



Vista 2024 Fall Seminar

English Language Development Strand

September 20–21, 2024

The Brown Palace Hotel and Spa, Denver, Colorado

FRIDAY, September 20th

6:30–9:00 p.m. Reception/Dinner

SATURDAY, September 21st

Using AI for Language Development: Trend or Tool?

Presenter: Dr. Jenni Trujillo

7:30–8:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30–9:00 a.m. Opening *Is AI Really New?*

In this interactive seminar, participants will connect existing language acquisition research to current pragmatic applications for AI as a language-learning tool. A comparison to brain-based learning will highlight the ways in which AI can serve as a time-saver—contributing to retention of information and positive impacts on learning. Participants will construct a personalized graphic organizer throughout the day’s segments that documents specific ways AI can assist them in their own roles, in their individualized contexts. Handouts and digital resources connecting to takeaways for the larger landscape are also included.

Seminar Targeted Learning Objectives:

- **I can identify and build on AI tools** internal and external to Vista curricular materials to surface them in ways that support English language development across the four domains of listening, speaking, reading and writing, as well as in assessment and administrative processes.
- **I can use AI to enhance and amplify** my role as an educator to best serve multilingual learners in a focused manner that adds value, promotes higher-order thinking, and leverages limited time and resources.

9:00–10:15 a.m. Part 1 *The Forest or the Trees? (The Forest)*

AI can augment language-acquisition strategies, but in a forest of open resources, teachers and administrators may wonder about how to approach this maze of resources. This interactive segment will address cohesion—focusing on a more holistic, curated approach to gain a clear-cut path toward traction in educational settings. With two hands-on activities that analyze differing perspectives on AI—whether it *limits* us or whether we can *leverage* it—participants will engage in a jigsaw discussion on the range of views (e.g., people who see it as cheating and a detriment or threat vs. people who think it provides unlimited potential). Participants will weigh in with their own views in table groups, followed by whole-group sharing.

10:15–10:30 a.m. Break

10:30–11:45 a.m. Part 2 *The Forest or the Trees? (The Trees)*

This interactive segment continues to address cohesion and focus with two detailed hands-on activities in table groups, followed by whole-group sharing. Participants will be given two specific AI resources to use in a literacy task using Vista materials to demonstrate three ways in which AI can augment the activity and serve as an accelerator for time-saving and higher-order thinking.

11:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Reflection ***Reflecting on AI's Many Branches—One Tree***

Reflection activity and door prizes

12:00– 1:00 p.m. **Lunch** ***Enjoy your meal!***

1:00–1:50 p.m. **Rotation 1** ***Amplifications***

This segment demonstrates the ways that AI can serve as a tool to amplify existing strategies. A demonstration lesson that addresses differentiation will be modeled in an experiential manner.

1:50–2:00 p.m. **Break** ***Take a Wander in the Woods***

2:00–2:45 p.m. **Rotation 2** ***Amplifications: Your Turn***

This segment will continue with a new lesson in which participants engage in differentiation techniques using AI individually and in small groups, followed by a share-out.

2:45–3:00 p.m. **Wrap-Up** ***Final Reflections and Closing Q&A***

Session Presenter



Dr. Jenni Trujillo

Dr. Jenni Trujillo has worked as an educator for 25 years, serving in English learner (EL) and multilingual learner education, with roles ranging from classroom teacher and EL/bilingual director to college professor and author. She is passionate about languages, having grown up in a Spanish-speaking immigrant home. Her publications include an EL literacy program that was used to teach English in twenty-six states, as well as in Mexico, China, Canada, and Costa Rica. Dr. Trujillo also worked with teachers and students in the Southwest and the Navajo Nation through a Native American teacher education outreach program. In addition, she taught English in a service-learning program in Bahía de Kino, Sonora,

Mexico. She was the national director of English language acquisition for Pearson Education, where she worked with educators in forty states and eleven countries. She later served as the director of English language learner initiatives at Learning in Motion in Santa Cruz, CA. In that role, Dr. Trujillo worked on a variety of initiatives, including lessons for ELs within a tablet-based literacy program, a large-scale research project in math for ELs with the American Institutes for Research, and a STEM curriculum with Stanford University. Most recently, Dr. Trujillo co-authored four textbooks and a curriculum for EL newcomers at the early elementary, elementary, middle school, and high school levels with *Vista Higher Learning*. She is currently the dean of education at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado (a Native American-Serving Nontribal Institution), where she has been very involved in Native American language revitalization, with both Navajo and [Ute language acquisition](#), as well as with the Tsimshian Tribe in Metlakatla, Alaska. With a strong focus on language and literacy under Dr. Trujillo's leadership, Fort Lewis College's undergraduate teaching program was recognized as one of the best in the nation in preparing future elementary school teachers to teach children to read, receiving an A+ distinction from the National Council on Teacher Quality. Dr. Trujillo is also involved as a leader in state and regional endeavors for diversifying the educator workforce, and oversees dual enrollment at Fort Lewis College, including early college pathways for teachers and outdoor recreation and experiential education.