

SCIRA

Suburban Council of the International Reading Association

Spring Newsletter 2012

Suburban
Council of the
International
Reading
Association

President's Message

Laura Polkoff

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News on the Blog

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TRS/SCIRA

Summer Conference

June 21-22, 2012

Featuring
Linda Hoyt

Information and
Registration

Questions--contact

Claudia Katz at
ckatz17755@aol.com or

847-236-1164

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NCE

*Comprehension in the Spotlight:
Getting More from Nonfiction,
Read Alouds, & Guided Writing*

1 Hour Graduate Credit
National-Louis University

Information and
Registration

Questions--contact

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Note from the President

By Laura Polkoff
Co-President of SCIRA

Dear SCIRA members,

Do you remember the old expression “You can’t see the forest for the trees?” This seems very applicable to the current trend in accountability and Response to Intervention that has impacted reading instruction at all grade levels today. It began with a simple movement to measure progress in reading through a curriculum-based measure because reading rate is simple and quantifiable. Educators now put so much emphasis on the one minute reading rate measure and standardized tests that we are losing our perspective of what being a good reader is all about in the 21st century. Does reading faster insure that the students will be better readers? The future will need citizens who can think globally across different texts, ask good questions, and apply higher level thinking skills. Teaching students how to *think* and *comprehend* is the big picture, and reading rate is a tree or detail of the forest.

SCIRA is focusing on the big picture of literacy instruction this year. To that end our winter conference “Bringing Words to Life: Methods of Teaching Robust Vocabulary” with Dr. Margaret McKeown was a great success. I learned that vocabulary learning must be rich and robust to impact reading comprehension. The traditional method of having students look up words and give definitions is not sufficient to aid in developing word knowledge that will impact reading comprehension. This is best accomplished with interactive discussion where students use, discuss, and explain words in multiple contexts. Dr. McKeown believes that “vocabulary knowledge is a network of connected concepts.” Teachers should ask questions that help students build these connections that allow students to deepen their vocabulary knowledge.

I hope to see you this summer, June 21st and 22nd at the Teacher Renewal Seminar, which we are presenting in conjunction with National Louis University. Linda Hoyt is our speaker who will keep comprehension as the main area of focus by presenting on ways to enhance teaching and learning from non-fiction text. This promises to be a sell-out event, so register early! As SCIRA members, you play a valuable role in recognizing the importance of the details of literacy instruction without losing the importance of the end goal - to create a literate society with citizens that can think creatively, analytically and globally. We can keep our “trees” in perspective by never forgetting how they fit into the view of the forest.

Laura Polkoff, SCIRA Co-President

**SCIRA Board
2011-12**

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Why should you visit <http://scirascholars.blogspot?>

You should visit to download the registration forms for the Conferences.

You should visit to learn about Linda Hoyt's fantastic teaching ideas before the June conference!

Check SCIRA's Bookshelf for Linda's books and follow the link to her website at

<http://scirascholars.blogspot.com/>



SCIRA Board Member and Past-President Pam Kaufman (left) welcomes Dr. Margaret McKeown to the Winter Conference.

TRS/SCIRA Summer
Conference
Registration Form
June 21-22, 2012
8AM to 3PM
Current Location:
NLU North Shore Campus
Skokie, Illinois

Linda Hoyt
**Comprehension in the
Spotlight: Getting More
from Nonfiction, Read
Alouds, & Guided
Writing**



Relating Reading and Writing to the Common Core State Standards

Join this exciting two-day conference for a wealth of practical, read to use strategies that will empower your teaching and excite your students. Come prepared to be energized, empowered with new and highly practical strategies, and ready to help your students find the success they deserve with the texts of their world.

USE ONE FORM FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION. Please print or type. Form may be reproduced.

Name _____

Preferred E-mail (for confirmation) _____

Preferred Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Bus. Phone (____) _____

School Name _____ District # _____ City _____

Are you a Preservice Teacher? _____ yes _____ no College or University _____

REGISTRATION: At this time, the conference is limited to the first 200 participants. School districts wishing to send five or more participants should contact Claudia Katz at 847-236-1164 or ckatz17755@aol.com

_____ Teacher Renewal Seminar (Two-day Conference, including meals & handouts) **\$200**

_____ Non-SCIRA Member (Two-day Conference including meals and one-year SCIRA membership. You must join SCIRA to attend the conference.) **\$240**

METHOD OF PAYMENT **TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED** \$ _____

_____ CHECK (PAYABLE TO: NATIONAL-LOUIS UNIVERSITY) enclosed.

_____ Purchase Order (Please attach) # _____

_____ VISA _____ MASTERCARD _____ DISCOVER _____ AMEX

I hereby authorize National-Louis University to charge my account in the amount of \$ _____, which represents my Payment for the conference. Credit Card Number:

_____ - _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Credit Card Expiration mo _____ yr _____

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON THE CREDIT CARD (*signature*) _____

Registrants will receive confirmation by e-mail.

MAIL THIS FORM TO: **CLAUDIA KATZ 1329 Oxford Rd Deerfield, IL 60015**

Questions? Call Claudia at 847-236-1164 ckatz17755@aol.com

Teachers working toward CPDUs and CEUs should be assured that the materials presented in this conference will address the needs of students with disabilities, including adapting and modifying the general curriculum related to the Illinois Learning Standards and serving such students in the least restrictive environment. Each conference day will count for 7 CPDUs.

CURRENT CONFERENCE LOCATION:

National Louis University
North Shore Campus
5202 Old Orchard Road
Skokie, Illinois 60077

The North Shore Campus is west of the Eden's Expressway (I94) and west of Old Orchard Shopping Mall.

Students interested in one hour of graduate course credit may attend the **Comprehension in the Spotlight: Getting More from Nonfiction, Read Alouds, & Guided Writing** and complete the requirements of this course. The purpose of this course is to generate, develop, share, and implement creative teaching ideas as students apply what they learn in the conference sessions to their specific teaching situations. This course will also enhance the conference experience.

Course Requirements:

1. Upon sending registration for the course, participants will receive a course syllabus, an electronic log, and a collection of articles.
2. *Readings*: Prior to the conference, participants will select and read a focus article and write a brief (30 word) reaction to the article. (1 hour)
3. *Attendance*: Participants attend the conference which reflects 15 hours of conference activities June 21, 22, 2012.
4. *Reflective Log*: Participants will complete a reflective log documenting their participation at each session they attend.
5. *Project*: Students will develop a unit based on conference learning.

Course Calendar:

- **Register for Comprehension in the Spotlight: Getting More from Nonfiction, Read Alouds, & Guided Writing by completing the attached registration form. Register for the Graduate Course** by completing the Registration form below.
 - **Email** completed registration forms including credit card payment section before the conference to Claudia Katz at claudia.katz@nl.edu **OR**
 - **Mail** completed registration forms with **\$200 conference payment and \$350 check payable to National Louis University** or completed credit card payment section to Claudia Katz, 1329 Oxford Road, Deerfield, IL 60015.
 - Please note: If you are using Financial Aid for the course payment, your registration payment for the course must be in by April 23, 2012.
- **June 30, 2012:** the article reaction, the reflective log and the project are due electronically. Email these to Claudia Katz. ckatz17755@aol.com . Materials must be received as an electronic document.

Questions: Contact Claudia Katz at ckatz17755@aol.com or 847-236-1164

Want to know more about Linda Hoyt? Visit her website at www.lindahoyt.com

NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY GRADUATE REGISTRATION FORM

Students using financial aid for tuition must register for the class no later than April 23, 2012.

Mail completed graduate registration form with **\$350 check** payable to National Louis University or completed credit card payment section to Claudia Katz, 1329 Oxford Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015

OR

Email completed registration form including credit card payment section before or during the conference to Claudia Katz at claudia.katz@nl.edu

ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETED OR FORM WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU

NLU ID# or SOCIAL SECURITY NO. _____

NAME: LAST _____ FIRST/MIDDLE _____

MAIDEN (IF APPLIES) _____ /Check if new name or address since last graduation

STREET ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: (_____) _____ BUSINESS PHONE: (_____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

BIRTHDATE: _____ SEX: / M _____ / F _____

ETHNIC BACKGROUND (CHECK ONE)

1. American Indian or Alaskan _____ 2. Black Non-Hispanic _____ 3. Asian or Pacific Islander _____
4. Hispanic _____ 5. White Non-Hispanic _____

IF YOU HAVE A FELLOWSHIP OR A DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP, PLEASE CHECK:

/Fellowship _____ /Doctoral Scholarship _____

ADMITTED TO GRADUATE PROGRAM: Program _____ Advisor _____

In the Collage of Education, a maximum limit of nine semester hours of NCE/NLU credit taken as a special student prior to formal admission many apply toward a Master's Degree, Educational Specialist Degree or Certificate of Advanced Study.

CRN	COURSE NUMBER	COURSE REGISTRATION Course Title	SEM HOURS
	RLR595tba	Comprehension in the Spotlight: Getting More from Nonfiction, Read Alouds, & Guided Writing	1

/FALL _____ WINTER _____ XSPRING 2012 _____ /SUMMER _____

NOTE: Payment must be submitted at time of registration.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY D.P. _____

Student's Signature Date

CREDIT CARD CHARGE FORM

STUDENT'S NLU ID# or SOCIAL SECURITY NO. _____

STUDENT'S NAME (*print*) _____

I hereby authorize National Louis University to charge my Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express account in the amount of \$ 350.00, which represents tuition.

CHECK ONE: /VISA /MASTERCARD /DISCOVER /AMEX Exp. Date _____

Card No. _____

CARDHOLDER'S NAME (*print*) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Literacy-Guatemala By Kristina Utley, Honor Council Co-chair

SCIRA board member, Debra Gurvitz visited Guatemala with \$200.00 worth of supplies donated by SCIRA. She visited schools, coached and facilitated professional development to teachers and pre-service teachers in Guatemala City and in the Mayan Schools. In Guatemala, the government gives very little funding to schools and even paper is a much needed resource. There are few to no books in the schools. With SCIRA's donation, Debbie was able to bring an abundance of materials that teachers could use to implement the literacy strategies that they learned into their own classrooms.



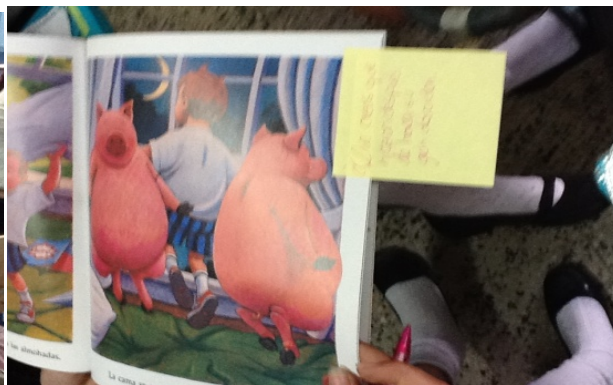
These post-its were donated to Guatemalan Schools for teachers to use with teaching word sorts, annotating text, and developing thought provoking questions around non-fiction texts.



The above photo was taken during a professional development where pre-service teachers used post-its to enhance vocabulary development. They sorted and categorized the words based on meaning.



In the above photo, teachers are learning about the PRC2 framework. PRC2 is a strategy that elicits conversation around content area books.



In the above photo, teachers are learning how to use the post-its to make predictions in picture books that were also donated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCIRA SPONSORED PROJECTS

Book Worm Angels - Kids Helping Kids

Chicago, IL

Book Worm Angels, a not for profit organization that SCIRA supports, is in need of gently used/new books for children in grades Pre-K - Grade 8. We collect books throughout the greater Chicago area and create classroom lending libraries in schools where students do not have books at home to develop their reading skills.

Teachers are able to select 10 books per student for their classroom thus assuring that students get books that interest them and are at their reading level.

Currently we have donated over 2 million books and are in 170 Chicago Public Schools.

**To learn more:
www.bookwormangels.org**

St. Jude Parish Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Folks,
Great update from Fr. Andrew on our projects at the Parish of St. Jude in Port-au-Prince. The first recycling center in all of Haiti is a MegaHit! And our education project and Woment's Cooperative project are on-going. We've expanded our education fund to include 34 "restavek" children as well.

Cheers,
Joe Zaranronello

The RtI/Common Core Adhoc Committee of the IRC is looking for feedback on ways the committee can provide support during the transition to the Illinois Common Core State Standards and implementation of RtI.

The committee would appreciate your council membership completing a brief survey via IRC's website or directly at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CSTGKBB>

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(Suburban Council International Reading Association)

June 21-22, 2012

Skokie, Illinois – NLU North Shore Campus

Featuring

Linda Hoyt

<http://scirascholars.blogspot.com/>

Please visit our blog for updates and forms!!

Please visit the *Illinois Reading Council* website for valuable information on upcoming SCIRA conferences. Additional registration forms may be downloaded there as well. Please visit <http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/>