



 CRLA 2023  
56<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE • BALTIMORE • NOV 8-11

# Call for Proposals

## College Reading & Learning Association

### 56<sup>th</sup> Annual CRLA Conference

November 8-11, 2023  
Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor  
Baltimore, Maryland

The 2023 CRLA conference theme is *Get In On It: Strengthening Our Leadership, Increasing Our Influence, Expanding Our Advocacy*. The strength of any organization is dependent on the strengths of its members. CRLA is fortunate to have such dedicated and talented leaders among its membership, and ensuring we continue to develop the leadership capacities of those around us is also a commitment to the ongoing strength of the organization. In strengthening our leadership, we are better positioned to influence our professional field, our local communities, and society at large. From there, we can leverage our influence to advocate for causes that impact us, our institutions, and our students.

We encourage you to come to Baltimore ready to engage with colleagues in new ways. This year, attendees will both have the chance to learn about new leadership opportunities within CRLA as well as engage in active discussions around the direction of the organization. Attendees will also find an added emphasis on equipping professionals to become influential and expand their advocacy efforts. Lastly, this year the conference will add intentional space and time for self-care. We know this is an increasing area of need, and hope attendees will learn new practices for self-care that they can turn into year-round habits. With this in mind, in addition to our traditional pre-conference workshops and 60-minute concurrent sessions, we are excited to introduce several new session types.

This is sure to be a conference like no other! We look forward to receiving your proposals and partnering with you to build a conference experience that reflects The New CRLA!

*\*\*Note: We are mindful of the need for continuing COVID considerations, and we plan to offer a live-streaming option again in 2023*



## Pre-Conference Institutes

**3-Hour/Half-Day Workshop or 6-Hour/All-Day Workshop.** Delivered before the conference opens, this session type is an opportunity to present an in-depth workshop requiring a longer time span. Pre-Conference Institutes typically focus on professional development, certification programs, technology competencies, innovative curriculum and instruction, etc. Generally multiple presenters design workshop content to be presented in an integrative mode during the allotted time period (half-day or all-day workshops). Pre-Conference Institutes should be highly interactive. There is a limited number of these sessions.

## Presentation and Poster Sessions

**60-Minute Concurrent Session.** A 60-Minute Concurrent Session includes **Research Reports, Wise Practice Presentations, and Advocacy and Activism Assemblies** which promote CRLA's guiding principles and emphasize transformative concepts and practices. This type of presentation should be more than a simple summary of your class, program, or learning center. This session is most successful when presenters demonstrate their research and inquiry process and findings. The topic is presented for approximately 40 minutes with the final 20 minutes reserved for discussion and audience interaction.

- **Research Reports**—provides background, rationale, questions, methodology, results, and implications of a completed but as of yet unpublished study.
- **Wise Practice Presentations\***—may include research syntheses, position papers on critical issues related to research, models of learning assistance programming, innovative curricula, or research-driven instruction and instructional support. (*\*see the Executive Summary of the most recent [CRLA white paper by Suh, Williams, & Owens, 2021](#), for a brief explanation of this term, and read the entire paper for a fuller understanding.*)
- **Advocacy/Activism Assemblies**—focus on successful strategies for advocating for CRLA-related causes on a classroom, institutional, or community level. These sessions aim to equip attendees with the knowledge and practices that lead to ongoing and effective change.

**Digital Poster Session.** A digital poster session allows presenters to share their research or best practice in a less formal setting than a presentation. These take place on site at the conference with presenters sharing content via a display monitor as attendees informally rotate from one session of interest to another. These sessions should focus on “hot topics” in literacy, developmental education, and learning support, and they should be a review of research and wise practice, along with an annotated reference/resource list. Those accepted for digital poster sessions will also have the opportunity to have their materials published in a repository of advocacy resources for CRLA members.



***Learning Over Lunch.*** A fresh take on CRLA’s traditional “Lunch with a Mentor”, we are opening the opportunity to a larger pool of CRLA members who wish to share their knowledge and expertise in an intimate round-table conversation with like-minded individuals endeavoring to bring about real change—all while enjoying a fine meal. This year promises to be exceptional, as we welcome proposals centered on **advocacy** and **self-care**. In addition to lunch, you may consider extending the discussion with a more formal presentation (submitted separately). The lunch will take place Friday, November 10, 2023.

### **Self-Care Room Sessions**

As the pressures of our roles and number of our responsibilities both increase, self-care is becoming an even higher priority. A major thread of this year’s conference is professional self-care. In light of this, we will offer a common space throughout the conference for relaxation, reflection, and ideation. While the “self-care room” will primarily be an unstructured space, we would also like to offer some structured programming for attendees. To facilitate this, we are accepting proposals for the following types of sessions:

***Sunrise Movement and Meditation.*** These are 60-minute sessions held each morning of the conference, where attendees will be guided through gentle movement and meditation. These sessions can include activities such as basic yoga, stretching, quiet music, prompts for journaling, and guided meditation.

***Midday Mindfulness.*** These are 30-minute sessions held each day during lunch hour, where attendees will participate in activities that promote mindfulness. Proposals in this realm should focus on guided self-care practices that attendees can benefit from at the conference and continue to utilize afterwards.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

The following are important reminders for those submitting a conference proposal:

- All sessions must be submitted through the proposal process. ***This includes sessions presented by CRLA's valued partners (vendors) who should submit proposals under strand 14 – exhibits.***
- The proposal/session summary should follow the Guidelines for Submission (see Appendix B).
- Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.
- Proposals must be submitted for review using our online submission system available on the CRLA conference website at <http://crla.net/proposals/openconf.php>
- Proposals must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. (CST) on Sunday, April 9, 2023.
- After successfully submitting a proposal, you will receive a confirmation email, as well as instructions on how to access the online system should you need to review or edit your proposal before the submission deadline.
- Presenters must register and pay for the conference. If presenters have not registered by the presenter registration deadline (August 29), their names will be removed from the program. If an individual is the sole presenter, the entire session will be removed from the program.
- A proposal may be submitted once and to one strand only. Presenters are expected to explain their strand selection, providing the rationale for their strand choice as well as the anticipated audience. Information regarding your strand selection is critical to the review process. Please don't assume that your topic and strand are synonymous or that reviewers will see the connection. Additionally, should your proposal be accepted, your choice of strand will determine your presentation's placement in the program.
- No individual can appear on the program more than three times as a presenter. CRLA wants to ensure everyone with research to present, a story to tell, or an idea of exceptional value can participate in the annual conference.
- CRLA will provide projectors/screens/monitors for all sessions that take place on-site. ***Presenters must provide their own laptop and connector cables.*** This includes digital poster sessions.
- If your proposal is accepted, please remain true to the original proposal's intent and content. Your abstract will be published in the program as a way to market your session.
- Presenters are strongly encouraged to submit appropriate papers for possible publication in the *Journal of College Reading and Learning (JCRL)*.



## CALL FOR REVIEWERS

CRLA has opportunities for members to serve the organization by volunteering as a reviewer of proposals. To be considered as a reviewer, please complete [the online form](#) by March 26, 2023. In the sign-up box under Review and Program Committees use the keycode: reviewer2023.

If you have any questions regarding the call for reviewers, contact either or both of the conference co-chairs, Jeanine Williams or Jon Mladic at [conferencechair@crla.net](mailto:conferencechair@crla.net)

## IMPORTANT DATES

February 20, 2023	Call for Proposals is disseminated, and online system is open for proposal submissions
March 26, 2023	Deadline for proposal reviewer applications
April 10, 2023	Deadline for 2023 CRLA conference proposals. Proposals must be submitted to the OpenConf system by 11:59 p.m. (CST)
June 12, 2023	Notification of proposal review decisions will be distributed via email to the contact author, who is responsible for notifying other individuals listed as presenters
June 26, 2023	Conference registration begins
August 27, 2023	All presenters must be registered for the conference
September 20, 2023	Early registration deadline
September 24, 2023	Deadline for exhibitor application
October 15, 2023	Registration deadline

## APPENDIX A - STRANDS

### ***OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM STRANDS***

- Strand 1: Brain Compatible Teaching/Learning
  - Strand 2: College Reading
  - Strand 3: College Writing
  - Strand 4: Learning & Study Strategies
  - Strand 5: Learning Assistance Center Management
  - Strand 6: Learning with Disabilities
  - Strand 7: Mathematics
  - Strand 8: Multicultural Equity and Inclusion
  - Strand 9: Peer Assistance Programs
  - Strand 10: Research and Evaluation
  - Strand 11: Technology & Distance Learning
  - Strand 12: Student Athletes
  - Strand 13: Professional Development and other topics\*
  - Strand 14: Exhibits†
- \* Strands not associated with a SIG.  
† Reserved for Exhibitors only.

Please review the strand descriptions below. Select the strand most appropriate for your presentation. Within your proposal summary, name the strand and provide details as to how your presentation aligns with this strand's preferred topics or purpose. Do not assume the reviewers will see the connection between your proposal topic and strand selection. If your proposal is accepted, this information will help with placement in the program, and help conference attendees choose the presentations of most interest to them. With the exception of Strands 13 and 14, all of the program areas and topics are connected to a Special Interest Group (SIG). For questions about topic relevance, contact the appropriate SIG Chair or the Conference Co-Chairs at [conferencechair@crla.net](mailto:conferencechair@crla.net). More information regarding SIGs can be found on the CRLA website (<http://www.crla.net/index.php/membership/sig>).

The following is a description of program areas and topics by strand:

#### **STRAND 1: Brain Compatible Teaching/Learning**

To encourage research in critical thinking and instruction, cognitive processes, adult literacy, problem solving, and cognitive models describing how adults learn and remember.

**SIG Chair:** POSITION OPEN

**STRAND 2: College Reading**

To provide opportunities for sharing ideas, information, theory, and research on teaching reading at the college level.

**SIG Chair:** Leah Deasy (Ldeasy@sunyjefferson.edu)

**STRAND 3: College Writing**

To promote a more global understanding of the issues in college writing and the advancement of more dynamic strategies for addressing student challenges. This strand also provides an opportunity to discuss pressing concerns in the field and to examine the multicultural nature of writing in graduate programs in rhetoric and composition.

**SIG Chair:** Kendra Haggard (haggardk@nsuok.edu)

**STRAND 4: Learning & Study Strategies**

To create and foster opportunities for networking, professional growth, and sharing of materials, theory, research, and practice related to college-level learning and study strategies.

**SIG Chair:** POSITION OPEN

**STRAND 5: Learning Assistance Center Management**

To provide a forum for the exploration of programming, goals and objectives, promising practices, supervision, and evaluation among learning assistance center managers and staff.

**SIG Chair:** Ed Gallagher (egallagher@pima.edu)

**STRAND 6: Learning with Disabilities**

To explore information, examine ideas, and develop techniques to assist students with learning disabilities. This strand also provides an opportunity to share information on policies and procedures created in accordance with the ADA law, as well as best practices used in accommodating students with learning disabilities.

**SIG Chair:** POSITION OPEN

**STRAND 7: Mathematics**

To provide an opportunity for research and inquiry among those providing mathematics tutorial services, supervising math labs, and teaching developmental math courses.

**SIG Chair:** Marco Ortiz (mortiz10@email.arizona.edu)

**STRAND 8: Multicultural Equity and Inclusion**

To explore topics related to multicultural issues and diversity and how these concerns influence student persistence. This strand also provides an opportunity to share practical experience and critical research on matters related to multiculturalism, broadly defined as race or racial identity, gender or gender identity, international student concerns, trauma culture, underprepared students, and affirmative action programs/services.

**SIG Chair:** Carlos Lopez (carlos.lopez@utsa.edu)

**STRAND 9: Peer Assistance Programs**

To share innovative materials, research, and best practices related to effective peer assistance programs—primarily tutoring and mentoring, but including other successful models (Peer Assisted Learning, Supplemental Instruction, or Peer-Led Team Learning)—in order to improve recruitment, training, and education; explore different types of programs; assist in program design and assessment; inform about cutting-edge research; and increase faculty involvement.

**SIG Co-Chairs:** Rebecca Cofer ([Rebecca.cofer@gcsu.edu](mailto:Rebecca.cofer@gcsu.edu)) and Elizabeth Guetzoian ([emily.guetzoian@gmail.com](mailto:emily.guetzoian@gmail.com))

**STRAND 10: Research and Evaluation**

To encourage CRLA members to conduct research, to aid in the development of a research base in learning assistance and developmental education, and to disseminate information on current research and evaluation issues.

**SIG Chair:** Todd Parks ([gparks@pvcc.edu](mailto:gparks@pvcc.edu))

**STRAND 11: Technology & Distance Learning**

To research and explore new methods, techniques, and best practices focusing on the use of technology and distance learning. This strand encompasses a wide range of topics, such as distance learning courses, hybrid classes, tutoring online, effective uses of technology in teaching, and learning center websites.

**SIG Chair:** Crystal Bickford ([c.bickford@snhu.edu](mailto:c.bickford@snhu.edu))

**STRAND 12: Student Athletes**

To develop a communication network of researchers and academic support professionals focused on the unique challenges of working with student-athletes. Topics include compliance and eligibility issues, student advocacy and accountability, tutoring, literacy, and career and life skills within the context of college reading and learning.

**SIG Chair:** Pamela Segal ([psegal@towson.edu](mailto:psegal@towson.edu))

**STRAND 13: Professional Development & Other Topics**

To encourage the exploration of training and development opportunities for professionals in fields relevant to CRLA. This strand may be used for presentations that do not easily fit into other areas such as history of the field or collaborative ventures. This strand may be most appropriate for Learning Over Lunch, Sunrise Movement and Meditation, and Midday Mindfulness sessions

**Strand Chairs:** Jeanine Williams and Jon Mladic ([conferencechair@crla.net](mailto:conferencechair@crla.net))

**STRAND 14: Exhibitors**

This category is reserved for exhibitors who wish to offer a detailed presentation and/or demonstration of their product.

**Strand Chairs:** Jeanine Williams and Jon Mladic ([conferencechair@crla.net](mailto:conferencechair@crla.net))

If you are interested in SIG leadership for one of the open positions in the above list, please contact Laura Parker, SIG Coordinator, at [lparke69@uncc.edu](mailto:lparke69@uncc.edu).

## APPENDIX B - GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

All proposals must be submitted electronically using CRLA’s online submission system, [OpenConf](#). Before you begin the proposal submission process, you should have all your materials prepared and ready for submission. The following is a list of what you will be asked to include in your proposal submission:

- **Contact Information:** name, mailing address, phone number, and email address for each participant, and the summer address of the contact person for your proposal
- **Password:** for later use to edit your proposal submission, if needed
- **Session Title:** 10 words maximum
- **Abstract:** 50 words maximum (to be used in the program, if accepted)
- **Strand:** see the list and description of strands in Appendix A
- **Session Type:** Pre-Conference Institute (3-Hr or 6-Hr), 60-Minute Concurrent, Digital Poster, Learning Luncheon, Sunrise Movement and Meditation, Mid-day Mindfulness
- **Proposal/Session Summary:** All sections of the proposal/session summary listed below with the maximum word limit should be prepared in separate document files using Microsoft Word.

Session Type	Proposal/Session Summary Requirements
<p><b>Pre-Conference Institute</b></p> <p><b>Research Report</b></p> <p><b>Wise Practice Presentation</b></p> <p><b>Advocacy/Activism Assembly</b></p> <p>The content of the summary should be research-based with citations in APA 7th ed. format and ready for a masked review. <i>No author-identifying information or institutional information</i> that could undermine impartiality should appear in the summary. If a summary cannot be reviewed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Relevance to Conference Theme (50 words maximum)</li> <li>● Relevance to Conference Strand (50 words maximum)</li> <li>● Purpose of Presentation and Learning Objectives for Participants (200 words maximum)</li> <li>● Perspectives or Theoretical Framework (200 words maximum)</li> <li>● Results and/or Conclusions of the Study, Wise Practice, or Advocacy/Activism Report (200 words maximum)</li> <li>● Practical and/or Scientific Innovation and Contribution to Field (200 words maximum)</li> <li>● Delivery Method, Including Audience Engagement (100 words maximum)</li> <li>● Reference List: To indicate a research base for</li> </ul>

<p>fairly because inappropriate information is included (as described above), the proposal will be refused.</p>	<p>the submission, a current and substantive reference list is a necessary component of the proposal summary. If an author cites their own work in the reference list, please use APA 7th ed. style (e.g., Author, 1999) to ensure a masked review. Even wise practices and advocacy/activism reports should be grounded in sound research and theory, which will be demonstrated by this reference list.</p>
<p><b>Digital Poster</b></p> <p>The content of the summary should be research-based with citations in APA 7th ed. format and ready for a masked review. <i>No author-identifying information or institutional information</i> that could undermine impartiality should appear in the summary. If a summary cannot be reviewed fairly because inappropriate information is included (as described above), the proposal will be refused.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Relevance to Conference Theme (50 words maximum)</li> <li>● Relevance to Conference Strand (50 words maximum)</li> <li>● Purpose of Presentation and Learning Objectives for Participants (200 words maximum)</li> <li>● Perspectives or Theoretical Framework (200 words maximum)</li> <li>● Reference List: To indicate a research base for the submission, a current and substantive reference list is a necessary component of the proposal summary. If an author cites their own work in the reference list, please use APA 7th ed. style (e.g., Author, 1999) to ensure a masked review.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Learning Over Lunch</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Relevance to Conference Theme (50 words maximum)</li> <li>● Relevance to Conference Strand (50 words maximum)</li> <li>● Purpose of Presentation and Learning Objectives for Participants (200 words maximum)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sunrise Movement and Meditation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Description of Activity and Delivery Method (200 words maximum)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Midday Mindfulness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Description of Activity and Learning Objectives for Participants (200 words maximum)</li> </ul>



## **Online Submission Process and Confirmation**

### **Uploading your Proposal**

When you are ready to submit your proposal, go to the online submission system (OpenConf) at the [CRLA website](#). You will be asked to input information about your presentation proposal.

### **Password**

You will need to create a password when you submit your proposal. This action will allow you to edit your proposal submission later, if needed.

### **Confirmation email**

Your proposal submission is not complete until you have received a confirmation email. If you do not receive a confirmation email, contact CRLA Headquarters ([k.obrien@crla.net](mailto:k.obrien@crla.net)).

### **Editing your Proposal**

The address for the proposal editing system will be in a confirmation email, which you will receive after completing your submission, along with other pertinent information such as the proposal ID number and your password.

If you have any questions or problems with the submission process, you may direct your inquiries to Kerry O'Brien at CRLA Headquarters. Kerry is available Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (CST) by phone at (414) 908-4961 x104, or via email at [k.obrien@crla.net](mailto:k.obrien@crla.net).

## **The Review Process**

### ***Pre-Conference Institute, Research Report, Wise Practice Presentation, Advocacy/Activism Assembly, and Digital Poster***

Proposals undergo masked review by three volunteers who independently score the proposal based on how closely it meets the criteria laid out in the proposal/session summary requirements. The Strand Chair then reads the proposal and all three reviews of each proposal within their strand. Based on the overall quality of all proposals within that strand, the Strand Chair will then make recommendations to the Conference Co-Chairs, who make the final determination for each proposal.

### ***Learning Over Lunch, Sunrise Movement and Meditation, and Midday Mindfulness***

Proposals undergo review by Conference Co-Chairs, who assess the proposal based on how closely it meets the criteria laid out in the proposal/session summary requirements. The Conference Co-Chairs will consider the overall fit and flow of the various proposals and then make the final determination for each proposal.

**We look forward to receiving your proposals by Monday, April 10, 2023.  
Proposals must be submitted to the OpenConf system by 11:59 p.m. (CST)**