



Center for Development and Learning Applauds Department of Education for New Literacy Initiative

Metairie, April 14, 2021 – The Center for Development and Learning applauds the recent announcement of the Louisiana Department of Education’s new literacy initiative, [Louisiana Literacy](#). With only 26% of Louisiana’s fourth grade students reading proficiently according to the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress, we share the Department’s commitment to improved literacy outcomes.

“As Louisiana's literacy nonprofit, our strategic discussions and planning at all levels with Dr. Brumley and his literacy team have resulted in many of the Center's initiatives which support his vision for reversing generations of poor outcomes for all of our students,” said The Center for Development and Learning’s President and CEO Dr. John E. Wyble. “We are hopeful that our continued, collaborative work will move Louisiana from the bottom of the ranks and position our students with the tools necessary to be successful in their educational journey and beyond.”

Since 1992, The Center for Development and Learning has trained and supported educators in evidence-based literacy and learning practices. Inspired by the impacts of school closures during the pandemic, the Center broadened its mission to include family engagement with the goal of merging classroom instruction and practice with at-home learning guidance through reading.

“Advancing the awareness and importance of grade-level reading is paramount for us at The Center for Development and Learning. What we believe is that all learning happens on a continuum, starting at birth. Through our comprehensive literacy and learning programs, we address the needs of early learners with the goal of developing lifelong learning success,” said DeJunne’ Clark Jackson, the Center’s Vice President of Program Development.

The Center for Development and Learning's programs include:

- **Science of Reading Learning Academy** – carefully crafted professional development programs for educators, including Growing Reading Brains, Virtual Literacy Coach, and Deep Dive into Literacy virtual trainings
- **Plain Talk About Literacy and Learning®** – an internationally recognized literacy conference that brings the best and brightest researchers and educators to New Orleans for an unmatched learning experience
- **Louisiana Lit Academy** – a school-based team opportunity being offered for the first time in June 2021 to build literacy and leadership capacity
- **The Reading League Louisiana** – a statewide chapter of The Reading League, bringing educators and advocates together to advance evidence-based reading instruction
- **Louisiana Reads!** – promotes at-home reading opportunities through literacy awareness, book distribution, and direct-service to families
- **Cornerstones** – a BESE-approved training program for early childhood teachers

About the Center for Development and Learning:

Founded in 1992, the Center for Development and Learning's mission is to improve the life chances of all children by increasing school success. CDL's work is focused on closing the achievement gap by increasing teacher effectiveness. Visit CDL's website www.cdl.org for more information.