

Constructing a Deep Reading Brain: An Emerging GLR Opportunity

GLR Learning Tuesdays | Partner Series

November 17, 2020 | 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm ET

PRESENTER BIOS

MODERATOR



Ryan Lee-James, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Director
Rollins Center for Language & Literacy
Atlanta Speech School

Ryan Lee-James is an ASHA certified speech-language pathologist and published author with expertise in language development, language disorders, and literacy in the context of linguistic differences and socioeconomic disadvantage. In her current role as the Director of the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy at the Atlanta Speech School, Dr. Lee-James is responsible for working collaboratively with community-based organizations and key stakeholders to impact language and literacy achievement for our most vulnerable children. Before joining the team at the Atlanta Speech School, Dr. Lee-James had the privilege of training and mentoring graduate level speech-language pathologists as a member of the Communication Sciences and Disorders faculty at Adelphi University in New York.

PRESENTERS



Cori Cain
Director of Partnerships
Rollins Center for Language & Literacy
Atlanta Speech School

A Native of Detroit, Michigan, Cori V. Cain received a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education from Clark Atlanta University in 2001. She immediately continued her studies at Gallaudet University obtaining a master's degree in Deaf Education with a focus in Family-Centered Education. Cori's professional career started as a Deaf Educator and an Early Intervention Specialist working with families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing children birth-3. During that time, her passion and advocacy around literacy and the importance of school readiness grew. She later went on to serve in a leadership capacity as Senior Director for Early Childhood Education with the United Way of Greater Atlanta. In that role, Cori led community initiatives focused on School Readiness with national and local partners, managed a multi-million-dollar endowment, which funded local efforts supporting school readiness, and served on various advisory committees in the early childhood community. Continuing to support her passion of access and equality for all children, Cori currently works on the leadership team of the Rollins Center for language and Learning at the Atlanta Speech School where is responsible for

Strategic Partnership Development. The Rollins Center collaborates with many early childhood agencies in the Atlanta area to ensure that all children in Georgia are on the path to grade Level reading and have quality learning experiences. Cori is married and a mother of four boys, she enjoys spending time with the boys, her husband, friends, family and traveling.



Makini Coleman
Project Manager, E-Learning and Special Projects
Rollins Center for Language & Literacy
Atlanta Speech School

Makini Coleman is a Content Specialist and Instructional Designer at the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy. She creates online courses for teacher development in the areas of language and literacy. Her areas of expertise are early childhood education, elementary literacy, and coaching teachers. She is very passionate about supporting teachers, making research-based practices practical and instilling the love of reading in all children. Her professional goals include empowering teachers and making students lifelong learners.



Jenn Conner
Director
Center for Afterschool and Expanded Learning
Foundations, Inc.

As Director for the Center for Afterschool and Expanded Learning, Jenn supports OST programs through the design and delivery of professional development. Jenn's experience includes engaging Philadelphia Youth, both in OST settings, where she managed grant and state compliance records, and traditional schools, where she served as a teacher, Instructional Coach and Administrator. During her teaching tenure, Jenn was the founding member of two schools – one an accelerated middle school for over-age adolescents: the other, an innovative school with project-based programming. While at Foundations, she led the writing for Jazz at Lincoln Center's Afterschool Content and current oversees the Cox Campus Scale Out Initiative. Jenn holds a M.Ed. in Secondary Education from Chestnut Hill College and a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Temple University. She is a certified Pennsylvania Teacher.



Denise Mayhan, Ph.D.
Talk With me Baby Project Director
Grady Hospital

Denise Mayhan, Ph.D., is currently the Talk With Me Baby Project Director at Grady Health System, Atlanta, GA, US. Talk With Me Baby is a language-based early brain and language development program designed to educate parents

and caregivers about how to help their babies build capacity for lifelong learning and health. Dr. Mayhan and her team at Grady work collaboratively with the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy and the GA Department of Public Health. Dr. Mayhan also serves as the CEO of Inspired Solutions Enterprises, Inc., a management, education and technology consulting company. Her passion is developing and implementing initiatives for healthcare and education professionals and organizations to improve professional competency, organizational effectiveness and create opportunities for making life better for the people served. Dr. Mayhan earned a BS in Occupational Therapy and PhD in Education at the University of Pennsylvania, and an MA in Occupational Therapy with a specialization in Developmental Disabilities at New York University. LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/denise-mayhan



Christa Payne, Ph.D.
Director of Public Health
Rollins Center for Language & Literacy
Atlanta Speech School

Christa Payne, PhD is a developmental behavioral neuroscientist with specific interest in social, emotional and cognitive development during the earliest years. She completed her masters work at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston, TX, her doctoral work at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, and is currently the Director of Public Health at the Rollins Center for Language & Literacy at the Atlanta Speech School. In this role, Christa supports several early brain initiatives, including Talk With Me Baby, a multi-faceted effort to provide families and workforces with the knowledge, skills and support they need to foster the healthy brain and language development of all babies. Through this work, Christa is helping ensure that all children are on a path to social, emotional and cognitive success by preparing their brains for all future learning, including learning to read.