

# 2024 MPAEA/CAEPA Conference Sessions

(Subject To Change, Additional Sessions Will Be Added)

## Addressing Disruption in the Classroom

This session tackles adult misbehavior in the classroom, recognizing its unique challenges. By exploring the causes behind adult misbehavior, educators gain empathy and a deeper understanding of their students. The focus is on de-escalation techniques tailored for the adult classroom, providing practical strategies to effectively manage disruptions and create a more harmonious learning environment. Lizbeth Jacobs, Asian Pacific Development Center

## Adult Numeracy Instruction 2.0

Are you looking to improve your (or your teachers') math and numeracy instruction? Join this session to learn about an upcoming virtual training series where you'll have an opportunity to learn together with adult educators from other states, engaging in rich, interactive tasks that are appropriate for adult learners and that you can bring into your program's classrooms. Adria Katka, AIR/LINCS

## Adults at Their Peak: Adult High School Diploma at Colorado Mountain College

Colorado Mountain College's Adult High School Diploma program has evolved and grown since the inception of Colorado's Workforce Diploma Pilot Program in 2019. Since then, we've seen nearly 400 adults complete our program with their adult high school diplomas. Through curriculum creation that adheres to the states' minimum high school graduation requirements, bilingual advising, wraparound services, and innovative systems building, we're serving Colorado's rural mountain population with clearer pathways to jobs and higher education. Dwenna Holden and Cathy Slaymaker, Colorado Mountain College

## Available Grants From ProLiteracy

Learn more about the Funds of ProLiteracy, including the Literacy Opportunity Fund, Mobile Learning Fund, and National Book Fund. In this session, participants learn how to access grants for general operating funds, print, and digital materials for their program, and how to navigate ProLiteracy's grant portal. Lauren Osowski, ProLiteracy

## Best Practices for Integrating Digital Curricula in Corrections Classes

This session will focus on best practices for using digital curricula in corrections classes. Join us if you want to expand your current usage with digital content or learn how to take the first step. Topics to be covered include how to introduce new content, how to monitor progress and provide feedback, and ways to blend digital content with classroom instruction. Come learn ways to better utilize the digital curricula you have available to you. Steph Haggard, Essential Education

## Building and Supporting Diverse Leaders

In this highly interactive session, faculty and staff serving in leadership roles will discuss their story of identifying, cultivating, and supporting diverse leaders. Ample time will be provided to answer questions and assist participants to create a map to navigate their environments and to share opportunities to build teams of leaders at all levels of the organization. Kristi Archuleta, University of Central Oklahoma and Liliana Renteria Mendoza, Arapahoe Community College

## Building Digital Resilience in Your Learners

Are you ready to unlock the power of digital skills, literacy, and resilience for your learners? In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, it's crucial we equip our students with the knowledge and tools needed to thrive. In this workshop, we'll explore resources, tools, and strategies for integrating digital skills seamlessly into your educational content with an emphasis on "content first, then tools." Don't miss out on this opportunity to help future-proof yourself and your learners. Mary Gaston and Nelecia Murrell, South Carolina Office of Adult Education

## Career Readiness: Adult Education Entrepreneurial Cohort

Adult Workforce Entrepreneur Cohort is a 25-part simulation to help adults engage in entrepreneurial thinking by creating a new business idea and pitching it to investors. The program nurtures entrepreneurial thinking, start-up practices, gamification, teamwork, and assessment tools; and coaching from instructors provides the basics of starting and operating a small business, budgeting, workplace ethics, taking initiative, communication, and marketing oneself, among many other things. Harun Williams and Hallet Montgomery, Eastern New Mexico University - Roswell

## **CASAS Interpreting Test Results for Instruction: Preparing Students for Success**

This hands-on workshop will focus on an overview of the CASAS item types and how content standards, competencies, and task areas create the foundation of the CASAS integrated assessment and curriculum management system. Participants will explore and interpret test results generated from TOPSpro Enterprise (TE) software. Instructors and curriculum planners will have a choice to analyze TE reports to develop targeted instructional plans for either ESL and/or ABE students and role play data chats. (Vendor Session) Kristine Kruczek Mains and Margaret Kirkpatrick, CASAS

## **Coming Full Circle: Teaching in a Correctional Setting**

Teaching in a correctional setting is challenging for several reasons. In addition to academics, we can help our students by positively guiding them through the four components of the Circle of Courage. This model is based on providing incarcerated individuals a sense of belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity in simple steps we take in our classroom, from greeting them at the door, to how we assign homework. Come to this workshop and learn more about how by incorporating this simple model into your classroom you will see better retention, motivation, and outcomes. Sara Gutting, Sara Z. Gutting, LLC

## **Creating a Corrections HSE Testing Site for Your Program**

Wouldn't it be great if students could leave jail with more than they had at booking? Our program serves inmates with access to a secure GED test site on our community college campus. Working with a part-time instructor in the jail and re-entry agencies, we have developed a good model for incarcerated populations. Come hear how this model may work at your site. Ginger Narum, College of Southern Idaho

## **Creating a More Engaging and Student-Connected Asynchronous Learning Environment**

Asynchronous learning, although challenging, provides the availability of learning opportunities to students who may not have ever had access to this information. However, asynchronous learning can also be less engaging than other forms of learning and it requires students to have proficiency in technology and/or educational technology. Insightful tips and strategies on creating a more engaging and student-connected asynchronous learning environment will be presented and discussed. Michelle Garza, Doña Ana Community College

## **Creating an Active Learning Classroom**

Are your students tired of packets and handouts? Do you want to reach more of your students through group work but feel your hands are tied with a classroom full of multi-ability learners? Do you look for ways to retain your students and keep them motivated? Come to this workshop and learn how easy it is to implement active learning in your classroom. Participants will learn the value of active learning and learn how easy it is to implement it into their classrooms. Participants will leave this session with fun, motivational activities and ideas ready to implement into their next class. Sara Gutting, Sara Z. Gutting, LLC

## **Creating Contextualized ESL Lessons for IET and Career Pathways**

Are you teaching or planning an IET for your ESL learners? In this session, you will learn about resources and best practices to help you design a contextualized ESL curriculum. You will have a hands-on opportunity to try out strategies for contextualizing language lessons and to consider how to implement these ideas in your classroom. Resources and strategies presented here can work for a variety of career pathways and most ESL levels. Rebecca Sherry, PropelNM

## **Developing Circle of Care Programs Focused on Soft Skills Enhancement**

We will explore the innovative application of the Life Skills 25 program at Circle of Care Center for Families (Valley, Alabama) to develop positive work ethic and soft skills needed in the local community. The resource center works with three distinct adult ed groups: incarcerated adults (Chambers Co. Jail), older youth in a GED program, and adults in workforce development. This session will highlight practical strategies, challenges, successes, and the transformative power of soft skills. Dan Bates, Circle of Care Center for Families and Susan McKee, Pace Learning Systems

## **Effective Program Administration & Leadership**

Adult Education administrators and leaders are most effective when they create an environment that provides their staff with conditions that improve their students' learning outcomes and increase learning opportunities. In this session, you'll explore how effective program administrators and leaders shape better futures for their adult students and staff by cultivating

inclusive environments; nurturing leadership in staff, students, and community partners; and enhancing capabilities in data-driven improvements, standards-based teaching. Deanna Crosson, Aztec

### **Empowering Adult Learners Through Understanding the HiSET Exam in 2024**

This session will use a structured approach to guide the session, ensuring that educators gain a comprehensive understanding of the HiSET exam, the accommodations process, and utilizing the resources available to support students effectively. The session will also take a look at how to navigate the website to access exam guides, practice tests, and study materials. The Q&A session at the end allows for direct engagement and clarification on specific concerns. (Vendor Session) Tess Yurik, PSI/HiSET

### **Entrepreneurship Training for Justice-Involved Individuals!**

Entrepreneurship is one of the most frequently requested courses in corrections! This session will introduce you to FreshSTART, Teknimedia's new entrepreneurship program specifically designed for justice-involved individuals. Proven to help reduce recidivism, FreshSTART was developed by Dale Smith, a lifelong entrepreneur, and has been adapted for secure online and offline delivery by Teknimedia, a leading provider of digital literacy and soft skills instruction to correctional facilities and adult ed programs throughout the U.S. and Canada. (Vendor Session) Ann Harris, Teknimedia Corporation

### **Evidence-Based Advising to Boost Student Persistence and Success**

The current emphasis on career pathways has compelled a new vision for advising in adult education. This new vision requires intentional and intensive advising services that help students achieve their academic, career, and life goals. This workshop highlights an advising approach that encourages students to develop academic and career plans, make meaning of their educational experiences, and connect them to services and resources that will enhance persistence and success. Some topics covered include using Grounded and Student Development Theory to create a process for intensive advising services, effective strategies for academic and career advising, advising for SMARTER instruction, serving vulnerable student populations with barriers to employment, and connecting students to services and resources that support persistence and success. Jeff Fantine, Pathways to Success

### **Expanding Horizons: Equipping Practitioners to Teach Adults About Science in Career, Technical, and Adult Education**

This session will provide career, technical, and adult education practitioners with valuable insights and practical guidance on teaching science to adult learners and delving into the unique challenges that practitioners may encounter when teaching science to adult learners, such as diverse background knowledge and varying levels of scientific literacy. Science education is vital in preparing adults for careers in various fields. Participants will be able to explore research-based instructional strategies that promote engagement and deepen understanding of scientific concepts in adult learners. We will showcase innovative approaches incorporating hands-on, inquiry-based learning experiences; real-world science applications; and collaborative problem-solving activities. Brooke Ista, Adult Numeracy Network

### **Exploring the Potential of Digital Scavenger Hunts**

Come join our digital scavenger hunt! After the hunt, we'll delve into the educational benefits that scavenger hunts offer, exploring how they can be aligned with various subjects and objectives, making them versatile tools for educators across disciplines. You'll be equipped with the knowledge and resources to create your own scavenger hunt experiences to promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills, encourage teamwork, and enhance content retention. Mary Gaston and Nelecia Murrell, South Carolina Office of Adult Education

### **Failures and Felons in Education**

In this session, we'll look at the pitfalls and accomplishments in teaching at a maximum-security state prison with diverse abilities and backgrounds. We will share successes and failures in this correction's educational facility. Various points of view will be expressed in regard to academia, math, and English as well as the vocation programs of welding and culinary arts. Our team's backgrounds and experiences give us a unique insight into teaching this diverse inmate population. Daniel Jay Andrews, Jessica Maloy, and James McParland; Clark County School District

### **Families That Learn Together Have Fun Together**

Are your students always exhausted? Always in a hurry or distracted? At this session, you will learn how to help your students alleviate some of their daily pressures. In our 2-hour family sessions, our students make good progress in their academics and

practice healthy eating and physical activity habits. Most importantly, they can take care of their kids and enjoy some fun time together. Join us and learn how we do it! Raul Villarreal, Albuquerque Adult Learning Center

### **Free Distance Learning Resources on Education Network**

Many literacy providers implemented some form of distance education services during the pandemic and decided to maintain those services as they return to in-person instruction. If you're an administrator or instructor with plans for distance learning, our new Distance Education and Learning Circles courses will help you implement and improve instruction. Additionally, our collection of online reading materials and student courses provides a host of resources for lesson plans. And it's all FREE!  
Lauren Osowski, ProLiteracy

### **Free GED Tools and Resources for Peak Performance**

If you are a new educator or administrator in a GED prep program or if you are familiar with the resources at GED.com and need to learn more or want to hear about the new resources, this session is for you! (Vendor Session) Liz Lanphear, GED Testing Service

### **Free Online Tools for Administrators**

This session will focus on free online tools that adult education administrators can use to boost productivity. In this interactive session, participants will explore tools such as Google Forms, ClickUp, and Canva. We will discuss various ways in which these tools can be used for communication, record keeping, and project management. Please make sure to bring a computer, tablet, or smartphone to this session! Jamie Trujillo and Nadia Kader, PropelNM

### **Game-Changing Strategies to Help Students Understand and Remember What They Read**

Do your students struggle to understand and remember what they read? Does their lack of reading comprehension and ability to synthesize content affect their ability to meet their academic, personal, and career goals? Are you both baffled and frustrated and looking for solutions? Most teachers try to help students understand individual texts, rather than teaching strategies that can help them understand any kind of text they encounter in life. Participants in this workshop will learn about and practice several tried and true, evidence-based comprehension strategies that can be gamechangers for many students.  
Kathy St. John, Literacyworks

### **Google: These Are a Few of My Favorite Things**

Join us for a jam-packed session where we share our favorite tips, tricks, and features of Google Apps, including (but not limited to) Chrome, Drive, Docs/Slides/Sheets, and YouTube. We bet you'll leave with some faves of your own! Participants are encouraged to bring their own devices and follow along. Mary Gaston and Nelecia Murrell, South Carolina Office of Adult Education

### **Grammar for ESL Students**

Teaching grammar to ESL students is crucial for their overall language development and proficiency. By mastering ten basic grammar concepts, ESL students can become more effective writers, readers, speakers, and listeners. Come to this session and learn how to implement these concepts. Shineth Cunanan- Gonzales, Colorado School and Emily Griffith Technical College

### **Handy Dandy Template**

Are you looking for the magic bullet to teach students how to write a proficient 5-paragraph argumentative essay? Then the handy dandy template is for you! Let me share some wisdom about writing claims, sentence starters, and transitional words to get your writers a proficient score on the official high school equivalency exam. Learn how to get students to "throw some shade" at the opposing argument all while including relevant and specific evidence from both passages. Maribel Trujillo, Doña Ana Community College

### **Helping Learners Beat Test Anxiety**

This session addresses the widespread issue of test stress affecting 20-36% of students, with disparities among minorities and females. Explore tailored interventions and support for adult learners, emphasizing the significance of a holistic approach to education. Recognizing diverse challenges, from stress reduction to meticulous preparation, is key for fostering an empathetic and effective learning environment. Lizbeth Jacobs, Asian Pacific Development Center

## **Learn About the New TABE 13 & 14 and CLAS-E Tests!**

The new TABE 13/14 and CLAS-E Forms C/D are releasing soon! This session will provide updates on the changes to the tests including test length, objectives, and reporting. Both Adult Ed and ESL programs will benefit from the changes to improve gains and to improve success of students in ESL, HSE, IRT, and CTE programs. The updates that both assessments have undergone are based directly on feedback from teachers, administrators, and students. (Vendor Session) Mike Johnson, Data Recognition Corporation

## **Let's Build a STEAMing Future Together**

This session has the purpose of introducing participants to the world of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) by raising awareness on 1) the amount of STEAM professionals the world needs; 2) how you can start training for a STEAM related career in a friendly non-overwhelming way; and 3) how instructors can start their STEAM classes immediately with the use of free online resources. Raul Villarreal, Albuquerque Adult Learning Center

## **Leveraging Flipped Classrooms to Drive Outcomes for English Language Learners**

One of the best ways to deliver personalized, learner-specific instruction is through a Flipped Classroom Model. However, many practitioners struggle with where to start. This session will offer an overview of the fundamentals of Flipped Classroom Instruction with clear examples and strategies of how to apply the model across adult education contexts. Through lively discussion, experiential exercises, and small-group exploration, this session lays the groundwork for individualizing instruction to drive outcomes for English Language Learners. (Vendor Session) Christine Smith and Patrick Villar, EnGen

## **LINCS 101**

Have you ever heard of the Literacy Information and Communication System (LINCS)? LINCS delivers high-quality, on-demand educational opportunities to adult education practitioners. Join this session to learn the basics about what LINCS offers for teachers (and their students), find out what's new with LINCS, learn how to access LINCS for ongoing professional development, and discover how to participate in the exciting events for teachers happening within the LINCS Community. Adria Katka, AIR/LINCS

## **Making Measurable Skill Gains in Math: Guide for...Success**

Adult students need to improve math skills for a measurable skills gain, but teachers may not be aware of these skills' relative importance. Teachers can focus instruction, utilizing the GED Most Missed Questions Correlation Guide, the GED Ready Score Report, and the TABE Mathematics Blueprints. Along with the College and Career Readiness Standards, teachers can concentrate instruction that will result in a measurable skill gain (MSG), whether by increasing in their NRS level or passing the GED Mathematical Reasoning test. Haven Marsh, The Learning Source

## **Mathematics Unleashed: Conquering Math Anxiety in Adult Learners**

Math anxiety can be a significant barrier to learning for adult math learners. This interactive training session addresses this issue by providing teachers with research-based methods to help adult learners overcome math anxiety. The research will be presented about the causes and effects of math anxiety based on pilot data collected online from adult learners. We will explore the psychological and emotional factors that contribute to math anxiety and its potential consequences on learners' confidence, performance, and overall engagement with mathematics. This training session will provide teachers with a toolkit of effective strategies to tackle math anxiety in adult learners. These strategies include creating a safe and supportive classroom environment, implementing stress-reduction techniques, and incorporating engaging and meaningful activities to build math confidence. Brooke Istas, Adult Numeracy Network

## **Modeling Cultural Humility: Building Belonging in English Language Classes**

In this inspiring and interactive workshop, we will explore the meaning and practice of cultural humility and how this approach can help us better communicate across language and cultural barriers. For anyone interested in advancing their journey around equity, this topic is foundational. Karin Bates, Intercambio Uniting Communities

## **Motivating Adult Learners: Self-Efficacy, Goal Setting, and the Learning Environment**

With competing responsibilities, persistence can be challenging for adult learners. This session will center on principles and strategies in the National Research Council's *Improving Adult Literacy Instruction: Supporting Learning and Motivation*, which

are significant for motivating adult learners to persist. The content will highlight practices to engage and support adult learners in meeting their goals. KayLynn Hamilton, LINCS

### **New TABE 13/14 & Workforce Portal**

This session will discuss the latest iteration of TABE: TABE 13/14. We will also explore TABE's new workforce portal that aligns TABE scores to over 850 of the top careers posted in the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Network (O\*Net). (Vendor Session) Jeff Ronkoske and Mike Johnson, Data Recognition Corporation

### **New Tools to Support Quality IET Design and Implementation**

In this interactive session, participants will learn about the tools and resources provided through the national ADVANCE IET project that support adult education state leaders and program providers to improve and grow high-quality IET programs. Join to learn about the new IET Quality Indicators, free self-paced online IET courses, the online IET resource repository, and train-the-trainer materials you can use to enhance and scale the quality of your IET programs. Amy Dalsimer, AIR

### **Northstar: Finding Your Way**

Colorado's Office of Adult Education will share an overview of its statewide Northstar Digital Literacy project and highlight the journey of one adult education program to become a power user. Metropolitan State University of Denver's Family Literacy Program will share concepts around the vision for service expansion including digital literacy instruction; implementation; challenges and successes using Northstar; motivating, engaging, and incentivizing learners; and lessons learned. Colorado's Office of Adult Education will share metrics for success and growth potential. Lacey Miller, Colorado Department of Education - Adult Education Initiatives and Jonathan Power and Robb Gallegos, Metropolitan State University of Denver

### **Operation Reset: Dealing with Identity Theft & Using FTC Resources**

Chances are, you have a student who will soon face a consequential dollars-and-cents decision and/or you'll know someone who has experienced identity theft. This session teaches you how to help your students protect their money and their identity. We will share free FTC resources available to you to use as you assist your students with financial management basics such as managing money wisely, using credit carefully, and protecting their identity. Get free tools for the journey right here! Kelle Slaughter, Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

### **Overview of the Naturalization Test**

This session provides an overview of each part of the naturalization test for adult educators from the federal office responsible for the test. Jeremy Williams and Mary Flores, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

### **Picture This: Using Visuals to Help Multilingual Learners Communicate Their Higher-Order Thinking**

Analyzing and discussing complex, relevant visuals acknowledges multilingual learners' varied identities, wealth of experiences, and higher-order thinking. This session draws on images from textbooks, websites, and DALL-E to build and expand learners' vocabulary and communication skills, while also fostering their agency and persistence. Together we'll explore instructional routines that employ visual thinking strategies, early production questions, and problem scenarios for all levels of language proficiency. A Google Drive resource folder will be provided. Jayme Adelson Goldstein, Lighthearted Learning

### **Project Based Learning: Engaging Students in the Real-World Learning Environment**

Project-based learning (PBL) is a teaching method that drives student learning by engaging them in real-world, meaningful projects. It is a style of inquiry-based and student-centered learning. PBL approaches in ESL classrooms can bring a wide range of benefits to the English language learners (ELLs) both in virtual and in-person classrooms. This can range from collaborating and coordinating to acquiring digital literacy skills in a team project. Anjula Kolita, Doña Ana Community College

### **Promoting Self-Directed Learning and Engagement Strategies in a Correctional Environment**

Education within the context of a correctional facility requires not only supporting adult learners in acquiring new skills from an instructor-centered approach, but also requires that offenders be encouraged and provided opportunities for self-directed learning. Through utilizing effective engagement and executive functioning strategies supporting self-directed learning within both the GED and Achieving Advanced Academic Success programs, the ultimate goal is equipping offenders with the tools to

be productive, responsible citizens in society, thereby reducing recidivism. Come join this session to learn how. Linda Eiler, Lucas Treat, and Christopher Redmon, Colorado Department of Corrections

### **Reflecting on Your Practice: How Reflection Informs and Shapes Teacher Practice**

Reflection can be a powerful tool for adult educators. This presentation will address how ABE, ASE, and ESL/ESOL teachers can understand and use their own research to inform classroom practice. Participants will consider ways to deepen their connection to the instructional choices that underlie their work. KayLynn Hamilton, LINCS

### **Solutions for All ESL Instructional Goals from New Readers Press**

Regardless of your English learners' goals, New Readers Press develops ESL instructional solutions that take into consideration your students' roles as family members, community participants, workers, and lifelong learners. Bring your phones or laptops to log on, explore, and learn just as students of any level can with integrated language education and career-aligned pathway training! (Vendor Session) Kyle McKinzie and Randy Erickson, New Readers Press

### **Step Up Your ESL Class With Burlington Core**

Join us to explore the alignment between the Burlington Core educational framework and the new CASAS STEPS tests, focusing on the implications for adult ESL education. This presentation addresses the importance of the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) beyond their alignment with the new CASAS tests, highlighting their significance in the broader ESL educational context. This session illustrates the practical applications of these standards in preparing ESL learners for academic advancement and career readiness. (Vendor Session) Stephanie Bulgrin, Burlington English Inc.

### **Success For Adult Learners: Preparing for Career Pathways**

This session will demonstrate how My Colorado Journey (MCJ) can help adult learners prepare for meaningful employment and discover careers that match their interests. MCJ provides resources to help individuals prepare for the GED exam, view entry-level jobs that are in demand within Colorado's top industries, and see pathways to related mid- and advanced-level occupations, as well as the necessary skills and associated certifications needed for those roles. Thomas Hartman, Colorado Workforce Development Council

### **Targeted Instruction**

Targeted instruction is the key to a better Table 4. First, teachers need to know their students, their background knowledge, their levels of learning, their interests and their desire or lack of desire to learn. By first knowing our students, we can then develop targeted instruction by being structured, purposeful, and teach with intent. Gone are the days of putting packets in front of students and expecting them to learn by just reviewing the answers. Teachers need to start teaching, breaking down content to the targeted levels of the learner. This session is a hands-on workshop that will provide teachers with strategies and methods to help them create purposeful, targeted lessons and activities that can be readily used in their classroom and will help improve Table 4 outcomes. Sara Gutting, Sara Z. Gutting, LLC

### **Teach Smarter with Ellii**

Ellii (formerly ESL Library) is an online platform with thousands of highly engaging printable and digital lessons and resources for English language educators. Our materials are used in more than 10,000 schools around the world to create an engaging curriculum or complement an existing one. Join us for an introductory overview of the Ellii platform to learn how to quickly and easily access and assign content most relevant to your students' needs. (Vendor Session) Ben Buckwold, Ellii

### **Teaching Math Across All Spectrums of HSE Test Subjects**

This session will highlight how math is used throughout the HSE spectrum and how exposure to new and repeated skills can help students master concepts. We will demonstrate how high-interest topics get the attention of reluctant math learners while increasing comprehension and connecting real-world examples, including how math enhances written and oral communications. Brenda Gierczak, Beckie Graham, and Kristi Stanlis, Community College of Aurora

### **The Art & Science of Guiding GED Students to Success**

In order to achieve success in our GED programs, many adult learners require assistance strengthening their executive functions: goal setting, planning, self-regulation, and time and materials management. Numerous others need help to build or rebuild confidence in their basic academic ability. What prepared environments, best practices, and brain-wise strategies can

we use to help our students reframe their educational self-image, scaffold learning, build agency, and earn their GED? We'll share our secrets so you can do it too! Vallorie Buffa, Colorado Springs School District 11

### **Thriving as an Adult Educator in Adult Education Careers Pathways**

Navigating career pathways in adult education can be a challenging journey for adult educators. Some adult educators have to work several jobs to make a sustainable wage or their jobs may be dependent on grant funding. This presentation will provide tips, strategies, and resources that can help to navigate career pathways. A. Yvette Myrick, Capacity+

### **Trauma Impacts Adult Learners: Here's Why – Part 1 & Part II**

If you build it, they will come. Think again. Nationally, adult education and literacy providers are only serving approximately 10% of the population in need. So how can we do better? Each day, over 7,000 students drop out. Come hear what one of those dropouts has to say. Craig's trademark slogan, GED to PhD, is a concrete paradigm that adult educators should never give up on any adult student. Craig Boykin, 180 Edu Group

### **Unleashing Algebraic Creativity: Exploring Real-Life Stories and Problem Posing for Adult Learners**

In this session, we will explore the captivating world of algebraic creativity, where real-life stories catalyze problem-posing and exploration. This session aims to empower adult learners by equipping them with tools and strategies to connect algebraic concepts to their everyday lives, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the subject. Participants will receive a curated collection of resources, including problem-posing frameworks, real-life story banks, and strategies for promoting algebraic creativity in the classroom. A dedicated Q&A session will provide a platform for participants to seek clarification, ask questions, and engage in meaningful dialogue. Brooke Istas, Adult Numeracy Network

### **Using Game-Based Learning Practices in Adult ESL**

Games provide an opportunity for active learning. Games can be used with all types of learners and in many subject areas. This session will expose you to some ideas and suggestions for using game-based learning in adult ESL to support specific learning outcomes. This session will provide a summary of the benefits of game-based learning and will include some examples of specific games and how they can be used to support instruction. Michelle Garza, Doña Ana Community College

### **Using Social-Emotional Learning to Promote Academic Success**

Many of our adult learners have social-emotional challenges often caused by their insufficient literacy skills and their struggles with learning, which can make them feel intimidated and have low self-esteem, especially in an educational setting. Instructors that teach social-emotional learning can contribute to a student's success not only in the classroom but in life. This workshop will help instructors increase the social-emotional skills of their students. Some topics covered include understanding social-emotional learning; having cultural sensitivity and honoring students' culture; building relationships and creating a supportive learning environment; becoming familiar with strategies that address social-emotional learning; and helping students make positive, responsible decisions. Jeff Fantine, Pathways to Success

### **Utilizing the Power of Connection for Student Engagement and Progress**

The statistics don't lie! Strong student-teacher relationships significantly improve academic success. When educators know their students, they are better equipped to provide targeted instruction and valuable feedback. When students feel seen, they are more motivated, confident, and engaged in their learning. Building these connections may be easier than you think! Join us for helpful ways to establish healthy relationships with students and promote powerful change in the lives of adult learners. Steph Haggard, Essential Education

### **Workforce Development Resources for Adult Ed Students**

ProLiteracy offers a number of free career assessments, courses, and resources for adult education students. These materials were created for adult learners with appropriate literacy levels and interests in mind. Come learn about existing resources in addition to ongoing projects. This workshop is useful for counselors and instructors who want to help students learn valuable workforce skills and navigate career pathway exploration. Lauren Osowski, ProLiteracy

### **Workforce Education Initiative: Elevating Employer Based Programming in Indiana**



Learn how Indiana created a Workforce Education Initiative (WEI) to serve both adult learners and employers. Through this program, adult education providers partner with local employers to provide on-site adult education classes. Last year 180 WEI classes were offered serving over 2,500 students statewide. Programming is contextualized to meet the employers' needs and may include HSE, ELA, IET, basic skills, digital literacy, and essential skill curriculum. Marilyn Pitzulo, Indiana Department of Workforce Development

### **WorkKeys Assessments for NRS and Beyond!**

ACT's WorkKeys Assessments is now on the approved list for the National Reporting System (NRS) to be used in reporting Measurable Skill Gains. Join us to learn how versatile the WorkKeys Assessments are, how to implement into your programs, and best practice models across the country. (Vendor Session) Jenn McMahon, ACT

### **Writing Fluency Strategies for Adult Learners**

Do your students struggle with writing? During this practical session, learn several teaching strategies that will help your adult learners become more confident and accomplished writers. Easy-to-implement techniques such as quick writes, bio-poems and collaborative writing can help reduce students' reluctance to write and increase their writing fluency. Writing is hard; but with the right approach, you can help your learners overcome their fear of writing and enjoy the process! Evonne Peters, World Education

### **Writing From the Basement to the Roof**

Are you trying to teach your students writing skills like a builder building a house from the roof down? Many teachers focus on higher-level, challenging tasks, such as essay writing, to help their students prepare for the GED, HiSET, and other academic goals. They don't use a safe and comfortable approach to teaching basic writing skills using fun, personal, and relevant tasks that ease learners into writing. Foundational writing skills can be taught using fun, low-key activities that encourage learners to express their ideas in writing. Participants in this workshop will discuss a variety of writing tasks that will help engage students in writing about things they know and care about as a way to build the foundational skills that they can use for more advanced writing assignments. Kathy St. John, Literacyworks

### **You Are Not Alone Working in Correctional Education**

Come learn more about the Correctional Education Association (CEA). This is a learning experience and networking opportunity to hear about the Association, the structure of the organization, and the benefits of being a member. There will be time to tour the CEA website, review the newsletter (the *Journal of Correctional Education*), and become involved in the Association. Susan McKee and Michael Deiana, Correctional Education Association