



CRLA

HEARTLAND CHAPTER

Virtual Spring Conference
Thursday, April 8 - Friday, April 9, 2021

CONFERENCE INFORMATION AND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Theme: Academic Success: A Holistic Approach

As enrollment and persistence rates become the focal point for institutions across the country, higher education professionals are becoming more intentional with the programs, policies, and procedures in place to support their students. Whereas previously academic support programs (tutoring, SI, academic coaching and mentoring) and academic success courses (reading, writing, math, learning strategies, and ESL) were viewed as the only methods to ensure academic success, institutions now are assessing the entire student experience and its impact on student success rates. This conference will expose attendees to holistic approaches to supporting students as well as fresh ideas for courses and programs already in place. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of how all components of academia play a role in academic success.

Opening Keynote Address: Dr. David Arendale

“Best Practices to Strengthen Academic Relationships with Students”



We are delighted to announce that prominent leader and researcher Dr. David Arendale will be our opening keynote speaker.

Developing a positive academic relationship among students, staff, and faculty members is essential for greater student satisfaction and persistence towards graduation. The research is clear that these relationships make the difference for student success. Whether facilitating a study group, serving as an orientation seminar leader, or serving as a guide for campus tours, the student paraprofessional can also create a supportive learning environment, so students develop feelings of confidence and belonging at the institution. Principles shared during this talk can also be applied to the classroom by faculty members as well. Attendees are encouraged to apply the principles and to share their own experiences and expertise. David will finish the session by sharing some of the positive outcomes that student paraprofessionals have received as a result of interacting with their fellow students.

At the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, David Arendale is an Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. He manages the EOA Best Practices Clearinghouse which provides information on promising and best practices to improve success of low-income, first-generation, and historically-underrepresented students. David has worked in many capacities within academia and student affairs. He is also known for his work at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in several capacities including National Director of Supplemental Instruction.

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rbethke@jccc.edu

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Closing Keynote Address: CRLA President Dr. Sonya Armstrong

“Flippin’ the Script on ‘College-Readiness’: Doing Learner-Readiness Work”



We are also delighted to announce that current CRLA president Dr. Sonya Armstrong will be our closing keynote speaker.

For too long our work has been driven by the nebulous goal of "college readiness." Although this phrase is ubiquitous in practice, scholarship, and policy, little has been done to deconstruct the inherent assumptions at its core. For one, there is the notion that such a singular, monolithic construct can possibly exist given the vast array of postsecondary contexts and missions. Also, the onus in such a construct is on learners to be ready for college. In this talk, we'll begin by problematizing the construct of "college readiness" and then turn toward more productive conceptualizations, like how we can collectively create institutions that are ready for learners.

Dr. Sonya L. Armstrong is a Professor in the Graduate Program in Developmental Education within the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Texas State University, where she also serves as the Director of the Doctoral Program in Developmental Education. Prior to coming to Texas State, she worked at Northern Illinois University for nine years, serving in multiple capacities: Associate Professor of Postsecondary Literacy, founder and Coordinator of the Certificate of Graduate Study in Postsecondary Developmental Literacy and Language Instruction, and Director of the College Learning Enhancement Program (the university's developmental reading program). She earned her doctorate in literacy education from the University of Cincinnati. Prior to that, she trained in English and earned two M.A. degrees (in literature and editing and publishing).

Dr. Armstrong is a practitioner-researcher, and her scholarly endeavors are guided by over twenty years of designing and teaching developmental reading, composition, and learning strategies courses in community colleges and universities. Her research, which is always collaborative, focuses on improving postsecondary literacy and learning pedagogy and practice to more effectively facilitate students' college literacy transitions, thereby increasing access and potential for success for all within higher education. With colleagues she is currently undertaking an investigation of the alignment of reading expectations and texts in developmental reading and career technical education courses. She is co-editor of *Teaching Developmental Reading: Historical, Theoretical, and Practical Background Readings* (2nd ed., 2014); President of the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA); and a Council of Learning Assistance and Developmental Education Associations (CLADEA) Fellow.



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TENTATIVE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 8, 2021

1:00pm-1:30pm	Check-In
1:30pm-1:45pm	Welcome and Introductions
1:45pm-2:45pm	Opening Keynote Address: Dr. David Arendale
2:45pm-3:00 pm	Break
3:00pm-3:50pm	Concurrent Breakout Session # 1
4:00pm-4:50pm	Concurrent Breakout Session # 2
5:00pm-7:00pm	Social Hour

Friday, April 9, 2021

9:00am-9:30am	Check-In
9:30am-10:30am	Heartland Business Meeting, Election of Officers
10:30am-10:45am	Break
10:45am-11:35am	Concurrent Breakout Session # 3
11:45am-12:35pm	Concurrent Breakout Session # 4
12:35pm-12:45pm	Break
12:45pm-1:45pm	Closing Keynote Address: Dr. Sonya Armstrong
1:50pm-2:20pm	Installation of Officers
2:30pm-3:15pm	Board of Directors Meeting (including new Officers)



REGISTRATION AND REFUND POLICY

Registration Fees

Heartland dues were not collected in 2020 due to the cancellation of the Heartland CRLA conference. As no Heartland dues were collected last year, dues will be collected through the conference registration fee.

This year's registration fee depends on membership in CRLA and residence or employment in the five states of the Heartland Chapter. International CRLA provides a list of current members living or working in our five-state area, all of whom now receive membership in the Heartland Chapter free of charge as a benefit of CRLA membership. Heartland Chapter dues are currently \$20 per year for professionals in the Heartland who are not members of CRLA.

Registration Types

CRLA Member residing/working in IA, KS, MO, NE, OK - **Complimentary**

Non-CRLA Member residing/working in IA, KS, MO, NE, OK - **\$20** (Includes Heartland CRLA membership)

Others - **\$40**

Refund Policy

As the virtual conference is provided at a low cost, which is the cost for Heartland annual dues, there will be no refunds for those who register, but cannot attend.



Mark Your Calendars!

Online registration begins
Friday, February 26



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CALL FOR PROPOSALS: SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL TODAY!



Do you have research or a promising practice to report at the conference? If so, consider submitting a proposal! Our theme is holistic academic success: teaching developmental reading, writing, mathematics, or ESL; learning assistance, tutoring, or mentoring; research in the field; or professional development.

The proposal submission process has transitioned online! To complete the proposal submission process, navigate to the following link: [Heartland CRLA Proposal](#).

Note: All presenters must register for the conference if their proposal is accepted and must be members of or reside in the Heartland Chapter area (IA, KS, MO, NE, OK). To keep our conference prices affordable, we cannot discount or waive registration fees for presenters. Incomplete proposal surveys will not be accepted. **The proposal submission deadline is Friday, March 12, 2021.** Twelve proposals will be accepted with two alternates. Selected presenters will be notified by Friday, March 19, 2021.

More information regarding the Call for Proposals can be found on the [Heartland CRLA Website](#).