

Ensuring Early Literacy Achievement: Become a Catalyst for Change (July 24-26, 2005)

Program Overview

Led by conference chair Taffy E. Raphael, Ph.D., the University of Illinois at Chicago brought together an elite group of educators from across the United States to discuss the importance of early literacy, share effective practices in reading curriculum, and create a blueprint for implementing curriculum change within their own communities.

The conference provided presentations by experts in the field of early literacy, ELL, differentiation, and technology as it is used for differentiation, and diagnostics related to reading success.

Participants shared how school literacy reform has been successfully implemented in their districts and networked with peers from communities and school districts that face similar challenges.

Conference attendees also participated in a communications workshop facilitated by members of Chicago's world-renowned Second City improvisational training program, who guided them through a series of exercises designed to enhance their interpersonal and team-building skills.

The conference also provided opportunities for in-depth discussion about the roles that professional development and educational technology play in implementing a successful early literacy program.

The conference was made possible by a generous contribution from Wright Group/McGraw-Hill, publishers of *Breakthrough to Literacy*.