

2018 Conference Program Guide

1A - Essentials of Neuroscience for Educators

Room: Mystic Salon A

Presented by: Nicholas Montano

This workshop will introduce current research and illustrate how neuroscience is currently impacting education. Foundations of neurophysiology of the brain and how the brain works will be discussed. Neuroscientists suggest that a better understanding of neuroscience may offer significant advantages for educators. Teachers will be able to integrate this information into lessons and instructional design. Emphases will be placed on the importance of working and long-term memory.

1B - How to Build a Successful Adult Education Advisory Committee

Room: Mystic Salon B

Presented by: Anthony Mangiafico

Are you thinking about starting an advisory committee? Don't know where to start? Don't know what an advisory committee is? Well, then this is the workshop to help you start a successful advisory group that will include members of the community and education officials.

1C - Algebraic Reasoning Made Simple!

Room: Mystic Salon C

Presented by: Richard Andersen

Algebraic concepts will be presented and discussed in such a way as to allow participants to understand how the material can be presented to their students in a simpler, and more meaningful, manner. Any questions can be brought to this workshop so that we can discuss and enhance the overall learning experience.

1D - Blended Learning: An Innovative Approach to Teaching Skills for Today

Room: Conference Room 5

Presented by: Brian Reardon

This workshop will present creative mini-lesson models utilizing a variety of available technologies in order to enhance and increase relevance in the adult education classroom. Adult education theory will be discussed and implemented with 21st Century content.

1E - Use Google Forms to Develop Self-Correcting Tests & Quizzes

Room: Conference Room 7

Presented by: Carl Mandell, Richard Welk

Yes, that's right, Google Forms creates quizzes and tests that are self-correcting and can give immediate feedback to your students as well as the teacher. Results can automatically be seen in a spreadsheet! Google Forms' self-grading quizzes and tests are easy to learn and, are easy to administer to your classes. Prerequisite for this introductory session a Google account (which you have if you have gmail). Participants should bring their own laptops if possible.

1F - Integrated English Language and Civics Education: Good News for Students and Programs!

Room: Mystic Salon D

Presented by: Susan Pierson, Maureen Wagner

With the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, there are new requirements and exciting opportunities for our adult learners in the IELCE program. Come hear from the State Department of Education and adult education providers who will share some promising practices.

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1G - Leadership Training Prepares Parents to PARTNER with Schools and Community

Room: Mystic Salon E

Presented by: Sara Barczak, Doug Edwards

Parent Leadership training gives community members an opportunity to explore their own personal gifts and assets. While rubbing shoulders with a diverse group of peers, they will discover their own leadership potential. These insights help to develop effective partnering skills. And the transformative experiences of parents will prepare them for partnering with schools and community. Presented by a coordinator and a facilitator, workshop participants will see parents differently, while enjoying a lively conversation.

1H - What Students Need to Know: GED® RLA's Extended Response

Room: Mystic Salon F

Presented by: Adora Beard

Attend this session to build your insights into how to instruct students in writing a response that earns points on the GED® Test's Reasoning through Language Arts. This workshop will provide an overview of the skills needed and selected classroom strategies that will help you better prepare students. We'll share recent research that provides visibility into what the performance issues are and what you can do to build student confidence for tackling this task.

2A - Learner-Centered Instructional Strategies for Engaging Adults

Room: Mystic Salon A

Presented by: Carly Weiland Quiros, Susan Palma

In this session, participants will become familiar with and plan to use learner-centered instructional strategies and methods to engage adult learners.

2B - Increase Enrollments by Marketing Your Courses Online

Room: Mystic Salon B

Presented by: Brandon Dufour

Brandon DuFour from Shrpr will give an overview of the whole digital marketing landscape, and then give tactical solutions for how to improve enrollments inexpensively with Facebook and AdWords

2C - Chief Teale's the Tools of Learning; Introduction to the Online Video Version

Room: Mystic Salon C

Presented by: Charles Teale

The participants are expected to learn how to share Chief Teale's the Tools of Learning with their students. This will be accomplished through the use of the Video Version of the program along with the Student Workbook, both of which are available online.

2D - Integrating Digital Literacy and English Language Learners

Room: Conference Room 5

Presented by: Catherine Bosco

Participants will use the Google platform to support literacy and instruction for their English as a Second Language students. This course will define and describe how to infuse digital literacy activities in adult English language instruction to encourage language learning and digital literacy acquisition by using basic skills, creating and communicating information, finding and evaluating information and problem solving.

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2E - Advocacy Made Easier: COABE's "Educate and Elevate" Campaign Does It All

Room: Conference Room 7

Presented by: Dave Downes

Need help making your funding sources understand the value your program brings to students, workers and businesses in terms of social mobility and economic growth? The Coalition on Adult Basic Education's multi-media "Educate and Elevate" advocacy campaign not only helps programs develop step-by-step strategies for telling student stories and quantifying successes, it also improves communications with your government representatives by dialing in your direct political email contacts at the federal, state and local levels so that students and staff, as well as program leaders, can make their case in a timely and direct way. COABE's Region 1 Representative Dave Downes will guide you through the many online ways you can communicate more effectively and successfully.

2F - US Citizenship: The Naturalization Process

Room: Mystic Salon D

Presented by: Erika Taylor

Participants will learn the General requirements for naturalization, the application process, what the personal interview and tests will consist of, what the Oath ceremony will be like and available resources for the classroom and beyond. Participants are expected to leave the class with a understanding of the naturalization process which will be helpful to help students achieve this goal.

2G - Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign: Learning to Identify Human Trafficking in Your Community

Room: Mystic Salon E

Presented by: Alexia Koplewski, Peter DiMarzio

Homeland Security Investigations is the primary investigative agency in the US Department of Homeland Security. Human trafficking has become more prevalent over the years, especially in New England. Learn about the Blue Campaign; how to identify victims of human trafficking and smuggling, who to contact should you suspect it, and what resources are available in the area for all victims of human trafficking and smuggling.

2H - Mathematical Reasoning: Transitioning Students from ABE to GED® Level Skills

Room: Mystic Salon F

Presented by: Debi Faucette

How can students transition from ABE to GED® level skills in mathematical reasoning? Participants will explore the GED® Performance Level Descriptors at Level 1 and Level 2 to identify skill sets students need to improve—e.g. proficiency with calculator-prohibited items, problem solving, and other key skills required to meet GED® passing standards.

3A - Persistence as a Vehicle for Overcoming Barriers to Transition

Room: Mystic Salon A

Presented by: Laura DiGialbo

Adult learners are more encumbered than ever by multiple barriers that make transitioning to post secondary education and employment seem insurmountable. This workshop will explore the genesis of these barriers, the toll they take on our students' ability to sustain effort as they move forward in their education and career paths. Participants will leave with an appreciation of their own persistence as a model for their students.

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3B - The Career Pathways Toolkit: Resources at the Ready!

Room: Mystic Salon B

Presented by: Marcy Reed, Carol Boin, Suzanne Cimochoowski, Christy Martin

Join us for a walk through the Career Pathways Toolkit – a Google Site developed by and for Adult Educators. The Toolkit is populated with activities, links and information about careers that are designed for use in every classroom.

3C - Social and Emotional Learning 101 - How it Shapes Instruction

Room: Mystic Salon C

Presented by: Kristen Penta

Through multiple activities, participants will become familiar with Social and Emotional Learning Standards and Practices and how to integrate them into classroom instruction. Participants will have SEL activities to bring back to their classroom for immediate implementation. Participants will learn about the connection between SEL skill development, acquisition and social employability. Activities and information provided in this session will allow participants to reflect on their own SEL and how to promote that of their students.

3D - See How the US Postal Service Can Help Your Business

Room: Conference Room 5

Presented by: Edd Pedro

Learn how to increase foot traffic, customers/clients to your business, Can the US Postal Service save you time and money on your outgoing shipments????

3E - Generating and Using TOPSpro Reports to Enhance Lesson Plans and Instruction

Room: Conference Room 7

Presented by: Sarah Fritz

Participants will learn how to generate individual and whole class reports using TOPSpro Enterprise Software. They will also learn how to use these reports to contour their lesson plans and instruction to better meet the needs of their students.

3F - Celebrations! An ESL Unit of Talking, Tech and Presentations

Room: Mystic Salon D

Presented by: Shelly Leduke

See an ESL unit built from the Celebrations issue of The Change Agent, Quizlet, slideshow software, and iPad video recording. Take away forms and ideas for how to modify it for career research or a topic your students want to study.

3G - Sustainability of Family Literacy Through Community Outreach

Room: Mystic Salon E

Presented by: Svetlana Grishtaev

Participants of this workshop will acquire strategies for community outreach and sustainability for their Family Literacy Program. The recognition of accountability and expansion among collaborating agencies is vital towards achieving program goals.

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3H - Funding New Program Enhancements

Room: Mystic Salon F

Presented by: Sarah Dudzic, Anthony Mangiafico

This session is for adult educators who are interested in learning how to take an idea for a program enhancement and bring it to life in their adult education centers. Participants should come with a concept for something that is needed at their center, but does not currently exist. By engaging with questions about design elements and resource needs, participants will further-develop their ideas into viable projects and learn tips for writing strong proposals.

4A - Intrinsic Motivation for Adult Learners

Room: Mystic Salon A

Presented by: Gabriel Riccio

Adult learners are investors in education; they are motivated by self-interests that make the cost, time and effort worth their engagement. In this workshop, we will discuss a variety of factors that trigger student motivation. We will explore ways in which teachers of adults can create learning environments that stimulate and nourish their motivation to learn. Attendees will be invited to share strategies that they have found to be successful in their teaching.

4B - Promoting Career Readiness: Teaching 'Soft' Skills for Success

Room: Mystic Salon B

Presented by: Marcy Reed, Carol Boin

When applying for a job, many people tend to emphasize their hard skills – the specific knowledge and abilities required that get them a job. But it is those employability or 'soft' skills that ensure they keep that job. The Career Pathways Taskforce panel will discuss how to create a culture that promotes responsible interpersonal skills.

4C - CT Adult Virtual High School (CTAVHS) Roundtable

Room: Mystic Salon C

Presented by: Kevin Corcoran

Whether you are an active mentor or coordinator within the CT AVHS program or new to the program, come join the conversation to ask your burning questions and/or share your experiences with your colleagues.

4D - Executive Function: The Short of It

Room: Conference Room 5

Presented by: Nicholas Montano

What is thinking? How does thinking develop? How does the brain throughout the developmental life span from infancy through adulthood learn to evaluate problems, plan to solve them, carry out the plan, focus and manage distractions, and other facets of thinking and problem solving? Executive Function – the conscious control of what we think and do takes years to develop until it goes askew then may result in disorders such as autism and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

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4E - Sexual Harassment in the CT Workplace

Room: Conference Room 7

Presented by: Jaquelyn Strawson

Sexual harassment is a term that has been recently heard far too often. Unfortunately, it is not a problem found only in Hollywood or with celebrities. In our state of CT, Governor Malloy has recently tasked each state agency with reevaluating policy, enforcing such policy and ensuring that training is relevant and encompassing. A report will be available February 1, 2018 as to the status of the state agencies. Any changes in policy are necessary when presenting employability skills to our adult learners. In this workshop, we will examine Sexual Harassment laws as they apply to CT employees. Materials will be provided to participants to share with and inform your adult learners.

4F - Growing Your Adult Education Program Through Community Partnerships

Room: Mystic Salon D

Presented by: Roland Axelson, Jennifer Britton DiMauro, Cheryl Desmond

We will show you how to increase enrollment in your programs, especially ESL, by taking classes to their homes and/or local elementary schools - with the help and support of community partners. Learn how we invited partners to work with us on engaging and empowering families to invest in themselves. We will talk about budget, structure, staffing, marketing and wrap around services. We will close with measureable outcomes.

4G - The PreK-Adult Education Connection

Room: Mystic Salon E

Presented by: Joseph Ferraiolo

The seeds of unresponsiveness to educational engagement are sown at an early age. Adult education providers must work closer with local PreK programs to break the cycle family educational disengagement.

4H - Promises Kept: An Update on Student Outcomes and the Success Stories They Tell

Room: Mystic Salon F

Presented by: Adora Beard

The 2014 GED® Program was launched with a simple goal: to build the educated and employed communities of tomorrow—one student at a time. Four years of student outcome data tell the successes of our students, made possible by the successes of our educators. This session provides an update on performance data and teacher driven GED® initiatives that support the successes evidence by our adult learners.

5A - Using Formative Assessments to Address the Skill Gap with Adult Learners.

Room: Mystic Salon A

Presented by: Suzanne Palmieri, Paula Ranciato

Presentation demonstrating the impact of formative assessments on closing the skill gap issues at Adult Education Centers. Focusing on assessing transferable skills to assist with college and career readiness. Attendees will learn various formative strategies as well as classroom ready activities.

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5B - RLA Extended Response: Using CER to Nail the Conclusion

Room: Mystic Salon B

Presented by: Shelly Leduke

Do your students start off on the right track, identifying the best-supported argument and then use focus? Use the Claim, Evidence, Reasoning writing technique to help students stay focused.

5C - A Starter/Filler Activity Toolkit for Teaching True Beginners

Room: Mystic Salon C

Presented by: Jennifer Fitzgerald, Danny Stone

Having a starter/filler activity toolkit is a win-win for teachers and students. Routines help teachers organize curriculum and save time explaining directions and also prime students for what to expect. When they know what's coming, students can concentrate on producing language. We will share starter/filler activities that we routinely use with students. Our hope is that teachers of beginner ESL will leave with an expanded toolkit and fresh ideas for their classrooms.

5D - Marketing Education Programs for Success

Room: Conference Room 5

Presented by: Mark Thomas

Learn the best way to communicate and market your adult and continuing educational programs to the best audiences. This will include how to identify and communicate with key audiences and influencers taking advantage of today's technologies within budget.

5E - Desmos Classroom Activities 101

Room: Conference Room 7

Presented by: Connie Rivera

This session is about Desmos Activities, a powerful digital tool for helping students discover math concepts and build math skills from informal ideas. Participants will be introduced to a digital tool for math instruction. They will establish an initial comfort with this tool as learners, view the teacher dashboard, and consider how use of Desmos Activities fits in their instruction.

5F - D or ND? NEDP Assessors Make the Call

Room: Mystic Salon D

Presented by: Astrid Robitaille, Amy Shea

Trained NEDP Advisor/Assessors will hone their NEDP evaluation skills and engage in discussion as they use NEDP Evaluation Criteria to review sample client responses to some of the most-debated activities in the NEDP. This will be a participatory session, and lively debate is encouraged!

5G - Breaking it Down: A Comprehensive College & Career Readiness Plan to Engage Students at All Stages

Room: Mystic Salon E

Presented by: Lynn Stephens, Maureen Lavorgna, Stacey Mahoney, Christine Valdez

Establishing career pathways within the adult education population requires an individualized approach to address diverse needs and abilities. Building a strong foundation for career development is essential to success. Workshop participants will acquire strategies and resources to engage students, develop partnerships and access funding.

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5H - Content Matters: A Focus on Social Studies

Room: Mystic Salon F

Presented by: Debi Faucette

Many adult learners lack the most basic understanding of the “big ideas” in social studies, especially in civics and government, which comprises 50% of the GED® Social Studies test. The session will focus on social studies content needs for students as well as strategies for improving their inference skills – essential for extracting meaning from text and graphics.

7A - Never Too Late: Promoting Growth Mindset in Adult Learners

Room: Mystic Salon A

Presented by: Rachel McMinn

Is it too late to change the mindset of adult learners? How can we promote growth in students who have experienced difficulties in an academic setting? Carol Dweck's ground breaking book, Mindset, has paved the way for implementation of all levels of the idea that intelligence is pliable.

7B - Changing the Way Problems Are Presented, Part I

Room: Mystic Salon B

Presented by: Connie Rivera

Come explore teaching strategies that are useful for solving problems in life Session Outcomes: 1. Develop an understanding of Depth of Knowledge versus math content level. 2. Explore teaching strategies that promote problem solving (MP.1) 3. Renovate questions from common instructional resources to improve quality and alignment to the CCRS.

7C - Immigration Realities: Advocacy and Support in Trying Times

Room: Mystic Salon C

Presented by: Michael Doyle, Esq.

The immigration process is complex and at times ambiguous, and it's even more challenging when there are difficult legal situations with families and relatives. Michael Doyle is a lawyer with the Immigration and Advocacy Support Center (IASC) of eastern Connecticut, which offers aid in such areas as immigration applications, petitions, visas, green cards, juveniles, DACA, asylum and victims of abuse. Learn how the most vulnerable immigrants can receive the help necessary in difficult times.

7D - Use Google Forms to Develop Self-Correcting Tests & Quizzes

Room: Conference Room 5

Presented by: Carl Mandell, Richard Welk

Yes, that's right, Google Forms creates quizzes and tests that are self-correcting and can give immediate feedback to your students as well as the teacher. Results can automatically be seen in a spreadsheet! Google Forms' self-grading quizzes and tests are easy to learn and, are easy to administer to your classes. Prerequisite for this introductory session a Google account (which you have if you have gmail). Participants should bring their own laptops if possible.

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7E - Project I-DEA: Flipping the Classroom for English Language Learners

Room: Conference Room 7

Presented by: Jodi Ruback, Adria Katka

Project I-DEA accelerates student learning and enables learners to advance their English language, technical, and career and college readiness skills faster than learners in traditional programs. The thirty-one contextualized, flipped instructional modules have been released as Open Educational Resources (OER). Participants will learn how I-DEA supports the development of independent and supported online learning at lower levels and maximizes learning opportunities for students using flipped and blended instruction.

7F - Creating Career and Technical Education Opportunities for Adult Education Students

Room: Mystic Salon D

Presented by: David Lee, Larry Covino

Career and Technical Education (CTE) will enhance student learning by contextualizing their academic skills via authentic learning experiences, enable informed workplace decisions, obtain occupational certificates, and/or earn dual credit with post-secondary programs. Unfortunately low class enrollment, cost, facility and finding quality instructors can be barriers to implementing CTE courses in your adult education program. Inter-agency collaboration may allow you to overcome these barriers and provide a no/low cost CTE alternative for your students.

7G - Transition Program Development and Implementation: A Proactive Approach

Room: Mystic Salon E

Presented by: Jody Huzina, Emily Stratton

This presentation will focus on the role of an Adult Education Transitions Counselor and how to help students plan and prepare for life after receiving a high school diploma. Our Transitions Program is created to help our students transition to any of life's possibilities. We have focused on the implementation of "life skills" as the educational foundation of our Transition Program. A solid understanding of life skills, also known as transferable skills, employability skills, work-readiness skills, are ultimately what will increase students professional and educational aptitude to achieve their post-secondary goals.

7H - Using Focusing Themes and Science Topics to Engage Learners

Room: Mystic Salon F

Presented by: Debi Faucette

You're already familiar with the Science focusing themes--Human Health and Living Systems and Energy and Related Systems--and the Science Content topics: Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth and Space Science. How can you pull it all together to provide adult learners with an integrated and engaging experience? By taking a leaf from each of the focusing themes, be prepared to experience how today's headlines can help you develop your students' scientific savvy.

8A - Building Blocks to Increase Health Insurance Literacy with Adult Education Students

Room: Mystic Salon A

Presented by: Denise Smith

1. Understand why health insurance literacy matters to all students and the common pitfalls they face 2. List basic learning areas/skills that are critical for students to enroll in, use and effectively navigate health insurance and health care 3. Identify tools and resources to help your center create a health literacy action plan and build student skills

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8B - Changing the Way Problems Are Presented, Part II

Room: Mystic Salon B

Presented by: Connie Rivera

Come explore teaching strategies that are useful for solving problems in life Session Outcomes: 1. Develop an understanding of Depth of Knowledge versus math content level. 2. Explore teaching strategies that promote problem solving (MP.1) 3. Renovate questions from common instructional resources to improve quality and alignment to the CCRS.

8C - Teaching English to Large Multi-Level Classes of Adult Learners

Room: Mystic Salon C

Presented by: Regina Snyder

Cambridge University Press will discuss how Adult ESL classes present challenges for Teachers and Students because every level is a multilevel class. When faced with this challenge many teachers do not know where to start. This presentation will explore the challenges, as well as the advantages of the multilevel classroom. The presenter will demonstrate practical ways to differentiate student groupings by using tiered activities. Handouts and useful links will be provided.

8D - BurlingtonEnglish - Your Answer to WIOA: Prep and Support for IET and IEL/CE Instruction in One Comprehensive Program

Room: Conference Room 5

Presented by: Robert Breitbard

BurlingtonEnglish is a blended, digital program created specifically for the adult English language learner and for those teachers and administrators who serve these students. Come see how Burlington's multiple courses and levels will help you address WIOA with Prep for Integrated Education and Training (IET) and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IEL/CE) instruction. Participants will get a look at Burlington's comprehensive suite of programs to understand how the program works in the classroom, lab, distance learning, and mobile settings. We will highlight how to use BurlingtonEnglish to respond directly to the demands of WIOA.

8E - Introducing NoRedInk!

Room: Conference Room 7

Presented by: Joe Lawler

NoRedInk is a fun, personalized, and adaptive tool to help students improve their grammar and writing skills. This online program is used in K-12 and makes a good companion for Credit Diploma or GED programs. This workshop will provide an overview of the program and a hands on demonstration.

8F - Narcan/Naloxone Education and Administration Training

Room: Mystic Salon D

Presented by: Thomas Steen, Robert Brex

Naloxone (Narcan) is effective in stopping the effects of opioid overdoses, it can be used by anyone, and those who intervene to help a person in the midst of an overdose. Upon completion of this training, each participant will receive a free Narcan kit made possible by a grant from the Department of Mental Health and Addictive Services.(DHMAS)

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8G - Teaching Academic Vocabulary for Student Success

Room: Mystic Salon E

Presented by: Aileen Halloran

Academic vocabulary is important for students at every level, The ability to read and use academic language is the greatest predictor of success in both academics and the workplace. This session will focus on identifying academic vocabulary in academic and workplace texts and discuss instructional strategies to include in your lessons.

8H - Ask GED® Testing Service: A Forum for Questions and Answers for All Things GED®

Room: Mystic Salon F

Presented by: Adora Beard, Debi Faucette

Take advantage of this session to participate in an informal, audience directed question and answer session hosted by two GED Testing Service staff. This session provides an opportunity to ask and receive guidance and direction from GED Staff and YOUR colleagues regarding "all questions GED®."