

# Sandra Dunagan Deal Center Governor's Summit to discuss literacy practices

The Governor's Summit on Early Language and Literacy focusing on the brain-building network and the science of learning is July 8 and 9. The state-wide professional development conference is hosted by the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy and will connect current literacy research to accessible practices for Georgia educators, caregivers, legislators, and those who interface with children from birth through age 8.

The sold-out, state-wide conference is the only free language and literacy conference in Georgia. Conference sessions are July 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and July 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the campus of Georgia College & State University.

"Our mission is to advance literacy practices in the state, and this conference is one big way we're able to do that for people who work with young children," said

Executive Director of the Deal Center Dr. Lindee Morgan. "That way, the children of Georgia are receiving high-quality instruction and we're ensuring they're able to meet their potential — academically and personally."

Participants will gain a greater understanding of the science of learning and how the science of reading fits within that broader body of research. Attendees will engage with experiential, hands-on learning opportunities intended to enhance their knowledge and connect with leaders from across Georgia to support development of their implementation "toolbox."

Because the Deal Center's activities are supported by the Georgia legislature, the daytime conference is always free to attend, though this year's daytime attendance is full.

The end of the first day is marked by the Dinner with the Deal Center

fundraising gala. This year the gala will feature an improv performance by Dad's Garage and a silent auction.

Platinum sponsors of the summit include the Deal Foundation, ExQ, Georgia Lottery Corporation, Georgia College John H. Lounsbury College of Education, Georgia State University College of Education & Human Development, and Kennesaw State University Bagwell College of Education.

The Deal Center is a special funding initiative created by the Office of the Governor in 2017. Led by a governing board and Georgia College & State University, the center is intended to improve language, literacy and reading outcomes for Georgia's children.

For more information, or to schedule interviews, contact Deal Center Marketing Communication Manager Kristen Simpson at [kristen.simpson2@gcsu.edu](mailto:kristen.simpson2@gcsu.edu) or 478-445-8672.

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