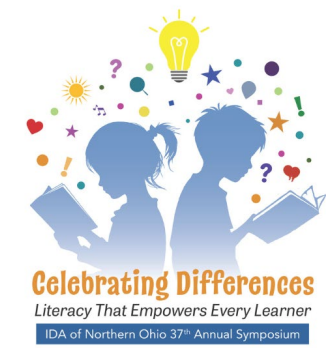


ABOUT THE PRESENTATION:

What do clownfish and anemones have to do with dyslexia? In this session, *The Power of the Pen*, we will dive into the symbiotic relationship of reading and writing. Focusing on new research and models surfacing in the Science of Reading, we will discuss how certain reading and writing practices and strategies build critical brain pathways for word recognition, fluency and comprehension. Leave with a clear understanding of why the reading and writing connection supports neurodiverse learners, and sail away with practical, evidence-based strategies you can immediately use to support your students and children.



Amanda Upp

The Power of the Pen: How the Reciprocal Relationship of Writing and Reading Builds Brain Pathways

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Amanda Upp has dedicated the past 21 years of her career to education, with a deep and abiding passion for literacy instruction that helps all students succeed. She began her journey in New Albany, Ohio, as an elementary teacher before becoming a Reading Specialist, where she focused on supporting at-risk readers and partnering with teachers as a Literacy Coach to implement evidence-based practices and diagnostic assessments.

After a decade of teaching in Ohio, Amanda moved to South Carolina, where she returned to the classroom and was named Reading Teacher of the Year. Following three years in Charleston, she returned to Ohio to serve as a K-12 Instructional Coach and literacy leader for the Perry Local School District. She now holds the position of K-12 Literacy Consultant for the Stark County Educational Service Center.

In her current role, Amanda works with numerous districts to provide professional learning in the Science of Reading and Writing, acts as a liaison between districts, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and ReadOhio, and supports educators and administrators through leadership and literacy coaching. Amanda is dedicated to learning about literacy instruction! She holds a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Literacy, is a LETRS facilitator, ODEW Science of Reading Facilitator, ODEW Dyslexia Facilitator and is trained in various curriculum based measures and structure literacy interventions. Amanda is truly honored and humbled to be joining NOBIDA today as she combines two of her greatest passions: reading and writing instruction and supporting neurodiverse students.