

NEW ENGLAND – ALAS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Session 1

Session Title: Let's Give Them Something to Talk About

Help your multilingual learners maximize language acquisition and meet academic content standards. Let's explore how culturally diverse literature, scaffolded language and writing models, and globally inclusive photos and videos can help ignite ideas and ensure successful student outcomes. This session explores how working with authentic, global content helps learners make connections with each other - and the world. Participants will walk away with a sample of ideas to use right away in their classroom including a student book copy.

Presenter: Antoinette Gadson, M.A.Ed., National Geographic Learning/Cengage

Room: Logford

Session Title: Building Effective Relationships with Students with Challenging Behaviors

Not all students arrive motivated and ready to learn. This session focuses on equipping educators with a step-by-step process to build meaningful relationships with disengaged or challenging students. Participants will explore strategies to transition students from dependent to independent learning while adding practical tools to foster stronger, more effective classroom relationships.

Presenter: Vilenti D. Tulloch and Yeselie Tulloch, Academic Leadership Association, LLC

Room: Highland

Session Title: Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Cultivating Resilience and Access in Latino/a Student Mental Health

In this interactive workshop, we'll unpack the unique pressures Latino/a students face—academic stress, family responsibilities, and the stigma around mental health. You'll take part in a hands-on balloon activity that brings these challenges to life, offering a vivid look at how easily students can become overwhelmed—and what it takes to release that pressure. We'll also explore tactical strategies you can implement tomorrow on how reducing student stress can lead to better outcomes across the board: higher achievement, stronger attendance, improved behavior, and deeper school connection.

Presenter: Rene Sanchez, Maria Barrera

Room: King George

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Session Title: The Cambridge Pathway: Advanced academics and college credit for EL students

We will focus on the Cambridge courses and resources for EL learners. As an international organization, Cambridge offers EL resources that are the best in the class. Cambridge offers coursework SPECIFICALLY for English Language learners. Teachers can access professional development and teacher resources to increase effectiveness. Finally, all Cambridge assessments are written under language accessibility principles, which are unique in the assessment world. Our assessments allow EL students to show they know the content without being limited by test item language; Cambridge brings advanced academics to EL students, especially high schoolers seeking college credit. Recent data from Florida State University and Broward County PS show how Cambridge outperforms AP and IB, especially for EL learners.

Presenter: Ted Gardella, Cambridge International

Room: Charles

Session Title: Building student ownership through data

As a school how are we building students ownership through data

Presenter: Amanda Gauthier & Misael Ramos, Emergence Academy School

Room: King Edward

Session Title: Fuerza Unida: Advancing Latino Leadership Across the Nation

This inspiring session, Fuerza Unida, brings together multiple state leaders from within and near the New England territory. Each panelists helps lead a state Latino-focused leadership organization united under a shared national mission. Representing diverse communities yet aligned in purpose, these changemakers will engage in a powerful conversation on the evolving landscape of educational leadership through a Latino lens. The session will explore how state and regional efforts, grounded in culturally responsive leadership, are shaping state and national impact. Presenters will share personal journeys, organizational strategies, and community-driven approaches to address systemic barriers, foster educational equity, and empower the next generation of Latino leaders. Attendees will gain insight into how collective fuerza (strength) and collaboration across states are transforming outcomes for students, families, and communities.

Room: Grand Ballroom South

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Session 2

Session Title: Unlocking Potential: Expanding Multilingual Literacy for Diverse Learners The session aims to enhance understanding of multilingual literacy programs by outlining key objectives such as showcasing successful case studies that illustrate effective practices in multilingual literacy, introducing an innovative program that utilizes data analysis to tailor instruction, and demonstrating specific curriculum and instructional strategies that cater to multilingual learners' needs. Additionally, the discussion will address common challenges in scaling these initiatives, providing practical solutions and best practices to ensure effective implementation in diverse educational settings, ultimately improving literacy outcomes for all students.

Presenter: Cynthia Escribano and Lisa Rivera, German Gerena/American Reading Company

Room: Grand Ballroom South

Session Title: How Holyoke Public Schools is Ensuring All Students Are Fluent Readers

There will be a presentation portion by Ignite Reading and then a Q&A portion from Holyoke Public Schools.

In classrooms across the country, students are tackling the challenge of developing foundational reading skills (some in an entirely new language) and teachers are tasked with ensuring they become fluent readers. One-to-one high-dosage tutoring can give teachers the support they need to provide differentiated instruction to all students,, including MLLs, at scale. Join Massachusetts school leaders to learn how they implemented 1:1 foundational reading skills tutoring to increase reading fluency across all student populations. See their students' reading progress data and hear first-hand accounts of how implementing a tutoring program shifted their literacy ecosystem to successfully serve all students.

Presenter: Alexandra Gottlieb, Caitlin Rosazza, Rebecca Thompson, Ignite Reading and Holyoke Public Schools

Room: Longford

Session Title: Quieting the Noise: Courageous Leadership and Advocacy for Diverse and Multilingual Learners

This session will provide the background knowledge necessary to center research-based practice in “quieting the noise” that arises from divisive strategem. By distinguishing historical context and linguistically sustaining practices from misinformation, you will strengthen your leadership and advocacy for culturally and linguistically diverse learners—ensuring that decisions are driven by knowledge rather than rhetoric or Ideology.

Presenter: Dr Violet Jiménez Sims, MABE (Multistate Association of Bilingual Education) & CT Teacher Residency Program

Room: Charles

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Session 2

Session Title: Leading with Intention: Transforming Innovation into Equity for Marginalized Students
This session will explore how administrators, Latino administrators, can lead with intentionality, ensuring that technology, STEM, and career-readiness programs are not randomly adopted, but strategically designed to close opportunity gaps and drive equitable student outcomes. Drawing from real-world implementation in Trenton Public Schools NJ, research on closing the digital divide, and experience in developing district-wide technology and innovation strategies, this session will provide actionable insights on how school leaders can intentionally integrate innovation to transform student learning and post-secondary opportunities

Presenter: Evette Reyes Rodriguez

Room: Highland

Session Title: A district-wide approach to reducing chronic absenteeism
In this session, I'll share a district-wide framework that moves beyond quick fixes to create sustainable systems for attendance improvement. We will explore: Root causes of chronic absenteeism and how to address them. Engagement strategies that build trust with families and students. Data-driven interventions that ensure early and effective support. The session will provide participants with current research that supports a district approach to understanding the root causes of chronic absenteeism and how to create targeted interventions that support schools in reducing their chronic absenteeism.

Presenter: Jose Escribano, Springfield Public Schools and Right At School

Room: King George

Session Title: Education as a Choose Your Own Adventure Book-Improving Student Outcomes One Event at a Time

Choose-your-own-adventure books, role-playing games, and life-simulation games prepared all of us to become the most understanding and authentic possible educators. Each one of our interactions with students depends upon so many things that we keep in our bundles and what the student, playing their own version of the game, keep in theirs. Like quantum particles existing in multiple states until observed, students' potential remains in flux until shaped by our and their educational choices. Meaningful learning emerges when students have agency in their educational journey, existing in multiple states of potential until they make conscious choices that collapse these possibilities into concrete outcomes and personal growth. And, successful leadership and teaching emerges when we are able to perpetuate this learning over the 13-15 years we serve our students. Participants will learn about the connections between choice theory and quantum theory and how interactions on a daily and yearly basis add up to successful outcomes or provide a pathway to unsuccessful ones.

Presenter: Rene Sanchez, Lisa Schleer

Room: King Edward