

CLARICE L. JACKSON

Literacy Advocate | Author | Institution Builder | Speaker | Ordained Minister

Clarice L. Jackson is a nationally and internationally recognized literacy advocate, author, institution builder, and speaker whose more than two decades of work have centered on one enduring conviction: **literacy is a need and not a want, a right and not a privilege.**

Jackson is the Founder and CEO of the **Institute for Black Literacy**, Founder and Convener of **Black Literacy Matters®**, and Founder and Executive Director of **Voice Advocacy Center**, Nebraska's first dyslexia-specific tutoring and advocacy center. Her work brings together reading science, dyslexia advocacy, Black literacy, family leadership, public policy, institution building, faith, and the lived experiences of children and families.

Her journey into literacy advocacy began with one child. While working as a Title I reading and math paraprofessional, Jackson met Latecia Fox, a second-grade student who could not read and who would later become her daughter. The search for answers to Latecia's reading struggles led Jackson into dyslexia, structured literacy, special education advocacy, and eventually a national and international body of work focused on what happens when knowledge about literacy does, or does not, reach the children who need it.

In 2014, Jackson authored the **NAACP National Dyslexia Resolution**, helping bring dyslexia and literacy into the national civil rights conversation. She later served on the **International Dyslexia Association Dyslexia Definition Steering Committee** during the process that produced the revised 2025 definition of dyslexia. She also serves on the **Nebraska Department of Education Literacy Advisory Panel** and holds leadership roles across literacy, disability, civic, and public institutions.

Jackson is a Commissioner on the **Nebraska Commission on African American Affairs**, a Trustee of the **Omaha Public Library**, and a member of the **Nebraska Children's Commission and its Executive Committee**. Her leadership has also included Decoding Dyslexia Nebraska, the Learning Disabilities Association of Nebraska, and The Reading League Nebraska.

Through the Institute for Black Literacy and Black Literacy Matters®, Jackson is building literacy infrastructure that reaches beyond conferences and programs. Her work includes the emerging **Black Literacy Network**, the **Black Literacy Flourishing Framework™**, and partnerships extending across the African diaspora. In 2026, the Black Literacy Network launched its first African chapter in Meru, Kenya, expanding a vision of literacy work rooted in partnership, local leadership, evidence, dignity, and institutional capacity.

Jackson is the author of ***Literacy as Exodus: The Blueprint for Reclaiming Educational Will***. Her work introduces the **Reconstruction Literacy Paradox** and **Educational Will**, frameworks through which she examines the relationship between what societies know about literacy, what they value, and what they ultimately organize themselves to do. Drawing from Black literacy history, reading science, personal narrative, and more than twenty years of advocacy and

institution building, Jackson challenges communities and institutions to move beyond knowing toward sustained action.

Her leadership has been recognized by the **National Coalition of 100 Black Women, NAACP, Malcolm X Memorial Foundation, College of Saint Mary**, and through the **Dick Holland Literacy Advocate Award**, along with international recognition for her literacy leadership in Kenya. Her advocacy and commentary have been featured by national media including **NPR, Fox News, Roland Martin Unfiltered, and The 74.**

Jackson is a Nebraska Supreme Court-trained mediator and an Orton-Gillingham Classroom Educator. She is also an ordained minister and prophet whose faith shapes her understanding of calling, dignity, responsibility, and service.

At the center of all she has built remains the child who first changed the direction of her life. Latecia's struggle taught Jackson that difficulty is information, not a verdict, and that once adults know more, they bear responsibility for what happens next.

Clarice L. Jackson believes literacy does more than open books. It opens access, agency, participation, and possibility.