

6-1-2009

Press release : 2009 : 06 : 01 : COE Hosts Literacy Education Conference

Melanie Marquez



COE Hosts Literacy Education Conference



Filed under [Press Releases](#), [eNews Newsletter](#), [College of Education](#) on Monday, June 01, 2009 by Author: Melanie Marquez.

(St. Petersburg, Fla.) June 1, 2009 – Organized in the USFSP College of Education by best-selling children's book author Michael Sampson, PhD, the Pathways to Literacy Conference offered elementary school teachers the chance to learn from some of the country's leading literacy education experts.

From June 8-10, 350 teachers from Pinellas County schools gathered for a conference that explored the total literacy curriculum – an approach based on research that shows learning occurs best in context. The approach groups literacy activities into three strands: impression, self-expression and conventions. Skills are not presented in isolation, but in the context of their function, allowing students to learn in the context of their communication of ideas and their reaction to the ideas of others.

"The teachers at this conference not only learned the theory of why literature-based instruction works, but how it works," said Sampson, an associate professor of childhood education and a *New York Times* best-selling author of 30 books for children, including *Parenting Magazine* Book of the Year *Chicka, Chicka, 1, 2, 3* and *I Pledge Allegiance*.

Sessions included topics such as the science/literature connection, using blogs to enhance classroom instruction, literacy center basics, publishing in a first grade classroom, and the power of poetry. Keynote authors presented throughout the conference. They included Steven Kellogg, Lynne Cherry, Michael Sampson, Patricia Maclaughan, Floyd Cooper and Geoff Ward.

Through sponsorship from Progress Energy, the conference also included a science strand that featured a dozen science teaching workshops and a keynote by Lynne Cherry, author of numerous science theme books for children.

The conference was also sponsored by Pinellas County Schools and the College of Education at USF St. Petersburg. It has taken place throughout the country and world for more than 25 years. This is the first time the conference was held specifically for Pinellas County teachers. Six authors and 14 conference speakers presented workshops designed to motivate teachers in Pinellas County and help them return to their classrooms with new ideas on teaching.

"The most significant factor in a student's learning is his or her teacher," said Vivian Fueyo, PhD, dean of the College of Education. "At Pathways to Literacy, teachers participated in three days of learning with the best teachers of reading in the country and they will share their new knowledge with their own students."

-USF St. Petersburg-

Related Articles

There are no related articles.

IMPLEMENTED BY
USFSP WEB SERVICES

Search For: Search In: 

USF St. Petersburg

USF St. Petersburg, [A Member of the USF System](#) 140 Seventh Avenue South, St. Petersburg Florida 33701-5016 -- 727-USF-4USF
Copyright © 2003, University of South Florida - Direct questions or comments about the web site to: www@stpt.usf.edu