



## ***SMCAA Winter Symposium***

**Guest Keynote Speaker**  
**Karyn Tomkinson**

**“Effective Tier 1 Instruction to Address  
Early Reading Challenges”**

Dr. Karyn Tomkinson is a National Manager at hand2mind. Karyn has extensive experience in leading transformative literacy initiatives grounded in the science of reading. She also serves as an adjunct professor and teaches graduate-level reading courses. Karyn has over 20 years of experience in public education, having served as a special education teacher, reading interventionist, District Literacy Coach, and Director of Curriculum for both large urban and small rural districts. She completed her doctorate degree from Ball State University in 2016 in Special Education, with a cognate in Educational Leadership. Her dissertation on the *Indiana Reading Evaluation and Determination (IREAD-3) assessment and third-grade retention* allowed her to research how children learn to read and identify best practices. Her research explored early literacy, the importance of foundational reading skills, the consequences when students do not learn to read, and how assessment data should be used to target instruction and intervention.

Karyn has been trained in LETRS Volume I and II, IMSE Comprehensive, IMSE Morphology+, Brainspring Structures, and has completed Keys to Literacy. As a licensed Indiana teacher, she brings both practical experience and deep content knowledge to her work. Currently, she is attending Mount Saint Joseph University, where she is completing her Science of Reading certificate and IDA certification. Karyn loves learning about how the brain learns to read and remains passionate about improving literacy outcomes for all children. She believes in advancing the mission of helping every child learn to read and serves on two educational boards dedicated to promoting effective reading instruction. A mother of four boys and a lifelong learner, she is dedicated to empowering educators and advancing effective literacy practices across all settings.