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Even With Summer in Full Swing, Literacy Training Continues for Educators Taking Part in Lit Academy

LAFAYETTE, LA – On June 14-15, educators from across Louisiana gathered at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Lafayette for the Lit Academy, a workshop offered by the Center for Development and Learning (CDL). This annual event is a team-based literacy learning experience offered to four representatives from schools pre-selected by the Louisiana Department of Education. This year, 24 school-based teams had the opportunity to attend innovative sessions geared toward evidence-based literacy instruction and to learn ways in which they could apply these strategies to their schools' curriculum, data analysis, interventions and sustainability plans. The workshop was sponsored by Amplify, a New York-based curriculum and assessment company.

Dr. Cade Brumley, Superintendent for the Louisiana Department of Education, was on hand to give introductory remarks. He commended the Center for Development and Learning and participating schools for their leadership in enhancing literacy instruction for students. "The Lit Academy provided school teams a focused opportunity to analyze their current practices, learn best practices, and prepare for better outcomes for kids," said Dr. Brumley. "This commitment to literacy leadership is important for continuous improvement in schools."

According to the Louisiana Department of Education, only 40 percent of Louisiana kindergarteners, 42 percent of first graders, 48 percent of second graders and 50 percent of third graders are on or above grade level in literacy according to the statewide fall reading report. This represents multiple years of literacy declines. Furthermore, only 46 percent of students have mastered ELA content by the end of their third grade year.

The goal of the Lit Academy is to reverse this trend and encourage educators to use proven, evidence-based strategies in the classroom. Educators attended four "super sessions" that included Science of Reading and Applying the Science of Reading in Your Curriculum, Handwriting and Writing, Digging Through the Data and Reading Interventions, and Building Sustainability and Communications. Presenters included Linda Farrell of Readsters, Meagan Molbert of Amplify, Pam Austin, a New Orleans-based literacy specialist, staff members from the Mississippi Department of Education, and Alana Mangham, CDL Literacy Specialist.

"At the Center for Development and Learning, our goal is to give educators and school districts the tools they need for effective literacy instruction in the classroom," said Dr. John Wyble, President and CEO of CDL. "We are so pleased to have had such a great turnout for this event. This year, we had a

phenomenal slate of speakers and content experts. We hope our participants can now go back to their schools and classrooms armed with the information they need to inspire young readers.”

Lit Academy participants will continue their learning and peer networking through quarterly webinars hosted throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

For more information about the Center for Development & Learning, services offered and upcoming events, visit the organization’s [website](#) or call (504) 840-9786.

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About the Center for Development & Learning

Founded in 1992, the Center for Development and Learning’s mission is to advance literacy and learning through evidence-based practices in the classroom, home, and community. CDL’s work is focused on closing the achievement gap by increasing teacher effectiveness. Visit CDL’s website www.cdl.org for more information.