



SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL
**CENTER FOR
EARLY LANGUAGE
AND LITERACY**
AT GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

Sandra Dunagan Deal Center Faculty Affiliate Program

The Faculty Affiliate Program

The Faculty Affiliate Program (FacAP) supports GCSU faculty across disciplines in conducting collaborative research aligned with the Deal Center's mission to advance early language and literacy development (birth through age 8). The program addresses research gaps by examining strategies that promote the adoption and sustainability of evidence-based practices in real-world settings serving young children and families.

Eligibility, Term, and Application Requirements

- Open to GCSU tenure-track faculty and lecturers across disciplines. Applicants must submit:
 - Curriculum Vitae (CV)
 - Letter of Interest (1 page) aligning their work with the Deal Center's mission
 - Proposed Contribution (up to 5 pages) detailing research focus, engagement, and deliverables
 - Letter of Recommendation and Department Chair approval
- **Term:** Two years
- **Stipend:** \$10,000 annually per affiliate
- **Number of Affiliates:** Up to three selected via committee review
- Each Affiliate will sign an MOU outlining expectations and deliverables.

Dates and Deadlines

- **Applications open:** February 16th, 2026
- **Applications close:** March 27th, 2026

Examples of Potential Research Projects

College of Health Sciences

- Study how prenatal health, nutrition, and stress affect early language milestones
- Integrate literacy promotion into pediatric and maternal health programs
- Develop community interventions (e.g., literacy screenings during well-child visits)

College of Business & Technology

- Examine links between childhood and adult literacy and workforce outcomes
- Study AI's influence on young children's critical thinking and literacy
- Develop and examine ed tech literacy tools such as digital storytelling
- Analyze parental leave policies and their effects on child language development

College of Arts & Sciences

- Explore connections between literacy and the arts
- Research brain development and language and literacy learning
- Investigate how play-based use of scientific or mathematical language builds vocabulary, comprehension.
- Analyze geographic disparities in early literacy opportunities
- Study how moral and faith-based stories develop empathy and comprehension
- Examine trauma's effects on language and literacy development
- Explore intersections between language and literacy development and family law

School of Continuing and Professional Studies

- Research intergenerational effects when parents in adult literacy or GED programs engage in early literacy activities with their children
- Study how adults in workforce programs build digital literacy skills and how this affects their children's views on technology for learning.

WHO WE ARE

The Deal Center is at the core of funding, translating, and deploying evidence-based language and literacy practices to child-facing spaces in Georgia—giving everyone the tools to support children on the path to literacy.