

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Dandridge Turner



Dr. Jennifer Danridge Turner is Associate Professor of Reading Education in the Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership at the University of Maryland. She received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with a specialization in Literacy from Michigan State University.

As a qualitative researcher, Dr. Turner's interests are woven into 3 strands: (a) culturally responsive literacy teachers and teaching for African American students, (b) teacher preparation for diversity, and (c) diverse children's visual representations of their future professional identities and literacies/college and career readiness. Dr. Turner's research has been funded through numerous grants, including the Qualitative Research Interest Group (QRIG) grant from the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity at the University of Maryland; Global Awareness in Teacher Education (GATE) fellowship from the Longview Foundation/UMCP; the Maryland Institute for Minority and Urban Education (MIMAUE); and the prestigious Elva Knight Research Grant from the International Reading Association.

Dr. Turner has over 30 publications, including book chapters and articles appearing in *Theory into Practice*, *Language Arts*, *The Reading Teacher*, *Literacy Teaching and Learning*, *Reading Research Quarterly*, *Action in Teacher Education*, *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, and *Reading Research and Instruction*. Based on her scholarship, Dr. Turner was invited to serve as Co-Editor of the Literacy Leadership column for the *Reading Teacher*, the premier K-6 literacy practitioner journal published by the International Reading Association. She recently served as a guest co-editor of a recent volume of *Theory into Practice*, and she has given numerous conference presentations and keynote addresses related to her research. Her coauthored book with Patricia Edwards and Gwendolyn Thompson McMillon, *Change is Gonna Come: Transforming Literacy Education for African American Students*, won the 2011 Edward Fry Book Award from the Literacy Research Association.

In addition to scholarship and teaching, Dr. Turner has been actively involved in professional organizations and educational initiatives. As a member of the Literacy Research Association (LRA), she has served as Area Chair, Chair of the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee, and was elected to the Board of Directors. She has served as a member of the Publications Committee, the Language Diversity Commission, and Urban Diversity Initiatives Commission for the International Reading Association. She also sits on the editorial boards of several high-impact journals, and has provided professional development for local teachers and schools. Finally, Dr. Turner is an author on two reading programs, the REACH Program (a K-5 ESL program emphasizing Language, Literacy, and Content) and REACH FOR READING Program (a K-5 comprehensive reading program), published by National Geographic School Publishing and Cengage.