Welcome to the 31st annual Symposium of the International Dyslexia Association – Northern Ohio Branch
Thursday, February 27, 2020: 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Please join Northern Ohio IDA as we celebrate our 31st year as a branch. This networking event will feature a heavy hors d’oeuvres dinner hour followed by a Q&A panel discussion.

Nancy Cushen White will open the evening with a presentation: *Structured Literacy and the Potential Impact on School Districts*. Her presentation will be followed by a panel discussion of Ohio administrators, educators, and experts led by moderator Jennifer LaHaie of Neuhaus Education Center.

The discussion will be a candid conversation about how to utilize existing evidence-based research to develop dyslexia screening, teacher training, and instructional support at state, district, and school levels. Panelists include:

- Dr. David Brobeck, Associate Professor, Program Director, Graduate Education, Walsh University
- LaMonica Davis, Principal, Helen Arnold Elementary, Akron Schools
- Michelle Elia, Ohio Literacy Lead, ODE
- Holly Robbertz, District Dyslexia Specialist, Olentangy Schools
- Dr. Nancy Cushen White, Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, University of California at San Francisco

We would be delighted if you would join us for this unprecedented discussion with leaders in the field of Structured Literacy and Dyslexia. Great event for school administrators and school board members, policymakers, legislators, and other elected officials, and anyone wanting to improve literacy rates for all.

---

**Nancy Cushen White, EdD**

Nancy Cushen White, Ed.D. is a Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, at UCSF. Over the past 40+ years, she has taught students in general/special education classrooms at public/private schools, provided psycho-educational assessment and literacy intervention, trained pre-/in-service teachers and practitioners, developed curricula, and been involved in policy.

She piloted a San Francisco Unified School District special day class for 2e—Twice Exceptional students who were gifted with a diagnosis of dyslexia and has taught young adults in a pre-trial diversion program through San Francisco Superior Court—Mentor Court Division.

She is a certified Instructor of Teaching for training teachers in the Slingerland Multisensory Structured Language Approach (Structured Literacy). She has received notable awards from organizations such as the Slingerland Institute for Literacy (2000—Beth and John Slingerland Award), UC Berkeley Extension (2002—Honored Instructor Award), International Dyslexia Association (IDA—2007—Margaret Byrd Rawson Lifetime Achievement Award), International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC—2014—Étoile DuBard Award of Excellence), Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA—2016—Dr. Lucius Waites Award of Service), and Northern California Branch of The International Dyslexia Association (IDA-NorCal—2019—Recognition of Extraordinary Leadership and Accomplishment).
She continues to publish, present workshops, serve as editor of IDA’s Examiner (online newsletter), and work on numerous boards and advisory boards such as the National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities (NJCLD) and the Northern California Branch of The International Dyslexia Association.

Elizabeth Anderson, Assistant Superintendent, Rocky River Schools

Elizabeth “Liz” Anderson holds a BA in French from Denison University, an MA in French from Middlebury College, and an MEd in education administration from John Carroll University. Currently the assistant superintendent in Rocky River, Liz specializes in curriculum and instruction, has led district strategic planning initiatives, and has supported two successful National Blue Ribbon School Award campaigns.

She is an adjunct professor at Cleveland State University, and former Vice President of the International Dyslexia Association, Northern Ohio Branch. She is a 2007 graduate of Leadership Lake County (Ohio), a 2016 graduate of The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio’s LeadDIVERSITY program, and a 2017 Fellow of the National Educational Policy Fellowship Program. Liz was recently recognized at the Cleveland 65th Annual Humanitarian Award Ceremony with the 2019 LeadDIVERSITY Alumni Award.

David Brobeck, PhD., Associate Professor, Walsh University

David Brobeck is an Associate Professor and the Graduate Education Program Director at Walsh University in North Canton, Ohio. In his tenth year at Walsh, and 45th year in education, Dr. Brobeck taught reading and language arts for 17 years before moving to administration where he spent 18 years as a principal, staff developer, and superintendent. He is the Principal Investigator for Walsh’s P20 Literacy Collaborative Initiative Grant and has lead the transition for Walsh to a “science of reading” undergraduate and graduate literacy program. He teaches courses in school law and ethics, leadership, and finance.

Regarding dyslexia, he is an advocate of early identification, emphasizing both the legal and ethical obligations of schools to act expeditiously. Dr. Brobeck and his wife Gretchen (retired K teacher) are the proud parents of four daughters and five grandchildren.

LaMonica Davis, M.A., Principal, Helen E. Arnold C.L.C., Akron Public Schools

LaMonica Davis has worked for the Akron Public School system for the past 29 years. She began her teaching career immediately after graduation. She taught at Barrett and Crouse Elementary Schools. After receiving her Master’s in Elementary Administration, she became the Assistant Principal at Glover C.L.C for 2 years. She later became the principal of Heminger Elementary school and Portage Path C.L.C.

In 2007, LaMonica was asked to open the new Helen E. Arnold C.L.C., where she is the current principal. The school was named after the late Helen E. Arnold, who was the first African American female to serve on the Akron Public School board.

Since her tenure with Akron Public Schools, Mrs. Davis has taught summer classes at the University of Akron, Upward Bound Program. She has earned the One Hope-One Dream Award from Archbishop Hoban High School, the Akron Black Women’s Leadership Caucus Award, and the Minority Achiever Award from the Akron Area YMCA Minority Achiever’s Program.
Michelle Elia, Ohio Literacy Lead, ODE

Michelle Elia works on behalf of the Ohio Department of Education as one of 2 Ohio Literacy Leads, a role that allows her to build the capacity of district administrators, teachers, and technical support providers across the state in the science of reading. Michelle also serves as a board member of the Northern Ohio Branch of the International Dyslexia Association, is a member of Ohio’s What Matters Now Network, and works as an adjunct professor and literacy advisor for both Youngstown State and Walsh Universities. Nationally, she provides professional learning in literacy as a LETRS trainer. Her other professional interests include special education, inclusive practices, and positive behavior interventions and supports.

Holly Robbertz, District Dyslexia Specialist, Olentangy School

Holly Robbertz is the District Dyslexia Specialist for the Olentangy Local School District in Central Ohio. Holly is an Intervention Specialist and Orton-Gillingham Fellow through the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators. OLSD’s Orton-Gillingham teacher training program is accredited through the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators. Thanks to tremendous administrative and collegial support, OLSD provides Orton-Gillingham services to over 800 students, and in-house teacher training, and practicum at the OG Classroom Educator, Associate, Certified and Fellow AOGPE levels.

A native of Massachusetts, Holly spent her early professional years teaching at the Eliot Pearson Children’s School at Tufts University and providing early intervention services to at-risk toddlers and their families in the Seacoast of NH. To balance her passion for Structured Literacy, Holly happily starts her day with a daily Ashtanga yoga practice.

Jennifer LaHaie, M.Ed, CALT

Jennifer LaHaie, M.Ed, CALT has her masters in Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development from Malone University. Jennifer completed the Academic Language Therapy program at Southern Methodist University and is a Certified Academic Language Therapist. She is working toward her Qualified Instructor certification.

Jennifer currently works for Neuhaus Education Center where she teaches and coaches educators in structured literacy across the northeastern United States. She is the past president of the Northern Ohio branch of IDA and is actively involved. Jennifer believes in educating and empowering teachers to help all students read.