PM**

*Room 12*

**BREAKOUT SESSION #2 (90 min)**

**8 Dimensions of Wellness**

Kayla Orona, 2 Love 1 Counseling, LLC

*Room 1*

**Building Skills for In-Demand Careers: Hot Jobs and Workforce Resources**

Janell Valles, Workforce Solutions Borderplex

Dezeree Fraga, Workforce Solutions Borderplex

*Room 2*

**El Paso Promise – An El Paso County CJC Reentry Program**

Dominique Olivares, CPSP, El Paso Promise

*Room 5*

**ELL Lesson Planning (Part 2 of 2)**

Amber Miller, TCALL (Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy & Learning)

*Room 4*

**Student Persistence and Motivation (Part 2 of 2)**

Dr. Irene Ramos, TCALL (Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy & Learning)

*Room 13*

**You Made It Through, Now Help Them Win Too: Tools for Supporting the Opportunity Youth in Your Life**

Kalina Gallardo, Centre Future @ El Paso Public Library

Indy Gonzalez, Centre Future @ El Paso Public Library

**3:15 PM**

*Multi-Purpose Building*

**FAREWELL, door prizes**

*Don't forget to visit special guests:*

- ✪ Burlington English
- ✪ Colorful Chapters Bookstore
- ✪ El Paso Community College
- ✪ El Paso Public Library
- ✪ Essential Education
- ✪ GED Testing Service
- ✪ Grand Canyon University
- ✪ Pearson ELL

*Special thanks to:*

- ✪ The Texas Workforce Commission
- ✪ Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy & Learning (TCALL)
- ✪ Ysleta Community Learning Center
- ✪ El Paso Public Library
- ✪ Grand Canyon University
- ✪ 915scentguys