

The University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning improves the quality of teaching, learning, and childcare. We research, develop, and scale equitable educational innovations for adults and children that put all learners on trajectories for lifelong success.

The New Worlds Reading Initiative is a statewide program created by the Florida Legislature to advance childhood literacy and a lifelong love of reading. Each month, New Worlds Reading delivers free books in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole to Florida public and charter school students in grades K-5 who are not yet reading on grade level. Once enrolled, students receive books and families can access interactive reading guides to support the development of literacy skills and a love of reading.

Created in partnership with the Florida Department of Education and the Division of Early Learning, the UF Lastinger Center for Learning's Flamingo Literacy Micro-Credentials are available at no cost to Florida instructional personnel in an effort to create accessible and on-demand reading professional development. The literacy micro-credentials provide educators with evidence-based, high-quality online courses to build their literacy knowledge and skills. Through a job-embedded practicum, they implement their new instructional strategies in real-time while receiving one-on-one feedback from assessors to refine, enhance, and better their literacy practice.

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