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Multilingual Learning Research Center

Research Symposium Agenda 2026-2027

About the event: The MLRC Research Symposium is a unique two-day workshop for international educators to engage deeply in existing research about multilingual learners, inquire together about shared problems of practice, discuss innovative strategies for serving multilingual learners and connect with global education scholars. The symposium is followed by various types of synchronous and asynchronous online support.

Goal: School-based teams will identify a problem of practice, draw on relevant research to consider strengths and goals for improvement, and design an action research plan.

Objectives:

- Connect research on teaching multilingual learners to your context
- Learn together with other researchers and practitioners to improve outcomes for multilingual learners
- Build capacity for school-based inquiry through action research

Day 1		Day 2	
8:00-8:30	Registration & Coffee	8:00-8:30	Reconnect & Coffee
8:30-9:00	Welcome & Introductions	8:30-9:00	Looking Back & Looking Ahead
9:00-10:15	MLRC Research Topics Translanguaging Collaboration Inclusive EAL	9:00-10:15	Making Connections: Glocal Scholar Insights
10:15-10:45	BREAK	10:15-10:45	BREAK
10:45-12:00	Sharing Research Insights & Crowdsourcing Innovation	10:45-12:00	Research Design & Methodologies
12:00-1:00	LUNCH	12:00-1:00	LUNCH
1:00-2:15	Hands On: Demystifying Research Team Focus: Choosing a Topic & Diving Deeper	1:00-2:15	Team Focus: Making an Action Research Plan
2:15-2:45	BREAK	2:15-2:45	BREAK
2:45-4:00	Problems of Practice: Focusing Your Inquiry	2:45-4:00	Sharing Research Designs

Post-Research Symposium

Action Research Support: The MLRC provides ongoing support for symposium participants through online tools and resources available through the MLRC School Network Member Hub. Additionally, following the completion of each Research Symposium, the MLRC supports cohorts in the following ways:

Interactive Modules

- A series of five asynchronous modules available on the MLRC School Network Member Hub, designed for teams to watch together to guide their ongoing action research.
- Feature embedded reflection questions and collaborative activities across key topics: Research Topic/Question, Literature Review, Data Collection, Data Analysis, and Findings & Discussion (including Capstone preparation).

Monthly Webinars

- Synchronous Zoom webinars to support teams' ongoing action research projects, focused on key topics such as addressing common barriers, data collection, and data analysis.
- All webinars are recorded to allow for asynchronous engagement if teams are unable to attend the live sessions.

Action Research Coaching

- Action research coaches are available to support teams through mentoring and guidance on project design and implementation.
- Schools can request up to two video coaching calls. *There is no additional fee; this support is included in the cost of the Research Symposium.*

Capstone Report

- At the end of the school year, teams are invited to share their findings through a Capstone report, published in the MLRC School Network Member Hub.
- The goal is for all teams to share what they learned, how their findings can impact their school, and possible next steps.
- Individuals from successful teams can apply for a digital badge in MLRC Action Research from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dissemination and Implementation

- Teams are encouraged to consider writing articles and/or presenting at regional conferences to share findings from their action research as well as lessons learned.
- Resources are available on the MLRC School Network Hub to support teams that complete Capstone reports with additional scaffolding to write and present. Teams may be offered the opportunity to co-write articles and/or co-present at conferences with the MLRC team.