

Neuhaus News

TEACHING. READING. REACHING.

FIRST QUARTER | 2024

A Crisis Worth Solving

A Message from the President & CEO
Dr. Tracy White-Weeden, Ed.D.



Our country faces a reading epidemic, worsened by the pandemic, and impacting students, especially those with lower performance levels.

Our country has a reading epidemic on its hands. The pandemic added to this crisis because students lost access during a two-year window of critical skill development. Who among them was the most deeply affected? Our students who already suffered from the lowest level of performance. The solution lies in evidence-based practices delivered by knowledgeable teachers, unlocking *Literacy for All* students, regardless of their zip code. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 40% of fourth graders can't read at a basic level, with 65% falling below proficiency. We have lost significant ground as a nation. NAEP includes student outcomes for public, charter, and private schools. If a student is dyslexic, there is an added layer of complexity for states to ensure students with reading disabilities receive services. This urgent need is not about a "high stakes" state test; it is about becoming literate for life in an information age.

Another pandemic-related dynamic creating barriers for our children is the decreased attendance in our schools. If children don't show up, they risk being left behind, and that is not acceptable on our watch. In our experience, as a strategic partner with a focus on apprenticing educators to excel in this essential duty, student attendance increases significantly, and behaviors notably improve when children succeed in reading.



Imagine a nation where illiteracy is eradicated – a crisis that is eminently solvable. Upstream issues, including inadequate educator preparation programs, demand attention. The Neuhaus team is actively addressing these challenges, focusing on keeping pace with proven scientific methods to ensure educators can effectively teach children to read, write, and build academic vocabulary.

A seismic movement is underway to prevent educator failure, a critical step in averting student reading failure. Stay informed about your state's initiatives, as highlighted in the latest National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) report: "[State of the States: Five Policy Actions to Strengthen Implementation of the Science of Reading](#)." For those short on time, the Executive Summary provides a succinct overview.

This is an all-hands-on-deck moment. Your support is vital. Spread awareness within your circle, as the stakes are incredibly high. Our children and grandchildren deserve the fight for literacy as a human right. Join the reading revolution and share personal stories of how Neuhaus Education Center made a difference for your student or family member.

Literacy for All,



CASE STUDY

Closing the Gap for Striving Readers with Basic Language

Karol A. Moore, Ph.D., LDT, CALT, SLDS
Director of Research & Associate VP,
Curriculum & Instructional Design

This case study highlights that structured literacy instruction, particularly for struggling readers in grade 3 and beyond, can be highly effective. However, the challenge lies in ensuring teachers possess the necessary knowledge and skills to deliver this instruction effectively. Dyslexic students, in particular, benefit from direct and explicit phonological instruction, but many teachers have limitations in this regard.

To bridge this gap, training programs that offer systematic structured literacy instruction have shown promise in improving teacher knowledge and student reading performance. [Read More](#)

FAMILY SUPPORT

Virtual Monthly Information Session

This repeating virtual presentation includes information on reading challenges, including dyslexia, and the Texas dyslexia legislation.

Offered Wednesdays & Saturdays
10:00 a.m. to Noon (CST) / Free

UPCOMING SESSIONS

- [Wednesday, February 7, 2024](#)
- [Saturday, February 24, 2024](#)
- [Wednesday, March 20, 2024](#)
- [Saturday, March 23, 2024](#)
- [Wednesday, April 10, 2024](#)
- [Saturday, April 20, 2024](#)
- [Saturday, May 11, 2024](#)
- [Wednesday, May 15, 2024](#)



Navigating the Foundations of Effective Literacy

The Neuhaus Structured Literacy modules illuminate the path to evidence-based instruction.

The Structured Literacy Modules offer a robust collection of 19 modules designed to serve as a concise guide for evidence-based literacy instruction. Tailored for a diverse audience, these modules are beneficial to students pursuing degrees in education, administrators, school leaders, prospective certification examinees, and educators seeking to enhance their foundational understanding of literacy.

Reading is Fundamental

Drawing upon research grounded in the science of reading, the modules offer an in-depth explanation of how structured literacy is informed by empirical evidence. This not only provides a theoretical foundation but also bridges the gap between research and practical application. The necessity of the components comprising structured literacy for the development of skilled readers is a focal point of the modules.

Unpacking phonology, syntax, semantics, and more, the modules empower educators with the knowledge essential for fostering literacy skills in their students, and act as a beacon for those seeking clarity on why structured literacy is fundamental in the journey toward proficient reading.

Teaching. Reading. Reaching.

As we navigate the journey toward proficient reading, these modules serve as a vital resource, shedding light on the inherent importance of structured literacy in cultivating skilled readers. With a commitment to excellence, the Structured Literacy Modules pave the way for an enriched educational landscape, where literacy thrives as a cornerstone of academic success. [Learn More](#)

2024 Literacy Lights the Way Luncheon

The luncheon will be an in-person event and promises to be one filled with inspiration, camaraderie, and hope.

Literacy Lights the Way Luncheon

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Check-in begins at 11:00 a.m. / Program begins at 11:30 a.m.

The Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston

Luncheon Chairs: Catherine and Edward Crain

Luncheon Honorees: Betty and Bob Palmquist

For more than 40 years, Neuhaus has been a trailblazer in solutions for overcoming obstacles to literacy, including dyslexia, and today we are a nationally recognized leader in the science of reading.

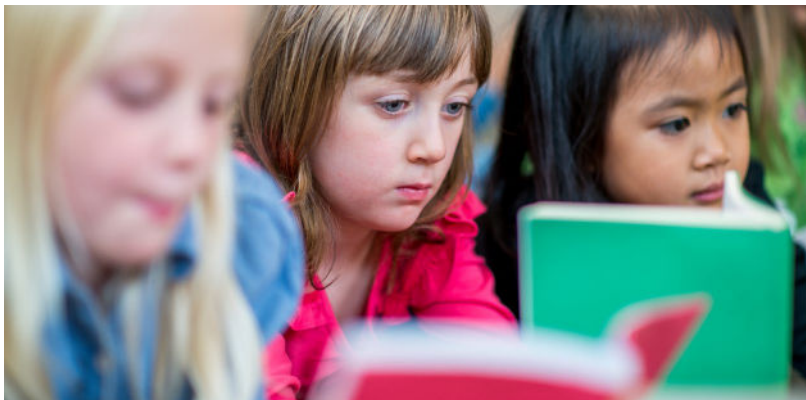
Mark your calendars for the upcoming Literacy Lights the Way Luncheon, a highly visible affair that has been attended by over 800 attendees in support of promoting reading success and honoring those who champion our ongoing mission to unlock a brighter future of *Literacy for All*.

Learn more and register to attend at www.neuhaus.org/luncheon.

A legacy of service

Neuhaus Education Center has built an exceptional reputation for sound stewardship of philanthropic resources. Increased funding for greater capacity is at the core of Neuhaus Education Center's ability to achieve *Literacy for All*.

Your support is vital to our ability to impact the lives of children and adults across Texas and the nation. Visit www.neuhaus.org/donate.



Literacy Lights the Way Luncheon

Keynote Speaker



Dean Bragonier

Founder & "Executive Dyslexic"

NoticeAbility Inc

Dean Bragonier is on a mission to empower students with dyslexia by helping them recognize their unique strengths and cultivate self-esteem.

Shaped by the challenges associated with his dyslexia and after struggling through the traditional secondary education system, Dean became a diligent and successful college student who developed a true love of learning at Bates College. Upon graduation, Dean embraced his entrepreneurial instincts and acquired a small seasonal restaurant on Martha's Vineyard Island that he transformed into a successful full-scale enterprise. It was through this endeavor that he was able to contextualize his years of laborious academic learning and discover the true gifts of his own dyslexic mind.

Dyslexia is a family matter for Dean, as both his wife, Sally Taylor (a singer-songwriter and daughter of James Taylor and Carly Simon), and his son, Bodhi, also navigate the challenges of dyslexia. Together, Dean and his family established NoticeAbility, driven by their shared passion for education and a firm belief that the advantages of dyslexia far outweigh its associated challenges.

Bragonier is an inspiration for individuals with dyslexia and a catalyst for positive change in the realm of education.

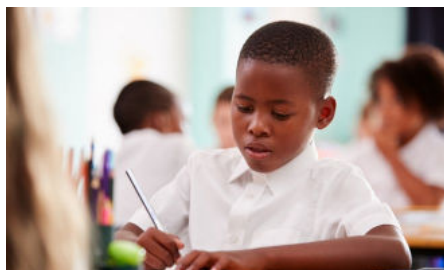


DYSLEXIA AWARENESS

Transforming the family tree through literacy

Home is where literacy takes root, and when a child struggles with reading, the search for answers and specialists trained in detecting learning differences can be difficult and intimidating. NEC resources and referral services provide families with a welcome first step in unlocking a path to reading success.

Virtual Dyslexia Simulation



Wednesday, February 7, 2024
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (CST)
\$10 per person / Virtual

[REGISTER](#)

Join us for a simulation that guides participants through reading and handwriting activities in a way that allows you to experience a sense of the struggles and frustration that students with learning differences often face.

Virtual Dyslexia 101

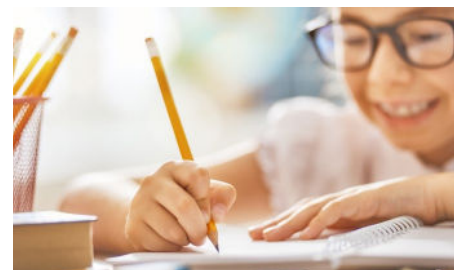


Tuesday, February 27, 2024
Noon - 1:00 p.m. (CST)
Free / Virtual

[REGISTER](#)

Gain insight into the challenges individuals face when learning to read, including identifying those who may have dyslexia, and explore the necessary components of reading instruction crucial to their learning process.

Virtual Dyslexia 201



Tuesday, March 5, 2024
Noon - 1:00 p.m. (CST)
Free / Virtual

[REGISTER](#)

This session offers interested participants the opportunity to actively engage in learning essential vocabulary activities commonly found in structured literacy lessons for students with dyslexia and gain a better understanding of dyslexia therapy and their child's experience within it.

Marathon Triumph for Literacy Success



Paul Schubert (right) and friend at the 2024 Houston Marathon

In a remarkable display of determination and gratitude, Paul Schubert, a former student of Neuhaus Education Center’s Adult Literacy Program, recently took on the challenge of the 2024 Houston Marathon. His motivation? To honor the institution that played a pivotal role in transforming his life shortly after being diagnosed with dyslexia.

Paul’s journey with Neuhaus began when he decided to take control of his literacy struggles and attended night classes twice a week. Overcoming dyslexia challenges, he acquired skills propelling his professional career. Leading up to the marathon, Paul initiated a GoFundMe campaign with a clear purpose—to raise funds for Neuhaus’s Adult Literacy Program. His goal was ambitious, aiming to secure \$4,000 to support the organization that had made a significant impact on his life. Paul’s efforts and the compelling cause resonated with many, and he successfully reached his fundraising goal before lacing up his running shoes for the marathon. The funds raised will undoubtedly contribute to the continuation of Neuhaus’s valuable work in helping adults overcome literacy challenges.

When asked about his motivation for running the marathon, Paul emphasized raising awareness about Neuhaus Education Center, addressing the critical gap for adults struggling with reading and writing after high school. His commitment to the marathon and fundraising stems from a belief in community support, advocating for positive impact and encouragement. His inspiring journey stands as a testament to the transformative power of education and community support.

As he crossed the finish line of the Houston Marathon, he not only celebrated a personal achievement but also championed the cause of adult literacy, reminding us all that we can make our communities better places through collective effort and compassion.

Margaret H. Ley Adult Literacy Program



Reading opens doors to better-paying jobs, a hopeful future, and the skills needed in today’s digital world.

At Neuhaus Education Center, you can learn how to read using methods that work.

Adult Classes

The Margaret H. Ley Adult Literacy Program offers evening continuing education classes for adults 18 and older in the spring and the fall at Neuhaus Education Center. Our goal is to maximize the reading, spelling, and comprehension skills of our enrolled students by providing evidence-based reading instruction to the adult learner.



If you’re an adult struggling with reading, there’s help available.

PAUL SCHUBERT

Neuhaus offers adult literacy classes free of charge to participants thanks to the support from our generous donors.

How to Register

Call us at (713) 664-7676 or email us at AdultLiteracy@neuhaus.org

Teaching. Reading. Reaching.

Neuhaus Education Center offers courses that describe the foundational reading skills necessary for reading instruction and how they support better reading outcomes for all students.

Get to know the two newest members of our instruction team, **Ashlie Ballard** and **Lauren Malone**.



Ashlie Ballard, CALT, LDT, C-SLDS

Ashlie Ballard has worked in both private and public elementary schools for the past 20 years as a classroom teacher, interventionist, and dyslexia therapist. Ashlie loves to go on outdoor adventures with her family, baking, reading, and

Why did you decide to work at Neuhaus?

I decided to work at Neuhaus because of the wonderful instructors I encountered as a student. All of my instructors were incredibly knowledgeable, genuine, professional and filled with such kindness and grace.

They gave me a priceless gift; the ability to teach anyone to read, no matter the age or the stage. I wanted to pass the (literacy) torch to this next generation of educators so that they may light the way for their students.

What does a typical day working as a Neuhaus instructor include?

A typical day usually starts with a good cup of coffee. Then it's on to reading and organizing lecture notes and materials, getting to know teachers all over the world, modeling lessons, instructing and encouraging educators, collaborating with my brilliant colleagues, scheduling coaching sessions, grading assignments and finally ending the day by responding to emails.

What is your favorite read aloud book for children?

I have always loved reading *Thank You Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco to the children in my life.

Why are you passionate about *Literacy for All*?

Literacy opens doors that no one can close.

VIRTUAL CLASSES AT NEC

Oral Language & Listening Comprehension

[February 15, 2024](#)

Registration Deadline: Feb. 1

Live Virtual / 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Build foundational and higher-order thinking skills at the oral level guided by structured lesson plans.

Accurate & Automatic Reading

[February 20 & 21, 2024](#)

Registration Deadline: Feb. 6

Live Virtual / 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Focused on how to teach decoding skills and strategies.

Scientific Spelling

[February 22, 2024](#)

Registration Deadline: Feb. 8

Live Virtual / 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Focused on teaching reliable patterns for spelling.

Multisensory Grammar

[February 29, 2024](#)

Registration Deadline: Feb. 15

Live Virtual / 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Focused on teaching the parts of speech in the English language and activities to use grammar with writing instruction.

Developing Metacognitive Strategies

[March 6 & 7, 2024](#)

Registration Deadline: Feb. 21

Live Virtual / 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Provides teachers with lessons on how to build foundational and higher-level comprehension skills using lessons with a range of text.

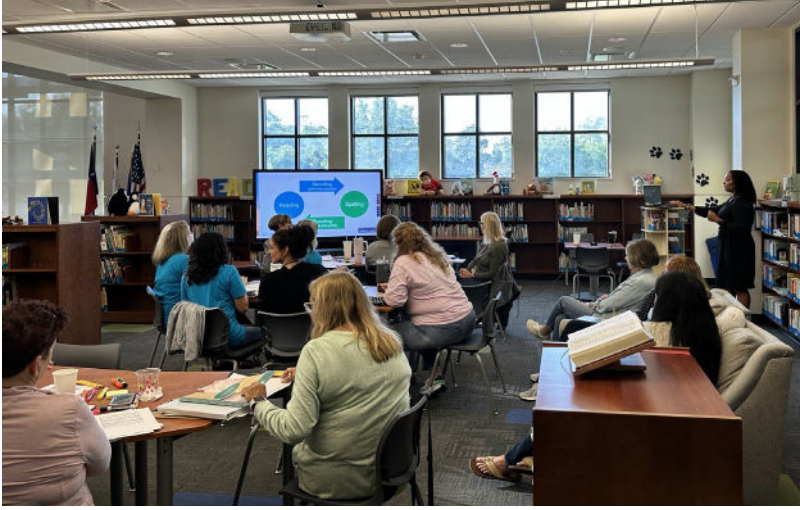
Reading Readiness

[April 11, 2024](#)

Registration Deadline: Mar. 28

Live Virtual / 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Focused on building foundational decoding and comprehension skills.



Lauren Malone teaching Language Enrichment refresher course in The Woodlands



Lauren Malone, M.Ed., C-SLCT

Lauren has worked in education for over 20 years as a classroom teacher, literacy coach, reading interventionist, Section 504 coordinator, and dyslexia interventionist. She loves reading, going for walks, attending the theater, and spending time with her family.

Why did you decide to work at Neuhaus?

Ever since I took my first class back in 2010, I knew that Neuhaus was a special place, and I wanted to be a part of the team that helped teachers change the lives of students. The mission of Neuhaus and the knowledge and professionalism of the staff were significant draws for me. Each day, when I left my Neuhaus classes, I returned to my school ready and armed to make great teaching decisions for my students. I have always aspired to be a part of the team that helps change lives.

What does a typical day working as a Neuhaus instructor include?

I love that every day working is different. Whether I am teaching a class filled with forty eager participants, coaching students from previous classes, working on a project with content specialists, prepping for a class, or collaborating with a fellow instructor, I find myself eager to start each day. The environment on my team is welcoming, supportive, and knowledgeable, and I am given space to be my authentic self.

What is your favorite read aloud book for children?

I love *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni. The book can reach so many children and adults with its powerful message of the importance of working together for the good of the group while taking risks.

Why are you passionate about *Literacy for All*?

I feel that it is so important to ensure that I am doing my all to promote *Literacy for All*. Being in the public-school setting for twenty-one years, I saw the direct effects on students that left elementary school without the knowledge, tools, or support to be successful readers or writers. There can always be a second, third, fourth, etc. chance to make a change in someone's life by giving them the gift of literacy. It is never too late.

IN-PERSON CLASSES AT NEC

Scientific Spelling

[February 22, 2024](#)

Registration Deadline: Feb. 8

In-Person / 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

[June 17, 2024](#)

Registration Deadline: Jun. 3

In-Person / 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Focused on teaching reliable patterns for spelling.

Multisensory Grammar

[June 17, 2024](#)

Registration Deadline: Jun. 3

In-Person / 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Focused on teaching the parts of speech in the English language and activities to use grammar with writing instruction.

Oral Language & Listening Comprehension

[June 19, 2024](#)

Registration Deadline: Jun. 5

In-Person / 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Build foundational and higher-order thinking skills at the oral level guided by structured lesson plans.

Written Composition

[June 19, 2024](#)

Registration Deadline: Jun. 5

In-Person / 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Focused on writing strategies to develop paragraphs.

Reading Readiness

[June 24, 2024](#)

Registration Deadline: Jun. 10

In-Person / 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

[July 29, 2024](#)

Registration Deadline: Jul. 15

In-Person / 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Developing Metacognitive Strategies

[July 30 & 31, 2024](#)

Registration Deadline: Jul. 16

In-Person / 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Focused on building foundational decoding and comprehension skills.

Lenox M. Reed Seminar

Monday, April 22, 2024

8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Registration will open at 8:00 a.m.

The Junior League of Houston, Inc.,

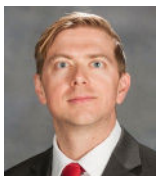
1811 Briar Oaks Ln, Houston, TX 77027

Speaker: Tim Odegard, Ph.D.

Save the date for the **Lenox M. Reed Seminar**, an in-person educational event that is free for educators. Each year, participants hear from a distinguished expert in the field of education and literacy while earning Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Neuhaus will honor its Dyslexia Specialist Preparation Program (DSPP) and Online Certification Program for Dyslexia Specialists (OCPDS) graduates. Educator tickets to this event are complimentary and non-educator tickets are available for \$40. Breakfast will be served during this event. This is an in-person event only.

Register to attend at www.neuhaus.org/seminar.



Keynote Speaker

Tim Odegard, Ph.D.

Dr. Tim Odegard, a distinguished professor at Middle Tennessee State University, holds the Katherine Davis Murfree Chair of Excellence in Dyslexic Studies. Leading the Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia, he is also the Editor-in-Chief of *Annals of Dyslexia*. Formerly at the University of Texas Arlington and UT Southwestern Medical School, Dr. Odegard is a seasoned reading therapist, having completed a two-year dyslexia specialist training program at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children during his NIH-funded postdoctoral fellowship. His expertise encompasses psychology, dyslexia research, and impactful contributions to both academia and dyslexia treatment.



The only thing more important than teaching is student learning.
Be the light...

DR. TRACY WHITE-WEEDEN



A Look Back: 2023 Highlights

Look at all that's been accomplished in 2023 - not only for our team, but for the impact our organization has made in promoting *Literacy for All*.

Thank you for making our favorite moments from this year possible, and for supporting this incredible mission.

Here are a few initiatives we achieved together:

Online Certification Program for Dyslexia Specialists

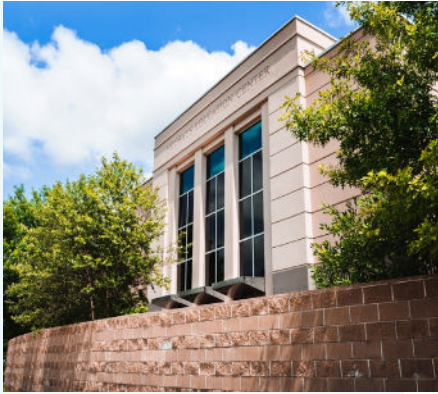
This program provides educators with the preparation and knowledge to provide intervention for students specifically identified with dyslexia or students who demonstrate reading and spelling challenges. NEC partnered with the Alaska Department of Education and **Pasadena ISD** (Dyslexia grant funds used). Tekila Fullam of New Miami, Ohio became the first OCPDS graduate.

Adult Literacy

Enrollment increased by 20% in 2023 with 60% of students attending virtually and 40% attending in-person. **Nine Adult Literacy** classes were taught by 7 CALTS with a total of 90 students. In May 2023, 18 students graduated from the Margaret H. Ley Adult Literacy Program.

Family Support

The Family Support Office (FSO) provided programming to 350 attendees of NEC-scheduled events and 270 attendees of programs through community partnerships with **Aldine ISD** (English/Spanish); **Literacy Now** (English/Spanish); **Prarie View A&M University Wellness Initiatives** at Haverstock Hills; **Meyers Center Center** medical staff; **Communities in Schools** staff; and the **Junior League of Houston, Inc.** information session. FSO received 1,867 calls/emails from families seeking support for their child with reading difficulties.



4433 Bissonnet
Bellaire, TX 77401

713.664.7676
info@neuhaus.org
www.neuhaus.org

Neuhaus Education Center is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to promoting *Literacy for All*.

We provide evidence-based training and support to teachers, supplies information and resources to families, and offers direct literacy services to adult learners.

Executive Office

President and CEO

Tracy White-Weeden, Ed.D.

Interim Chief Academic Officer

Catherine Scott, Ed.D., CALT

Chief Financial Officer

Sai Pathi, MBA

We're grateful to have some of the most passionate and committed leaders dedicated in promoting reading success for all.

Board of Trustees

Amy Thompson, *Chair*
Holly Anderson
Ben Andrews
Amos C. Benning
Scott Butler
Stacy Bynes
Loretta R. Cross
Jamie Grissom
Jennifer W. Hazelton
Jennifer Jeffery
Katherine Kardesch
Jack Lyons
Suzanne Sklar McCarthy
Ed Neuhaus
William Neuhaus
Linda Nunnery
Bob Palmquist
Leanne Brooks Scott, Ph.D.
Kristen Stubbs

Lifetime Trustees

Marilyn Beckwith*
Suzanna S. Harter
Marjorie C. Hutcheson*
Ann K. Johnson, CALT
Margaret H. Ley, CALT*
Mrs. Russell McFarland*
Edward K. Neuhaus
Mrs. W. Oscar Neuhaus*
Mrs. James L. Noel, Jr.*
William D. Noel
Mrs. Briscoe K. Parker, Jr.*
Lenox Reed, M.Ed., CALT
Nancy Collie Reed*
Elizabeth B. Wareing
W. Temple Webber III
Kay McGibbon Welein, M.Ed.

*deceased

Advisory Board

Ashley Andrews Barneby
Laura Borland
Jason Burdine
Genevieve Hutcheson Butcher
Christine Butler
J. David Cabello
Kathleen Noel Camp
Edward B. Crain, Jr.
Ane' Ebie-Mouton
George Edwards, Jr.
Patricia Emerson
Ryan Ezell
Laura Garrison Ableman
Cynthia Goehringer
Mary Maragaret Greer, M.Ed., LDT, CALT
Suzanne G. Heinrich
Mark Hobson
Laura Hutcheson
Jenny Roman Johnson
Patty Kallmeyer
Shari King
Courtney Lippincott
Kallol Mahata
Ben Melson
Walter Negley
Eleisha Nelson-Reed
Charles W. Neuhaus
Barbara Noel
Katheryn Shaffer Ray
Shandy Reed
Emily Rommel Rinaldi, M.Ed., CALT
Paula Sacks
Barbara Sklar
Josephine P. Smith
Janna Webber
Cindy Wishert
Sushma Yalamanchili, M.D.
Margaret Young