

## **Descriptions of Breakout Sessions 1 (10:10 – 11:10 AM)**

### **1A Panel: A Conversation with Literacy Professionals in Today's Schools**

There are many challenges and rewards faced by literacy professionals in today's schools. During this session, several literacy professions from the elementary-school level to the college classroom will share their thoughts and experiences regarding literacy teaching and learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

- Moderator: Martha Colwell, Retired Principal, Woodland Elementary School, Milford Public Schools; Adjunct Assistant Professor, Framingham State College
- Laura Broach, Literacy Specialist, Member of the International Reading Association's (IRA) RTI Task Force
- Virginia Giovanello, Reading Specialist, AKA Read 180 Classroom Teacher, Southeast Regional Vocational Technical High School
- Jennifer Manak, Assistant Professor, Bridgewater State College

### **1B 2010 State of the State: What's New in Literacy at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education?**

Massachusetts is one of the 48 states that has signed on to the development and implementation of the Common Core Career and College Readiness standards and the back mapping of K-12 standards that are currently under development. This presentation will provide information on the Common Core and its relationship to Massachusetts's draft revised English Language Arts Curriculum Framework. It will also provide information on new opportunities for statewide and regional K-12 literacy professional development on standards, assessments, curriculum, and instruction through the state's District and School Assistance Centers.

- Moderator: Cheryl Liebling, Director, Office of Literacy, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Joan McNeil, Statewide Manager of the Literacy Network, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Laurie Slobody, Literacy Specialist, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Susan Whettle, Director, Office of Humanities, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

### **1C Brain Research, Human Evolution and the Necessity of Media Literacy**

This session will explore the ways in which brain research and insights from human evolution can prepare teachers for the next stages in global media literacies.

- Robert Sylvester, Associate Professor, Elementary and Early Childhood Education Department, Bridgewater State College

### **1D Language Assessment in ELL Students: When Difference Becomes Disability**

As more and more second language learners arrive in classrooms nationwide, a growing concern among educators is a concurrent rise in the over-representation of this group in special education classes. This presentation will cover strategic considerations for teachers as they work with and place these students in appropriate classroom settings.

- Mary Connor, Associate Professor, Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders, Bridgewater State College