



# LITERACIES FOR ALL SUMMER INSTITUTE 2018 CALL FOR PROGRAM PROPOSALS

“Sustaining Joy in Our Learning Communities  
during Challenging Times”

**July 12-14, 2018 • Baltimore, Maryland**

We are living in unprecedented times in world history. Between the hacking of information influencing elections, fake news, and the escalated attacks on immigrants and human rights, democracy is under attack worldwide. How do we educate our students in these uncertain times? There has never been a greater need for informed citizens who practice critical literacy and can advocate for justice, fairness, and equity. Whole language classrooms have always been safe spaces where students are encouraged to question, look at all sides of an issue, and advocate for change. As whole language educators, we encourage critical literacy practices that promote lifelong learning and encourage students to become active citizens in democratic nations.

This year’s conference theme, **“Sustaining Joy in Our Learning Communities during Challenging Times,”** invites us to give voice to the languages, literacies, and cultures of the diverse students in our classrooms and among ourselves as professionals, and to focus on the joy we find in this important work. As an international organization with a lengthy history of progressive education, democratic schools, and critical literacy, our creative work involves constantly affirming the potential of whole language learning communities to examine the world we live in through multiple languages and literacies. This conference invites educators to come together to learn and explore these issues through a variety of forums including workshops, symposia, panels, poster presentations, conversations, and social/political action.

We invite proposals focusing on sustaining joy in literacy learning and teaching within diverse, holistic classrooms in the 21st century, including sessions focusing on

- collaborations between learners, teachers, parents, and community members, including community study, service-learning, critical pedagogy, and social action;
- collaborative projects that cross boundaries within and across classrooms, communities, states, and countries;
- the use of technology, and digital, visual, and critical literacies to bring us together across time and space, across political, social, economic, and geographic boundaries;
- how literacy and access to it positions us socially, economically, and politically;
- what it means to be literate in varied languages and cultures;
- how the meaning of literacy has changed and continues to change;
- including and nurturing diverse languages and literacies in bilingual, multilingual, and monolingual English settings;
- reading literature that reflects the lives of our students and opens windows onto the lives of others nearby and far away;
- how meaningful teaching and authentic learning engagements support individuals’ social and emotional well-being.

In addition to other sessions, the NCTE Early Childhood Education Assembly sponsors an early childhood strand pertaining to the education of children from birth to age eight, their families, and their teachers. Early literacy is a key concept in these sessions that also address diversities in early childhood and highlight practices and processes that are situated in social, historical, and cultural contexts.



The Literacies for All Summer Institute is a peer-reviewed conference. All proposals addressing whole language themes will be considered. Look for more information about the conference and the proposal form on the WLU website, [www.ncte.org/wlu/institute](http://www.ncte.org/wlu/institute), and Facebook page, and follow us on Twitter, #wlu18.

**Important Notes:** Because WLU is a not-for-profit organization, the financial viability of its Annual Convention depends upon the support of everyone who attends. **Invited participants are required to register for the conference when they accept their invitation.** NCTE/WLU is unable to reimburse program participants for travel or living expenses. Session proposers should advise all involved in their proposal that submission of a proposal does not constitute an invitation to appear on the program.

**The WLU proposal system will be available in the fall with a submission deadline of January 26, 2018.** Invitations will be sent in April following the Program Planning Committee's peer-review and selection process.