

# National Virtual Conference

## April 30 - May 1, 2021

## PROGRAM

# WRITTEN EXPRESSION AND DYSLEXIA

## DAY 1

Friday, April 30, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM CST

### 9:00AM - 9:15 AM CST

#### Celebrating ALTA's 35th Anniversary

LYNNE FITZHUGH, PH.D., CALT-QI

*President of The Academic Language Therapy Association*

This opening session will provide a welcome and kickoff to the inaugural ALTA virtual conference and provide an overview of ALTA's 35-year history.

### 9:15 - 10:45 AM CST

#### Reading is Language, Too! – The Oral (and Aural) Foundations of Literacy Part 1

LYDIA H. SOIFER, PH.D., CCC/SLP

*Pediatric Language and Literacy Specialist*

Babies start learning to read the moment they are born. Reading and writing skills are built on a foundation of the amazing complexity of understanding and use of the sounds, words, sentences, and intentions of the language to which we are exposed. While understanding and speaking are generally automatic and natural ways of engaging with language, as a rule, reading and writing must be directly taught. Insights into the ways in which the components of aural/oral language contribute to the development and achievement of literacy will be presented. Participants will learn how each aspect of language is related to literacy on the oral-written continuum, as well as where the differences lie, and how the language teachers use influences student learning.

### 10:45 - 11:15 AM CST

#### Sponsor Break

A unique opportunity to discover the products, tools, and services offered by our conference sponsors.

### 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM CST

#### Reading is Language, Too! – The Oral (and Aural) Foundations of Literacy Part 2

LYDIA H. SOIFER, PH.D., CCC/SLP

*Pediatric Language and Literacy Specialist*

### 12:45 - 1:15 PM CST

#### Sponsor Break

A unique opportunity to discover the products, tools, and services offered by our conference sponsors.

# WRITTEN EXPRESSION AND DYSLEXIA

DAY 1 - CONT.

Friday, April 30, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM CST

**1:15 - 2:15 PM CST**

## **ALTA Annual Membership Meeting**

### **ALTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The annual general membership meeting will discuss ALTA organizational and business updates.

**2:15 - 3:15 PM CST**

## **How to Become Involved as an ALTA Chapter**

**KARA LEE, M. ED., CALT-ICALP and PATRICIA ELKINS, M.S.Ed., LDT, CALT**

### ***The Academic Language Therapy Association Chapters Committee***

Kara Lee, *ALTA Chapters Committee Chair*, will provide an overview of ALTA chapters and examples of recent successful virtual events, as well as explain how to start an ALTA chapter in your area. Patricia Elkins, *Chapters Committee member*, will be available to answer questions related to this topic during the session.

**3:15 - 3:45 PM CST**

## **Sponsor Break**

A unique opportunity to discover the products, tools, and services offered by our conference sponsors.

**3:45 - 4:45 PM CST**

## **From the Capital to the Classroom**

**VICKI KING, M.ED., CALT-QI, DYSLEXIA SPECIALIST**

**KATHY MASCUILLI, M.ED., LITERACY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR**

**and SANDY SHEPARD, LEAD RISE REGIONAL SPECIALIST**

### ***Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Literacy Team***

During this session, Arkansas educational leaders will provide an update on the impact of legislation on districts, teachers, literacy instruction, and professional development in the state.

**4:45 - 5:00 PM CST**

## **Closing**

**LYNNE FITZHUGH, PH.D., CALT-QI**

***President of The Academic Language Therapy Association***

# WRITTEN EXPRESSION AND DYSLEXIA

DAY 2

Saturday, May 1, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM CST

**9:00AM - 9:10 AM CST**

## Welcome

LYNNE FITZHUGH, PH.D., CALT-QI

*President of The Academic Language Therapy Association*

**9:10 - 11:10 AM CST**

## Morphology: The Framework for Spelling

SUE SCIBETTA HEGLAND

*Founder, Learning About Spelling*

Although morphology has long been a part of science-based reading and spelling instruction, it has traditionally been viewed as an advanced topic, secondary to the more foundational aspects of literacy. In this workshop, we will examine this premise and discuss how to make explicit instruction even stronger by introducing the morphological framework for spelling from the very beginning. This framework allows students to understand rather than memorize the spelling of many words, and it unlocks comprehension while expanding vocabulary. We will discuss how to apply the concepts covered in this workshop with any approach or program.

NEW!

**11:10 - 11:40 AM CST**

## Sponsor Break

A unique opportunity to discover the products, tools, and services offered by our conference sponsors.

**11:40 AM - 1:40 PM CST**

## Handwriting in the 21st Century: Why It Matters & What To Do About It

WILLIAM VAN CLEAVE, M.A.

*Founder and President of W.V.C.ED*

This interactive workshop will cover the most up-to-date research on the importance of handwriting to student learners. Participants will explore effective strategies to teach students good, legible handwriting. Participants will be instructed on proper positioning and letter formation with the goal of automatizing students' handwriting, so they can attend to the other components of written expression. The benefits of manuscript and cursive will be discussed.

**1:40 - 2:00 PM CST**

## Closing

LYNNE FITZHUGH, PH.D., CALT-QI

*President of The Academic Language Therapy Association*

# WRITTEN EXPRESSION AND DYSLEXIA

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



### LYDIA H. SOIFER, PH.D., CCC/SLP

*Pediatric Language and Literacy Specialist*

Dr. Soifer is a language pathologist with over 45 years of experience in clinical and private practice, as well as university teaching. For its highly respected and valued 25-year tenure, Dr. Soifer was the founder and director of The Soifer Center for Learning and Child Development, which was the first multidisciplinary private diagnostic and remedial setting established in Westchester County. She continues to provide educational consultation and advocacy services to families on behalf of their children, in coordination with other professionals and schools. She specializes in the role of language in the development of children's learning, literacy, behavior, and social-emotional development. Classroom Language Dynamics ©, the teacher training program Dr. Soifer designed, is used in a variety of school settings to empower teachers and invigorate learners of all kinds. Additionally, she is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and a faculty member in the Early Intervention Training Institute (EITI), both at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.



### KARA LEE, M. ED., CALT-ICALP

*The Academic Language Therapy Association Chapters Chair*

Kara Lee is the owner and principal trainer at Horton Educational Services (HES). Ms. Lee earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from The Ohio State University, a Master of Science and Educational Specialist degrees from Miami University. She worked as a school psychologist for six years before going into the classroom as an intervention Specialist. Ms. Lee has worked as a Trainer and Supervisor for the Children's Dyslexia Center in Columbus, Ohio and has taught classes and conducted trainings for a variety of school districts. She has been a member of the Academic LanguageTherapy Association since 2012 and has served on the Board of Directors since 2017.



### VICKI KING, M.ED., CALT-QI, DYSLEXIA SPECIALIST KATHY MASCUILLI, M.ED., LITERACY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR and SANDY SHEPARD, LEAD RISE REGIONAL SPECIALIST

*Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Literacy Team*

The Arkansas Department of Education provides leadership, support, and service to schools, districts, and communities so every student graduates prepared for college, career, and community engagement.

# WRITTEN EXPRESSION AND DYSLEXIA

---

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



### SUE SCIBETTA HEGLAND

*Founder, Learning About Spelling*

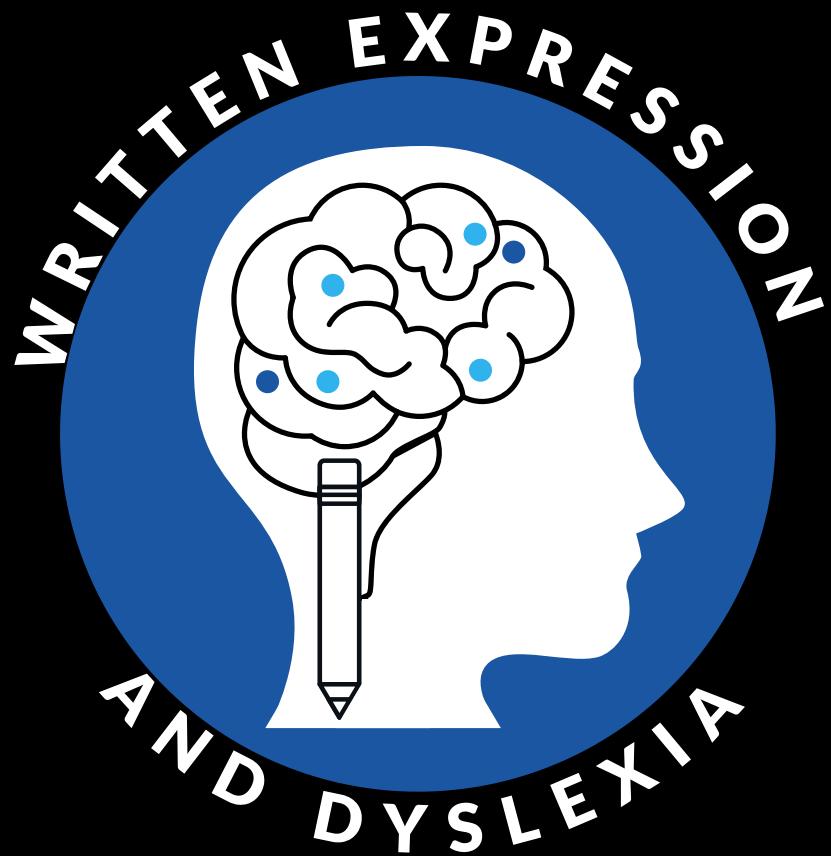
Sue Hegland is a consultant, author, and frequent speaker on topics related to spelling. She provides training and information to support explicit, systematic instruction in spelling and reading, with an emphasis on the importance of morphology and the influences of etymology. Her early professional experience was in experimental research and instructional design, but her focus shifted in 2003 when she learned that one of her children is dyslexic. Trained in the Orton-Gillingham approach, she has served on state dyslexia workgroups, on the Board of Directors for the Upper Midwest Branch of the International Dyslexia Association, and on the Board of Education for the Brandon Valley School District. She is currently Editor-In-Chief for the International Dyslexia Association's Fact Sheet publications and is the author of the website [LearningAboutSpelling.com](http://LearningAboutSpelling.com). An upcoming book will provide an overview of the importance and power of morphology for both reading and spelling instruction.



### WILLIAM VAN CLEAVE, M.A.

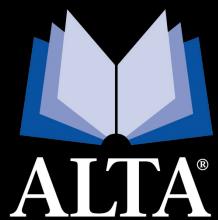
*Founder and President of W.V.C.ED*

William Van Cleave is in private practice as an educational consultant whose specialties include morphology and written expression. An internationally recognized speaker with an interactive, hands-on presentation style, William has presented on effective teaching practices at conferences and schools both in the United States and abroad since 1995. Recent projects include consulting with three schools as part of a literacy grant in Montana; participating on the MTSS Writing Standards Committee for the State of Pennsylvania; implementing several Trainer of Trainers projects using his sentence structure approach, and writing a series of workbooks and a companion book on developing composition skills to complement his sentence approach. William has served as a classroom teacher, tutor, and administrator for private schools.



# National Virtual Conference

## April 30 - May 1, 2021



Questions? Contact  
[events@altaread.org](mailto:events@altaread.org)