

## DFW Literacy Symposium

*Exploring the link between low literacy and poverty.*

Saturday, February 11, 2017

First Baptist Church of Arlington

8 am to 4 pm

### Hosted by Literacy Texas and Tarrant Literacy Coalition

The link between low literacy and poverty is one that cannot be overstated. In our community, adults who struggle with reading and writing, who do not have a high school diploma or equivalent, or who lack sufficient English language skills very often live in poverty as they strive to get and keep a job that will provide them and their children with any level of economic security.

As literacy providers, we know all too well that the cycle of low literacy mirrors the cycle of poverty. We know that families who live in poverty are very often led by adults with poor literacy skills.

But what does that mean for us as literacy providers? How do we address this issue in our programs? How do we identify the issues surrounding generational poverty and work to help our students and their families overcome these issues in order to achieve real and lasting success, in the classroom and in life?

This conference will focus on the following:

- What is the link between low literacy and poverty?
- How does this impact our work with adult learners and their children?
- How can we use this knowledge in the classroom to help students succeed?
- How can we use this information to recruit volunteers to help in this work?
- How can we reach out to those at the lowest levels of literacy to bring them into our programs and offer them services?



Our keynote speaker for the day is **Elia Moreno**, author of *Living Intentionally*, a book that depicts her own personal journey and hard earned insights on how to impact the lives of others. As the Community Engagement Manager for Cal Farley's, America's largest privately funded child and family support provider, specializing in both residential and community-based services, Elia works with families who are facing a wide range of issues, including low literacy. She has implemented a program to help parents obtain their high school equivalency certificate and go on to achieve financial independence by working with community partners who come alongside them in their journey. In addition to her work with Cal Farley's, Elia serves as the Director of Community

Outreach for No Excuses University, a network of more than 250 schools that promotes college readiness for all students, especially those living in poverty. Elia is also active on the statewide board of Texas Christian Community Development. She is a master at assisting organizations and individuals who seek to implement fresh ways to connect with those living in poverty. She was a 2015 recipient of the USA Unites Award from USA Network.

Join us for a full day of listening and learning, as Elia shares her tremendous insights with us as individual providers and as a community of literacy providers and supporters. Following a morning with Elia, we will share a working lunch and spend the afternoon in small group discussions to identify strategies to use the information she has shared with us to enhance our literacy work in the DFW area.

There is no cost to attend this conference; however, a catered lunch is available for \$10 per person. Advance registration *is required* and space is limited. Register early to assure your place at this conference. For more information, contact Kathryn B. Thompson, executive director of Tarrant Literacy Coalition at 817-870-0082 or [kthompson@tarrantlit.org](mailto:kthompson@tarrantlit.org)