



Resilience in Motion:

Learning, Leading, and Thriving in Support of Student Success



Call for Proposals

COLLEGE READING & LEARNING ASSOCIATION

59th Annual Conference

ORLANDO • OCT 28-31, 2026

RENAISSANCE ORLANDO AT SEAWORLD
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Welcome!

CRLA is now accepting proposals electronically through March 16, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EST

The College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA) is a collective of professionals dedicated to supporting students in areas such as reading, learning assistance, developmental education, tutoring, and peer education at the college and adult levels. Our primary mission is to create a platform for sharing ideas, techniques, and information that enhance student learning and foster the professional development of our members.

The 2026 CRLA conference theme is Resilience in Motion. In a time marked by division and uncertainty, our mission has never been more vital. This year's conference centers on the power of advocacy and collective action—calling us to stand together, uplift one another, and champion inclusive, equitable support for all students. As the world feels increasingly divided, we turn towards each other to build stronger communities and resilient networks that empower change. Through shared purpose and unwavering commitment, we advocate not only for our students, but for each other—building a future rooted in compassion, collaboration, and hope.

We welcome your proposals and look forward to building a meaningful conference together!

Important Dates

- January 16, 2026**.....Call for Proposals is disseminated, and online system is open for proposal submissions
- March 16, 2026**.....Deadline for proposal reviewer applications
- March 16, 2026**.....Deadline for 2026 CRLA conference proposals. Proposals must be submitted to the call for speakers in Whova by 11:59 p.m. (EST)
- May 15, 2026**.....Notification of proposal review decisions will be distributed via email to the contact author, aawho is responsible for notifying other individuals listed as presenters
- May 29, 2026**.....Conference registration begins
- September 4, 2026**.....All presenters must be registered for the conference
- September 4, 2026**.....Early registration deadline
- September 30, 2026**.....Deadline for sponsor and exhibitor applications
- October 2, 2026**.....Registration deadline

Session Types

Pre-Conference Institute

- **3-Hour/Half-Day Institute or 6-Hour/All-Day Institute.** 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 (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** that 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**—provide background, rationale, questions, methodology, results, and implications of a completed but 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 [*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 an LCD 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 are also invited to have their materials published in a repository for CRLA members.

Relaxation Sessions. As the pressures of our roles and the number of our responsibilities continue to increase, we are continuing the tradition of the self-care room. 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:

Morning Mindfulness. These are 30-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 during the 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.

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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 12 – exhibits.*
- The proposal should follow the Guidelines for Submission
- Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.
- Proposals must be submitted for review using our online submission system available on the CRLA conference website at [Whova Call for Speakers/Proposals](#)
- Proposals must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Monday, March 16, 2026.
- After successfully submitting a proposal, you will receive a confirmation email and instructions on how to access the online system should you need to review or edit your proposal before the deadline.
- Presenters must register and pay for the conference. If presenters have not registered by the presenter registration deadline (September 4), 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 and 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 aims to ensure that anyone with research to share, a story to tell, or an exceptional idea 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 to market your session.
- Presenters are strongly encouraged to submit appropriate papers for possible publication in the *Journal of College Reading and Learning (JCRL)*.

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Guidelines for Submission

All proposals must be submitted electronically using CRLA's online submission system, [Whova Call for Speakers/Proposals](#). 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, Self-Care Room Session (30-Minute)
- **Proposal:** All sections of the proposal listed in the table below with the maximum word limit should be prepared and entered directly into the online submission form.

Review Criteria for Proposals

Submission Guidelines

All proposals must be submitted using [Whova's Call for Speakers/Proposals](#) portal. Proposals that do not follow guidelines outlined below may be rejected without review. Reviewers will use the criteria listed in the table below to evaluate all proposals. Please ensure that all submissions are ready for a masked review. Do not include any author-identifying information or institutional information that could undermine impartiality of the review. If a proposal cannot be reviewed fairly because inappropriate information is included (as described above), the proposal will be refused. See the Appendix for guidance on writing a conference proposal.

Each proposal must include:

- **Title** (maximum 15 words): A clear and descriptive title for the presentation or session.
- **Abstract** (maximum 50 words): A concise summary for the conference program.
- **Proposal** (maximum 800 words): A detailed description of the session including the purpose, relevance, and additional information outlined below.
- **References**: Include a list of references cited in the proposal, following APA 7th ed. Guidelines.

Session Type	Proposal Requirements
Pre-Conference Institute Research Report Wise Practice Presentation Advocacy/Activism Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevance to Conference Theme and Strand• Purpose of Presentation• Perspectives or Theoretical Framework• Results and/or Conclusions of the Study, Wise Practice, or Advocacy/Activism Report• Practical and/or Scientific Innovation and Contribution to Field• Delivery Method, Including Audience Engagement
Digital Poster	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevance to Conference Theme• Relevance to Conference Strand• Purpose of Presentation• Perspectives or Theoretical Framework• Results and/or Conclusions of the Study, Wise Practice, or Advocacy/Activism Report• Practical and/or Scientific Innovation and Contribution to Field
Relaxation Room Sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Description of Activity and Delivery Method• Length of activity (30 or 60 minutes)• Preferred time of day (morning or afternoon)

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Online Submission Process and Confirmation

Uploading your Proposal

When you are ready to submit your proposal, go to the online submission system (Whova) at the [**Whova Call for Speakers/Proposals**](#). You will be asked to input the following information about your presentation proposal.

- Title (up to 10 words)
- Keywords (2-4 terms)
- Abstract (up to 50 words)
- Proposal (up to 800 words, see guidelines)

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 the SIG Coordinator or Conference Director at conferencechair@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.

If you have any questions or problems with the submission process, you may direct your inquiries to the SIG Coordinator or Conference Director at conferencechair@crla.net.

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The Proposal 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 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.

Morning and Midday Relaxation

Proposals undergo review by the conference committee, who assess the proposal based on how closely it meets the proposal requirements. The committee will consider the overall fit and flow of the various proposals and then make the final determination for each proposal.

Call for Reviewers

CRLA has opportunities for members to serve the organization by volunteering as proposal reviewers. To be considered as a reviewer, please complete the [**Reviewer Interest Form**](#) by March 16, 2026.

If you have any questions regarding the Call for Reviewers, contact the SIG Coordinator or Conference Director at conferencechair@crla.net.

We look forward to receiving your reviewer interest form by Monday, March 16, 2026. Proposals and reviewer interest forms must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (EST)

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Appendix A - Strands

Overview of Program Strands

- Strand 1: Metacognitive Teaching, Learning, and Studying
- Strand 2: College Reading & Writing
- Strand 3: Learning Assistance Center Management
- Strand 4: Mathematics, Science and Business
- Strand 5: Multiculturalism, Equity, Inclusivity, & Accessibility
- Strand 6: Peer Assistance Programs
- Strand 7: Educational Research, Policy, and Evaluation
- Strand 8: Technologically Responsive Teaching Strategies
- Strand 9: Student Athletes
- Strand 10: First-Generation and Non-Traditional Students
- Strand 11: Relaxation and Invited Session
- Strand 12: 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 proposals, 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. Except for Strands 11 and 12, all of the program areas and topics are connected to a Special Interest Group (SIG). For questions about topic relevance, contact the appropriate SIG Coordinator or the Conference Director at conferencechair@crla.net. More information regarding SIGs can be found on the CRLA website (<https://crla.net/page/SIGs>).

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

Strand 1: Metacognitive Teaching, Learning, and Studying

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

Strand Leaders: L. Parker (lpark69@charlotte.edu) and Edward Gallagher (egallagher@pima.edu)

Strand 2: College Reading & Writing

To promote a more global understanding of the issues in college reading and writing, along with the advancement of more dynamic literacy strategies for supporting students' diverse backgrounds and abilities in the college classroom. This strand aims to foster a community of practice for postsecondary literacy practitioners by providing opportunities to collaborate, disseminate information (e.g., theory, practice, research), and discuss pressing concerns in the field.

Strand Leaders: James Dyer (jmdyer@eou.edu) and Candice Oelschlegel (c.oelschlegel@txstate.edu)

Strand 3: 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.

Strand Leaders: L. Parker (lpark69@charlotte.edu) and Edward Gallagher (egallagher@pima.edu)

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Strand 4: Mathematics, Science and Business

To provide an opportunity for dialogue and sharing of best practices among those providing curriculum, tutorial assistance, and support in mathematics, science, and business.

Strand Leaders: Caroline Beringer (cepotts@uark.edu) and John Blicharz (jblichar@nymc.edu)

Strand 5: Multiculturalism, Equity, Inclusivity, & Accessibility

To explore and discuss topics related to multiculturalism, diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and social justice within student-support centers and their praxis. This SIG provides a platform for its members to share their own experiences, research, and resources. Our aim is to spread awareness and generate dialogues concerning M.E.I.A. within the field of student-support work and the wider CRLA community.

Strand Leader: Courtney Sloan (csloan@frederick.edu)

Strand 6: Peer Assistance Programs

To share innovative materials, research, and best practices related to effective peer assistance programs—including tutoring, mentoring, and other successful models (e.g., Peer Assisted Learning, Supplemental Instruction, coaching)—to improve recruitment, training, and education; explore different types of programs; assist in program design and assessment; inform about cutting-edge research; support faculty and cross-departmental partnerships; and increase opportunities for peer educator input and perspectives.

Strand Leaders: Rebecca Cofer (rebecca.cofer@gcsu.edu) and Emily Guetzoian (emily.guetzoian@gmail.com)

Strand 7: Educational Research, Policy, 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.

Strand Leader: Melissa Garza (mgarza@charlesbuttdn.org)

Strand 8: Technologically Responsive Teaching Strategies

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.

Strand Leader: Dr. Veronica Castillo Baca (ybaca1451@gmail.com)

Strand 9: 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.

Strand Leader: Pamela Segal (psegal@towson.edu)

Strand 10: First-Generation and Non-Traditional Students

To create, develop, and maintain a community of professional practitioners who assist first-generation and non-traditional college students to promote retention and completion rates.

Strand Leaders: Telisha Hollaman (telishah@uab.edu) and Rosemarie Woodruff (woodruff@hawaii.edu)

Strand 11: Relaxation and Invited Sessions

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 Relaxation sessions.

Strand Leaders: Deena Vaughn and Mariko Carson (conferencechair@crla.net)

Strand 12: Exhibits

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

Strand Leaders: Deena Vaughn and Lauire Bauer (conferencechair@crla.net)

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