

## *How to Get the Most out of the Symposium*

The Symposium is a meeting of the minds between researchers and practitioners. For it to be successful, practitioners—teachers, instructors, program managers, administrators—need to actively engage with researchers and with other practitioners on the implications of research. What are the implications for classroom practice? What are the implications for policy changes? What further research is indicated?

The general sessions will provide an overview of topics of interest to everyone (e.g., the NAAL results, the NCSALL research agenda of the past decade, relationship of research to policy). The concurrent workshop sessions will provide an opportunity for you to select from among six topics of interest at each time slot.

Each workshop includes three parts—presentation of the research, reflections from knowledgeable discussants, and structured discussion among practitioners. The structured discussion is designed to focus the workshop on practical implications of the research. At the end of the Symposium, notes from practitioners' discussions will be posted to the Symposium Web site ([www.researchtopractice.org](http://www.researchtopractice.org)) and will form the basis for an ongoing, national research discussion.

Each day, following the workshops, you are invited to participate in a structured exploration of that day's workshops. These interactive exploration sessions are designed to help anchor or summarize what we've learned each day, as well as sharing the "aha!" moments from workshops and discussions.

Please join us at the reception for Symposium registrants at the end of the day on Thursday; this will provide you an excellent opportunity to network with people from other programs and other states. We encourage you to visit one or more of the several award-winning Sacramento restaurants, providing an opportunity for lively conversation over excellent food. Under the "Sacramenities" tab of your binder, we have included a listing of restaurants within walking distance of the Sheraton Grand.

Finally, after the Symposium ends, we encourage you to participate in an online discussion on adult education research and the implications for policy and practice. Many of you will undoubtedly implement some changes to your instructional or administrative practices as a result of research explored at this symposium. We encourage you to share information on these site-based projects, as well as comments on your success. Join the Literacy-Practice-Research-Policy-Connections (LPRPConnections) electronic discussion list by visiting the CALPRO Web page ([www.calpro-online.org/links.asp](http://www.calpro-online.org/links.asp)) and, under the heading "Research to Practice", click on the *LPRPConnections* link.

We hope you find the symposium stimulating and thought-provoking and that you enjoy your visit to Sacramento. Thank you for your support of and participation in these efforts to (1) bridge research and practice, (2) use research to create quality programs, and (3) use research-based practices to ensure that our learners meet with success.