



## Learn More About our 2025 Keynote Speaker, Dr. Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan

Dr. Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan is a bilingual speech and language pathologist, a certified teacher, dyslexia therapist, certified academic language therapist, and a qualified instructor. She is the President of the Valley Speech Language and Learning Center in Brownsville, Texas and works with the Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation, and Statistics at the University of Houston.

Elsa has spent the last two decades working with national research teams designing assessments and interventions for English learners who struggle with learning to read. She has a passion for ensuring every child in schools across the world has access to a highly qualified educator who can implement effective language and literacy instruction to diverse populations.

Elsa has also dedicated her time and expertise to many organizations. She serves as the Chairperson of the National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities, and she is a past Vice-Chairperson of the International Dyslexia Association, past Chairperson of the Texas State Board for Speech Pathology and Audiology, and past Chairperson of the Texas State Dyslexia Advisory Board. She has served as a board member of the Academic Language Therapy Association, Southwest Regional Education Laboratory, and Texas Comprehensive Center at the American Institutes for Research.

Elsa has served her local community as Co-Founder of Brownsville *READS!*. She is recognized for her reading reform efforts at the local, state, national, and international levels. Elsa has written many scholarly articles, curricular programs, and book chapters related to language and literacy development among English learners. It is her hope that pre-service teachers will have the opportunity to learn evidence-based practices for teaching literacy to all students, including those who are English learners and struggle with learning to read.

Elsa has been recognized for her dedication to persons with dyslexia. She is the recipient of the Margaret Byrd Rawson Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Dyslexia Association, the Dr. Luke Waites Award of Service to persons with Dyslexia by the Academic Language Therapy Association, and the Champion of Dyslexia Award by the Texas Education Agency.

**Join us on April 3, 2025 to hear Dr. Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan and  
celebrate 45 years of Neuhaus Education Center!**

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