

2026 WALAS Conference

Conference Preview



Friday, October 23

12:00–1:30 PM

COMADRES LUNCHEON

Pre-registration required

2:00 PM

REGISTRATION OPENS

2:00–3:00 PM

SPONSOR EXHIBITION HALL

3:00 PM

WELCOME

Dr. Susana Reyes, WALAS President

Dr. Chris Gilmer, Heritage University President

3:30–5:00 PM

LEADERSHIP PANEL

Camille Empey • Dr. Mayra Gomez • Dora Johns •
Dr. Ricardo Torres-Morales • Dr. Alejandro Vergara

5:30–7:30 PM

WALAS PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Music by Tri-Cities Fino

Saturday, October 24

7:30 AM

REGISTRATION

7:30–8:30 AM

BREAKFAST

7:30 AM

MORNING ENTERTAINMENT

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Saturday, October 24 Continued

8:30 AM **OPENING REMARKS**
Dr. Susana Reyes, WALAS President

8:45 AM **MORNING KEYNOTE**

9:45 AM **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

10:00 AM **MORNING WORKSHOP #1**

11:00 AM **MORNING WORKSHOP #2**

12:00 PM **LUNCH & ENTERTAINMENT**

1:30 PM **LUNCH KEYNOTE**
Montserrat Garribay

2:10 PM **AFTERNOON WORKSHOP**

3:00 PM **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

3:15 PM **RAFFLE & CLOSING**



From STAMP to Seal: Leveraging Equity-Centered Data Systems to Expand Biliteracy Pathways

Lead Presenter: Marlene Perez **Other Presenter(s):** Yolanda Herrera
Organization: Walla Walla Public Schools

Passion, Purpose, and Perseverance: Lessons from Dual Language Leadership

Lead Presenter: Teresa Mendoza-Casby
Organization: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Narrative-Informed Leadership: Leading with Identity, Purpose, and Practice

Lead Presenter: Kadriye El-Atwanii
Organization: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

From Aspiration to Appointment: Navigating the Path to District Leadership

Lead Presenter: Joel Aune **Other Presenter(s):** Tom Rockefeller
Organization: Northwest Leadership Associates

Integrated Classroom Walkthroughs and Principal Support Meetings: A Path to Instructional Alignment

Lead Presenter: Jose Rivera **Other Presenter(s):** Mike Sauers
Organization: Grandview School District, Classroom Mosaic

From Compliance to Collaboration: Empowering Families, Students, and Staff Through Intentional Partnership

Lead Presenter: Mary Williams
Organization: Mukilteo School District

Leading Through Collective Resistance: Reclaiming Our Power

Lead Presenter: Dr. Mayra Gómez
Organization: Mount Vernon School District

Accelerating Literacy for MLLs: Right Support, Right Time, Right Tier. Making Confident Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 Decisions

Lead Presenter: Lisa Rivera **Other Presenters:** Cat D'Avignon, Ashleigh Moe
Organization: American Reading Company, Mount Vernon School District

Roots of Harmony: Applying Chontal Philosophy to Cultivate Inclusive School Communities

Lead Presenter: Alejandro Vergara **Other Presenters:** Bianca Vergara, Elizabeth Puga
Organization: Burlington-Edison School District, Mount Vernon School District

From Compliance to Connection: Building Districtwide Language Access Systems

Lead Presenter: Elizabeth Puga **Other Presenters:** Virginia Ramirez Romero, Vicky Chan, Mayumi Johnson, Aspen Brooks, Milagros Alcaron Casafranca, Rebeca Pinzon
Organization: Mount Vernon School District, Washington State Language Access Coordinators' Network

A' Dream Learning: AI Imagination and Future Readiness Lab

Lead Presenter: Dr. Robert Elizondo **Other Presenter(s):** Dusti Crenshaw
Organization: A'Dream Learning - Washington Chapter

A Park Bench Conversation About What It Takes to Lead Today

Lead Presenter: Dr. Christina Kishimoto
Organization: Former State Superintendent, Hawaii

Harnessing the Power of Transformational Leadership: Essential Tools to Elevate Your Impact

Lead Presenter: Dr. Julie Perron
Organization: Walla Walla Public Schools

Liderazgo que Sana: Our Wealth, Our Healing, Our Pipeline

Lead Presenter: Dr. Susana Reyes **Other Presenter(s):** Lucy Estrada-Guzman, Dr. Maria Lucero, Dr. Melisa Macias, , Dr. Concie Pedroza
Organization: Curriculum Associates, School Districts: Evergreen, Vancouver, Yakima, Bellevue, , Tukwila, Shoreline

Leading the Way: How Washington Districts Are Transforming Outcomes for Multilingual Learners

Lead Presenter: Linda Marichal **Other Presenters:** Dr. Ana Aguilar, Megan Anderson-Reilly, Dr. Maria Lucero
Organization: Yakima School District, Summit K12

Commitment to Biliteracy: How Curriculum Associates Invests in Latino Educators and Spanish-Speaking Students

Lead Presenter: David Cisneros
Organization: Curriculum Associates