

2025 **CEL** Annual Convention

ABUNDANCE

November 23–25 | Denver, CO #CEL25



Convention Program

[Read the welcome from #CEL25 Program Chair Matthew Helmers](#)

[Read the welcome from CEL Chair Nicholas A. Emmanuele](#)

Sunday, November 23, 1:45–2:30 p.m.

Welcome: Matthew Helmers

Land Acknowledgement & Keynote: Jennifer Wolf

Awards: Matthew Helmers

Room 107/109/111

Sunday, November 23, 2:40–3:30 p.m.

Keynote: Sarah M. Zerwin

Room 107/109/111

Sunday, November 23, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Pedagogies of Voice: Street Data and the Path to Student Agency

Presenter: Sawsan Jaber, Maine District 207/Education Unfiltered

Room 104

Cyborg Abundance

Presenter: Matthew Margini, Ransom Everglades School

Room 106

Creating Harmony from an Abundance of Assessment Data

Presenter: Lauren Spenceley, Arizona Department of Education

Room 108/110

Working toward “Critical Professional Development” for Teachers

Presenters: Casey Andrews, Watertown Public Schools; Malcolm Andrews, Boston Public Schools; Destiny Palmer, Thayer Academy

Room 105

Sunday, November 23, 4:40–5:40 p.m.

Wild Design for Learning: Using the Abundance of Nature to Move from a Factory to the Forest Model of Education

Presenters: Gwyneth Hagan, Design to Learn Consulting; Samantha Bennett, Independent Contractor

Room 108/110

Sunday, November 23, 4:40–5:40 p.m. (continued)

Fostering Abundant Attentional Resources and Repairing Connection by Rebalancing Screen-Mediated Learning in Schools

Presenters: Katie Cubano, The College of New Jersey/Solution Tree; Jordan Virgil

Room 104

Leveraging Community Wisdom through the Wholehearted Leadership Framework

Presenters: Kathryn Fishman-Weaver, Mizzou Academy/University of Missouri

Room 106

Formalizing Mentorship Programming in English Educational Contexts: Benefits, Impacts, and Barriers

Presenters: Doria Ruhl, San Diego College of Continuing Education; Kelly Metz-Matthews, San Diego College of Continuing Education; Michele McConnell, California State University, Fresno

Room 105

Monday, November 24, 8:00–8:20 a.m.

Coffee & Light Breakfast (included)

Opening Remarks

Room 107/109/111

Monday, November 24, 8:30–9:30 a.m.

Keynote: Ashley Howell Bunn and Marissa

Morrow, Lighthouse Writers

Room 107/109/111

Monday, November 24, 9:40–10:40 a.m.

Toward Creative Abundance: How to Harness Teachers' Maker Spirit to Internalize and Enhance Mandated Curriculum

Presenters: Sarah Zerwin Fairview High School; Katie Miles, Fairview High School Boulder/Valley School District; Samantha Bennett, Independent Contractor

Facilitator: Liz Lietz

Room 108/110

Leveling Up Leadership: Interactive Strategies to Enhance Collaboration and Drive Team Success

Presenter: Tennille Woodward, GrowLeadEmpower LLC

Facilitator: Naomi Watkins

Room 106

Artificial Intelligence as a Literacy Multiplier: Expanding Abundance in Reading, Writing, and Inquiry

Presenter: Melissa Garcia, Harrison Central School District

Room 105

Monday, November 24, 10:50–11:20 a.m.

Abundance Amidst Chaos: A Poetry Share and Workshop

Presenter: Katie Cubano, The College of New Jersey/Solution Tree

Room 108/110

Wordplaypalooza

Presenter: Liz Lietz, Macomb Intermediate School District

Room 104

Monday, November 24, 10:50–11:20 a.m. (continued)

Educators Got Talent

Presenter: Allyson Smith, Argosy Collegiate Charter School

Room 106

Nobody Is Extra: Voices of the Valuable Vulnerable

Presenter: Stacey C. Johnson, The Unknowing Project

Room 105

Monday, November 24, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Leading with Balance: Reflect, Grow, and Elevate Others

Presenters: Jenelle Williams, Oakland Schools; Jay Haffner, Oakland Schools

Room 108/110

Beats, Brushes, and Books: Culturally Responsive Arts-Based Pedagogy for Equitable Learning

Presenter: Kelly Thelen, Southwest Minnesota State University

Room 104

Promoting Literacy Capacity and Capability through the Arts

Presenters: Elsie Lindy Olan, University of Central Florida; Kia Jane Richmond, Northern Michigan University

Room 106

Plenty of Resources in the SEA: A Deep-Dive into State Education Agency Resources

Presenters: Jason Stephenson, Oklahoma State Department of Education; Elizabeth Gannon, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Room 105

Monday, November 24, 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Lunch (included)

Room 107/109/111

Monday, November 24, 1:40–2:40 p.m.

Alternative Approaches to Grading: Using “Process-and-Engagement-Based Grading” to Engage All Learners in the Writing Process

Presenter: Casey Andrews, Watertown Public Schools

Room 108/110

Strengthening Capacity and Capability through Bite-Size Teacher Feedback

Presenter: JoLynn Ibarra Taylor, ISD

Room 104

Connecting to Nature’s Wisdom: Leading with Abundance in the ELA Ecosystem

Presenter: Naomi Watkins, Utah State Board of Education

Room 106

Monday, November 24, 2:50–3:20 p.m.

Of Fire, Flight, and Feeling: The Abundance of Joy and Justice in Reading Romantasy

Presenter: Cathline Tanis, North Plainfield School District

Room 106

The Gratitude Exchange

Presenter: Liz Lietz, Macomb Intermediate School District

Room 107/109/111

Much Ado about Research: How a Reflective Scholar/Teacher/Leader Makes Sense of Her Study

Presenter: Jacqueline Smilack, CTD+ Denver Montessori/Denver Public Schools

Room 104

Poetic Flow: A Gentle Text-Based Yoga Session

Presenter: Kathryn Fishman-Weaver, Mizzou Academy/University of Missouri

Room 105

Monday, November 24, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Interrupting Power Dynamics: Designing a Reciprocal Learning Environment in English Teacher Education Courses

Presenter: Michele McConnell California State University, Fresno

Room 104

Countering Stories of Scarcity and Fear to Promote Abundance and Satisfaction

Presenters: Cris Tovani, The Tovani Group; Samantha Bennett, Independent Contractor

Room 106

Integrating Literacy into CTE at the Cherry Creek Innovation Campus

Presenter: Julie Patterson, Cherry Creek Innovation Campus

Room 105

Monday, November 24, 5:30 p.m.

Social Hour

(Offsite Bar)

Tuesday, November 25, 8:30–11:00 a.m.

Room 107/109/111

8:00–8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Opening Remarks

8:30–9:30 a.m.

Collaborative Workshop: Composting Excess

9:40–9:50 a.m.

Break

10:00–10:50 a.m.

Collaborative Workshop: Cultivating Abundance

10:50–11:00 a.m.

Closing Circle