Mission

FCRR contributes to the quality, accessibility, use and relevance of reading and reading-related research by leveraging our talent, resources, and partnerships to:

- Conduct basic and applied interdisciplinary research on all aspects of reading and reading-related skills to benefit learners;
- Apply rigorous and innovative approaches that are responsive to the pressing problems of practice, policy, and research;
- Develop innovative multimedia resources to translate and disseminate results of high-quality research relevant to a diverse group of stakeholders;
- Create and sustain meaningful, mutually supportive, and lasting cross-sector partnerships with diverse organizations to solve high leverage problems locally, nationally, and internationally;
- Engage in leadership and entrepreneurial activities to empower researchers, practitioners, and other stakeholders to discover solutions, transform practices, and make improvements continuously; and
- Foster a diverse intellectual community of researchers and practitioners to advance the science of reading and develop the next generation of scholars and leaders.
A Message From Our Director

At the Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR), we improve reading through science. Our work is grounded in the belief that all children can read and succeed in school. In 2022, we celebrated 20 years of staying true to that vision. In many ways, 2022 was a year of reflection, recommitment, and renewal. Indeed, we welcomed our previous directors, Drs. Joe Torgesen, Barbara Foorman, and Don Compton, back to the Center. Gathered together with colleagues, educators, and students, they shared insights on important issues in reading research and practice, then and now. One common, unwavering message permeated each discussion: rigorous research conducted in partnership advances science and society.

When it was my turn to lead the discussion, I saw no reason to shift our focus. Whether leading the Center in 2002 or 2022, FCRR is a place where research, innovation, and engagement come together so that all children are reading—because reading is an essential part of a healthy, flourishing life. FCRR has made great strides over the years, but we’re not done yet. As the nation moves forward, there is a growing sense of urgency to address what we’ve always known to be true: too many children are struggling with reading and they shouldn’t have to. We know a great deal about how to solve this problem. In fact, many of the solutions have their origins right here at FCRR. But, we also know that this problem is complex, complicated by many factors that go well beyond what is happening in classrooms, homes, and communities. Simply put: there are no easy answers. There’s much we still have to learn and much we still have to do to make sure all children are thriving.

So, in 2022, we adjusted the lens and sharpened our focus. We renewed our collaborations with long-standing partners, engaging thousands of teachers, principals, and leaders in the science of reading. We broadened the table, inviting new scholars, practitioners, and community partners to join us in our efforts. We used creative media and joined local events to connect parents, families, and caregivers to resources they can use to support their children.

We’ve been busy! As you’ll read in the following pages, FCRR remains committed to scientific discovery, while also embracing our responsibility to ensure that our science is a public good. With $62 million in active grants and contracts and dozens of ongoing projects, we stand ready to honor our legacy while also pushing the boundaries.

We are incredibly honored to have your support. Together, we will go further.

With gratitude,

Dr. Nicole Patton Terry
Director, Florida Center for Reading Research
FCRR by the Numbers

6.1%
ROI for every university/state dollar invested in FCRR

$7,414
Raised in our 2022 Great Give Campaign

92
Faculty publications

23
Publications w/ undergrad or grad student researcher co-authors

$62M
Active grants & contract awards

60
FCRR Faculty

22
FCRR Staff

298
Educators trained in the FL Literacy Coach Endorsement Program

238
State- and district-level staff trained to provide the Reading Endorsement Pathway and the Florida Literacy Coach Endorsement Program

5
FCRR pages in FSU’s top 25 visited websites

901
Number of educators trained to implement effective K-3 reading tutoring programs

750+
Number of preschool and kindergarten educators trained to provide effective language and vocabulary instruction

Extending Our Reach

Facebook

Twitter

Instagram
Research

FCRR is an internationally-renowned research center. With over $62 million in active research grants and contracts in 2022, FCRR remains a leader in the broad, interdisciplinary field of reading research. FCRR faculty lead dozens of funded research projects and secured several new grants and contracts in 2022—each continuing our legacy of conducting research that answers complex questions, uses groundbreaking interdisciplinary techniques, and translates evidence into actionable recommendations and practices that impact student learning, development, and achievement.
Since 2012, FCRR has been home to the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Southeast, funded by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Under the direction of Dr. Nicole Patton Terry, a new five-year, $27 million contract cycle began in 2022, allowing us to continue to partner with educators, leaders, policymakers, and other key stakeholders in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina to develop evidence that can inform decision-making about policy, programs, and practice. The REL Southeast also provides training, coaching, and technical support throughout the region, helping to bridge the gap between research and practice to improve learning outcomes for P-12 students. Multiple FCRR faculty contribute to the REL’s success, including Drs. Jennifer Dombek, Sarah Herrera, John Hughes, Sharon Koon, Latara O. Lampkin, Laurie Lee, Yi-Chieh Newton, Beth Phillips, and Kevin Smith.

With a new $2.9 million grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), Drs. Sara Hart and Callie Little launched a five-year longitudinal study to uncover the mechanisms through which the global COVID-19 pandemic has and continues to impact children's reading skills.

Drs. Laura Steacy and Ashley Edwards were awarded a new $423,000 grant from NICHD to investigate phonological factors and skills associated with early word reading development. Discoveries from this research will advance theory and improve the early identification and treatment of word reading difficulties like dyslexia.

Through an Institutional Challenge Grant from the William T. Grant Foundation, Spencer Foundation, and Doris Duke Foundation awarded to Dr. Nicole Patton, FCRR is growing its research-practice partnerships with school districts, public agencies, and nonprofit organizations focused on reducing inequality in educational outcomes. Leveraging an existing partnership with Leon County Schools, the $650,000 grant enables leaders and faculty at both Florida State University and Florida A&M University to build faculty capacity to create and sustain research-practice partnerships.

Focusing on young children, a recently awarded IES grant will allow Drs. Beth Phillips, Sonia Cabell, Yaakov Petscher, Lakeisha Johnson, and Carla Wood to explore the relationship between preschool teachers’ talk and children’s language outcomes. The $1.7 million project will be conducted over the next four years and will include preschool classrooms from Florida, Georgia, and Alabama, representing urban, rural, and suburban locales in 29 different counties.

FCRR has also been home to an NICHD-funded Learning Disabilities Research Innovation Hub. With a new $2.1 million grant, Drs. Donald Compton, Laura Steacy, Yaakov Petscher, and Nicole Patton Terry will continue to push the boundaries of research and practice by exploring relations between word reading, linguistic diversity, and varied home and schooling experiences among children at risk for and diagnosed with reading disabilities like dyslexia.
STUDENTS AND EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS

FCRR’s interdisciplinary intellectual community is foundational to the development of future researchers and leaders and helps us contribute to the advancement of scientific knowledge. Through a coordinated and shared apprenticeship model, FCRR provides mentoring and training opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and other early career scholars. In 2022, FCRR’s funded doctoral training programs provided a rich and rewarding research and training experience for early career scholars. Collectively, core and affiliate faculty at FCRR have five doctoral training grants: Florida Interdisciplinary Research Fellows in Education Sciences (FIREFLIES, led by Drs. Nicole Patton Terry and Sara Hart), funded by IES, and Reading Disabilities and Dyslexia Researchers (R2D2, led by Drs. Nicole Patton Terry, Laura Steacy, and Sonia Cabell), Research-based Academic Interventions for Students with Extensive Support Needs (RAISE, led by Drs. Jenny Root, Veronica Fleury, and Kelly Whalon), and Leadership in Language and Literacy (Triple L, led by Drs. Carla Wood, Hugh Catts, and Andrea Barton-Hulsey), all funded by the Office of Special Education Programs in the US Department of Education. Together, faculty in these programs supported 37 doctoral students as they participated in research, policy, and practice apprenticeships, attended proseminars and symposiums, published original research, and presented at regional, national, and international research conferences. We also celebrated the many accomplishments our students and early career scholars earned in 2022, including:

- Jasmine Smith and M. ReShaun Blake were awarded McKnight Doctoral Fellowships.
- Rachelle Johnson served on the Young Adult Leadership Council for the National Center for Learning Disabilities.
- Anne Reed, and her advisor Dr. Kelly Farquharson were awarded a grant from the FSU Institute of Politics.
- Dr. Ashley Edwards was awarded her first NICHD grant as a Co-PI, working with Dr. Laura Steacy to investigate phonological skills related to early word reading.
- Dr. Callie Little was awarded her first NICHD grant as a PI, working with Dr. Sara Hart to study the impact of COVID-19 on reading development.
- Chris DeCamp, Miguel Garcia-Salas, Rachelle Johnson, Nancy Marencin, and Cynthia Norris organized and hosted an Education Sciences Colloquium on Neurodiversity in Dyslexia.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

International research collaborations are critical for advancing scientific knowledge, tackling complex issues, and making a global impact. We’ve discovered much about reading from scholars around the world. FCRR continued strengthening our international bonds in 2022.

- Drs. Yaacov Petscher and Hugh Catts hosted two Fulbright Scholars:
  - Dr. Jennifer O’Sullivan, a lecturer in literacy at the Marino Institute of Education—an associated college of Trinity College Dublin—and the past president of the Literacy Association of Ireland.
  - Dr. Gowramma I.P., faculty at the Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar at the National Council of Educational Research and Training in India.
- Dr. Sara Hart was an invited speaker at Radboud University’s Summer School Course: New Perspectives on the Typical and Atypical Trajectories of Learning in Child Development in Nijmam, The Netherlands.
- Dr. Jenny Root was invited to present on Applying the Instructional Hierarchy with Learners with Autism and Intellectual Disability at the University of British Colombia’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Collaboration for Autism.
- Dr. Richard Wagner provided webinars on two widely-used assessments he developed to assess reading skills—the Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing (CTOPP-2) and the Test of Word Reading Efficiency (TOWRE-2) for the Professional Association of Teachers of Students with Special Needs (PATOSS) in the United Kingdom.
- Dr. Yaacov Petscher was one of over 250 scientists and experts called to contribute to a multi-disciplinary systematic assessment of existing knowledge on education and learning—Education and the Learning Experience in Reimagining Education: The International Science and Evidence based Education Assessment. The report was co-sponsored by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development.
Innovation

FCRR partners with organizations internal and external to FSU to create unique dissemination tools, activities, and resources for educators, families, leaders, communities, and researchers. FCRR’s three divisions—Quantitative Methodology and Innovation, The Village, and the Innovative Research Dissemination lab—are critical to our success. Together, we used cutting-edge methodologies and state-of-the-art multimedia approaches to engage with our stakeholders in 2022.
Our ongoing partnership with the Florida Department of Education, including Just Read Florida! and the Office of Early Learning, led to the creation of multiple programs, tools, and resources to build the capacity of teachers, coaches, principals, and district leaders to ensure high quality reading and literacy instruction is provided in every Florida classroom.

- Organized into five comprehensive modules, Drs. Jennifer Gans, Laurie Lee, Kevin Smith, and Kelly Whalon (along with Drs. Jennifer Hamilton and Arzu Gungör Leushuis in the College of Education) developed the Reading Foundations and Evidence-Based Instructional Practices Reading Endorsement Pathway. This pathway was developed and designed to be delivered face-to-face by state-certified trainers. This job-embedded, intensive professional learning opportunity supports educators in earning the Florida Reading Endorsement. Educators successfully completing the program will earn a reading endorsement on their teacher certification.

- Organized into five comprehensive modules, Drs. Laurie Lee and Kevin Smith developed the Florida Literacy Coach Endorsement Program. The program was developed and designed to be delivered face-to-face by state-certified trainers. This job-embedded, intensive professional learning opportunity upskills current literacy coaches and builds a pipeline of educators interested in pursuing a literacy coach role in schools. Educators successfully completing the program will earn a literacy coach endorsement on their teacher certification.

- Organized into eight 90-minute learning sessions followed by school-based applied collaborative activities, Drs. Nicole Patton Terry and Julie Baisden developed the Literacy and Leadership Professional Development Series. The series was developed and designed to be delivered face-to-face by state-certified trainers. This job-embedded professional learning opportunity helps principals and assistant principals utilize implementation teams to implement evidence-based and evidence-informed literacy programs and practices in their classrooms and schools.

- Dr. Callie Little developed the Reading Program Repository developed to provide a one-stop shop to support Florida Local Education Agencies’ (LEAs) use of research evidence when selecting reading programs that best meet the needs of their students. Evidence is gathered from IES’s What Works Clearinghouse, Evidence for ESSA, and other existing research repositories. The collection of reading programs listed in the repository is based on Florida LEA program selections through the High-Quality Reading Curriculum Grant.

- Drs. Julie Baisden, Jennifer Dombek, and Sarah Herrera developed and provided training to help districts, administrators, teachers, and community members in planning and implementing state-funded tutoring programs for students in grades K-3 in need of additional support in reading and literacy.

- Led by Drs. Jennifer Gans and Marcia Kosanavich, FCRR launched For Educators and For Families, two websites with content designed to help teachers, families and caregivers find and use evidence-based resources to support reading and literacy. Central to For Educators is Essentials for Reading Success, where teachers can find guidance on how to deliver scientifically based reading instruction in their classrooms.

- Dr. Beth Phillips, Karli Willis, Felesa Oliver and the team in the Preschool Research Group continued to develop and deliver high quality professional learning opportunities for preschool and kindergarten educators and providers. A series of trainings on Language and Vocabulary Instruction in Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Classrooms were delivered to hundreds of teachers and state-approved trainers. A new course is also being developed, focused on developing young children’s meaning-related skills in pre-kindergarten classrooms.

- Since 2004, FCRR’s signature Student Center Activities have helped teachers across Florida, the nation, and the world apply evidence-based and evidence-informed approaches to classroom reading instruction. Over 350 activities are available to support classroom instruction in pre-kindergarten through grade 5. In 2022, the activities were updated and aligned with Florida’s Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T) Standards for English/Language Arts. A new filter tool was also introduced, allowing teachers to search for activities by grade level, by standard, and by instructional component.
LEARNING TOGETHER

Learning and innovation go hand in hand. At FCRR, we take learning seriously. We are constantly growing, taking advantage of every opportunity to discover something new, improve our own scholarship, and develop the next generation of scholars. In 2022, FCRR hosted and participated in brown bags, workshops, conferences, and other professional learning opportunities on various topics to support innovation, including:

- Dr. Nicole Patton Terry was invited to participate in a panel discussion on *Black Voices in Education Research: Supporting Black Students across the Education Sciences*. The panel was hosted by The White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans and the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Dr. Christopher Schatschneider (Psychology) provided a brown bag on data management.

- FCRR’s Innovation Committee hosted a webinar on intellectual property and commercialization with FSU’s Office of Commercialization.

- Dr. Sara Hart continued to co-host *Within & Between*, a podcast focused on methods and metascience issues in developmental science (available on all podcast streaming sites and www.withinandbetweenpod.com).

- Dr. Nicole Patton Terry was invited to participate in a panel discussion on the *Path to Enhancing Scientific Workforce Diversity Workshop: Entry into the STEMM Ecosystem*. The workshop was hosted by NICHD’s STRategies to EnRich Inclusion and AchieVe Equity (STRIVE) Scientific Workforce Diversity Committee.
Happy Birthday FCRR!

FCRR celebrated its 20th anniversary by hosting several events across the state and beyond. FCRR’s three previous directors came back to deliver presentations and moderate conversations between researchers and practitioners throughout the year. FCRR also observed its anniversary at both the Florida Department of Education’s Summer Literacy Institute and the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading annual conference. Congratulatory messages were also received from FCRR faculty, staff, and student alumni, and shared on a special 20th anniversary website created to promote the year-long event.
Outreach

FCRR was founded, in part, on the premise that partnerships between researchers and key stakeholders could maximize the impact of research on student outcomes. Whether focused across the nation, the state, or in our own backyard in Florida’s panhandle region, FCRR remains committed to engaging directly with teachers, leaders, families, and other education stakeholders in meaningful ways. FCRR continued to create and sustain several key alliances to support student achievement, school readiness, and school success among children and youth this past year.
Through The Village, FCRR continued to connect with local community partners, including Leon County Schools, Florida A&M Developmental Research School, Whole Child Leon, Boys Town North Florida, United Way of the Big Bend, FSU’s Opening Nights, WFSU, and the Tallahassee Symphony, the Leon County Children’s Services Council, and others. When we participate in these events, we not only champion our partners, but we also connect them to evidence-based resources to support their children’s reading and literacy development.

Through the work of the REL Southeast, FCRR researchers provided numerous hours of training, coaching, and technical assistance to teachers, school district leaders, and college and university administrators in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi. Working “on the ground” with our partners helps us better understand their context and leverage their expertise. Together, we created innovative, evidence-based tools and resources to support the improvement of emergent literacy skills in preschool, foundational reading skills in elementary school, content area literacy skills in middle and high school.

In the National Center for Improving Literacy, Dr. Yaacov Petscher served as the Deputy Director and co-led the Screening and Identification Strand of the center with Dr. Lakeisha Johnson. They collaborated with others in the Center to help families, educators, and school- and district-leaders increase their use of evidence-based practices and programs for screening, identification, instruction, and intervention for students with literacy-related disabilities like dyslexia.

FCRR also participated in FSU’s Great Give 24-hour fundraising campaign in support of a partnership project co-developed with Leon County Libraries called Book Nook Bundles. Designed to create learning opportunities to meet children where they are, each Book Nook Bundle contains a story book, a story book guide and an activity that supports early reading. Through the generous financial support FCRR received, FCRR will be able to deliver 25 bundles to each branch in the Leon County Public Library system. Additional bundles will be provided to local community organizations and learning centers.

TRANSLATING RESEARCH

FCRR faculty were invited to share their expertise on various aspects of reading, language, and literacy with diverse audiences around the world. Whether providing keynote addresses, guest lecturing in college courses, or sitting side-by side with educators and families, faculty worked hard to translate their research so that all children are reading and succeeding in school.

Dr. Nicole Patton Terry provided the keynote address for the annual conference of the The Reading League, entitled Delivering on the Promise of the Science of Reading for All Learners.


Dr. Jenny Root facilitated monthly professional learning communities with special education teachers in Leon County Schools focused on the WWC Practice Guide, Assisting Students Struggling with Mathematics: Intervention in the Elementary Grades.

Dr. Beth Phillips published two articles in Literacy Today, the International Literacy Association’s digital magazine for educators: Dialogic Reading: An evidence-based language development strategy and Focus on syntax: Supporting young children’s development of language and comprehension, with Karli Willis. Drs. Lakeisha Johnson and Nicole Patton Terry also published an article in the magazine with Dr. Jasmine Smith, the principal of a partner elementary school. They shared their experiences on leveraging speech-language pathologists to support reading and writing for all students.

Dr. Sonia Cabell was invited to discuss the importance of content-rich ELA instruction on Meliss and Lori Love Literacy Podcast, while Dr. Nicole Patton Terry joined the Research Education Advocacy (READ) Podcast to discuss translation and implementation of reading research.

Dr. Richard Wagner (Psychology) was invited to give an address on A Bayesian probabilistic framework for identification of individuals with dyslexia for a summit meeting of the Learning Disabilities Association.

Dr. Yaacov Petscher published an article on screening for early literacy milestones and reading disabilities in Perspectives on Language and Literacy, a magazine for educators and other professionals focused on the identification and treatment of dyslexia and other related learning differences. Dr. Nicole Patton Terry also edited an issue of the magazine, focused on creating systems for equitable reading achievement in schools.

Dr. Sonia Cabell was invited to give a keynote address on Improving language comprehension through content-rich ELA instruction at the Early Grades Literacy Institute for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
AWARDS, HONORS, & RECOGNITION

Andrea Barton-Hulsey
▶ Awarded FSU School of Communication Science and Disorders Outstanding Faculty Research Award

Sonia Cabell
▶ Awarded FSU Developing Scholar Award
▶ Selected as a member of the FSU College of Education Academy of Scholars
▶ Selected as a Scientific Advisory Committee Member for the Knowledge Matters Campaign
▶ Guest Editor of *Literacy Today*, a magazine of the International Literacy Association, entitled Oral Language and Literacy

Veronica Fluery
▶ Institute of Education Sciences Early Career Development and Mentoring Scholar

Sara Hart
▶ Selected as a member of the FSU Faculty Fellows Program
▶ Selected as a member of the FSU Research Mentor Academy
▶ Elected as a Scientific Advisory Board member of the International Dyslexia Association
▶ Appointed as a Steering Committee member for the Education Research Hub at the Center for Open Science
▶ Steering Committee member & current Past President of the Providing Opportunities for Women in Education Research (POWER)

Christopher Lonigan
▶ FSU Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology

Nicole Patton Terry
▶ Elected as President Elect of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading
▶ Awarded the Inez Beverly Prosser Research Award from the Choice-filled Lives Network
▶ Selected as a member of the FSU delegation for the Academic Leaders Network in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC)
▶ Selected as a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on the Future of Education Research at the Institute of Education Sciences in the U.S. Department of Education

Richard Wagner
▶ FSU Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Research Professor

Yaacov Petscher
▶ Selected as a finalist for two EdTech Awards—Cool Tool and Leadership—for Early Bird Education

Beth Phillips
▶ Co-Editor of *Reading and Writing: An Interdisciplinary Journal* Special Issue entitled, Practitioners’ Knowledge to Support Reading and Writing: New Directions and Approaches.
▶ Steering Committee member & Mentoring Committee Chair of the Providing Opportunities for Women in Education Research (POWER)
▶ Nominated for FSU’s Graduate Teaching Award

Jenny Root
▶ Awarded FSU College of Education Graduate Teaching Award
▶ Awarded FSU College of Education Robert M. Gagne Research Award
▶ Institute of Education Sciences Early Career Development and Mentoring Scholar

Laura Steacy
▶ Institute of Education Sciences Early Career Development and Mentoring Scholar
FACULTY AND STAFF

CORE FACULTY
Nicole Patton Terry, Ph.D. (Reading Education)
Sonia Cabell, Ph.D. (Reading Education)
Don Compton, Ph.D. (Psychology)
Barbara Foorman, Ph.D. (Director Emeritus)
Sara Hart, Ph.D. (Psychology)
Christopher Lonigan, Ph.D. (Psychology)
Yaacov Petscher, Ph.D. (Social Work)
Beth Phillips, Ph.D. (Educational Psychology)
Christopher Schatschneider, Ph.D. (Psychology)
Laura Steacy, Ph.D. (Special Education)
Joseph Orgesen, Ph.D. (Director Emeritus)
Richard Wagner, Ph.D. (Psychology)

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Nuria Crock, Ph.D.
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Janae Duclos-Francois, Ph.D.
Ashley Edwards, Ph.D.
Jennifer Gans, Ph.D.
Catie Goodman
Sarah Herrera, Ph.D.
Ashly Hicks
Katie Hughes
John Hughes, Ph.D.
Maureen Kaschak
Jonathan Klepper
Sharon Koon, Ph.D.
Latara Lampkin, Ph.D.
Laurie Lee, Ed.D.
Callie Little, Ph.D.
Yi-Chieh (Sophie) Newton, Ph.D.
Felesa Oliver
Kevin Smith, Ed.D.
Christopher Stanley, Ph.D.
Cynthia Townsend
Connie Verhagen
Mary Walsh
Karli Willis
Marcy Wyatt
Fotena Zirps, Ph.D.

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