



neuhaus  
EDUCATION CENTER

45<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

*Ahead of Its Time:  
Neuhaus Education Center's  
45th Anniversary Milestones*

by Genevieve Hutcheson Butcher, M.Ed., MA and Mary North, M.Ed.,  
editing by Lenox Reed, M.Ed., CALT, Kay Allen, M.Ed., CALT, QI-R, and  
Catherine Hungerford Scott, Ed.D., CALT, Reading Specialist

# Neuhaus Education Center's Origin and Legacy

by Lenox Reed



Aylett Cox with Lenox Reed and other NEC founders

## FOUNDERS/LIFETIME TRUSTEES:

- Ben Andrews
- Marilyn Beckwith, CALT\*
- Suzanne S. Harter
- Marjorie C. Hutcheson, CALT\*
- Ann K. Johnson, CALT
- Margaret H. Ley, CALT\*
- Mrs. Russell McFarland\*
- Edward K. Neuhaus
- Mrs. W. Oscar Neuhaus\*
- Mrs. James L. Noel, Jr.\*
- William D. Noel
- Fredda Parker, CALT\*
- Lenox Hutcheson Reed, M.Ed., CALT
- Nancy Collie Reed\*
- Elizabeth B. Wareing
- W. Temple Webber III
- Kay McGibbon Werlein, M.Ed., CALT
- \*deceased

## NEUHAUS LEADERSHIP TIMELINE:

1980–2000	Lenox Hutcheson Reed, M.Ed., CALT, Founding Executive Director	2008–2011	Russanne Kelley, M.Ed., President and CEO
		2011–2015	Marybeth Flachbart, Ed.D., CALT, President and CEO
		2015–2025	Tracy White Weeden, Ed.D., President and CEO
2000–2008	Kay Allen, M.Ed., CALT, QI-R, Executive Director	2025–	Katherine Smith, M.Ed., President and CEO

The **Neuhaus Education Center** is named in honor of **W. Oscar Neuhaus**. Oscar was the parent of a child with dyslexia who witnessed firsthand his son Edward's reading challenges and subsequent breakthrough with the right prescriptive academic language therapy program. Edward's dyslexia therapist, Lenox Reed, had been trained in **Orton Gillingham Language Therapy** in Dallas at the **Scottish Rite Hospital Dyslexia Learning Center**. Oscar and his wife Betty sought to bring the dyslexia therapy training to the Houston community. Initially, the Neuhauses supported local teachers traveling to and attending classes in Dallas.

In 1970, Oscar and Betty began to envision an education center in Houston that would offer the same certification as the Dallas program led by **Aylett Cox**. The Neuhauses started by helping found the Houston Branch of the **International Dyslexia Association** (then called the Orton Dyslexia Society). In 1978 Oscar was its first President. The Houston Branch brought together a "think tank" of pediatricians, diagnosticians, teachers, therapists, and parents to find answers about the identification of dyslexia and best practices for teaching struggling readers.

In 1980, a 501(C)3 foundation, Neuhaus Education Center, was formed and named in memory of Oscar who had passed away that year. Founding board members were **Betty Neuhaus, Nancy Collie, Virginia Noel, Virginia McFarland, Fredda Parker, Marilyn Beckwith, and Lenox Reed**. The board of seven, with three teaching staff members, started the nonprofit business in the Wayne Ankenman/Cannon Interests building on Audley Street.

**Aylett Cox** and her staff in Dallas agreed to a four-year internship guiding and supervising Neuhaus teaching staff. The first class was in January 1981 at **St. Philips Church**. Neuhaus teaching staff taught the second one at River Oaks Elementary school in June of that year.

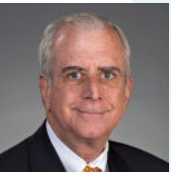
The Neuhaus Education Center that started in 1980 with three teaching staff members has blossomed into over 70 employees allowing one family's vision to grow to serving struggling readers across the country.



*"Neuhaus Education Center was such a blessing to our family! When we were first exploring the resources available and necessary to support our families' educational goals for success and preparation, NEC was an excellent resource! They provided support not just educationally, which was massive, but also emotionally. NEC prepared us to launch our children to accomplish their unlimited dreams - we are still wowed by the committed team that supported us all! Extraordinarily GRATEFULL!"*  
- Dee Ann Rogers, Parent



*"The success and stature the Neuhaus Education Center enjoys today is ultimately the result of all the committed instructors, teachers, administrators, staff, researchers, parents, foundations, corporations, and events over the last forty-five years. In my opinion, there were three key foundational elements. First and foremost, it was the idea and vision that Oscar Neuhaus had to provide a prepared teacher in the schools of our city, so that all children could learn to read. Second, it was the Founders' decision to hire Lenox Reed as the first Executive Director of the Center. Lenox, like many of the Founders, is gracious, but had a titanium determination to provide teachers the instruction necessary to change children's educational trajectory and emotional quality of life with the ability to read. Third, it was the decision by the Board of the Center and the donors in Houston and around Texas to commit the funds for a permanent building to support the evolving needs and requirements to pursue the goal of literacy for all."*  
- Will Noel, Lifetime Trustee and Past Board President



*"As one who could not read until I was 16 years old, I was fortunately rescued from my illiteracy by a teacher who was trained to pass on to me specific methods to overcome my inadequacy. I was given a second chance for academic success and vocational opportunities. I owe Neuhaus my life! Neuhaus teachers have the skill needed to teach anyone to read!"*  
- Ed Neuhaus, Lifetime Trustee and Past Board President



*"It gives me so much joy when an educator or parent shares how Neuhaus transformed their professional practice or the life of a loved one. Our mission is transformative, bringing liberty to so many through literacy."*  
- Tracy White Weeden, President and CEO of Neuhaus Education Center



*"My young student with dyslexia, for the first time, just blended three sounds together to read a word. My heart is stabbed with the joy of the miracle taking place before me."*  
- Kay Allen, 2nd Neuhaus Executive Director and Current Adult Literacy Instructor

1987 First Neuhaus Luncheon: Founding members, Fredda Parker and Betty Neuhaus with special guest First Lady of the United States, Barbara Bush.

1982 Barbara Bush visits with founding members.





# Ahead of Its Time

by Genevieve Hutcheson Butcher

Neuhaus Education Center has always been ahead of its time.

From its inception in 1980, under the auspices of **Dallas’s Scottish Rite Hospital Dyslexia Learning Center**, Neuhaus has offered professional learning to educators in how to teach struggling readers with dyslexia — six years before Texas legislation mandated services for dyslexic students.

When Neuhaus began, most of the country’s educational institutions worked from a whole language or balanced literacy philosophy and practice, Neuhaus developed curricula and provided instruction in using what came to be known as the Science of Reading, backed by evidence-based research.

In 1988 when **Houston Independent School District (HISD)** teachers wanted Neuhaus training but were short on substitutes, Neuhaus and community leaders created **Project Apple**. Volunteers from the Junior League and local businesses became school substitutes, so HISD elementary school teachers on each campus could attend a 30-hour Neuhaus course.

**Brownsville Independent School District (BISD)** educators and community advocates reached out in 1997 for Neuhaus training. To meet the demand of distance learning, Neuhaus created a successful learning platform via Broadband. In 2002, the Brownsville ISD Report showed significant gains in the reading ability of students taught by Neuhaus-trained teachers using Neuhaus curricula.

When the 2020 Pandemic hit, schools quickly moved to virtual learning. Neuhaus built a platform for teacher professional learning enabling its reach to go beyond its brick and mortar building to virtual classes. This pivot allowed Neuhaus to extend its reach nationally through contracts with **Alabama, New Mexico, Idaho, and Alaska**.

Over the years, Neuhaus’s brand and its staff have been continuously recognized at the local, state, and national levels. Neuhaus materials are now used by teachers in 40 states. Its **19 Structured Literacy Modules** cover all of the components of the **Science of Reading** and are used in university teacher preparation classes. What if all teachers received professional instruction in structured literacy so that all their students could learn to read, helping them identify students with dyslexia earlier and preventing the cycle of failure?

Neuhaus Education Center, ahead of its time, looks forward and works toward that future.



*“Neuhaus changed my life and essentially got me into my current profession. In fifth grade I was reading at a third grade level. The tutoring raised my literacy to grade level, and I never looked back.”*  
– Marshall McCann, Former Student



*“Neuhaus Academy was so important for decoding skills in the upper elementary grades. I was able to assist lower students without them feeling defeated or less than. It also helped higher achieving students grow their vocabulary.”*  
– Christina Alvarado, Teacher



*“My favorite Neuhaus tool would have to be Reading Readiness. It is the first program I was introduced to and became the go-to for many years in my pre-K classrooms. That curriculum helps to provide such a solid foundation for young learners as they begin to learn to read and can also help identify those who might be struggling even early on.”*  
– Jennifer Jeffrey, Dyslexia Specialist and Neuhaus Board Member

Teacher training in action



Milestones Timeline

1978-1988

3 Serious women  
mean serious business



Lenox Hutcheson Reed, Virginia Noel, and Fredda Parker are interviewed about plans to start something very new in Houston, a Center to train educators to teach children with dyslexia how to read, write, and spell.

Original NEC logo



Founding Teachers: Marilyn Beckwith, Fredda Parker, Lenox Hutcheson Reed



NEC staff teaches 1st *Alphabetic Phonics* Basic Course (AP).

Aylett Cox observing NEC class



Kay Allen teaching *Alphabetic Phonics* class



Aylett Cox & Nancy Collie



Students in class



Parent Seminar Series begins.

National Orton Conference



NEC 1st time presenting at National Orton Dyslexia Society Conference, later renamed International Dyslexia Association (IDA).

NEC & HISD Project Apple



Project Apple: one HISD elementary school teacher from each campus attends a 30-hour NEC course. Volunteers from The Junior League and local businesses substitute in their classes.

Houston Independent School District (HISD) contracts NEC to train resource teachers in *Alphabetic Phonics* (AP).

Neuhaus staff participates in the first meeting establishing the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA), a professional organization for dyslexia therapists.

1978

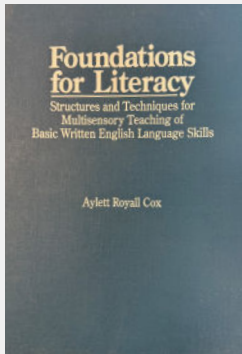
Houston Branch of the Orton Dyslexia Society is founded: W. Oscar Neuhaus was the first President.



W. Oscar Neuhaus

1980

W. Oscar Neuhaus Memorial Foundation is incorporated, becoming the 1st teacher training center in Houston and the 2nd in Texas, offering the Orton-Gillingham based *Alphabetic Phonics* curriculum.



Alphabetic Phonics manual

1981

25 public and private school teachers participate in the 2nd Neuhaus training taught at River Oaks Elementary.



First NEC newsletter

1982

1st Neuhaus cohort completes the 2-year *Alphabetic Phonics Dyslexia Specialist Certification Program*.

1983

1984

Aylett Cox & Dean Learning Center certify NEC as an official Orton Gillingham/*Alphabetic Phonics Training Center* after a four-year internship.



Alyett Cox and founders

1985



Teacher class

1986

Texas Legislature mandates that every public school teacher must be informed about dyslexia and that there be an appropriately trained teacher on each campus.

Texas Education Agency (TEA) approves NEC's courses as continuing education for public school teachers.



Texas Education Agency (TEA)

1987

First Benefit Luncheon: 800 attend



1st NEC Benefit Luncheon: Fredda Parker, Barbara Bush, and Betty Neuhaus

1988

1st Parent Resource Staff is hired and offers parents and schools a presentation on dyslexia and why a structured, multisensory reading program is essential.



Project Apple teachers






Milestones Timeline

1999–2011

First IMSLEC accreditation




70 Adult Literacy Program (ALP) students enroll in evening classes.

NEC's Dyslexia Specialist Preparation Program (DSPP) is accredited by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC).

NEC expertise is recognized: NEC Staff Suzanne Carreker & Joanne White are chosen as expert trainers for the Governor's Reading First Initiative.


Results of NEC spelling intervention are published in *Annals of Dyslexia*, the professional journal of International Dyslexia Association (IDA).

Parent seminar by Family Support Office (FSO)




NEC celebrates 25th Anniversary with a new logo.


IDA research journal



25th Anniversary with new logo




First NEC Online Classes




Online courses are newly developed based on existing live classes: *Reading Comprehension*, *The Structure of the English Language for Reading*, *Multisensory Grammar-Advanced*, and *Scientific Spelling*.

Margaret Ley and student




Brownsville ISD research published in *Reading Psychology* and *Reading Teacher Journals*.

Family Support Office (FSO) Seminar



NEC Family Support Office (FSO) has been providing resources to parents of struggling readers for 20 years.

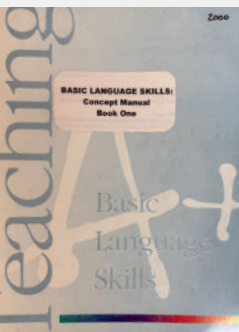
SMU Luminary Award



NEC receives the SMU Luminary Award.

1999

1st time the NEC Website appears in the newsletter.




Original BLS manual

Basic Language Skills (BLS) replaces Alphabetic Phonics as the core curriculum for the Dyslexia Specialist Preparation Program (DSPP).

2000

NICHD's National Reading Panel 2000 Report determines the best approach to reading instruction incorporates explicit instruction in phonemic awareness and systematic phonics.

Former First Lady Barbara Bush helps celebrate NEC's 20th Anniversary.




Celebrating NEC's 20th Anniversary

2001

1st NEC online classes are introduced: *Reading Comprehension* and *Developing Accuracy and Fluency*.


DSPP summer class



2002

Pre-K curriculum *Language and Literacy for Young Learners* is introduced.

The Brownsville Herald Oct. 17, 1999

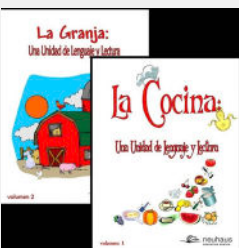


Brownsville ISD study shows significant gains in reading ability of students taught by NEC trained teachers using NEC curriculum.

2005

PreK curriculum is translated into Spanish for bilingual classrooms.

Spanish language manuals




2006

2007

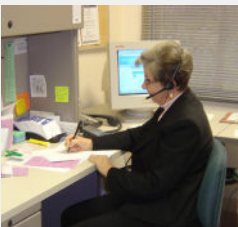
NEC's Margaret H. Ley Adult Literacy Program is endowed.

Adult Literacy Program named in honor of Margaret Ley



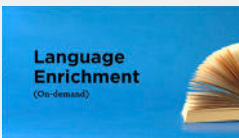
2008

Family Support staff answer parent calls



Language Enrichment (LE) 30-hour course debuts in online platform.


Language Enrichment (On-demand)




LE online course

2009

HISD teacher training



Teachers Make the Difference manual



2011

As part of the *Teachers Make the Difference Initiative*, NEC trains 4,000 HISD teachers.

9

10



Milestones Timeline

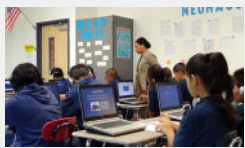
2012–2024

HISD secondary teachers take class at NEC



NEC partners with HISD to create a replicable model for intervention with secondary students.

Neuhaus Academy class



Neuhaus Academy launches and offers reading support to help middle school, high school, and adult learners master difficult vocabulary.

2014 Webpages

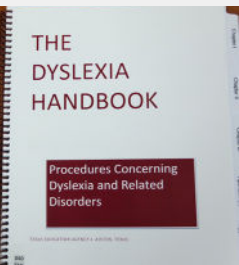


NEC Founder receives prestigious IDA Award



Founder Lenox Reed receives Margaret Rawson Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Dyslexia Association (IDA).

The Dyslexia Handbook



NEC staff members chosen to assist in revising *The Dyslexia Handbook* for Texas public schools

Monarch Chrysalis



COVID Chrysalis: NEC transitions to virtual teaching amidst a global pandemic.



NEC wins a statewide contract with Alabama Department of Education (DOE).

Science of Reading Defining Guide cover



Neuhaus CEO Tracy Weeden is invited to collaborate in writing The Reading League's *Science of Reading Defining Guide*.

Neuhaus materials are used in 40 states.

Structured Literacy Module



NEC's 19 *Structured Literacy Modules*, which cover components of evidence-based structured literacy instruction, debut virtually and are to be used in university teacher preparation classes.

NEC research team publishes case study demonstrating the benefits of *Basic Language Skills (BLS)* curriculum.

NEC research team publishes case study demonstrating teacher knowledge growth as a result of *Language Enrichment (LE)* Professional Development across three states.

Alabama Department of Education (DOE) adopts NEC's *Structured Literacy Modules* for statewide implementation and trains 1,149 teachers.

5 current university partnerships: Rice University, Texas State, Texas A&M, William Carey University, Walsh University

OCPDS cover



IDA Logo



IDA accredits the new *Online Certification Program for Dyslexia Specialists (OCPDS)*.

2012

NEC creates course for principals as *Literacy Leaders*.

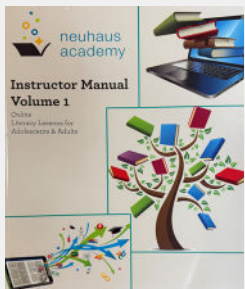


Literacy Leaders

2013



New technology



Neuhaus Academy manual

2014

2016

Unlocking Literacy Conference



NEC organizes 1st Statewide *Unlocking Literacy Conference*.



Unlocking Literacy poster

2018

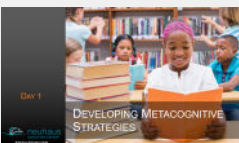
HISD sends NEC a record number of teachers to be trained as Dyslexia Specialists.

Suzanne Carreker receives IDA's Margaret Rawson Lifetime Achievement Award.

2020

NEC arranges to provide computers for Adult Literacy Program students in order to take classes virtually.

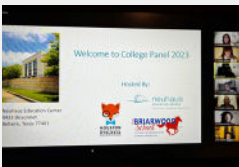
Family Support Office (FSO) pivots to virtual engagement.



Virtual class

2021

Family Support Office presents 30th College Panel on Zoom.



Virtual College Panel

2022

NEC wins a statewide contract with Alaska Department of Education.



Alaska flag

2023

NEC staff offer topic-related Literacy Workshops on Zoom.

Margaret H Ley Adult Literacy Program expands to virtual and in-person classes. Adult students from six states in addition to Texas participate.

Department of Education (DOE) selects NEC as strategic partner. NEC provides *Structured Literacy* professional development to over 500 New Mexico teachers as part of NM's *Literacy Lifts* program.







New Mexico flag



New Mexico Literacy Lifts Program

2024

	1980's	1990's	2000's	2010's	2020-2024*
 TOTAL # OF EDUCATORS	1,500	15,000	22,790	38,140	10,290*
 CERTIFICATION GRADUATES	114	114	134	175	123*
 ADULT LITERACY STUDENTS	264	660	513	445	226*
 FSO PARTICIPANTS	8,333	8,333	19,079	30,052	15,938*

\*As of December 2024

Teacher training in action

1980s students in class



VISIONARY: \$1,000,000+

The Brown Foundation, Inc.  
The Cullen Foundation  
The Ellwood Foundation  
The Fondren Foundation  
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo  
Houston Endowment, Inc.  
Peggy and Bob Ley\*  
The Powell Foundation  
T.L.L. Temple Foundation  
The William Stamps Farish Fund

INNOVATOR: \$500,000-\$999,999

The George Foundation  
George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation  
The Houston A+ Challenge  
John P. McGovern Foundation  
Ann and Johnny Johnson  
M. D. Anderson Foundation  
The Mary H. Cain Foundation  
Sid W. Richardson Foundation

PIONEER: \$250,000-\$499,999

The C.T. Bauer Foundation  
CFP Foundation  
The Crain Foundation  
Suzanne and Steve Harter  
Jack H. and William M. Light Charitable Trust  
The Joe Barnhart Foundation  
JPMorgan Chase and Co.  
Mary and Dennis Johnston  
The Meadows Foundation  
Amy and Mark Melton  
Graham and Ed Neuhaus  
Pat and Ed Noel  
Barb and Will Noel  
The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation  
Rockwell Fund, Inc.  
Rosalie & Joiner Cartwright, Jr., Foundation  
Scurlock Foundation/Elizabeth Wareing  
Wayne Duddleston Foundation  
The West Endowment  
Edith and Bob Zinn

PATHFINDER: \$100,000 TO \$249,999

Amegy Bank  
Amon G. Carter Foundation  
Christine and Ben Andrews  
The Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation  
Patricia and Jim Calnon-Allen  
CenterPoint Energy, Inc  
Lydia and James Chao  
The Charles Engelhard Foundation  
The Elkins Foundation  
The Frill Foundation  
GRITS Foundation  
Houston Methodist  
Ethel and Chap Hutcheson  
The International Association for Learning Disabilities  
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Margaret W. Weaver  
Meg and Dick Weekley  
Beth and Jim Wiggins

\*deceased

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