AGENDA

EMCEE – JEMERIA CUMMINGS

BIOGRAPHY
Jemeria Cummings is a dedicated, passionate, and committed educator whose strength lies in building confidence in others. She is a native of Milledgeville, GA and a graduate of Baldwin High School. Mrs. Cummings holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Valdosta State University and a Master’s of Education degree in Curriculum & Instruction from Georgia College & State University. Outside of the classroom, Jemeria loves spending time with her husband and their three amazing children. She is deeply committed to promoting literacy. In 2018, she left her comfort zone as a Science teacher and stepped out on faith to start her tutoring business, Building Readers First, where she focuses heavily on closing the gap in literacy. She is the Ferst Readers advocate for Baldwin County, GA, and the author of children’s book, Paigey Waigey’s Donut Shop. Jemeria enjoys speaking at and hosting events, and encouraging women to “Faith It Out”. She is excited to be returning to the classroom this year as a Kindergarten teacher and is looking forward to helping her little Knights build strong foundational skills and become great leaders and readers.

DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023

Noon  Registration and Mingle  Magnolia Ballroom

1:00 p.m.  Summit Welcome  Magnolia Ballroom
University Welcome
Cathy Cox, J.D. – President of Georgia College & State University

Governor’s Welcome
Brian Kemp - Governor of Georgia

Senator’s Welcome
Senator Billy Hickman – Georgia State Senator, District 4
Committee Chairman of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Keynote Introduction
Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs – Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

1:30 p.m.  Opening Keynote Speaker  Magnolia Ballroom
The State of American Literacy
Malcolm Mitchell – Founder and CEO of Share the Magic Foundation

2:15 p.m.  First General Session  Magnolia Ballroom
Partner’s Unlocking Georgia’s Future
Dr. Ryan Lee-James – Director of the Rollins Center at the Atlanta Speech School

3:00 p.m.  Light Snack Break

3:15 p.m.  Second General Session  Magnolia Ballroom
The Evolution of Approaches to Reading and Literacy Instruction
Dr. Caitlin Dooley – Executive Director of Voices for Georgia’s Children

4:00 p.m.  Adjourn

DINNER – WEDNESDAY, JULY 12TH, 2023

6:30 p.m.  Deal Center Fundraising Dinner Honoring Mrs. Sandra Dunagan Deal  Magnolia Ballroom
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Dinner starts at 7:00 p.m.
Unveiling of Mrs. Sandra Dunagan Deal’s Painting
by GCSU Art Student Damara Sochacki

*Advanced Registration Required for Dinner
DAY 2 – THURSDAY, JULY 13TH, 2023

8:00 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast**
Magnolia Ballroom

9:00 a.m. **Summit Welcome**
Dr. Lindee Morgan - Executive Director of the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy
Magnolia Ballroom

9:15 a.m. **Opening Keynote**
Aligning Literacy Policy and Practices
Dr. April Aldridge – Deputy Superintendent of Georgia Department of Education
Magnolia Ballroom

10:00 a.m. **Panel Discussion:**
Literacy Today in Georgia and the Needs for the Future
Moderator:
Dr. Lindee Morgan – Executive Director of the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy
Panelists:
- Amy M. Jacobs – Commissioner, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
- Dr. Keisha R. Callins – MD, MPH, Ob/Gyn, Community Health Care Systems
- Martha Ann Todd – President, Columbus Technical College
- Joy Hawkins – Executive Director, Governor’s Office of Student Achievement
- Evan Michael Bush – Director of Youth Services, Georgia Public Library Service
- Dr. Linda Golson Bradley – Professor of Literacy Instruction, Department of Professional Learning and Innovation, Georgia College & State University

11:00 a.m. **Transition to Concurrent Session 1**
See Concurrent Schedule for Locations and Presenters

11:15 a.m. **Concurrent Session 1**
Track 1 – It Takes a Village: How Cross-Sector Collaborations Support Early Childhood Development
Track 2 – Instructional Coaching – A Transformative Approach for Professional Learning
Track 3 – Understanding the Science to Implement Structured Literacy
Track 4 – Building Connected Community to Promote Literacy
Track 5 – When Relationships are Lit: Piloting Literacy Mentoring Programs

12:00 p.m. **Lunch**
Magnolia Ballroom

1:00 p.m. **Transition to Concurrent Session 2**
See Concurrent Schedule for Locations and Presenters

1:15 p.m. **Concurrent Session 2**
Track 1 – Examining Font Effects on Reading Comprehension and Fluency
Track 2 – Implementation of CLIMBE: Collaborative Learning in Multi-Sensory Based Environments for Early Childhood
Track 3 – Thunder Learns to Read: Exploring Connections between the Arts and Literacy
Track 4 – Happy Birthday to the Jungle Bus
Track 5 – It All Began With Story Time

2:00 p.m. **Transition to Concurrent Session 3**
See Concurrent Schedule for Locations and Presenters

2:15 p.m. **Concurrent Session 3**
Track 1 – Leveraging State and Local Partnerships to Transform Communities in Georgia
Track 2 – Community Based Teacher Education Course Supports Early Learners with Evidence Based Tutoring
Track 3 – A Brewery, a Nonprofit, and a School Walk Into a Bar: Moving the Needle on Third Grade Literacy
Track 4 – Money Matters: Funding Success to Make Georgia #1 in Early Language and Literacy

3:00 p.m. **Transition to Magnolia**

3:15 p.m. **Closing Keynote Speaker**
Call to Action
Senator Chuck Payne – Georgia State Senator, District 54
Vice-Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth

3:45 p.m. **Closing Comments by Dr. Lindee Morgan**