BREAKOUT SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

Below are **short summaries of the breakout sessions** confirmed for the Literacy Texas Annual Conference. Find more details about each session on the Literacy Texas website:
Click on a dark blue topic block to go to the breakout session webpage for that topic.

MAIN FOCUS: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

A Community Center and Storybooks: Case Studies in Collaboration

What does collaboration look like for community partners with overlapping goals? Possible outcomes: A refugee-focused community center, bilingual storybooks, and plenty of hiccups along the way.

Presenter: Crystal Pennington

Let's Build An Employer Partnership

This presentation provides you with an opportunity to analyze leading employer-driven service models, and ways to apply their success to your partnering efforts.

Presenter: Jacqueline Aguilera

Resolving Attendance and Recruitment Issues Through Community Collaboration

This session will dive into the concept of collaborative case management and how it can positively impact attendance and recruitment of students.

Presenters: Jenny Walker, Kristina Rivas-Jones

13 Considerations: Becoming an Effective Partner Under WIOA

Explore the 13 considerations when determining a program's ability to effectively implement WIOA (the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) and how that knowledge can better support local partnerships.

Presenter: Mahalia Baldini

MAIN FOCUS: DIGITAL LITERACY & TECHNOLOGY

Become a PD Portal Expert

TCALL's PD Portal Team will show you how to create a PD Portal account and access hundreds of training options and dig into some of the PD Portal's most frequently asked questions.

Presenters: Katie Snow, Laura Greer

A Computer Lab at Our Organization? Can We? Should We?

Learn of one non-profit's struggles and successes in the creation, implementation, and deployment of classes in their brand-new 6-seat computer lab – successes will be highlighted.

Presenters: Dr. Kevin Williams, Rachael Cherry

Assessing for and Promoting Digital Literacy in Marginalized Communities

Learn to define digital access and literacy, describe factors associated with disparities in marginalized communities, and develop strategies to promote digital literacy and learning in online literacy programs.

Presenters: Mariana Vázquez, Caroline Silva

MAIN FOCUS:
DISTANCE & VIRTUAL LEARNING

Community Keeps 'Em Coming! Creating Community Among Distance Learners

Explore activities using digital tools that help build community within cohorts of distance learners; leave with practical tools, and ideas for fostering community among students who rarely meet in person.

Presenter: Michele Vick

MAIN FOCUS:
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

Why Do We Instantaneously Judge People?

Implicit bias can impact how we interact with others. We all have biases; they are a byproduct of the human brain, but we can learn what bias is, how it occurs, and how to mitigate its negative impact.

Presenter: Horacio Sanchez

Developing Safe Learning Spaces

Learners who have or had trauma in their lives may find the educational setting upsetting. Learn to develop a friendly relationship with learning and create secure spaces with reflection, patience, and practice.

Presenter: Keighty Ward

(Re)Framing Our Conversations Around Adult Education

Explore some of the everyday language of the adult education and workforce development sectors; work together to explore new ways to talk about our work and center communities, not systems.

Presenter: Melanie Sampson

Hold the Judgement: Revealing Unconscious Bias

Learn to increase understanding of the potential adverse impact unconscious bias has on people, and increase awareness of unconscious bias. Develop confidence to engage in honest conversations about bias.

Presenter: Dr. Olga Escamilla

MAIN FOCUS:
ESL/ELL - ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

Pronunciation: Climbing Mountains, Skirting Molehills, and Telling the Two Apart

Learn techniques to help students pronounce sounds and correct errors through learning both the "how" of sound production, and the "why" of the underlying phonetic patterns of English.

Presenter: Elizabeth Martinez

Sounding Out, Sound Blending and Sight Words: How to Build Literacy in Beginners

Learn to meet the needs of non-literate beginners through techniques for teaching phonics, in particular the skill of sound blending, where beginners learn to do the sounding-out that readers do unconsciously.

Presenter: Elizabeth Martinez

Making Corrections - Encouraging Mistakes and Correcting Effectively

In this interactive workshop, we will discuss the importance of encouraging mistakes in the classroom, and how to make effective corrections that students remember and practice.

Presenter: Karin Bates

Pronunciation for Adult ELLs

This workshop will provide you with practical, easy-to-use tools and techniques to help adult students speak English well, while building confidence, rapport, retention, and participation in class.

Presenter: Karin Bates

Integrating Cultural Humility into English Teaching

Explore what cultural humility means, how to practice it, the impacts of building (and not building) cultural humility, and how this can help us better communicate across language barriers.

Presenter: Karin Bates

Hands on Burlington CORE: Make Your Program Shine!

With Burlington CORE, teachers can re-envision the traditional classroom and create technology-rich learning communities where students develop language proficiency and master digital literacy skills.

Presenters: Martin Loa, Erin Cococcia

Ventures in Cambridge One: Engage and Motivate Your Students

Explore *Ventures*, a flexible digital experience for Adult Ed programs that engages and motivates students to make teaching easier, track learning, and help enrollment through retention.

Presenter: Robin Graybill

Reflect: Using Scaffolded Activities and Writing Models to Improve Writing

Explore *Reflect*, a new series from National Geographic Learning which focuses on reading, writing, and critical thinking skills; learn about scaffolding and writing models, and receive a free sample book.

Presenter: Janet Kay

MAIN FOCUS:
HSE, ASE, ABE - ADULT BASIC LITERACY

Introducing the TX AEL Family & Civics Content Standards 3.0

Are you wondering about the new Texas AEL Family & Civics Content Standards? Come join us to learn about and review the core anatomy and structure of these relevant and exciting new standards.

Presenters: Paula Bauer, AnneMarie Molinari-Sanders

The 3 R's of GED Prep: Recruitment, Retention & Resources = Success!

Learn about GED Prep Connect and GED Manager, tools to recruit and retain students; discover additional free resources available to help you teach effectively. All of these added together equal RESULTS!

Presenter: Liz Lanphear

The Power of Plickers

Plickers is an EdTech tool for collecting real-time formative assessment data without students needing paper and pencil or their own devices. Use Plickers face-to-face, or in remote and/or flex models.

Presenter: Ashly Winkle

TABE Testing Updates and Best Practices to Improve Student Outcomes

Learn best practices for TABE testing, including remote proctoring, and how use of the new TABE Writing Test can help improved HSE testing outcomes.

Presenters: Chasity Wright, Mike Johnson

Taking Contextualized Video Lessons to Your Classroom

Learn strategies to incorporate the contextualized Adult Ed Med videos into your classroom, along with techniques for enhancing lesson plans with videos.

Presenters: Krista Mosher, Ashly Winkle

Teaching Reading is Harder Than I Thought!

Learn strategies for teaching basic reading skills that reading specialists use – the strategies will be explained in "plain English" and made usable by tutors who do not have a literacy instruction background.

Presenter: Lara Speights

Pre-GED Program for Spanish Speakers in the US? Best Program: Plaza Comunitaria!

Plaza Comunitaria and its accredited Adult Basic Education Pre-GED program are a bridge for the academic, social, cultural, and economic integration of Hispanic youngsters, adults, and families into the US.

Presenter: Rosa-Maria Crocker

Basic Adult Literacy and Pre-GED for Hispanics

All about Plaza Comunitaria, a free curriculum for community-based programs, which focuses on helping Hispanics learn how to read and write, and includes a Spanish component for beginning literacy students.

Presenter: Yolanda Medina

MAIN FOCUS:
INSTRUCTIONAL THEORY, METHODOLOGY, RESEARCH

Building a Reflective Teaching Practice

Learn what it means to be reflective and what it would look like to teach reflectively; discuss how a reflective teaching practice can increase social change and equitability in our education community.

Presenter: Keighty Ward

Back to the Basics: Improving Student Learning Through Delivery of Instruction

In this presentation you will learn the basics of adult learning theory, and we'll talk about differentiated instruction as a reflection of adult learning theory, including how it can improve adult learner outcomes.

Presenter: Ann Beeson, M. Ed.

Brain Hacks: Teaching Moves that Deepen Understanding and Strengthen Recall

There's a lot of murky "brain-based" teaching advice out there; dispel some common neuromyths and learn about proven, research-based instructional strategies that teachers can use strengthen learning.

Presenter: Michele Vick

Barbara Bush National Action Plan for Adult Literacy

The collaborative National Action Plan from the Barbara Bush Foundation outlines a 5-pronged national response to low literacy for the post-pandemic world. Come explore the new national plan together.

Presenter: Federico Salas-Isnardi

MAIN FOCUS:
LEARNING DIFFERENCES & DISABILITIES

Creating Accessible Content for our Neurodiverse World

Neurodiversity embraces variations in how humans experience and interact with the world; we'll consider strategies for communication practices with people in our networks to more effectively meet their needs.

Presenter: Melanie Sampson

Making Space for Everyone: Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Delve into the principles of UDL and investigate how adopting a UDL approach can help reduce harm in your classroom and ensure everyone in the class can learn the material – regardless of learning needs.

Presenter: Keighty Ward

Got Accommodations? Assisting Adult Learners in the Classroom

Learn how to turn everyday items into tools that become assistive technology (AT) aides, which provide support for students during instruction and help them leverage their neurodiverse strengths.

Presenters: AnneMarie Molinari-Sanders, Beth Ponder

Dyslexia and Illiteracy: Structured Literacy and the Science of Reading

You will learn about dyslexia and the causal relationship with adult illiteracy rates in Texas. We will explore why some children are left behind in the Texas education system and become adults who cannot read.

Presenter: Jenny Cantrell, CALT, LDT

MAIN FOCUS:
LITERACY FOR WORK, WORK READINESS

The "Greening" of Workforce Literacy

Opportunities in alternative fuel options are growing, and Environment Literacy is the next level of optimizing AEL programming and preparing learners to participate in the future of work.

Presenter: Jacqueline Aguilera

MAIN FOCUS:
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Make Your Brand Work for You

You are competing for attention when it comes to attracting students, tutors, donors, and board members. Learn how to create a clear, compelling brand as an answer to your community's literacy challenges.

Presenters: J.R. Labbe; Kathryn Thompson

Telling Stories With Purpose

Learn how to take advantage of social media to engage audiences, with practical, easily accessible tools to bolster community awareness, funding and recruiting of students, tutors and board members.

Presenters: J.R. Labbe; Kathryn Thompson

Plain Language 101

Whether we're creating flyers, forms, web content, or social media posts, it's critical that we focus on the needs of our audience when we are communicating, and make everyday written content accessible for all.

Presenter: Melanie Sampson

MAIN FOCUS:
PROGRAM EVALUATION & DATA MANAGEMENT

Program Evaluation: The Why and the How

How do we know if programs achieve their goals? Learn about the key factors and activities to determine impact, convey value, and make decisions to improve programs for the people we aim to serve.

Presenters: Kristen Deppe, Erika Lyles

MAIN FOCUS:
STAFF & PROGRAM MANAGEMENT FOR NONPROFITS

Building Capacity in Adult Literacy Programs

By sharing proven practices around program management, training, and program models, this workshop can help programs build capacity in their organizations.

Presenter: Kathy Houghton

MAIN FOCUS:
VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Intake to Outcomes (I2O) Online Tutor Training: An Incredible Resource!

The most difficult, expensive, and most important thing volunteer literacy programs do to support adult learners..? Turn volunteers into well trained, well supported tutors! I2O is free – learn all about it!

Presenter: Kathy Houghton

Last updated July 26, 2022