



## Language as a Missing Link & Missed Opportunity Champion Award Announcement

The Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for early language and literacy is pleased to announce the winners of the *Language as a Missing Link & Missed Opportunity Champion Award*. The awardees are as follows:

- United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley
- United Way of the Coastal Empire

The Deal Center selected two community-based, cross sector teams who demonstrated a commitment to early language development in the birth to age 8 continuum to be the first recipients of this award.

The selected Champions demonstrated a commitment to implementing and embedding evidence-based practices for early language development through:

- The utilization of the Language as a Missing Link & Missed Opportunity toolkit
- Cross sector partnerships
- Community-based professional learning involving the acquisition of knowledge for behavior and practice change
- Bridging the birth to age 8 continuum by embedding the same practice across the continuum

The Deal Center will be sending Emily Rubin, MS, CCC-SLP, Director of Communication Crossroads, Inc. into their community to provide community-based professional learning, including sessions on the implementation of the toolkit and collective impact. Part of this wonderful opportunity will include working with the Deal Center to develop a plan to scale implementation of the toolkit to embed the practice across systems. The aspiration of the Deal Center is that all children growing up in communities in Georgia have access to strong systems of family, community, and educational support in early language and literacy development so that they can be successful in school, the workforce, and life.

For general inquiries regarding the award, contact the Deal Center at [galiteracy@gcsu.edu](mailto:galiteracy@gcsu.edu). You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

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