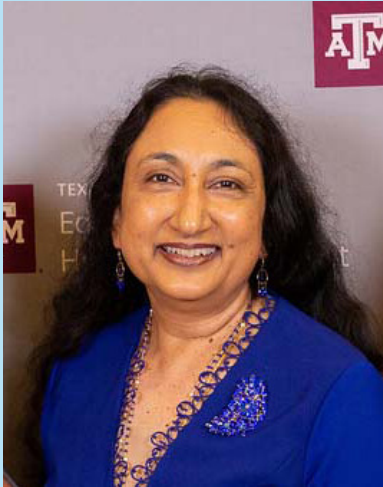


KEYNOTE

The Power of Technology in Supporting Children's Literacy Development among Diverse Populations



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Abstract: As the cultures across the globe become more diverse and blended, there is a growing need to meet the academic needs of children from different social, cultural and linguistic background. During this presentation we will discuss the advances in technologies that have made a powerful impact in literacy across the world. The systematic extensions to these tools to adapt and support diverse populations will be presented. Our futures depend on our commitment to culturally-situated learning design and research.

Bio: Kay Wijekumar, Ph.D. is Houston Endowed Chair and Director for the Center for Urban School Partnerships (CUSP) at Texas A&M University. She has earned a Ph.D. in Instructional Systems, a M.S. in Computer Science, and B.S. in Engineering. Dr. Kay Wijekumar has dedicated her life to eradicating illiteracy across the world. Illiteracy encompasses reading and writing challenges in all languages. She focuses her energies in developing web-based tools that can reach children directly and to improve teacher practices to solve this vexing problem. She has seen schools from the perspective of a parent, elected school board member, a researcher, and a stakeholder. In all these roles, one element remains constant, excellent schools and teaching is the best antidote to the literacy challenge. To improve literacy she develops web-based intelligent tutoring systems using evidence-based reading comprehension and writing strategies for children of all ages and different needs. She has created a variety of tools including teacher-led computer supported interventions and student-led learning tools. She has also extended the intelligent tutoring system to provide teacher professional development. She has secured over 60 million dollars in funding from the U.S. Department of Education and private funding sources. Her work has garnered the attention of U.S. News and World Report and been declared to meet the What Works Clearinghouse evidence standards without reservations. Most recently, her work with special education students in Brownsville Independent School District has shown super improvements (100% pass rates on the State tests) for students in grades 3, 4, and 5. She has authored over 40 manuscripts and book chapters. She has presented over 100 sessions on reading and writing at national and international conferences and meetings. She has also recently developed a teacher professional development system using the web-based intelligent tutoring system platform through a 7.5 million dollar supportive effective educator development (SEED) grant. Dr. Wijekumar is associate editor of the Journal of Educational Psychology and serves on the editorial boards of Review of Education Research, Educational Technology Research & Development, and Computers and Education. Dr. Wijekumar is an accomplished musician playing the piano and violin and an avid gardener.



WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4
12-12:45 P.M. (ET)