Margaret Mary Policastro, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Information

Margaret Mary Policastro, Ph.D.
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Work Address:
430 S Michigan Avenue
AUD 722
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Current Positions

Professor: Language & Literacy
Faculty Director: Metropolitan Chicago Tutoring Corps (MCTC)
Director: Literacy Leadership Program
Director and Founder: Summer Reading Clinic

Education

Ph.D.	Northwestern University	Reading and Language
M.S.	Indiana University	Reading
B.S.	Indiana University	Elementary Education & Art
	Special Training - Boston College	Learning Disabilities

Administrative Positions

2023-2026 Chair, Department of Education, College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences
2023-present Faculty Director, Metropolitan Chicago Tutoring Corps (MCTC)
2017-2022 Director: RU – ISBE IL-Empower partnership
2010-2017 Principal Investigator, Improving Teacher Quality Grant (ITQ)
2017-2023 Principal Investigator, Il-Empower ISBE Learning Partner
1998-present Director: Language and Literacy Program,
1987-present Founder and Director of the Roosevelt University Summer Reading Clinic
1993-1994 Program Director: Teacher Education Program Area
1981-1992 Founder and Director of the Learning and Support Services Program

Academic Positions

1994-present	Professor of Language and Literacy, Department of Education, Roosevelt University,
1985-1994	Associate Professor of Education, College of Education, Roosevelt University
1980-1985	Assistant Professor of Education, College of Education, Roosevelt University
2006-2010	Faculty fellow, Center for Teaching and Learning
1977-1980	Instructor, School of Education, Northwestern University
1978-1979	Teacher, One-to-One Learning Center, Wilmette, Illinois
1978-1980	Teaching Assistant to Dr. Elizabeth Sulzby, Reading and Language, Northwestern University
1978	Teaching Assistant to Dr. Rae Moses, Linguistics Department, Northwestern University
1978	Teacher, Project Upward Bound, Northwestern University
1979	Teaching Assistant to Dr. David Reed, Linguistics Department, Northwestern University
1977-1978	Supervisor-Student Teachers, School of Education, Northwestern University
1975-1977	Reading Teacher, Mary Phillips School, Mishawaka, Indiana (teaching Reading and Language Arts to grades 4, 5, and 6)
1973-1975	Art Teacher, Battele Elementary School and Mary Phillips School, Mishawaka, Indiana (teaching Art to grades 4, 5, and 6)

Editorial Advisory & Review Boards:

Georgia Journal of Literacy, Editorial Review Board. *Georgia Journal of Literacy*, is the peer-reviewed, open-access publication of the Georgia Association of Literacy Advocates (GALA) an affiliate of the International Literacy Association, October 2026-present

The Reading Teacher (RT), Journal of the International Literacy Association (ILA) Editorial Advisory Board, January 2014-2020

The Michigan Reading Journal. Journal of the International Literacy Association (ILA) Summer 2023-2026.

IRA Book Publication, Editorial Advisory Board, 2013-2015.

*Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy (*JAAL), Journal of the International Literacy Association (ILA) Editorial Advisory Board 2007-2009

Illinois Reading Council Journal (IRCJ), a publication of the Illinois Reading Council, Editorial Advisory Board, 2005-Present

ReadWriteThink.org (IRA/NCTE) Editorial Review Panel 2005-2008

Guest Reviewer for *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy,* A publication of the International Literacy Association, summer 2005-2013

Guest Reviewer for *The Reading Teacher*, A publication of the International Reading Association, September 2005-2013.

Advisory Boards: Other

American Academy of Pediatrics, Reach Out and Read of Illinois, Advisory Board Member, 2006-2010

International Literacy Association (ILA): Advisory and Committee

Program Reviewer for International Literacy Association (ILA) in conjunction with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP): 2018-present

Conference Program Reviewer: International Literacy Association (ILA), 2016-2017

Alpha Upsilon Alpha Honor Society of The International Literacy Association, Steering Committee, 2006-2008

National Book Review Panels and Consulting:

Palatine School District (CCSD) 15: Consultant to the Library Innovation Project, 2022-2023
Sage Publications: Consultant for textbook assessment development, October 2018
Sage Publications, Reviewed Leadership Textbook, April 2018
Cengage Learning, Reviewed Reading Textbook, August 2016
John Wiley and Sons Publisher, Reviewed Reading Textbook, April 2008
McGraw-Hill Higher Education, Reviewed Children's Literature Text, August 2007
Holcomb Hathaway Publishers, Reviewed Language Arts Text, April 2007
John Wiley and Sons Publishers, Reviewed Textbook, April 2005
Wiley/Josey-Bass, Reviewed textbook, February 2005,

Grants and Contracts

September 2025-present A Better Chicago and the Robert McCormick Foundation $75,000 MCTC grant

September 2024-2025 A Better Chicago (ABC) MCTC grant, $80,000

December 2024-present Lohengrin Foundation Grant for MCTC program $70,000

December 2023-present Lohengrin Foundation Grant for the MCTC program-$40,000

August 2021-July 2022, IL-Empower Learning Partner contract with Dolton School District 149, amount of contract: $150,000.

September 2021-June 2022, IL-Empower Learning Partner contract with Rantoul School District 137, amount of contract: $11,000.

August 2020-July 2021, IL-Empower Learning Partner contract with Rantoul School District 137, amount of contract: $20,000.

August 2020-July 2021, Il-Empower Learning Partner contract with Dolton School District 149, Amount of contract 142,000.

August 2019-July 2020, IL-Empower Learning Partner contract with Dolton School District 149, amount of contract: $150,00.

September 2019-July 2020, IL-Empower Learning Partner contract with Rantoul School District 137, amount of contract: $60,000.

March 2019-August 2019, IL-Empower Learning Partner contract with Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Barton Elementary School, amount of contract: $25,000.
.
March 2019-August-2019, IL-Empower Learning Partner contract with Dolton School District 149, amount of contract: $80,000.

March 2019-August 2019, IL-Empower Learning Partner contract with Rantoul School District 137, amount of contract: $20,000.

October 2018-present, Il-Empower Learning Partner Vendor for the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

November 2017, Il-Empower Learning Partner Pilot Vendor for the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

April 2016 Year Seven Funding from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Improving Teacher Quality Grant $399.658.

April 2015 Year Six funding from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) Grant $422,000.

April 2014: Year Five funding from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) Grant $358,000.

April 2013 Year Four funding from Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) Grant $353.000.

April 2012: (third year of three) Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) Grant for $295.00/

April 2011: (second year of three) Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) Grant for $295.000Title: Differentiating Professionalism in CPS: Data driven Literacy Work Groups

April 2010: Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) Grant for $295.00 Title: Differentiating Professionalism in CPS: Data driven Literacy Work Groups

2000-2005: Chicago Community Trust and Chicago Public School: CLIP and ARDDP With B. Wagner and B. McTague Literacy Grants

Grant from the Charles Levy Corporation, Advanced Whole Language Institute, Summer, 1992

Grants from The Kemper Foundation, Whole Language Institute, 1990-1991

Grants from the G.A.T.X. Corporation for the Learning and Support Service Program: July 1985, March 1984

Ray Graham Memorial Fund (C.E.C.) for the Dissemination of the SCEC Volunteer Services Handbook, 1982

Ray Graham Memorial Fund (C.E.C.) for the Development of a Volunteer Services Handbook, 1982

Dissertation Support: National Institute of Education Grant (NIE g-77-0018) for the study of the concept of a story 1980-198

Publications

Books:

Policastro, M. (2017). *Living literacy at home: A parent's guide*. Mankato, MN: Capstone Professional.

Policastro, M. M, McTague, B., & Mazeski, D. (2016). *Formative assessment in the balanced literacy classroom*. Mankato, MN: Capstone Professional.

Policastro, M. M, & McTague, B. (2015). *The new balanced literacy school: Implementing common core.* Mankato, MN: Capstone Professional.

Book Chapters:

Policastro, M.M. (2017). Celebrating the magnificent read aloud: Unlimited classroom possibilities. In Rasinski, T. and Ford, M.P. (Eds.), *Comprehensive literacy basics: An anthology* (pp.9-19). North Mankato, MN: Maupin House Publishing, Inc. by Capstone Professional.

Policastro, M.M. (1993). Assessing and developing the metacognitive attributes in college students with learning disabilities. In Vogel, S.A, and Adelman, P.B. (Eds.), *Success for college students with learning disabilities* (pp. 151-176). New York, NY: Springer-Verlag.

Policastro, M.M. (1984). The concept of a story: A comparison between children's and teachers' viewpoints. In Manol, H., Stein, N.L., and Trabasso, T. (Eds.), *Learning and Comprehension of Text*. Hillsdale, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Articles:

Policastro M.M. Frantik, N. & Kim, C. (2024). Constructing knowledge about the world through current events, *Literacy Today* Summer/Fall

Mattheis, J., Policastro, M. M., & Seick, C. (2023). Growing modern literacy skills through the library interactive read-aloud framework. *Illinois Reading Council Journal*, *52*(1), 34-xx. https://doi.org/10.33600/ircJ.52.1.2023.

Policastro, M.M. (2022). An Era of Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT): An Opportunity to Better the World, *Communicator,* Illinois Reading Council,

Policastro, M., Kimbrough, R., & Franklin, C. (2021) Balanced Literacy Goes Remote: A Model for Summer Learning Engagement. *Illinois Reading council Journal,* 49(4), 33-46.

Policastro, M.M., Mazeski, D. Wach, N. Kerzman, H. (2020). Conversation centers: Giving students voice and choice in the balanced literacy classroom. *Illinois Reading Council Journal,* 48 (3), 39-48.

Policastro, M.M., Mazeski, D., Wach, N. & Magers, T. (2019). Getting to know our students: The heart of differentiation in the balanced literacy classroom. *Illinois Reading council Journal,* 47(4), 19-28.

Policastro, M.M., Mazeski, D., & Wach, N. (2018). Moving toward a justice-driven curriculum in the balanced literacy classroom. *Illinois Reading Council Journal,* 46(4), 28-36.

Policastro, M.M. (2018). Creating collaborative balanced literacy schools: A framework for implementation. *Illinois Reading Council Journal*, 46(2), 16-24.

Policastro, M.M. (2017). Creating collaborative balanced literacy schools through systems of change. *Planning and Change.*

Policastro, M.M. (2016-2017). Discourse: The importance of talk in the balanced literacy classroom. *Illinois Reading Council Journal*, 45(1), 3-11.

Policastro, M..M, and McTague, B. (2016)
The Power of Formative Assessment in the College Classroom. *Roosevelt University Assessment Newsletter*

Policastro, M.M. (2015). Word Walls to Language Walls: A Natural Evolution in the Balanced Literacy Classroom. *Wisconsin State Reading Association Journal,* 53(1).

Policastro, M.M., McTague, B., Mazeski, D. (2015).The Power of Formative Assessment. *Illinois Communicator of the Illinois Reading Council Journal.*

Policastro, M.M. (2015)**.** Word Walls to Language Walls: A Natural Evolution in the Balanced Literacy Classroom. *Illinois Reading Council Journal,* 43(3).

Policastro, M.M. and McTague, B. (2014). Four Strategies for Implementing CCSS in the Balanced Literacy Classroom. Capstone, 2015.

Policastro, M.M., McTague, B., Mazeski, D. (2010-2011, Winter). Creating the Parent Library: Enhancing Family Literacy through Access to Books. *Illinois Reading Council Journal*, 39(1).

Policastro, M.M, McTague, B., and Oberg De La Garza, T. (2013, April). Exploring Student Engagement: What students tell us about indicators for student success. *Roosevelt University Mini-Conference on Teaching* (RUMCOT), 9.

Policastro, M.M. (2010, October). Differentiating Instruction at the College Level: Gathering the Life Story. *Roosevelt University Mini-Conference on Teaching* (RUMCOT), 7.

Policastro, M.M (2008, October). Teaching for the World of Teams: Team-Based Learning as Best Practice. *Roosevelt University Mini-Conference on Teaching* (RUMCOT), 4.

Policastro, M.M. (2008). The Faculty-Trustee: Bridging two worlds. *Trusteeship* of the *Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges*.

Policastro, M.M. (2008). The Bedtime story. *Illinois Reach out and Read: American Academy of Pediatrics.*

Policastro, M.M. (2006). Celebrating Life through the Story. *Roosevelt Review,* 11 (3).

Policastro, M.M. (2006). A Year with Ken Bain: Teaching as Distinctive Scholarship. *Roosevelt University Mini-Conference on Teaching* (RUMCOT), 3.

Professional review of a textbook, *Journal of Reading*, April 1991."A Training Manual for Adult Reading and Writing Tutors," ERIC Clearinghouses on Reading and Communication Skills, ED 301 850, May 1989.

"Decision Stories: A Tool for Developing the Problem-Solving Skills of Learning-Disabled Adolescents," *The Pointer*, fall, 1988.

Professional review of a textbook, *The Reading Teacher*, December 1987.

Professional reviews of comprehension materials, *Journal of Reading*, December 1985.

"What's Happening: Predicting Before, During and After the Picture," The Classroom Teacher of *The Reading Teacher*, May 1985.

"Exceptional Activities for Preservice Teachers through a Student Council for Exceptional children Chapter," *ICEC Quarterly*, spring, 1984.

"The Council for Exceptional Children: Starting a Student Chapter at Roosevelt University," *The Dean's Grant Monograph*, 1981.

"The Concept of a Story: Similarities and Differences between Children and Teachers," Doctoral dissertation, Northwestern University, 1981.

"An Integrated Curriculum in Reading and Art Education, Masters Thesis, Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University, 1976.

Reviews of Instructional textbooks, tradebooks, and supplementary materials in Reading and Language Arts for the *Journal of Curriculum Review*. Issues with Published Reviews: October 1987, May 1986, November 1986, January/February 1986, November

1985, May 1985 (two reviews), November 1984, October 1982, January 1982, November 1981, November 1980, December 1979, August 1979.

Key Note Addresses, Invited Presentations, In-Service Professional Development and Webinars

Policastro, M.M. (September, 2026). *Belonging: Why it Matters.* Professional development for Metropolitan Chicago Tutoring Corps (MCTC) Fall conference. Roosevelt University, Chicago, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. & Cook, H.(March 2023). *50 Book Talks that Rock: A Revolution for Change.* In-service Kane County Regional Office of Education Institute Day. St. Charles, Illinois

Policastro, M.M. (March, 2023). *Celebrating Women's History with Nonfiction, Culturally Relevant and Socially Just Texts.*In-service professional development for the library innovation project, CCSD 15, Palatine, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (January, 2023). *The Best of the Best: Children's Literature 2022: Celebrating Culturally Relevant and Justice Driven Texts,* In-service professional development for school improvement, Lake Louise School, CCSD 15, Palatine, Illinois.

Policastro, M,M. (March 2022) *Inquiry-Based Learning in the Library Innovation Project,* in-service professional development presentation, Community Consolidated School District 15, Palatine, Illinois

Policastro, M.M. (March 2022) . Keynote address, *Culturally Responsive Teaching in the Balanced Literacy Classroom.* Dolton School District 149. Dolton, Illinois

Policastro, M.M.(April, 2022). *Speaking up for Change in the Balanced Literacy Classroom.* Institute Day presentation. Dolton School District, 149. Dolton Illinois

Policastro, M.M. (May 2022). *How to Leverage Books in the School Library for School-wide Collaboration.* In-service professional development for School Improvement Day, CCSD 15, Palatine, Illinois

Policastro, M.M. (August, 2022). *The Future of School Libraries and Modern Literacies,* In-service professional development for school improvement day, CCSD 15, Palatine, Illinois

Policastro, M.M. (October 2022). *Discourse Strategies in the School Library,* in-service professional development for school improvement, CCSD 15, Palatine, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (December, 2022) *The Best of the Best: in Children's Literature: Celebrating Culturally Relevant and Justice Driven Texts,* In-service professional development for school improvement, CCSD 15 Palatine, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (August, 2020.) *Getting to Know Our Students Remotely: The Heart of Differentiated Instruction in the Balanced Literacy Classroom*. Key Note address, Dolton School District 149. Dolton, Illinois

Policastro, M.M.(February 2021.) *Turning the Corner with Balanced Literacy.* Institute Day presentation. Dolton School District, 149. Dolton Illinois

Policastro, M.M. (2019, October 23) *Access to books: Classroom libraries and bookrooms in the literacy workshop.* South Bend Community School Corporation.

Policastro, M.M. (2019, September 27) *Student feedback: A powerful best practice.* College of Pharmacy, Roosevelt University, Schaumburg, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (2019, August 16) *Getting to know our students: The heart of differentiated instruction in the balanced literacy classroom.* Institute Day Keynote address, Dolton District 149, Dolton, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (2019, August 14) *What is Balanced Literacy?* Keynote address, Rantoul City Schools, Rantoul, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (2019, August 5) *Best practices in literacy: A framework for instruction.* Keynote address, South Bend Community School Corporation, South Bend, Indiana.

Policastro, M.M. (2019, April, 23) *Balanced literacy: The big picture, literacy teams, capacity building and summer reading.* Rantoul City Schools, District leadership professional development. Rantoul, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (2019, April 12) *What is balanced literacy? A kick-off workshops.* Institute day professional development, Dolton School District 149, Dolton, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (2019, March 3) Developing literacy well-bring for every child. Rediscover Roosevelt University, Alumni event. Chicago, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (2019, March 23) *Exploring the literate environment in the balanced literacy classroom: The classroom library.* Professional development workshop, Barton Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (2019, March 18) *What does capacity building look like in a balanced literacy school?* Professional development workshop for Dolton School District principals. Dolton, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (2019, March 12) *What is balanced literacy? A kick-off workshops.* Professional development workshop, Barton Elementary School. Chicago, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (2019, February) *Developing literacy well-being through balanced literacy and formative assessment.* Science Academy of Chicago, Mt. Prospect, Il.

Peterson, K. & Policastro, M.M. (2018, November) *Pharmacy Education: What is it?* Faculty presentation. Roosevelt University, College of Pharmacy, Schaumburg, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (2018, October) *Powerful formative assessment across the curriculum.* Science Academy of Chicago, Mt. Prospect, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (2018, August). *Powerful balanced literacy across the content areas.* Science Academy of Chicago, Mt Prospect, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (2018, February) *Powerful Balanced Literacy: Instructional Strategies to Increase Students' Reading and Writing Skills (Grades K-2).* Institute for Educational Development. Cherry Hill, N.J.

Policastro, M.M. (2018, February) *Powerful Balanced Literacy: Instructional Strategies to Increase Students' Reading and Writing Skills (Grades K-2).* Institute for Educational Development. Newark N.J.

Policastro, M.M. (2018, March) *Powerful Balanced Literacy: Instructional Strategies to Increase Students' Reading and Writing Skills (Grades K-2).* Institute for Educational Development. Albany, N.Y.

Policastro, M.M. (2018, March) *Powerful Balanced Literacy: Instructional Strategies to Increase Students' Reading and Writing Skills (Grades K-2).* Institute for Educational Development. Manchester, NH.,

Policastro, M.M. (2018, February & March) *Powerful Balanced Literacy: Instructional Strategies to Increase Students' Reading and Writing Skills (Grades K-2).* Institute for Educational Development. Portland, ME.

Policastro, M.M. & McTague, B. (2017, October). *The Power of Formative Assessment in the Balanced Literacy Classroom: Transforming the Literacy Lives of Children and Teachers.* Key Note address at the Illinois Reading Council Conference. Peoria, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & McTague, B. (2017, October). *Strategies for Providing Formative Feedback as a Powerful Learning Tool in the Balanced Literacy Classroom.* Featured key note speaker at the Illinois Reading Council Conference. Peoria, Il.

Policastro, M.M. & McTague, B. (2017, October). *Metacognitive Strategies: Students Self-Monitoring During Balanced Literacy Lessons.* Featured key note speaker at the Illinois Reading Council Conference, Peoria, il.

Policastro, M.M (2017, August). *2010-2017: Creating Collaborative Balanced Literacy Schools*. Key Note address at The Best of Balanced Literacy and Formative Assessment Practices Conference, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M (2017, August). *Formative Assessment in the Balanced Literacy Classroom*. Lecture presented at The Best of Balanced Literacy and formative Assessment Practices Conference, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M (2017,March). *Challenges, Strategies and Strength of Assessment in the Balanced Literacy Classroom.* Lecture presented at the Capstone Classic Literacy Conference, Schaumburg, IL.

Policastro, M.M (2017, March). *Implementing a Whole School Balanced Literacy Model*. Lecture presented at Capstone Literacy Classic Conference, Roosevelt University, Schaumburg, IL.

Policastro, M.M (2017, March). *Formative Assessment in the Balanced Literacy Classroom*. Lecture presented at Capstone Literacy Classic Conference, Roosevelt University, Schaumburg, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2017, February). *Balanced Literacy and Formative Assessment: Where are you Now and Where do you want to be?* Presented at the IBHE Professional Development Workshop, Chicago, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (2017, January) *What Does a Super Reader Look Like in the Balanced Literacy Classroom?* IBHE Professional Development Workshop, Chicago, Il.

Policastro, M.M (2016, November). *What Does Formative Assessment Feedback Student to Student Look Like in the Balanced literacy Classroom?* Presented at the IBHE Leadership Professional Development Workshop, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. and Levin, M. (2016, November). *Reviewing Formative Assessment in the New Balanced Literacy Classroom*. In-service workshop presented at John Dore School, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M.(2016, September). *Creating Collaborative Balanced Literacy Schools: 7 Systems of Change*. Presented at the IBHE Symposium Conference, Illinois State University, Bloomington-Normal, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2016, September) *What Does Formative Re-engagement Look Like in the Balanced Literacy Classroom?* Presented at an IBHE Professional Development Workshop, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2016, August). *Roles and Responsibilities for the Balanced Literacy Teacher Leader (BLTL).* Presented at an IBHE Professional Development Workshop held at Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2016, June). *Summer Institute: Formative Assessment in the New Balanced Literacy Classroom.* KeyPresented at the Professional Development for the Read by Grade Three Learning Strategists, Clark County School district, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Policastro, M.M. (2016, May). *Formative Assessment in the New Balanced Literacy Classroom*. Presented for the Delaware Department of Education, Dover, DE.

Policastro, M.M. (2016, April). *Formative Assessment in the New Balanced Literacy Classroom: Read by Grade Three Initiative.* Clark County School District, Las Vegas, NV.

Policastro, M.M. & McTague, B. (2016, April). *Formative Assessment or Formative Teaching?* Presented at Roosevelt University Mini-Conference on Teaching (RUMCOT), Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2016, January). *The 4 in 1 Literacy Block in the New Balanced Literacy Classroom*. Presented at IBHE Grant Professional Development Workshop. Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2015, November). *Creating a Balanced Literacy School: A Teacher Tool-kit*. Presented at Clissold Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (2015, November). *Moving Forward with Formative Assessment*. Presented at IBHE Professional Development Workshop at Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2015, November*). Forging a Path to Success with Formative Assessment*. Presented at Clark County School District, Las Vegas, NV.

Policastro, M.M. (2015, September). *Balanced Literacy, Common Core and Formative Assessment*. Presented at IBHE Kick-off Professional Development Workshop at Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M., McTague, B., & Mazeski, D. (2015, September). *Formative Assessment: Classroom Strategies that Work.* A webinar sponsored by Capstone Professional, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2015, May). *The Balanced Literacy School: Implementing Common Core Professional.* Presented at a Professional Development Workshop, Alma, Kansas.

Policastro, M.M. (2015, March). *Thematic Units of Study in the Balanced Literacy Classroom.* Presented at an IBHE Grant Professional Development Workshop at Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M., Ford, M., McTague, B., & Shaal, J. (2015, February). *Expert Panel Discussion: Formative Assessment.* A presentation sponsored by Capstone Professional, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2015, January). *What does Formative Assessment look like in a Balanced Literacy Classroom?* IBHE Grant Professional Development Workshop at Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2014, November). *The Power of Formative Feedback in the Balanced Literacy Classroom.* IBHE Professional Development Workshop at Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M., Boyles, N., Feaman, L., & Gelderman, N. (2014, October). *Personalized Instruction*. Expert panel discussion: A webinar sponsored by Capstone Professional, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2014, September). *Creating a Balanced Literacy School: Implementing common Core.* Professional Development Workshop for Chicago Public Schools, Network 13, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2014, July). *Formative Assessment: Collection, Feedback and Monitoring.* IBHE Grant Professional Development workshop at Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2014, May). *Summer Reading Initiatives*. An IBHE Grant Professional Development Workshop, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M & McTague, B. (2014, May). *Do you know how to align balanced literacy with common core: Strategies for making it work?* A webinar sponsored by Capstone Professional, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2014, April). *Formative Assessment: Keys to Differentiating Instruction in a Balanced Literacy Classroom.* An IBHE Grant Professional Development Workshop presented at Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2015, January). *What does Formative Assessment look like in a Balanced Literacy Classroom?* An IBHE Grant Professional Development Workshop at Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2013, December). *What Does Close Reading Look Like in a Balanced Literacy Classroom?* IBHE Grant Professional Development Workshop, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2013, September). *What Does Capacity Building Look Like in a Balanced Literacy School*? An IBHE Kick-Off Professional Development Symposium, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2013, July). *The New Guided Reading: Guiding Language into Reading*. An IBHE Grant Summer Professional Development Workshop, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2013, July). *The New Read-Alouds: Implementing Common Core.* An IBHE Grant Summer Professional Development Workshop, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2013, June). *What Does Common Core Look Like In a Balanced Literacy School?* A Professional Development in-service presented at Our Lady of the Wayside School, Arlington Heights, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2013, June). *Summer Reading Initiatives (SRI): Making Sure all Our Children Read Over the Summer.* An IBHE all grant schools professional development workshop presented at Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2013, March). *Creating a Balanced Literacy School, Kick-off Workshop*, Presented at Christ the King School, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2013, March). *What Does Common Core Look Like in a Balanced Literacy School: 6 Instructional Shifts for CCSS.* An IBHE Grant Professional Development Workshop, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2013, February). *What Does a Balanced Literacy Classroom Look Like: Creating the Literate Environment?* An in-service Professional Development workshop presented at St. Bede's of the Venerable School, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2012, December). *What Does Leadership Look Like in a Balanced Literacy School?* An IBHE Grant Principal Leadership Workshop. Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2012, September*). Creating a Balanced Literacy School: Kick-Off Workshop.* An in-service workshop presented at St.Bedes of the Venerable, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2012, May). *Creating a Balanced Literacy School: Kick off workshop*. An in-service workshop presented at Our Lady of the Wayside School, Arlington Heights, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2011, January). *Social Justice in Action: Retention, Persistence and Graduation.* Faculty Forum presented at Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2011, August). *Creating the Literate Environment*. An in-service workshop presented at St. Luke School, River forest, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2011, March). *Creating a Balanced Literacy School: Data Driven Literacy Centers and Guided Reading*. An in-service professional development, St Luke School, River Forest, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2011, February). *Creating a Balanced Literacy School: A Teacher Tool-kit.* An in-service workshop presented at St Luke School, River Forest, IL.

Policastro, M.M., Mazeski, D., McTague, D. & Marquini-Peterson, M. (2011, March). *Getting to Guided Learning and Reading: Differentiated and Small Group Instruction.* Presented at Fermi School, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M., & Marquini-Peterson, M. (2010, December). *Literacy Centers to Guided Reading: A Balanced Literacy Approach to Differentiated Instruction*. Presented at Dumas Technology Academy, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M., Mazeski, D., McTague, D. & Marquini-Peterson, M. (2010, November*). Constructing Data Driven Literacy Centers*. Presented at Dumas Technology Academy and Fermi Schools, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & McTague, B. (2010, September). *Balanced Literacy*. Presented at Dumas Technology Academy, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2010, February). *Differentiated Instruction: Prior knowledge, life stories and lesson alignment.* An in-service presentation at Beacon Junior High, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2010, February). *Writing for Life: The Memoir*. In-service presented at East Maine Schools District 63, Des Plaines, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2009, April). *Literacy Rich Waiting Room.* Invited presentation, American Academy of Pediatrics, Reach Out and Read Conference, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2009, October). *Vocabulary and Best Practice* Instruction. Presented at In-service East Maine Schools District 63, Des Plaines, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2008, November). *The Development of the Davis School Parent Library.* Presented to Area 10 Literacy Coaches, CLIP Grant, Davis School, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2007, January). *Adventures into the Zapata Academy Library: Framework and Structure for Success.* Presented to Area 10 Literacy Coaches, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2007, January). *Adventures into Book Club*. Presented to the Literacy Coaches, Areas 10. Ruiz School, Chicago, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (2006, March). *Adventures into Literacy Centers Workshop.* Presented to the Lead Literacy Teachers for ARDP Literacy Grant, Ravenswood School, Chicago, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (2005, September). *Test Prep Strategies within Best Practice Curriculum*. In-service Staff Development, Pickard School, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2005, January). *Managing Book Clubs: Finding and Organizing Books*. Instructing and Assessing Workshop presented at Piecing Together a Literacy Quilt, Winter Retreat, Oakbrook, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2004, January). *Book club as the novel way to teach it all.* Workshop presentation at the Creating a Literacy Quilt: Winter Retreat, Oakbrook, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2004, March). *The Art of Personal memoir: The Development of Self-efficacy Through Stories we Read, Listen to, Write and Tell.* Faculty Research Presentation, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2003, March). *Metacognition: Self-coaching, self-efficacy and self-observation. Preparing Excellent Reading Teachers.* Presented at the 24th annual Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association Statewide Conference, Oak-Brook, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2011, January). *Metacognition and Self-coaching: Preparing Tutors to be Excellent Reading Teacher Coaches*. Presented at the Illinois Literacy Volunteers of America Annual Conference, Challenge and Commitment: Literacy in the 21st Century, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2001, January). *Test Preparation Curriculum*. Professional Staff Development in Reading, Zapata Academy, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2000-2001). *Faculty Fellow, Gear-Up Program*. Chicago Public Schools, Reading Consultant, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2000, October). *Metacognition; Self-observation, Self-questioning, and Self-coaching. Where are we with knowing about thought?* Illinois Branch of the International Dyslexia Association, Fourteenth Annual Conference, Oakbrook, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1998-2000). *Creation of Teacher Book Club at Pritzker School*. Weekly Professional In service, Funded by the Annenberg Grant, Chicago, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (1999, September). *Meeting the Needs of the Disabled Student in the College Classroom.* Faculty Workshop Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1999, July). *Book Club: A Model for the Balanced Literacy Classroom*. Presented at Riley School. Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1999, January). *The Perfect Balance: Book Club in a Literature Based Program*. Presented at Maine Township District Institute Day, Des Plaines, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (1997, January). *Integrating Test Scores with Instruction.* Presented at Falkner School, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1996, November). *Teaching Reading across All content Areas*. Presented at Kelly High School, Chicago, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (1996, February). *Integrating Literature across the Curriculum*. Presented at St. Sympharosa School, Chicago, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (1995, September). *New Trends in Education. Partners in Education Conference for Elementary and Secondary School Organization.* Sponsored by The Archdiocese of Chicago, Rosemont, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1993, March). *Strategies for Parents: Helping your child Develop Better Reading, Writing and Thinking Skills*. Presented at Governors State University Parent's Day, Chicago, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (1993, October). *Helping Children Develop Self-Talk Strategies: Questioning Techniques for Better Reading, Writing and Thinking.* Presented at the district-wide in-service, Tinley Park, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1993, April-June). *Professional development morning workshops and classroom individual work for teachers.* Burns Elementary School, Chicago, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (1993, March). *Post-Secondary Point of View: Expectations of Students that Enter Roosevelt University with a Specific Learning Disability*. District 113, Highland Park, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1991, March). *Comprehensive Support and Remediation Programs Available to Assist the Learning-Disabled College Student.* Illinois Association of college Admissions Counselors Professional Development Seminar, Rockford, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1992, March). *Whole Language.* Presented at an in-service for St. Ignatius Elementary School, Chicago, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (1992, January). *Written Language Comes Alive: Bringing the Life of the Learner to Writing*. NSSED, Highland Park, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1992, February). *Whole Language One Year Later.* Burns Elementary School, Chicago, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (1991, March). *Whole Language and the Learning Disabled.* Presented at Miner School, Arlington Heights, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1991, March). *Whole Language*. Presented at Boone elementary School, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1991, February). *Whole Language.* Presented at St. Raymond School, Mt. Prospect, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1991, February). *Strategies for the Learning Disabled*. Presented at Began High School, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1991, February). *Whole Language*. Presented at Burns Elementary School, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1990, October). *Whole Language.* Presented for the Approach Project Canal: Creating a New Approach to learning, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1990, April). *Assessing Metacognitive Attributes of College Students with Learning Disabilities.* Presented at Brat College conference on College Students with Learning Disabilities, Lake Forest, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1988, October). *The Metacognition Model for Assessing Learning Disabled Students*. Presented at Highland Park School District In-service, Highland Park, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (1988, September). *Reading and Writing across the Junior High School Curriculum.* Presented at Washburn Junior High In -service, Winnetka Public Schools, Winnetka, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (1998, February). *Utilizing Metacognition Skills and Problem Solving Across the Curriculum.* Presented at North Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1988, October). *Reading Strategies for Working with High School Students.* Presented at Northern Trust Bank Volunteer Tutor Program, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1988, June). *Understanding the Learning-Disabled Act.* Presented at Northern Area Adult Education Service, Chicago City College, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1988, April). *The Development of Metacognitive Attributes for the Disabled Reader.* Presented at the Annual Spring Conference of the Orton Dyslexia Society, Illinois Branch, Oakbrook, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (1987, September). *Exploring Thinking Skills across the Curriculum*. Presented at an in-service at St. Raymond School, Mt. Prospect, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1986, June). *Writing Across the Curriculum for L.D. College Students*. Presented at Loop City College, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1986, March). *Integrating the Language Experience Approach with the Basal Reader.* Presented for School District 62, Des Plaines, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1986, March). *Writing as Problem-Solving: Activities for the Classroom.* Presented for North Lake School District, Medina, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1986, May). *Reading, Testing and Assessment for the New Adult Reader.* Presented at Chicago Literacy Provider's Conference, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1986, October). *Meeting the Needs of the Learning-Disabled College Student*. Presented at The Annual Meeting of the Chicago Association for Citizens with Learning Disabilities, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1985, March). *The World of Books and Stories.* Presented at The Illinois State Kindergarten Conference, Lombard, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1985, February). *Writing as Problem Solving for Learning Disabled College Students.* Presented at The Illinois Division of Learning Disabilities Annual Conference, DePaul University, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1984, October). *Developing Reading Strategies for the Learning Disabled*. Presented at The Chicago Reading Association's Fall Conference, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1984, February). *Generating Interest, Motivation and Ideas for Student Council for Exceptional Children Activities*. Presented at The Eastern Illinois University State Meeting, Chicago, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (1983, October). *Identifying, Understanding and Overcoming Learning Disabilities.* Presented at The Regional Conference for Literacy Volunteers, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1982, October). *Developing Reading Strategies for the Handicapped and Learning Disabled.* Presented at The Chicago Area Reading Association's Silver Anniversary Fall Conference, Chicago, IL.

Papers Presented: International, National, and Regional

Policastro, M.M., Wach, N. *High-Impact Literacy Tutoring & Teaching: Interventions and Strategies for Moving Underperforming Students Forward.:* Paper presented at the Michigan Reading Conference, March 8th, 2026, Lansing, Michigan. (This session was repeated twice due to the high demand).

Policastro, M.M., Wach, N *High-Impact Strategies for Moving Underperforming Students Forward.* Paper presented at the Illinois Reading Council Conference, March 13th, 2026, Springfield, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M., Wach, N. *Strategies to Boost Tutor Effectiveness.* Workshop training for Chicago Hopes for Kids in service professional development. Roosevelt University, March 23, 2026.

Policastro, M.M., Wach, N. & Cook, H. *EnHighhancing Literacy Interventions to Move Students Forward: Strategies for Tutoring Underperforming Students.* Paper presented at the Illinois Reading Council Conference, March 14th, 2025, Springfield, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M., Wach, N. & Cook, H. *High-Impact Literacy Tutoring: Interventions and Strategies for Moving Underperforming Students Forward.* Paper presented at the Illinois Reading Council Conference, March 8th, 2025, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Policastro, M.M., Wach, N. & Cook, H. *25 Culturally Relevant Read-Alouds that Motivate Students into Reading and Writing.* Paper presented at the Illinois Reading Council Conference, March 9th, 2025, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Policastro, M.M., Wach, N. & Cook, H. *Moving Students Forward: Interventionist Strategies for Tutoring Underperforming Students.* Paper presented at the Illinois Reading Council Conference, March 14th, 2024, Springfield, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M., Wach, N. & Cook, H. *25 Book Talks that Rock: Culturally Responsive and Relevant Books to Change the World.* March 15th 2024, Springfield, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. & Wach, N. *Why student agency matters: Promoting and developing agency across the curriculum.* Paper presented at the Wisconsin State Reading Association annual conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin February 10th, 2024.

Policastro, M.M., Matthias, J. & McVey, R. *Linking learning to the future: Your school library and the LIRA framework.* Paper presented at the American Association of School Librarians. October 22, 2023, Tampa Bay, Florida.

Policastro, M.M. & Wach, N. *25 Books that rock: Culturally responsive and relevant books to change the world.* Paper presented at the annual Michigan Reading Association Conference, March 20th, 2023, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Policastro, M.M. & Cook, H. *Leveraging nonfiction books: A rise to action in the beloved school community.* Paper presented at the annual Michigan Reading Association Conference, March 19th, 2023, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Policastro, M.M. Wach, N. & Cook, H. *50 book talks that rock" A revolution of informational texts for change.* Paper presented at the Illinois Reading Council Conference, March 9, 2023.

Policastro, M.M. & Franklin, C. *Why student agency matters: Developing student agency across the literacy block.* Paper presented at the Illinois Reading Council Conference, March 10th, 2023, Springfield, Illinois

Policastro, M.M. Kimbrough, R. & Franklin, C. *Coaching into balanced literacy: A model for promoting collaborative efficacy school-wide.* Paper presented at the Illinois Reading Council annual conference, Springfield, Illinois, March 8, 2022.

Policastro, M.M. & Rubach, L. *Building a Balanced Literacy School from the Ground Up. Paper presented at the Illinois Reading Council Conference, Springfield, Illinois. March 9, 2022.*

Policastro, M.M. et.al *Building a Collaborative District: Dolton School District 149.*

Paper presented at the ESSA/Multilingual Illinois combined virtual conference. February 23, 2022

Policastro, M.M. & Sacuta, S. (2020, March 6). *The Bedtime Story Project: The Path to the Interactive Read Aloud in the Balanced Literacy Classroom.* Paper presented at the 39th Annual ILASCD Statewide Conference for Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Educators, Schaumburg, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Wood, D. (2019, October 11). *Powerful reading and writing feedback in real time: Strategies to move students forward across the curriculum.* Paper presented at the International Literacy Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, La.

Policastro, M.M. & Wood, D. (2019, October 3) *Powerful strategies for promoting literacy well-being throughout the balanced literacy classroom and school.* Paper presented as the 53nd Illinois Reading Council Conference, Peoria, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (2018, July 22). *The new balanced literacy school: Engaging instruction for student achievement schoolwide.* Paper presented at the International Literacy Association Annual Conference, Austin, TX.

Policastro, M.M. Mazeski, D. McTague, B. Wood, D. & Jones, C. (2017, July 15). *Formative Assessment as a Powerful Learning Tool in the Balanced Literacy Classroom and School*. Paper presented at the International Literacy Associations Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.

Policastro, M.M. (2016, September 29). *Family Engagement: Family Literacy in the Balanced Literacy School.* Paper presented at the Illinois Reading Council Annual Conference, Peoria, IL.

Policastro, M.M., McTague, B., Mazeski, D. (2015). *The Power of Formative Assessment in the New Balanced Literacy School*, In M.M. Policastro, B. McTague, and D. Wood at the Illinois Reading Council Annual conference, September 30th, 2016,

Policastro, M.M. (2016, July 12*). Living Literacy At Home.* Paper presented for Capstone presentation at the International Literacy Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA.

Policastro, M.M., McTague, B., Mazeski, D., & Wood, D. (2016, July 12). *The Power of Formative Assessment in the Balanced Literacy School and Classroom: Transforming the Literacy Lives of Children and Teachers.* Paper presented at the International Literacy Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA.

Policastro, M.M., McTague, B., Mazeski, D., & Wood, D. (2015, October). *Creating the New Balanced Literacy School*. Paper presented at the Illinois Reading Council Annual Conference, Peoria, Illinois, October, 2015.

Policastro**,** M.M. (2015, October, 3). *Word Walls to Language Walls: The Natural Evolution in the Balanced Literacy Classroom.* Paper presented at the Illinois Reading Council Annual Conference, Peoria, IL.

Policastro, M.M., McTague, B., & Mazeski, D. (2015, July 19). *Creating the New Balanced Literacy School: Implementing Common Core.* Paper presented at the International Literacy Association Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO.

Policastro, M.M., & McTague, B. (2014, November). *Telling our Story: Creating Collaborative Balanced Literacy Schools.* Paper presented at the National Council of Teachers of English Conference, National Harbor, Maryland.

Policastro, M.M., McTague, B., & Roth, S. (2014, May 13). *An Asset Based Approach to Instructional Reform (Common Core or otherwise).*Paper presented at the 59th Annual International Reading Association conference, New Orleans, LA.

Policastro, M.M., & McTague, B. (2014, May 12). *The New Balanced Literacy School: Implementing Common Core.* (Sponsored session by Capstone Professionals) Paper presented at the 59th Annual International Reading Association conference, New Orleans, LA.

Policastro, M.M., & Meyers, S. (2014, April 12). *The Faculty Trustee: Understanding Roles and Responsibilities*. Paper presented at the Association of Governing Boards annual conference on Trusteeship, Orlando, FL.

Policastro, M.M., McTague, & B., Mazeski, D. (2014, March 13). *Creating New Elements with CCSS: Word Walls to Language Walls and Literacy Centers.* Paper presented at the Illinois Reading Council Spring Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M., McTague, & B., Mazeski, D. (2014, March 13). *Creating the New Balanced Literacy School: Implementing the Common Core.* Paper presented at the Illinois Reading Council spring Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2013, October 17). *The New Balanced Literacy School: Implementing CCSS*. Paper presented at the IBHE State Wide Symposium, Illinois State University, Bloomington, IL.

Policastro, M.M., McTague, B. & Sanders, P. (2013, April 21). *Creating a Common Core Balanced Literacy School: Celebrating teachers that make a difference.* Paper presented at the 58th Annual International Reading Association Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Policastro, M.M., & McTague, B. (2013, March 14). *Creating a Balanced Literacy School: A Framework for school-wide implementation.* Paper presented at the Annual Illinois Reading Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Marburger, J. (2013, March 14). *Creating a Balanced Literacy Middle School.* Paper presented at the Annual Illinois Reading Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M., McTague, Levin, M., & B., Mazeski, D. (2013, March 14). *Common Core and Read Alouds: A new twist.* Paper presented at the Annual Illinois Reading Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M., Kellemeyen, L., & Reynolds, C. (2012, October 26). *New Twists on Qualitative methodologies: Digital photos as data sources.* Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Evaluation Association. Minneapolis, MN.

Policastro, M.M. (2012, October 2). *Creating Balanced Literacy Schools with the Common Core State Standards.* Paper presented at the IBHE State Wide Symposium, Edwardsville, IL.

Policastro, M.M., Mazeski, D., Peterson, M., Sanders, P., & Wach, N. (2012, May). *Creating a balanced Literacy School: The dynamic duo between the Literacy Team and Grade level Teams for school wide success in literacy*. Paper presented at the 57th Annual International Reading Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M., Kellemeyen, L., & Hood, L. (2011, November). *Telling Our Story: School transformation documented through an ethnographic photo gallery*. Paper presented at the Annual conference of the American Evaluation Association, Anaheim, CA.

Policastro, M.M., McTague, B., & Richek, P. (2011, May). *Literacy Teams for Faculty: A Key to School Improvement*. Paper presented at the International Reading Association, Orlando, FL.

Policastro, M.M., & Ostry, R. (2011, March 17-19). *Differentiating Professional Development: Data Driven Teams to Create and Sustain a Balanced Literacy School.* Paper presented at the 42nd Annual Illinois Reading Council Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M., Mazeski, D., & Wach, N. (2011, March 17-19). *Writing for Life: The Art of Personal Memoir*. Paper presented at the 42nd Annual Illinois Reading Council Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M., Mazeski, D., & Wach, N. (2010, March 18-20*). Documenting Our Life Stories through Constructivism: The Constructivist Story Journal.* Paper presented at the 42nd Annual Illinois Reading Council Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M., Mazeski, D., & Wach, N. (2009, March 19-21). *Igniting the Possibilities of Multiple School Libraries: Creating and Developing Access to books.* Paper presented at the 41st Annual Illinois Reading Council Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M., Middleton, C., & Mitchell, J. (2008, April 18). *The Faculty Trustee*. Presented at the National Conference of Trusteeship of the Association of Governing Boards. Boston, MA.

Policastro, M.M. & Mazeski, D. (2008, March 12-15). *Access to Books: Creating and Unleashing the Power of Multiple Libraries within Schools for Exemplary Reading program.* Paper presented at the 40th Annual Illinois Reading Council Conference, Springfield, Il.

Policastro, M.M. & Mazeski, D. (2007, March 15-17). *Celebrating the Confluence of Stories at Home and School: Bedtime Memoirs and Read Aloud*. Paper presented at the 39th Annual Illinois Reading Council Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M., Reid, P., Hendry, M., & Gersten, K. (2006, October 21-24). *University and Community Partnership through Education Programming: Challenges and Successes*. Paper presented at the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities Conference (CUMU), Miami, FL.

Policastro, M.M. (2006, May 2). *Together We Can: Uniting Parents and Teachers for Literacy Success with K. Barclay.* Paper presented at the 51st Annual convention of the International Reading Association, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Mazeski, D. (2006, March 16). *Celebrating the Story Rich Classroom: The endless possibilities*. Paper presented at the 38th Annual Illinois Reading Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Mazeski, D. (2003, March 26). *Who Am I? Come Read and Write with Me The Art of Personal memoir.* Paper presented at the 35th Annual Illinois Reading Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Mazeski, D. (2002, March 16). *Memoir as Life: A Critical Investigation of the Story in Best Practice Curriculum.* Paper presented at the Annual Illinois Reading Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Mazeski, D. (2001, March 15). *So Many Ways to Tell Stories: The Art of Personal Memoir.* Paper presented at the Annual Illinois Reading Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Mazeski, D. (2000, May). *Engaging Adolescent Readers and Writers.* Paper presented at the 45th Annual International Reading Association Convention, Indianapolis, IN.

Policastro, M.M. (2000, May). *The Box is Me: Engaging Adolescent Readers & Writers.* Paper presented at the 45th Annual International Reading Association Convention, Indianapolis, IN.

Policastro, M.M. & Mazeski, D. (2000, March). *The Box is Me: the History of Personal Memoir as it Relates to Reading Comprehension, the Writing of Memoir and the Appreciation of Self through an Art Connection.* Paper presented at the annual Illinois Reading Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1994, November 6). *Self-Assessment and Metacognition: A Critical Component to Promoting and Enhancing Literacy for Tomorrow's Active Learners.* Paper presented at The 38th Annual Conference, College Reading Association, New Orleans, LA.

Policastro, M.M. (1993, November) *Voice Dialogue as Self-Assessment: Creating New Self-Assessment Possibilities for Active Literacy.* Paper presented at The 37th Annual Meeting of the College of Reading Association, Richmond, VA.

Policastro, M.M. (1993, November). *One Self-Talking to the Other: Assisting College Students with Learning Difficulties Develop a Voice of Self-Assessment*. Paper presented at The 37th Annual Meeting of the College Reading Association, Richmond, VA.

Policastro, M.M. (1992, November). *Promoting Active Learners: Helping Students to Self-Assess Their Metacognitive Attributes.* Paper presented at The 36th Annual Meeting of the College Reading Association, St. Louis, MO.

Policastro, M.M. (1992, March). *The Bedtime Story: From Theory to Practice.* Paper presented at The Chicago Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1991, May 24-25). *Reading, Writing and Problem-Solving: The Unlimited Connection with Stories in a Whole Language Curriculum.* Paper presented at The Canadian-American Whole Language conference, Windsor, Ontario.

Policastro, M.M. (1991, February 27-28). *Using the Story as the Center of the Kindergarten Curriculum.* Paper presented at The Illinois Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Kindergarten Conference, Oak Brook, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1991, February 21-23). *Using the Bedtime Story as the Foundation of the Kindergarten Curriculum*. Paper presented at The Chicago Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Anania, J. (1990, May 6-14). *Beyond Basic Literacy: A Humanities Based Approach for Adult Basic and GED Programs.* Paper presented at The 35th Annual Convention of the International Reading Association, Atlanta, GA.

Policastro, M.M. (1990, February 15-17). *Developing Thinking Skills through Story Comprehension*. Paper presented at The Chicago Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Anania, J. (1990, January 12-14). *Ideas In Discourse: A Humanities-Based GED Program*. Paper presented at The First Annual North American conference on Adult and Adolescent Literacy, Washington, D.C.

Policastro, M.M., Mazeski, D. & Unruh, D. (1988, October 15). *Using Problem-Solving Across the Curriculum.* Paper presented at The Tenth Annual International Conference on Learning Disabilities, Louisville, KY.

Policastro, M.M. & Cohen, C. (1987, October). *Reading, Writing and Problem Solving: The Unlimited Connections with Stories*. Paper presented at The Great Lakes Regional Conference of the International Reading Association, Indianapolis, IN.

Policastro, M.M. & Grey, A. (1987, April). *Support for the Learning-Disabled College Student: A Model Program.* Paper presented at The Illinois Adult Educators Association Spring Conference, Springfield, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Grey, A. (1987, February). *Thinking Skills and Getting Ready to Read*. Paper presented at The Illinois State Kindergarten Conference, Oak Brook, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Unruh, D. (1986, October). *Improving Problem-solving Through the Writing Process*. Paper presented at The Eighth International Conference on Learning Disabilities, Kansas City, MO.

Policastro, M.M. (1986, October). *Making the Match: Finding the Best Fit for Post-Secondary Success*. Paper presented at The Illinois Association for Citizens with Learning Disabilities, Matteson, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Weinberg, J. (1985, November 7-9). *Improving Comprehension Strategies for Slow and Disabled Readers*. Paper presented at The 36th Annual Convention of the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children, Rosemont, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Weinberg, J. (1985, November 2). *Adult L.D. College Students: Strategies for Remediation of Deficiencies in Reading Comprehension*. Paper presented at The Third Annual conference on Adult Reading problems, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M., Goldwyn, L., & Hegstrom, D. (1985, October 17-19). *Story Writing and Problem Solving: Utilizing the Functions of a Story in Reading and Writing Activities*. Paper presented at The Sixth Great Lakes Regional Conference, International Reading Association, Milwaukee, WI.

Policastro, M.M. & Unruh, D. (1985, October 3-5). *Writing as Problem-Solving for Learning disabled High School and College Students.* Paper presented at The Seventh International Conference on Learning Disabilities, New Orleans, LA.

Policastro, M.M. (1985, April). *The Issue of Choice - Selecting the Right College or University*. Paper presented at The Campus Access for the Learning-Disabled Conference, Barat College, Lake Forest, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Shaheen, R. (1984, November 7-9). *Story Writing Activities that Promote Problem-Solving and Self-Expression.* Paper resented at The Tenth Southeastern Regional International Reading Association Conference, Lexington, KY.

Policastro, M.M. Weinberg, J. (1984, October 25-26). *Adult L.D. College Students: Strategies for Diagnosis and Remediation of Reading Problems*. Paper presented at The Second Annual conference on Adult Reading Problems, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (1984, April). *An Innovative Delivery System for Providing Literacy Training to Adults on Welfare*. Paper presented at The Annual American Educational Research Association conference, New Orleans, LA.

Policastro, M.M. & De Angelis, C. (1983, April 4-8). *Storytelling: A Tool for Developing Positive Attitudes Towards the Handicapped in the Regular Classroom*. Paper presented at The Sixty-first Annual Convention of the Council for Exceptional Children, Detroit, MI.

Policastro, M.M. & Stein, N.L. (1982, December 1-4). *The Concept of a Story: Similarities and Differences Between Children's and Teacher's Viewpoints*. Paper presented at The Twenty-second Annual Meeting of the National Reading Conference, Clearwater Beach, FL.

Policastro, M.M. (1982, November 10-12). *Storytelling and Story writing: Using the Functions of Stories to Build Positive Self-Concepts among the Handicapped*. Paper presented at The Thirty-fourth Annual Illinois Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Rosemont, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Landerholm, E. (1982, November 4-5). *Storytelling: A Device to Enhance the Image of the Handicapped in the Regular Classroom*. Paper presented at The Thirty-third Annual Convention of the Council for Exceptional Children, Rosemont, IL.

Policastro, M.M., Sulzby, E., Adelman, P., & Pudis, B. (1979, May). *From the Classroom to Reading Research*. Paper presented at NIARED Symposium, Orlando, Fla.

Policastro, M.M., Sulzby, E., Adelman, P. & Goldberg, B. (1979, December). *The Effects of Three Instructional Techniques upon Comprehension and Recall of Text.* Paper presented at The Twenty-ninth National Reading Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Parent and Community Presentations

Policastro, M.M. (May, 2024). *Living Literacy at Home*. Invited presentation. Support Group for Grandparents or Older Relatives Raising Children (GORRC) program. Salvation Army, Chicago, Illinois.

Policastro, M.M. (2019, October 8) *Living Literacy at Home: Making everyday a Literacy rich day.* Parent University, Dolton School District 149.

Policastro, M.M. (2016, November 15). *Living Literacy at Home.* Author visit to a parent workshop at Our Lady of the Wayside School, Arlington Heights, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2012, October 3). *Creating Access to Books through the Home library.* Jumpstart Parents' Education Forum, Sultzer Regional Library, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2011, February 15 & 2010, November 15). *Read Alouds: 5 tips for Success.* Volunteer training at the law firm of DLA Piper, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Marquinni-Peterson, M. (2010, December 2). *Read Alouds and the Bedtime Story: Tips for Parents*. Presentation at Dumas Technology Academy, Chicago, Il.

Policastro, M.M. (2010, April 18). *The Parent Perspective*. Invited parent presentation to student and parents at The Fordham University Reception at Loyola Academy, Wilmette, IL.

Policastro, M.M., Mazeski, D. & Viverito, D. (2009, June). *Creating Home Libraries: The story filled home*. Parent Presentation to the Roosevelt University Summer Reading clinic, Schaumburg, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Mazeski, D. (2008, June). *The Home Library*. Parent presentation to the Roosevelt University Summer Reading Clinic, Schaumburg, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2008, April). *Career Day Presenter*. Presented at Gordon Tech High School, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. & Mazeski, D. (2007, June). *The Bed-time Story*. Parent presentation at the Roosevelt University Summer Reading Clinic, Schaumburg, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2006, October 11). *Promoting the Bed-time story*. Presented at Family Reading Night, Ravenswood School, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2006, January 19). *The Bed-time Story: Sing, Tell, Read and Act*. A Parent Workshop presented at Zapata Academy, Chicago, IL.

Policastro, M.M. (2005, November 12). *Literacy Tips for Bed Time.* Presented at Pickard School, Chicago, IL.

Awards

- Recognition award presented for 25 years of service as founding director of the Summer Reading Clinic, Schaumburg, Illinois, June, 2012.
- Outstanding Faculty Award from the Center for Campus Life, Robin Campus, April, 2008
- Award Presented for 20 years of Service to the RU Reading Clinic, Award presented by Dean Olson, July 2007.
- The Elizabeth Balanoft Award (l994)
- Roosevelt University Research Leave, Spring 1989
- Outstanding Recruiter Award for the Council for Exceptional Children, 1984
- Student Council for Exceptional Children Service Award, 1983
- Selective Load Reduction, 1983
- Paul A. Witty Fellow, Northwestern University, 1978-1979
- Paul A. Witty Fellow, Northwestern University Dissertation Support, 1979-1980
- Founders' Day Scholastic Achievement Award, Indiana University, 1973

Professional Memberships

- International Literacy Association (ILA)
- College Reading Association, Teacher Education Division
- Professors of Reading Teacher Education
- College Instructors of Reading Professionals
- Illinois Reading Council
- Association of Governing Boards (AGB)

Research/Evaluation

- Participant Evaluator for the Illinois Writing Project, Grant form the State Trust, 1988-1990
- Concept of A Story: Comparison Between Children's and Teachers' Viewpoints, with N. Stein, 1980-1982
- The Acquisition of a Schema: The Development of a Story Concept, with N. Stein, 1979-1980
- Evaluation of the Illinois Writing Project, with S. Zemelman 1984

Community Service

- Abraham Lincoln School, Room Parent and Noon Hour Activities chair, 2005-2007
- Lincoln Park High School, Executive Board, Friends of Lincoln Park High School, 2005-2006.

- Fordham University, Bronx, New York. Parent's Advisory, Chair for the graduation class gift of 2006
- Docent, Volunteer Mentor, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago Academy Sciences 2001-2002
- Loyola Academy Mothers Club, Wilmette, Illinois, 2000 -2004
- Classroom Volunteer, St. Clement School, 1988-2004
- Fundraising Volunteer, Anchor Ball Benefit, 1992-2000
- St. Clement Room Parent, 1992-2000
- Elected to the St. Clement School Board, 1991-1994 term, Long Range Planning Committee, 1991-1994
- Library Volunteer, St. Clement School, 1988-2000
- Mothers' March on Birth Defects, March of Dimes Volunteer, January 1986
- NAACP - Consultant to the Committee to Study Reading Problems in Chicago, Summer 1985
- Panel Judge - served on panel to judge Fair Housing Month 1985 Chicago Regional Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Illinois Children's Hospital School - proposed idea, organized, implement and attended an art activity with children with physical handicap. February 1984 (CEC)
- Illinois Children's Hospital School - proposed idea and put into effect a share-a-magazine project. Collected and brought in magazines for pleasure reading on a weekly basis February-May 1984 (CEC)
- Ludeman Center for the Developmentally Disabled - proposed idea, organized, arranged and attended a story hour activity with children with handicap. February 1982 (CEC)
- Ray Graham Training School - recruited volunteers and attended fun fair, June 1982 (CEC)
- Literacy Volunteers of America - made initial contact, proposed and arranged for volunteers to tutor for special sight, August 1982
- Special Olympics Volunteer - recruited and attended as a volunteer, Grant Park, May 1981
- Knights of Columbus - recruited volunteers to collect money for the intellectually disabled, October 1981
- Ray Graham Training School - proposed idea, planned and helped to implement a Halloween party for children with handicap, October 1981 (CEC)
- Illinois Children's Hospital School - planned, organized, recruited volunteer helpers, and attended a Christmas party for children with handicap December 1981 (CEC)

Other Conferences and Professional Participation

- ISBE/University Collaboration: Illinois Reads Initiative, 2000 - 2004
- Coalition on School Inclusion, Member, 1993-1994
- Reviewer, *Journal of Reading*, June 1992
- Consultant, Adult Literacy Project, ALERT, 1990
- Advisory Board, Northern Illinois University
- Project TAPE (Technical Assistance for Post-Secondary Education), 1987-1988

- Consultant, Reviewed materials for Encyclopedia Britannica, 1986
- Awards Committee for Illinois Council for Exceptional Children, 1985-1986
- Program Committee for College Access for the L.D. Conference, Barat College, April 1985
- Program Consultant for Illinois Council for Exceptional Children, 34th Annual Convention
- Reviewed Teacher Education Proposals
- Local Arrangements for International Reading Association Annual Convention, Chicago, Illinois, Spring 1982
- Reactor: "The Child's Developing Sense of Story," 71st National Council of Teachers' English Convention, Boston, Massachusetts, November 1981