

Course Objectives

At the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- Identify the ways in which varied sociocultural norms/practices impact students' academic performance.
- Identify prominent features and patterns of African American English.
- Identify potential barriers to phonological development presented by the African American English dialect.
- Make more appropriate referrals for special education services.

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Dialect and Its Impact on Development of Early Literacy Skills

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Presenter Bio

Dionna Latimer-Hearn is an approved Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Provider in the state of Texas. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders (minor in French Studies) from Northwestern University. She received her Master of Arts degree in Speech-Language Pathology at George Washington University. Ms. Latimer-Hearn has served as a consultant and a speech-language pathologist since 2002, and has held positions in Illinois, France, Japan, Maryland and Texas. Mrs. Latimer-Hearn will soon complete her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Instructional Leadership for Changing Populations at Notre Dame of Maryland University. She is a recipient of the AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship Award. She has presented her research on African American English at the ASHA Conference (2001, 2016, 2018), at the AERA Annual Meeting (2016, 2018), and at the MSHA Convention (2017). She is also a scheduled presenter at the 2018 ASHA Schools Connect Conference and the 2018 WERA World Congress in South Africa. Mrs. Latimer-Hearn is the author of the book *Unexpected Places* and is the co-founder and director of the REACT Initiative, a Christian nonprofit organization promoting equity in education.

To learn more visit: www.dlhearn.net and www.iREACT.org