



2022 GULF COAST LITERACY SYMPOSIUM

THE EVOLUTION OF ADULT EDUCATION

PRESENTED BY THE ADULT EDUCATION CENTER & LITERACY TEXAS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022 • 9 am–3 pm • ONLINE

Session 1: 9:00 am – 10:30 am (90 min)

The Evolution of Adult Education: Transforming the Field of Today for Tomorrow's Opportunities – *Jacqueline Aguilera*

Mention the term "adult literacy", and the usual reaction is "Oh, you teach people how to read." But our global ecosystem is evolving and adult education must also evolve to meet the needs of both today and tomorrow. Traditional training and services must embrace supplemental knowledge and resources beyond our comfort zones. The days of being a subject specific agency or instructor are gone, and both diversification and the willingness to experience some discomfort are needed.

This session will explore the expanded definition of adult functional literacy through Houston's Adult Literacy Blueprint and provide participants with an opportunity to expand service models into 3 Domains and 7 Goals to support growth aligned with emerging needs for post-pandemic adults and families.

Setting Goals in the Adult Classroom: The Why & the How – *Kathryn Bauchelle*

Adult literacy classes are more effective when the content focuses on learner goals and immediate needs – and making sure that content is relevant and practical helps drive both persistence and retention. After all, we all want to feel respected, involved, and in control when we're learning something new!

But talking about goals is easier than bringing them into the classroom – and that's even before you get to language and literacy barriers. So how do we gather student goals effectively? In this session, we'll look at why helping adult learners set goals is important, as well as some practical ways to accomplish this.

Session 2: 10:45 am – 12:15 pm (90 min)

LD Strategies for Math – *Connie Rivera*

LD = Learning Differences, Difficulties, or Disabilities

Many students experience these terms firsthand, but no matter the case, it's important that you don't consider them a Deficit! This workshop is for anyone involved in adult numeracy instruction who wants ideas for helping students develop a strong core foundation without relying on mnemonics to try to remember procedures.

In this workshop, explore some of the strategies that you can use to help students access math ideas so they can be successful math users. These strategies can be adapted to any level and used with any math content area. You will look at research on learning disabilities as it relates to math, try out some strategies for themselves to add to their teaching toolkit, and watch a student illustrate the power of such strategies.

How to Build a Flourishing Citizenship Program – *Pete Zagone*

This session will address topics such as how to get a citizenship program started and getting a program to grow; creating courses that are learner-centered; and the importance of finding support for your organization that partners with other providers of naturalization/immigration services. The presenter will share from his own experiences of building a program and lessons he learned.

Building an effective citizenship program requires attentiveness to the different stages of the naturalization process, as well as attentiveness of the varying English proficiency levels of your students. In this session, participants will be able to:

- 1) Identify the requirements for naturalization and become familiar with the entire naturalization process,
- 2) Understand and demonstrate an ability to contextualize instruction to varying English proficiency levels,
- 3) Recognize the importance of connecting your program to support in the immigration/legal community.



Lunch & Round Table: 12:15pm – 12:45 pm (30 min)

Round Table topic TBD

Session 3A: 1:00pm – 2:30 pm (90 min)

Numeracy Routines That Develop Language – Connie Rivera

What math can you do with a class of students from varying math backgrounds who have a wide range of test scores? Help your students develop reasoning and thinking habits; practice and build language skills; and build community by regularly using short numeracy activities in your instruction.

In this workshop, you will work through two different types of numeracy routines yourself as a learner. By observing how the facilitator connects sample content to numeracy skills, you will learn instructional strategies you can use in your own classroom that can help you capitalize on students’ natural curiosities. Opportunities to connect material to adult numeracy can arise in any academic class!

Session 3B: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (60 min)

Breaking the Code: Helping Readers Understand How Words Work to Improve Reading Skills – Sally Kubiak

In this session, you will learn how words work in English and the essential skills that all readers need to be successful. Learn how to determine your students’ reading skills using the Quick Phonics Screen (an easy tool that gives a wealth of information), how to help students improve their ‘decoding’ skills, gain an understanding of the six basic types of syllables in English, and ways to divide and conquer multi-syllabic words. This session is appropriate for tutors of students with low, middle, and high reading skills as it will teach you how to further develop their ability to read simple to complex words.

Session 4: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm (60 min)

Working With Learners Who Have Dyslexia – Lara Speights

Between 5% and 17% of the US population has dyslexia. However, in Texas public schools in 2018, only 3.29% of students were identified as having dyslexia. We have adults struggling to read in our programs who have undiagnosed reading difficulties, including dyslexia.

Join Lara Speights, Licensed Dyslexia Therapist and Vice President of Family Support and Adult Literacy at Neuhaus Education Center, as she discusses red flags for dyslexia and practical approaches to reading that are beneficial for all learners, and essential for those with dyslexia.

Presented by the Adult Education Center and Literacy Texas, thanks to funding from the Texas Workforce Commission and the support of the Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy & Learning (TCALL).



Questions? Email
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