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ANNUAL

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PURPOSE
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Learning for life

CAACE

The Connecticut Association for Adult & Continuing Education

**VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE**
MARCH 11-12, 2021



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CAACE
The Connecticut Association for Adult & Continuing Education

We're Excited to See You at the 40th Annual CAACE Conference!

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Anytime, Anywhere



Join Our Session

Connecticut Teachers Are Talking about the
NEW Burlington Core!

Friday, March 12 • 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM

Contact our Connecticut Team to learn more:



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www.BurlingtonEnglish.com

CAACE Conference

Table of Contents

	Page
CAACE President's Message	2
Sponsor Recognition: Burlington English	3
Workshop Grid: Conference at a Glance	4-5
40th Annual Conference Events	6
Conference Scavenger Hunt	7
Conference Timetable	8
Featured Speaker, Brandon Dufour	9
Keynote, Colleen Kelly Alexander	10
CAACE Board of Directors/Consultants/Committees/Chairs	11-13
CAACE Professional Development Hours	13
Certificates of Attendance	14-15
Thursday Workshop Descriptions	16-22
Friday Workshop Descriptions	23-28
2021 CAACE Educator/Support Staff Awards Recipients	29-33
CAACE Crystal Apple Educator of the Year Hall of Honors	34-35
CAACE Leadership Award	36
CAACE Leadership Award Hall of Honors	37
CAACE Scholarship Fund Awards	38-39
2021 CAACE Learner Award Recipients	40-48
CAACE Volunteer Acknowledgement	49
Who's Who of Presenters	50-51
Conference Advertisements	52-74

Welcome to **CAACE**

The purpose of the Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE) is to provide leadership in advancing the concept of lifelong learning, and to conduct, promote, and sponsor professional development conferences and activities. CAACE is the only adult education professional organization that advocates for continued and increased Federal and State adult education funding.

Visit us at www.caace.org

A Message from Larry Covino, President of CAACE

Welcome to our 40th Annual CAACE Conference!

For many of us March 13, 2020 marked a turning point in our lives as adult educators. It was the last day we saw our students and staff face to face, but it was the start of a new way of teaching and learning. Looking back over the last 12 months I am amazed at how far we have come. We are now all experts at Zooming, and remote testing is second nature. We can work from home or in the office, and our students have mastered learning remotely at all hours of the day and night. Synchronous and asynchronous learning has evolved to new heights, and our students are embracing the freedom of learning and growing on their schedule. Some have embraced this new adventure, others have struggled, but together we have worked tirelessly to support each other and our students. I am proud to be a part of it and I am thankful that CAACE has been able to work collaboratively with our State partners in developing new ways of educating our adult learners. Over the past 40 years CAACE has learned much and we have grown to become one of the largest Adult Education advocacy groups in the country.

The last year has seen the development of innovative teaching practices and the utilization of new forms of technology that have allowed us to reach more students in more ways than ever before. In one year adult education has moved from the traditional 19th century model, into the 21st century, creating virtual classrooms and learning opportunities that allow students to learn whenever and wherever. Programs have learned to shift at a moment's notice from in-person instruction to hybrid, to fully remote learning without skipping a beat or losing a student. We have mastered online platforms like Zoom and Google Classroom. Our online partners like Burlington English and others have helped us innovate and adopt new technologies to the needs of our students. On top of this we have been introduced to a new data platform, LACES, which allows us to better track all of the great work we are doing.

Over the past year we haven't just adapted to new technologies and challenges in education, we have innovated and moved forward. For the first time ever CAACE partnered with the SDE in offering programs on Equity and Equality. CAACE also offers a CDP course in Civic Engagement designed to prepare students for public speaking and advocacy on behalf of Adult Education. We have transformed our programs by developing safe practices in registration and assessments. We have developed online and in-person classes across all programs that are allowing our students to move forward in a safe and secure environment.

I wish to thank Heather Pelletier and her conference committee for working with Burlington English in putting together a terrific assortment of the state's leaders in Adult Education, as well as academic leaders from around the country. I want to thank all of the presenters, proctors, and committee members for helping to organize what I know is the greatest adult education conference in New England. There are many people that help make this conference the success it is, including the CAACE Conference Committee led by Heather, and co-chair Jody Huzina, David Downes, Program Administrator; Sarah De Feudis, Administrative Assistant; Dana Little, Marketing Consultant; the Members of the CAACE Board of Directors, and most importantly our teachers and support staff. Without everyone's hard work this conference would not be possible.

As we approach the end of the 2020-2021 school year I ask that you keep our adult education staff, students and colleagues in your thoughts and prayers. We have lost several amongst us and the pandemic is not over. Enjoy the conference, visit our vendors and remember **"Each morning when you open your eyes say to yourself: I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today. I can choose which it shall be. Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. I have just one day, today, and I'm going to be happy in it."** – Groucho Marx

Stay well, stay focused and stay positive,

Larry

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with special recognition to Robert Breitbard, Barry
Nitzberg, Brandi Cardwell, and Rebecca Clark
for their commitment to our conference.

Thanks Burlington English for supporting our
People, Purpose, and Passion!

CAACE Virtual Conference at a Glance

Thursday, March 11, 2021


Memorials, Leader, Educator, and Support Staff Award Winners will run continuously from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 Join our Conference Events: Scavenger Hunt, Coffee Breaks, and Throwback Thursday Trivia.
 Information on how to join these events will be sent separately. See page 6 for details!

2021 Virtual Conference Grid	Meet the Exhibitors 8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.		Welcome 8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.			
	Lunch, Awards, & Meet the Exhibitors 12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.					
Session 1 9:00–10:00	Session 2 10:15–11:15	Break	Session 3 11:45–12:45	Session 4 1:30–2:30	Break	Session 5 3:00–4:00
1A Family Literacy - How We Adapted for Virtual Learning Kimberly Bobin Svetlana Smith	FEATURED SPEAKER Brandon Dufour 	COFFEE BREAK 11:15 – 11:45	3A The GED Online Proctored Test: What Teachers Need to Know Adora Beard	4A Mathematical Reasoning-Beyond the Basics! Debi Faucette	COFFEE BREAK 2:30 – 3:00	5A You've "Taught" the Extended Response – Now What? Debi Faucette
1B In Your Own Words II: Memoir/Oral History Linda Blakesley Rima Riedel			3B Teaching in a Virtual World - Rethinking Your Instruction with Aztec Christina Miller Carrie Ayers	4B SEL Teaching Strategies in the Classroom Allison Griswold Mary Cholewa		5B Freakin' Cool Math - Music and Math Together at Last Wayne Austin
1C Using Google Sites to Simplify Your Classroom Jeff Martel			3C The Integration of ESL, Citizenship and CDP Classrooms Laura DePonte Diedre Anderson	4C The Rotating Adult ESL Classroom - Version 2021 Michele Foertsch		5C Laughter Yoga Christine Olmstead
1D LACES Q&A Sabrina Mancini Shannon Stangis			3D Senior Seminar 101 Stefanie Montejano Pamela Faley	4D Justice-Involved Students: Education is Transformational Sue Gunderman Kathy Rodriguez		5D Connecting Students to Education After Incarceration Vernon Walters-Beaulieu Adriano Calabrese
1E D or ND: Assessors Make the Call Astrid Robitaille Amy Shea			3E STAIR Framework for Interactive Online Activities Stephanie Upadhyay	4E Faux Henry: How to Channel the Master of Irony Rima Riedel		5E Teaching Upstream Through COVID-19: Strategies for Adult Educators Emily Wilson
1F Tips & Tools for Engaging Virtual Learners Tahisha Porter			3F Connecting Adult Education Students with American Job Centers Andrea Messenger Wright Erica Tew	4F CT Labor Market and Career Resources Patrick Flaherty Jessy George		5F Effective Collaborations with Workforce Development Catherine Auwad
1G Hitting All the Right Notes for College and Career Success Robert Breitbard			3G Race and Identity Susan Domanico	4G How to Learn When No One Is Watching Ellen Goodwin		5G Leveraging Distance Learning for Advocacy and Civic Engagement Ruth Terry Walden
1H Exhibitor Showcase National Retail Federation Foundation* New Readers Press/ProLiteracy (9:00-9:30)			3H Exhibitor Showcase Coursestorm (11:45-12:15) Cambridge (12:15-12:45)	4H Exhibitor Showcase Aztec* Edgenity* Essential Education (1:30-2:00)		5H Exhibitor Showcase  The Next Street*

CAACE Virtual Conference at a Glance

Friday, March 12, 2021

Memorials and Adult Learner Award Winners will run continuously from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Join our Conference Events: Scavenger Hunt, Coffee Breaks, and Throwback Thursday Trivia.
See page 6 for details!

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	Lunch, Awards, & Meet the Exhibitors 12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.			
Session 6 9:00–10:00	Session 7 10:15–11:15	Break	Session 8 11:45–12:45	Session 9 1:30–2:30
6A Improving Literacy and Reading Comprehension through Music Instruction <i>Teresa Campbell</i>	KEYNOTE <i>Colleen Kelly Alexander</i>	COFFEE BREAK 11:15 – 11:45	8A Remote/Hybrid Family Literacy: Yes You Can! <i>Ruth Stewart-Curley Katrina Bercau</i>	9A Let's Take a Break Again <i>Rima Riedel</i>
6B The Best Stuff in Math is Free: A CUNY Math Packet with Desmos <i>Connie Rivera</i>			8B Apprenticeship - The Original 4-Year Degree <i>Todd Berch</i>	9B Learning about Learning: Strategies for Metacognition & Self-Direction <i>Allison Reid</i>
6C Using Google Sheets for Attendance <i>Briana Patriarca</i>			8C An Introduction to Instructional Coaching in Adult Education, Part 1 <i>Suzanne Palmieri Erica Walden</i>	9C An Introduction to Instructional Coaching in Adult Education, Part 2 <i>Suzanne Palmieri Erica Walden</i>
6D Naturalization Test - Attending Appointments During COVID <i>John McCarthy</i>			8D Dealing with Serial Change: Navigating Without a Compass, Part 1 <i>Laura DiGalbo</i>	9D Dealing with Serial Change: Navigating Without a Compass, Part 2 <i>Laura DiGalbo</i>
6E Summarizing Data using Pivot Tables in Google Sheets <i>Jose Adorno</i>			8E Advocacy: Make It Easy, Make It Fun! <i>David Downes</i>	9E CT Community Colleges – Workforce Development <i>Diane Bordonaro</i>
6F Incorporating Intercultural Competence in the ESL Classroom <i>Amy Russell</i>			8F Connecticut Teachers are Talking About the NEW Burlington Core! <i>Brandi Cardell Barry Nitzberg</i>	9F What is This We're In? Language, Resources, and Skills to Help with Explaining and Navigating Race in These Times <i>Gerald Hairston</i>
6G Teaching and Learning = Finding and Using Tools and Resources <i>Adora Beard</i>			8G Ask the Experts! <i>Adora Beard Debi Faucette</i>	9G CT Rides – Fewer Cars <i>Paige Lawrence</i>
6H Exhibitor Showcase  <i>Essential Education</i> <i>Edgenuity</i>			8H Exhibitor Showcase <i>Aztec</i> <i>New Readers Press/ProLiteacy</i> <i>The Next Street</i>	9H Exhibitor Showcase <i>National Retail Federation</i> <i>Coursestorm</i> <i>Cambridge</i>

Join our 40th ANNUAL Conference Events!

A Call to Action! Wednesday, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

**Adult Education 2.0:
Looking Back & Looking Ahead to Better Serve our Adult Learners**

With Panelists:

Sharon Bonney, Robert Breitbard, Linda Blakesley, Jessica Reho,
Michelle Bonora, Lori Wyrebek, Christine Bjork, and Kiko Teed

Scavenger Hunt Thursday and Friday, 8:15 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Want to win a \$50 Amazon gift card?

Submit correct answers to today's scavenger hunt by 5:00 p.m.
for your chance to be a winner!

To find the answers, visit our exhibitors, watch the awards videos,
join the coffee breaks, and participate in our full-group sessions.

Good luck to all our CAACE gumshoes!

Conference Coffee Breaks

Thursday, 11:15–11:45

Introduce us to your pet!

Guest appearances & photos encouraged.

Hosted by Linda Blakesley

Thursday, 2:30–3:00

Tell us why you are passionate about Adult Education,
its power & purpose!

Hosted by Anthony Mangiafico

Friday, 11:15–11:45

Share your favorite CAACE conference memory.

Hosted by Michelle Bonora

Throwback Thursday! Thursday, 4:30–5:30 p.m. *Sponsored by Aztec*

Grab your 80's gear and get ready to celebrate CAACE's birthday
with 80's style! Can't find your neons in your closet? Then grab a
favorite photo to share, but don't miss our 80's Trivia Night!

VISIT OUR CAACE EXHIBITORS!

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• **GED Testing Service**
www.gedtestingservice.com

• **The Next Street**
www.thenextstreet.com

CAACE Conference 2021 Timetable

Thursday, March 11, 2021	
8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Meet the Exhibitors
8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Welcome
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Session 1
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Session 2 - Featured Speaker
11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Coffee Break
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Session 3
12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch, Awards, & Meet the Exhibitors
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Session 4
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Coffee Break
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Session 5
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Throwback Thursday 80's Trivia

Friday, March 12, 2021	
8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Meet the Exhibitors
8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Welcome
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Session 6
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Session 7 - Keynote Speaker
11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Coffee Break
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Session 8
12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch, Awards, & Meet the Exhibitors
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Session 9

CAACE Conference 2021 Featured Speaker



Brandon Dufour **Thursday, March 11, 2021**

Brandon Dufour is a visionary entrepreneur that imagines a different future for learning. He believes in leveling the playing field and creating a global learning system that is designed for today's society. Brandon was born and raised in Connecticut. While getting a Communications Degree from Fordham University, he spent his early career bouncing around the music industry. He started his first business, The Next Street, in 2009 and has since spent his time doing "on the job training" to become a successful CEO. He continues to run The Next Street today and spends a lot of his time developing his team and professional audiences into the best versions of themselves.



CAACE Conference 2021 Keynote



Colleen Kelly Alexander **Friday, March 12, 2021**

Colleen Kelly Alexander is a best-selling author, survivor, lifelong athlete and motivational speaker who inspires positive change, contribution, determination and actionable gratitude. With her indomitable spirit and incredible story of survival, Colleen teaches others how to aim higher, be stronger and use adversity as a catalyst to make the world a better, brighter place.

In 2011, Colleen was run over by a freight truck, and after five weeks in a coma and thirty surgeries, Colleen survived. Rather than let the trauma and PTSD control her life, she became determined to find a way to make something positive from her pain. She decided she would run again and dedicate her race medals to the everyday heroes around us, including the medical staff and blood donors who saved her life. Since then Colleen has run over 150 races and completed over 50 triathlons, including five half-Ironman events. Now a spokesperson for the Red Cross, Colleen shares her incredible inspirational story to encourage others to take that first step forward.

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<p>Heather Pelletier, Vice President Naugatuck Adult and Continuing Education</p>	<p>Kristin Hempel EASTCONN</p>
<p>Jody Huzina, Secretary WERACE/Danbury Adult and Continuing Education</p>	<p>Kimberly James Tunxis Community College</p>
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<p>Flor De Hoyos CREC/Transition to Employment Services</p>	<p>Andrew Rockett Vernon Regional Adult Education</p>
<p>Susan Domanico EdAdvance</p>	<p>Richard Tariff EASTCONN</p>
<p>Joseph Ferraiolo East Haven Adult Learning Center</p>	<p>Angela Thomas Graves Stamford Adult and Continuing Education</p>

CAACE Board Consultants

Sabrina Mancini CT State Department of Education	Glen Peterson CT State Department of Education
David Downes Program Administrator	Sarah De Feudis Administrative Assistant

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<p><u>Conference Committee</u> Mayela Aguirre, Nira Bahauddin, Linda Blakesley, Michele Bonora, Larry Covino, Sarah De Feudis, Susan Domanico, David Downes, Joseph Ferraiolo, LuAnn Gallicchio, Kristin Hempel, Jody Huzina, Susan Kocaba, Dana Little, Sarah Mulvehil, Heather Pelletier, Andrew Rockett, Svetlana Smith, Jim Spafford, Angela Thomas Graves, Maureen Wagner, Lori Wyrebek</p>	<p><u>Marketing Committee</u> Lawrence Covino, Anthony Mangiafico, Joseph Ferraiolo, Richard Tariff, Lori Wyrebek, LuAnn Gallicchio, Diane Kearney, Heather Pelletier</p>
<p><u>Advocacy</u> Cathy Awwad, Linda Blakesley, Michelle Bonora, Kymbel Branch, Larry Covino, Flor De Hoyos, Kristin Hempel, Jody Huzina, Joseph Lawler, Anthony Mangiafico, Heather Pelletier, Richard Tariff</p>	<p><u>Membership</u> David Downes</p>
<p><u>Nominating Committee</u> Richard Tariff, Anthony Mangiafico, Andrew Rockett</p>	<p><u>Personnel</u> Heather Pelletier, Richard Tariff, Lori Wyrebek</p>
<p><u>Finance Committee</u> Richard Tariff, Lori Wyrebek, Anthony Mangiafico</p>	<p><u>Professional Development</u> Kristin Hempel, Lori Wyrebek</p>

CAACE Conference Chairs

<p><u>Co-Chairs</u> Heather Pelletier, Jody Huzina</p> <p><u>Exhibitors</u> Jody Huzina, Jim Spafford, Svetlana Smith</p> <p><u>Awards</u> Sarah Mulvehill, Michelle Bonora, David Downes</p> <p><u>Conference Buzz</u> Kristin Hempel, Jody Huzina, Heather Pelletier</p> <p><u>Donor Relations</u> Mayela Aguirre, Michelle Bonora</p> <p><u>Evaluations</u> Dana Little, Sarah De Feudis</p>	<p><u>Presenters</u> Susan Domanico, Heather Pelletier</p> <p><u>Proctors</u> Linda Blakesley, Susan Kocaba</p> <p><u>Program</u> Dana Little, Sarah De Feudis, LuAnn Gallicchio</p> <p><u>Registration</u> Sarah De Feudis, Lori Wyrebek</p> <p><u>Scholarships</u> Lawrence Covino, Angela Thomas-Graves, Mayela Aguirre, Joseph Ferraiolo</p> <p><u>Technology</u> Joe Lawler</p>
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Professional Development Hours

To earn Professional Development Hours,
please adhere to the following:

1. In your **CAACE** Conference Program, you will find a **Certificate of Attendance** for each day.
2. To CONFIRM your attendance at this conference, the **Certificates of Attendance** should be presented to your Supervisor/Director.

PLEASE NOTE: The **Certificates of Attendance** are for your personal information and/or should be turned into your Supervisor/Director. See pages 14 and 15 for certificates. **Attendance** should be presented to your Supervisor/Director.



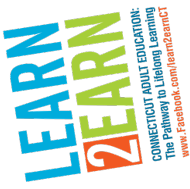
CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

This certifies that _____

(Name of Attendee)

*Attended _____ hours of workshops
on Thursday, March 11, 2021*

CAACE Virtual Conference



CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

This certifies that _____

(Name of Attendee)

Attended _____ hours of workshops

on Friday, March 12, 2021

CAACE Virtual Conference

CAACE Conference Workshops

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Session 1

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Session # 1A

Family Literacy - How We Adapted for Virtual Learning

Presented by: Kimberly Bobin, Svetlana Smith

Focus Topic: Family Literacy

Participants will learn how VRABE and Wethersfield adapted their Family Literacy Program during COVID. This interactive session will include peer learning (sharing best practices) and peer networking.

Session # 1B

In Your Own Words II: Memoir/Oral History

Presented by: Linda Blakesley, Rima Riedel

Focus Topic: High School Completion

This interactive workshop will draw out your students' voices through personal memoirs and oral history. Are your students feeling insecure about writing? Do they say they just have nothing to write about or don't know where to start? Join us for some new and fun ideas to get your students' creative juices flowing. You will come away with activities that appeal to all types of learners.

Session # 1C

Using Google Sites to Simplify Your Classroom

Presented by: Jeff Martel

Focus Topic: Technology & Digital Literacy

In the workshop you will learn some of the basics of Google Sites. You will learn how to set up your own site to make your Google Classroom easier to navigate. I will go over linking the two platforms so that students are interacting with your site on the front end but be in your Google Classroom without knowing it. This presentation would be for people already using Google Classroom and looking to make it easier to navigate.

Session # 1D

LACES Q&A

Presented by: Sabrina Mancini, Shannon Stagis

Focus Topic: Site Management

LACES question and answer session with Shannon Stagis, National Training and Project Manager at Literacy Pro/LACES and Sabrina Mancini, Education Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education.

Session # 1E

D or ND: Assessors Make the Call

Presented by: Astrid Robitaille, Amy Shea

Focus Topic: NEDP

This workshop will engage NEDP Advisor/Assessors in robust discussions as they evaluate sample client responses to NEDP activities. Participants will employ the Consensus Process to reach group agreement on items, and will gain insights into the tools at their disposal to help them make the tough “D” or “ND” calls.

Session # 1F

Tips & Tools for Engaging Virtual Learners

Presented by: Tahisha Porter

Focus Topic: Distance Learning

Looking for ways to engage students in questions and/or activities in a distance learning environment? This workshop will provide an exploration of tools and resources adult educators can use to enhance student engagement in blended/virtual learning environments.

Session # 1G

Hitting All the Right Notes for College and Career Success

Presented by: Robert Breitbart

Focus Topic: ESL, Workforce Development

Like the right combination of notes in a song, Burlington English courses create the perfect harmony for college and career success. In this session, learn how Burlington’s blended suite of standards-based online courses prepare students with rigorous academic content, civics knowledge, career readiness skills and digital literacy at all levels of instruction. With Burlington, teachers have the contextualized academic and career preparation curriculum necessary to stay WIOA focused and contribute to IET/IELCE program success.

Session # 1H

Exhibitor Showcase:

National Retail Federation Foundation
New Readers Press/ProLiteracy (9:00-9:30)

Session 2 – Featured Speaker

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Session # 2

Featured Speaker

Presented by: Brandon Dufour

Focus Topic: General Audience

Brandon Dufour is a visionary entrepreneur that imagines a different future for learning. He believes in leveling the playing field and creating a global learning system that is designed for today’s society. He started his first business, The Next Street, in 2009 and has since spent his time doing “on the job training” to become a successful CEO. He continues to run The Next Street today and spends a lot of his time developing his team and professional audiences into the best versions of themselves.



Session 3

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Session # 3A

The GED Online Proctored Test: What Teachers Need to Know

Presented by: Adora Beard

Focus Topic: High School Completion

The GED Online Proctored Test™ (O.P. Test) has served students for more than six months. Our research during this time can now be translated into strategies educators can embed into classroom instruction to improve student success on the O.P. Test.

Session # 3B

Teaching in a Virtual World - Rethinking Your Instruction with Aztec

Presented by: Christina Miller, Carrie Ayers

Focus Topic: ABE, GED, High School Completion, Workforce

Outcomes for this presentation include attendees learning and discussing the benefits and challenges of teaching online whether totally online or when teaching with a hybrid model. Goals of this session include defining the goals of both teachers and learners, using blended learning to advance students through the curriculum and describing specific considerations for each component. Participants will be guided through Aztec's print and online sample activity to collectively develop a take-home model. This activity will provide participants with a template to use as a model.

Session # 3C

The Integration of ESL, Citizenship and CDP Classrooms

Presented by: Laura DePonte, Deidre Anderson

Focus Topic: ESL/Citizenship

This workshop is designed to promote an integration of English literacy and civics education to students who have limited English proficiency skills. The session will help teachers design lessons showing students how to effectively participate in their education, workplace, and navigate civic opportunities in their community. We will also demonstrate methods to help students gain an understanding and awareness that will help them navigate those governmental, educational and workplace systems, such as banking, citizenship and health care.

Session # 3D

Senior Seminar 101

Presented by: Stefanie Montejano, Pamela Faley

Focus Topic: Transitions (Post Secondary Education & Training)

Senior Seminar guides students as they explore college and career pathways to make decisions that align with their personal and professional goals. Co-taught with the School Counselor and Career Developer, lessons are developed using the Employability Skills Framework. Technology and critical thinking skills are among the lessons intended to expose students to opportunities in high demand fields such as Health Care and Manufacturing. Post secondary education and training opportunities are presented to students throughout the course. Soft skills are embedded into all Senior Seminar learning modules.

Session # 3E

STAIR Framework for Interactive Online Activities

Presented by: Stephanie Upadhyay

Focus Topic: ESL/Citizenship, ABE

In this workshop, participants will gain an understanding of the STAIR Framework, a 4-part activity design that builds student interaction into online activities. Students will also see and participate in a variety of sample activities that they can use in their class.

Session # 3F

Connecting Adult Education Students with American Job Centers

Presented by: Andrea Messenger Wright, Erica Tew

Focus Topic: Workforce Development

Learn how to utilize American Job Center resources for improving students' employment outcomes, applying to post-secondary training funding resources, and connecting to support services to resolve potential barriers to employment/training. You will leave with a functional understanding of using Connecticut's comprehensive web-based job search tool (CTHires.com) and gain an understanding of your local CT Workforce region's resources/contact information.

Session # 3G

Race and Identity

Presented by: Susan Domanico

Focus Topic: Equity

Participants will explore their own racial identity and reflect on how their backgrounds influence their perceptions and interactions with others. Suggestions for culturally responsive and racially equitable instruction will be shared.

Session # 3H

Exhibitor Showcase:

Coursestorm (11:45-12:15)

Cambridge (12:15-12:45)

Session 4

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Session # 4A

Mathematical Reasoning--Beyond the Basics!

Presented by: Debi Faucette

Focus Topic: High School Completion

This session will focus on core skills identified in the "High Impact Indicators" that students need to master. The strategies and activities that can help them gain proficiency and consistency in number sense and operations, geometric reasoning, and the basics of algebraic reasoning will be shared.

Session # 4B

SEL Teaching Strategies in the Classroom

Presented by: Allison Griswold, Mary Cholewa

Focus Topic: Personal Development

Literature was studied to ascertain what would be the best ways for teachers to include Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Strategies into adult education classes. The CASEL 2013 Guide on Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs was found to include ten SEL teaching practices that can increase the positive learning environment across age and grade levels. This presentation will include a Google Slide show of all ten strategies and focus on fostering communication between the participants as the concepts are explored together in a discussion format.

Session # 4C

The Rotating Adult ESL Classroom - Version 2021

Presented by: Michele Foertsch

Focus Topic: ESL/Citizenship

This session will focus on all of the snafus in scheduling, restrictions due to COVID-19, and technical adjustments our rotating classrooms had to endure once we resumed in person classes this school year. Participants will be introduced to strategies on how to quickly pivot from one delivery method to another, and how to function as a strong team in a challenging educational environment.

Session # 4D

Justice-Involved Students: Education is Transformational

Presented by: Sue Gunderman, Kathy Rodriguez

Focus Topic: Site Development

Receive an overview on Reentry in Connecticut and learn about the challenges and barriers justice-involved students face along with ways to support them. In addition, hear from a young woman who transformed her life through perseverance and education.

Session # 4E

Faux Henry: How to Channel the Master of Irony

Presented by: Rima Riedel

Focus Topic: Personal Development

During this creative writing workshop, participants will learn why O'Henry is considered the past master of Irony and the ending with a twist. They will then be given the opportunity to channel the 'Master,' creating their own short stories featuring an ironic twist. This workshop is a perfect way to express oneself in a non-threatening, fun manner. It speaks to novices, new learners, ESL students and aspiring and professional writers alike!

Session # 4F

CT Labor Market and Career Resources

Presented by: Patrick Flaherty, Jessy George

Focus Topic: Workforce Development

Labor market information that can be used for job search and career planning focusing on opportunities in the Connecticut economy for workers of all skill levels, emphasizing entry-level and middle-skill occupations. The presentation will also describe and demonstrate the many free online tools, free services, and free publications that have been successfully used by job seekers in our state.

Session # 4G

How to Learn When No One Is Watching

Presented by: David Downes

Focus Topic: Administration/Site Management

Learn how to eliminate the distractions that hijack time and prevents accomplishing prime objectives. The session will focus on easy ways to overcome procrastination, increase your attention and focus to get more accomplished, and a never-fail tool to plan for obstacles that can slow you down.

Session # 4H

Exhibitor Showcase:

Aztec

Edgenuity

Essential Education (1:30-2:00)

Session 5

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Session # 5A

You've "Taught" the Extended Response—Now What?

Presented by: Debi Faucette

Focus Topic: GED, High School Completion

Effective writing is a core, if not essential skill for the workplace or postsecondary education...and you've taught the skills. GEDTS provides tools for educators for the next instructional phase. Information gleaned from the Score Report and the Electronic Scoring Tool is the key to providing valuable feedback and guidance to the student.

Session # 5B

Freakin' Cool Math - Music and Math Together at Last

Presented by: Wayne Austin

Focus Topic: High School Completion

Learn how to incorporate everyday musical objects to help teach the mathematical concepts of fractions, percents and more.

Session # 5C

Laughter Yoga

Presented by: Christine Olmstead

Focus Topic: Enrichment/General Interest, Personal Development

Laughter Yoga is a wellness practice and a joyful way to connect with others and laugh your blues away. It is a fun, effective stress relief program for all ages and abilities. This session may be attended in a chair or standing and moving. It will combine laughter exercises with deep centering breaths and calming movements.

Session # 5D

Connecting Students to Education After Incarceration

Presented by: Veron Walters-Beaulieu, Adriano Calabrese

Focus Topic: Site Development

Discuss the educational opportunities for the incarcerated population, the process by which these students are connected to districts upon reentry and how districts can support each other through this process.

Session # 5E

Teaching Upstream Through COVID-19: Strategies for Adult Educators

Presented by: Emily Wilson

Focus Topic: Personal Development

Today, we find ourselves navigating an unprecedented crisis in education, as the COVID-19 pandemic persists and disparities produced by centuries of inequity within the U.S. deepen. This workshop will explore the topic of trauma-informed education and key principles and strategies – starting with care for ourselves – that can be applied to create resilient learning environments.

Session # 5F

Effective Collaborations with Workforce Development

Presented by: Catherine Awwad

Focus Topic: Workforce Development

This presentation will outline strategies and practices for effective collaboration by and between adult education entities and local workforce development boards. Current practices will be outlined and include examples of effective partnering. Innovate concepts for “rethinking adult education” will be offered for consideration.

Session # 5G

Leveraging Distance Learning for Advocacy and Civic Engagement

Presented by: Ruth Terry Walden

Focus Topic: High School Completion

Students from across CT joined a CAACE Sponsored CDP class to study how individuals in the US have used their voices to advocate for themselves and others on both local and national platforms. Come hear what they learned, how they applied those lessons to advocate for adult education, and how they see themselves applying the skills and information in the future.



CAACE Conference Workshops

Friday, March 12, 2021

Session 6

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Session # 6A

Improving Literacy and Reading Comprehension through Music Instruction

Presented by: Teresa Campbell

Focus Topic: Family Literacy

Research shows us that music can be used to teach the prosodic elements of language. It also shows us that explicit instruction of prosody improves literacy and reading comprehension. This presentation will give concrete examples of the ways that music could be used to teach the prosodic elements of language to an adult ESL population.

Session # 6B

The Best Stuff in Math is Free: A CUNY Math Packet with Desmos Support

Presented by: Connie Rivera

Focus Topic: High School Completion

At a distance or face-to-face, we are all looking for ways to support our students. CUNY Math Packets were designed for New York adult educators to use with students studying for high school equivalency at a distance and in-person. The packets are designed such that they can be completed by students independently, reinforcing related class time instruction. Many Desmos Classroom Activities support the same concepts and can provide the basis of class time instruction.

Session # 6C

Using Google Sheets for Attendance

Presented by: Briana Patriarca

Focus Topic: Technology & Digital Literacy

Learn about the benefits of tracking attendance in Google Sheets. Participants will see examples of attendance sheets used for in-person and remote learning and will be provided with sample sheets/templates.

Session # 6D

Naturalization Test - Attending Appointments During COVID

Presented by: John McCarthy

Focus Topic: ESL/Citizenship

Participants will be provided with an overview of the guidelines for attending appointments at the Hartford USCIS Field Office that are currently in place.

Session # 6E

Summarizing Data using Pivot Tables in Google Sheets

Presented by: Jose Adorno

Focus Topic: Site Management

One of the pivot table's features is to summarize data and information. We will be creating an Attendance Log using Google Sheets and use the information collected to summarize data using a pivot table. The workshop serves as an introduction to pivot tables and will include tips to help keep the data simple and easy to organize.

Session # 6F

Incorporating Intercultural Competence in the ESL Classroom

Presented by: Amy Russell

Focus Topic: Equity

Intercultural competence (IC) activities are engaging additions to ESL classwork. Intercultural competence aims to raise the learner's awareness of other cultures and their ability to reflect on their own. IC activities promote language growth in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Attendees will learn the benefits of developing intercultural competence, tips on lesson planning to align IC activities with CASAS, CCR, and ELP standards, differentiating activities for various proficiency levels, and resources on intercultural competence.

Session # 6G

Teaching and Learning = Finding and Using Tools and Resources

Presented by: Adora Beard

Focus Topic: GED, High School Completion

The 2014 GED® Test was part of a GED® Program with new and innovative components to support educators in their service to students. Six years of research, redesign, and continued creation of tools and resources provides an integrated approach educators may use to "connect the dots" to improved student outcomes.

Session # 6H

Exhibitor Showcase:

Aztec

Essential Education (9:00-9:30)

Edgenuity (9:30-10:00)

Session 7 – Keynote Speaker

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Session # 7

Keynote Speaker

Presented by: Colleen Kelly Alexander

Focus Topic: General Audience

Colleen Kelly Alexander is a best-selling author, survivor, lifelong athlete and motivational speaker who inspires positive change, contribution, determination and actionable gratitude. With her indomitable spirit and incredible story of survival, Colleen teaches others how to aim higher, be stronger and use adversity as a catalyst to make the world a better, brighter place.



Session 8

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Session # 8A

Remote/Hybrid Family Literacy: Yes You Can!

Presented by: Ruth Stewart-Curley, Katrina Bercaw

Focus Topic: Family Literacy

Participants will be able to plan and implement remote/hybrid family literacy programs with EL parents and their children using two separate meetings and an assistant teacher for the children. Both multi-level and separated levels will be demonstrated, integrating literature and Burlington English. Participants will learn how to support one of our schools' most vulnerable populations by teaching parents how to navigate online learning with their children, increasing equity and fostering family engagement.

Session # 8B

Apprenticeship - The Original 4-Year Degree

Presented by: Todd Berch

Focus Topic: Workforce Development

As demands for highly-skilled workers increase and career exploration cannot occur only in schools, it is vital for employers and industry to engage in strengthening the connection between educators, students, careers and the community. This collaboration will ensure students have exposure to the necessary career ready skills for their chosen occupation/career field. Business and industry can offer job shadowing, mentoring, work-based learning and apprenticeship program opportunities that are crucial to career development. By accelerating necessary training and cultivating talent, employer led program designs provide screened, well-prepared workers new to an industry by receiving a combination of industry-bases formalized training and classroom instruction for potentially acquiring and retaining new employees.

Session # 8C

An Introduction to Instructional Coaching in Adult Education, Part 1

Presented by: Suzanne Palmieri, Erica Walden

Focus Topic: Personal Development

Participants will learn the basics of instructional coaching both in person and in a virtual setting. This workshop will be hands on with volunteers participating in example coaching sessions. This presentation is an exciting way to learn a few basics of the “Coaching Stance”. Both presenters have been trained by the Centers for School Change.

Session # 8D

Dealing with Serial Change: Navigating Without a Compass, Part 1

Presented by: Laura DiGlabo

Focus Topic: Personal Development

This presentation will explore our reaction to unwelcomed, unexpected and protracted change. The very essence of our 2020 experience in our work and beyond! Participants will be introduced to research indicating that the feeling of “suspended animation” is more unsettling than the actual changes we encounter. We will come away with an understanding of the cognitive challenges serial change evokes and the strategies that can turn them into resilience.

Session # 8E

Advocacy: Make It Easy, Make It Fun!

Presented by: David Downes

Focus Topic: Site Management

Make your advocacy efforts show how your Adult Ed program not only meets the needs of your community but also meets the needs of the persons who hold the purse strings - your funders, legislators, workforce boards and administrators. Using current issues and demands in Adult Ed, we'll look at how to assess the best ways to get the response you need to be doing your job successfully. We'll also review national, state and local legislative and funding topics.

Session # 8F

Connecticut Teachers are Talking about the NEW Burlington Core!

Presented by: Brandi Cardwell, Barry Nitzberg

Focus Topic: ESL/Citizenship

Teachers from across Connecticut are excited to share highlights from their experience teaching with Burlington Core, a standards-based, blended learning curriculum from Burlington English. This new web-based course was designed specifically for adult ESL students, after years of market research and customer feedback. Burlington Core allows for the seamless integration of technology into any learning environment - on-site or online - using projectable, teacher-led instruction combined with the flexibility of independent student learning. Hear how Burlington Core is helping Connecticut teachers transform their traditional classrooms into technology-rich learning communities where teachers facilitate learning and students are motivated to achieve success!

Session # 8G

Ask the Experts!

Presented by: Adora Beard, Debi Faucette

Focus Topic: GED, High School Completion

Conferences present an opportunity to network with colleagues, explore new ideas, and get answers to questions. Participants will determine the agenda from the questions and information they ask to be answered by their GED Testing Service colleagues. Join us for an engaging and interactive Q&A session.

Session # 8H

Exhibitor Showcase:



New Readers Press/ProLiteracy (11:45-12:15)

The Next Street (12:15-12:45)

Session 9

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Session # 9A

Let's Take a Break Again

Presented by: Rima Riedel

Focus Topic: Personal Development

Zoomed out? Brain fried? Eyes strained? Take a break! Give your students and yourself a breather with the help of guided meditation. Learn how to relax and travel to peaceful places in your mind while calming your tired and overloaded brain as well as sore muscles.

Session # 9B

Learning about Learning: Strategies for Metacognition & Self-Direction

Presented by: Allison Reid

Focus Topic: ABE

Many adult learners enter educational programs with big goals, and a desire to achieve, but little understanding of how to learn/study effectively. Remote teaching has highlighted the existing challenges for independent learning. Explore low-prep classroom or online routines and activities to help students understand their own learning, practice metacognition, and become more skillful, independent learners.

Session # 9C

An Introduction to Instructional Coaching in Adult Education, Part 2

Presented by: Suzanne Palmieri, Erica Walden

Focus Topic: Personal Development

Participants will learn the basics of instructional coaching both in person and in a virtual setting. This workshop will be hands on with volunteers participating in example coaching sessions. This presentation is an exciting way to learn a few basics of the "Coaching Stance". Both presenters have been trained by the Centers for School Change.

Session # 9D

Dealing with Serial Change: Navigating Without a Compass, Part 2

Presented by: Laura DiGlabo

Focus Topic: Personal Development

This presentation will explore our reaction to unwelcomed, unexpected and protracted change. The very essence of our 2020 experience in our work and beyond! Participants will be introduced to research indicating that the feeling of “suspended animation” is more unsettling than the actual changes we encounter. We will come away with an understanding of the cognitive challenges serial change evokes and the strategies that can turn them into resilience.

Session # 9E

CT Community Colleges - Workforce Development

Presented by: Diane Bordonaro

Focus Topic: Workforce Development, Transitions

Community College leaders will discuss the need for reskilling the workforce and the ability of the colleges to respond to industry. Participants will learn about the short term training programs that are offered and how they have been adapted to the pandemic environment. Learn how one college’s successful collaboration between the Transitions Program with Workforce Development benefited students and assisted them in starting their career paths.

Session # 9F

What is This We’re In? Language, Resources, and Skills to Help with Explaining and Navigating Race in These Times

Presented by: Gerald Hairston

Focus Topic: Equity

The stories that we are told and tell about what race means in our lives and in society are often misstated and/or misunderstood: reasoned, evidence based, and historically accurate information obscured. Needing to understand and explain race in our lives requires exposure to, deliberation on, and engaging with resources that tell our stories, fully. Participants will examine resources that could help in understanding and navigating their experiences (personally and professionally) with race.

Session # 9G

CTrides - Fewer Cars

Presented by: Paige Lawrence

Focus Topic: Site Management

CTrides helps the people of Connecticut enjoy the environmental, financial and health benefits of driving alone less. Learn about the CTrides programs and services including a review of the CTrides app and the rewards program.

Session # 9H

Exhibitor Showcase:

National Retail Federation Foundation

Coursestorm (1:30-2:00)

Cambridge (2:00-2:30)

**Crystal Apple
Educator of the Year Awards
Thursday, March 11, 2021**

Kathryn Ladd
East Hartford Adult Education

Madelyn Sartor
Norwich Adult Education

Raquel Hutton
Manchester Adult Education

Educators who represent the best in Adult Education teaching are honored each year at the **CAACE** Conference. Finalists are nominated by **CAACE** members and are selected based on their knowledge and expertise and contributions to their programs. The **Crystal Apple Award** is presented to the **Educators of the Year**.

**Support Staff of the Year Award
Thursday, March 11, 2021**

Jose Adorno
New Britain Adult Education

The Support Staff of the Year designation is presented to an individual who serves as the cornerstone in an adult education program, who possesses critical administrative responsibilities and vast program knowledge, and who provides service to students and colleagues. Finalists are nominated by **CAACE** members and are selected based on their contributions to their program. The **Crystal Apple Award** is presented to the **Support Staff of the Year**.

Crystal Apple Educator of the Year Award Kathryn Ladd, East Hartford Adult Education

Kathryn Ladd
East Hartford Adult Education



Kathryn Ladd has spent her entire teaching career going above and beyond for her students. From working with expelled students, to those with disabilities, to attending the naturalization ceremonies of her students: Kathy always finds a way to help students succeed.

In 2015, East Hartford needed a CDP Science teacher, and Kathy joined the program. Kathy showed her dedication to her students by bringing in guest speakers, such as local police officers; and focusing her science lessons on real world problems, such as climate change and the opioid crisis. When asked to take on a student for a one-on-one science independent study so he could graduate on time, Kathy enthusiastically worked with the student to design a course, rubrics, and curriculum.

When asked why she has not stayed retired, Kathy responded, "Because I love teaching." Kathy then recounted a story, that while working at her other job at Mohegan Sun, she encountered a woman who was having immigration concerns. Since Kathy also teaches Citizenship, she has many contacts that she was able to provide. Kathy said, "It's wherever you go. You take all of your training and it all comes into play. You never stop teaching."

Kathy's Citizenship students have a 100% pass rate on the United States Naturalization exam and she regularly attends their ceremonies. She even attended my mother's naturalization ceremony in 2019, showing how Kathy not only supports her students, but the entire staff of our program.

There is simply no one else who embodies adult education teaching like Kathryn Ladd. She is truly the CAACE Educator of the Year.

Congratulations Kathryn!

Crystal Apple Educator of the Year Award Madeline Sartor, Norwich Adult Education

Madelyn Sartor
Norwich Adult Education



Madelyn Sartor is an extraordinarily caring and talented teacher who helps her students achieve remarkable progress--and her colleagues as well. When we went online in the spring, she quickly honed her skills with Zoom, Google Meet, and Burlington English. She began having students use Google Forms for writing and feedback in both her beginner and her intermediate classes. She provided informal coaching and a workshop to other teachers getting started with digital skills on various platforms. With others, she presented a workshop at CAACE on using Burlington English-- I've since shared CAACE's recording of this helpful workshop with our new staff. Last year, Madelyn was the ESOL Program Leader for Norwich Adult Education. This year, she gave that up to do more teaching.

Madelyn is in close touch with her students, following up with those who miss class to find out what they need; she tries to get help to overcome their barriers. She continues to hone her skills, learn and implement new digital activities, and help colleagues whenever asked. Both students and teachers at Norwich Adult Education are appreciative fans of her work.

Congratulations Madelyn!

Crystal Apple Educator of the Year Award Raquel Hutton, Manchester Adult Education

Raquel Hutton
Manchester Adult Education



Raquel Hutton has been an ESL teacher for Manchester Adult and Continuing Education (MA&CE) since 2017. She is highly organized and effective, fluent both in Spanish and English and possesses a strong track record with more than 20 years of teaching effectively and improving student performance. She is very proactive, a hands-on team player and resolves problems and conflicts effectively.

Raquel's outstanding content knowledge, collaborative nature, and expertise of technology have resulted in a continual growth in Manchester's ESL enrollments. She has helped grow the ESL program by teaching literally day and night. When we expanded ESL from evening only to daytime, Raquel stepped up to add a daytime section. After expanding ESL to include off-site programs, again it was Raquel who volunteered to teach three of our off site programs. She also teaches a Customer Service class where ESL students can pass an exam and earn certification. In the 2019-20 school year all of her students successfully passed the test and were awarded customer service certificates.

A major factor in her success is the strong connection Raquel has developed with her students through text message, email, and social media. She is a dedicated, hardworking, and effective teacher who has improved student performance. She is highly respected by colleagues, staff, and students for her sincere work

Congratulations Raquel!

CAACE Support Staff Award

Jose Adorno, New Britain Adult Education

Jose Adorno
New Britain Adult Education



Jose is the Administrative Clerk for New Britain Adult Education, but he goes well above and beyond the job description of this position. He is usually the first point of contact for students in all of our programs, mainly because he is so concerned with the well-being and success of our students as well as his ability to build relationships. He is central to all decisions pertaining to how the program runs or develops. He always tries to find solutions that support our students and teachers the best.

Since the pandemic began, Jose has become our one-man IT department in addition to his typical duties. He single-handedly created back-up systems for all the data and created a Google Suite for the program to use for remote learning. This was a task that required him to work all hours of the day and night, well beyond his work schedule. He not only created the suite, but also user accounts for every student and staff member. In addition, Jose has provided hours of training to teachers using Google Classroom, as well as professional training in Zoom.

Not only does Jose support our staff, but he spends countless hours supporting our students as they make the transition to virtual learning. He fields phone calls and troubleshoots issues daily. The transition from CARS to LACES this year has been another major challenge that Jose has been tasked with and does so on his own. In addition to attending all trainings, he often plays the role of “guinea pig” for the State when asked to “test-out” the system to ensure it is working correctly. Jose has the ability to identify issues and alert the state prior to the system going live.

In previous years, many of the students referred to Jose as the “mayor of adult ed.” This year he has expanded this title to the IT department of adult ed, tech support and the Google guru. Without his technical knowledge, his dedication to the students and his ability to multi-task our program would not have the capacity to be remote at this time. He truly deserves to be recognized in both the district and throughout the field of adult education.

Congratulations Jose!

CAACE HALL OF HONORS

Crystal Apple "EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD"

1988	1989
• William Drago – New Haven	• Sally Bozzola – New Haven
• Denise Hodgkinson – Old Saybrook	• Anthony DeMaio – New Haven
• Ruth Jones – Mansfield	• Martha Frappier – Mansfield
• Joan Locklin – New Haven	• Jessie Gould – Middletown
• Vincent Matrisciano – New Haven	• William Myshrall – Hartford
	• Arlene Stafford – New Britain
1991	1992
• Carol Bonsey – LV of Greater Middletown	• Carol Halstead – Wallingford
• Kathy Marecki – New Haven	• Beverly LeConche – Hartford Urban League
• Barbara Novak – Middletown	• Nancy Olds – New Haven
1993	1994
• Felicia Dickerson – Hamden	• Jim Cannata – Middletown
• Ester Elphick – Middletown	• George Demetrios – Literacy Volunteer of Greater Hartford
• Connie Toni – EASTCONN/NE Regional	• Catherine McKernan – Hamden
1995	1996
• Mary Dixon – USD #1	• Michael Fortuna – Middletown
• Lynne Malone – ERACE	• Yvonne Lynch – Education Connection
• Mabel Massaro – Wallingford	• Yolanda Viggiano – Hartford
1997	1998
• Dianne Grenier – Norwich	• Phyllis McMahan – Bristol
• Dianne Marlowe – ACES	• Matthew Magda – Waterbury
• Mary Mitchell – Hamden	• Michelle Muller – Stamford
1999	2000
• Jean Hanson – DOC	• Kathleen Conran – Urban League of GH
• Carol Hornreich – New Haven	• Sis. Mary Christel Nolan – West Hartford
• Sue Pierson – Wallingford	• Deborah Stence – WERACE
2001	2002
• Ralph Russo – Stamford	• Karen McTeague – D.O.C.
• Donald Desmond – LV of New Haven	• Myrtle Lois Willis-Robb – WERCE
• Laurie Tishler – CREC	• Patricia Marino – Norwich
2003	2004
• Mary Carucci – Bristol	• Steve Maxwell – Stamford
• Madeline DePeter – New London	• Pat Rosiene – Norwich
• Myra Thistle – Wallingford	• Lisa Schurholz-Winters – Middletown

CAACE HALL OF HONORS

Crystal Apple "EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD"

2005	2006
• Joseph Ferraiolo – East Haven	• Mary Brown – Hartford
• Alyson Kleiber – Stamford	• Cynthia Cappetta – Middletown
• Susan Langhans – Middletown	• Christine Martin – New Milford
2007	2008
• Reva Fleischman – Hamden	• Margaret Blanda – Stamford
• Pamela MacTaggart – Norwich	• Martha Marquand – Stamford
• Maria Nohemy Rojas – Hartford	• Ruth Holman Macijauskas – East Hartford
2009	2010
• Cheryl Egan – Norwich	• Dolores Crawley – Bridgeport
• John Killian – Stratford	• Maureen Murphy – New London
• Joseph Lawler – Middletown	• Joanne Spongberg – Hartford
2011	2012
• Melissa Adduci – VRABE	• Joan Donoghue – New London
• Pamela Andersen – Wallingford	• Marian Bissonnette – VRABE
• Teresa Cavaliero – Stamford	• Marcia Behling-Rodrigues – Hartford
2013	2014
• Thomas Blake – Hartford	• Christine Bjork – ERACE
• Denise Paternostro – Middletown	• Eileen O’Neill – USD#1
• Rayford Somerville – USD #1	• Kathleen Pouch, Norwich
2015	2016
• Lois Devino – Naugatuck	• Chet Capiga – Hartford
	• Lise McCarthy – East Hartford
	• Karen O’Connell – New London
2017	2018
• Michael Angelillo – Simsbury	• Susan Kocaba – ERACE
• Susan Benthall – Stamford	• Lynn Stephans – Middletown
• Dianne Talbot – EASTCONN	• Joshua Judson – Manchester
2019	2020
• Carmen Golas – East Hartford	• Shelby Adams – Naugatuck
• Lorraine Ouellette – Wallingford	• Jame Rainville – USD #1
• Tom Oxman – Manchester	• Denise Spellman – New London
2021	2022
• Kathryn Ladd – East Hartford	<i>Who will it be?</i>
• Raquel Hutton – Manchester	
• Madelyn Sartor – Norwich	

Congratulations!

CAACE Leadership Award

Dr. Diane Clare-Kearney, Manchester Adult Education
Thursday, March 11, 2021

Individuals who have made special contributions to the field of adult education or have shown support for adult education programs in Connecticut are nominated for the CAACE Leadership Award. One outstanding leader is selected each year and honored at the CAACE Conference.



Once in a lifetime, someone touches the hearts and minds of those in search of answers and frustrated and anxious about social mores and existing conventions in convoluted systems. Dr. Diane Kearney is that special someone. She has been and continues to be that very gifted educator who has affected positive change in the Manchester Public School System for years! As Equity Director for the Manchester Public Schools along with her role of twenty years of leadership in Adult Education, the last ten as the Manchester Adult and Continuing Education Director, Dr. Kearney has affected positive and forward change for our program and invariably for our public school system. She is an individual who is poised, professional, conscientious, astute, and people-centered. Her work is always thorough and exact. Her sense of humor and optimistic outlook is refreshing. She is a consummate professional with so much to offer, not just in her important leadership roles, but as an educator, parent, and colleague.

In 2009, Dr. Kearney was assigned the responsibility of creating a district-based Manchester Adult and Continuing Education institution which would be a benefit to the Manchester community and contribute to the enhanced mission of the Manchester School System. To her credit, Dr. Kearney immersed herself in this project and created a program which is not only successful but lauded as a model for our State. Her focus on enhancing the lives of adult learners and advancing their lives is a testimonial to her dedication, passion, and drive to improve the quality of life for all those who are willing to engage and persevere in personal enhancement.

Dr. Kearney's belief system is based on "for every decision that needs to be made, we need to ask ourselves, 'what is best for our students?'" These words guide her every action and are evident in every conversation; not as buzzwords or slogans, but as her personal educational philosophy. Dr. Kearney is not only knowledgeable about the most current research and educational theory, but is a practitioner. Under her leadership, MA&CE has expanded its programs from evenings only to include daytime, offsite and certification programs.

Dr. Kearney thinks quickly and logically, allowing her to make difficult decisions masterfully. Her choice of words and expressions turns potentially problematic situations into productive, successful ones. She knows just what to say and how to say it. Staff, students, and colleagues would all agree that Dr. Kearney is an outstanding administrator!

Congratulations to Diane Clare-Kearney, 2021 Leadership Award Recipient!

CAACE HALL OF HONORS

Adult Educator Awards

LEADERSHIP AWARD

1988 G. Dom Passarelli New Haven Adult Education	1989 Arthur Muldowney Middletown Education	1991 Don Chao ATDN
1992 Julie Stone Literacy Volunteers of America – CT	1993 Patricia McCann Vissepo New Haven Board of Education	1994 Joseph Murphy Norwich Adult Education
1995 Ellen Thompson Hamden Adult Education	1996 Joseph J. Cretella Wallingford Adult Education	1997 Frank DeLoreto Hartford Adult Education
1998 Angela Atwater Literacy Volunteers of America – CT	1999 Bette Huckabee Capitol Region Education Council	2000 Roslyn Nesin Stamford Adult Education
2001 Anthony Sabilia New London Adult Education	2002 Roberta Pawloski CT State Department Of Education	2003 Reina Marasco Valley Regional Adult Education
2004 Newton Clark W. Hartford Adult Education	2005 Mary Berry Norwich Adult Education	2006 James Ieronimo Meriden Adult Education
2007 Daniel J. Gaynor New London Adult Education	2008 Sis Mitchell WERACE/Danbury Adult Education	2009 Andy Tyskiewicz Capitol Region Education Council
2010 Wayne Valaitis Literacy Volunteers	2011 Richard Tariff EASTCONN	2012 Maria Groody Bristol Adult Education
2013 David Downes West Hartford Adult Education	2014 Nicholas Montano New Haven Adult Education	2015 Richard Welk Vernon Regional Adult Based Education
2016 Nina Tourtellotte Education Connection	2017 Sharon Muldowney Middletown Adult Education	2018 Fred Silbermann Meriden Adult Education
2019 Jody Huzina WERACE/Danbury	2020 Michelle Bonora New Haven	2021 Diane Clare-Kearney Manchester

Congratulations!

CAACE Scholarship Fund Awards

CAACE is honored to present the 2021 Learner of the Year scholarships from memorial donations generously provided to CAACE during the past years. CAACE thanks both the Murphy and Tyskiewicz families for supporting adult learners in Connecticut with memorial scholarships. The memory of their loved ones will live on in the lives of our student award recipients.

The CAACE Scholarship Fund has been established to recognize excellence in adult education students, teachers, counselors, and administrators. At the annual CAACE Conference, recipients of the CAACE scholarship and awards are invited to attend the awards luncheon and are honored by colleagues, friends, and family. This year, due to the pandemic, the award winners will be honored with video presentations of their accomplishments.

The Joseph B. Murphy Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a deserving adult learner. This scholarship was established in memory of Joe Murphy, a long time adult educator who contributed to the field of adult education as a teacher, administrator, and CAACE board member and officer. He was dedicated to providing educational opportunities to those least educated and most in need of education.

The Camille Tyskiewicz Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a deserving adult learner. This scholarship was established by the family of Camille Tyskiewicz. Mrs. Tyskiewicz's personal experience as an immigrant led to her appreciation of the efforts undertaken by adults for whom English is not their primary language. She was also aware that the key to becoming a successful citizen was education. The family of Mrs. Tyskiewicz is pleased to offer this scholarship to a deserving Adult Education student.

The Dr. Tina Romano Jeter Memorial Scholarship is awarded to one of our Adult Learners. This scholarship was established in memory of Dr. Tina Romano Jeter, a life-long educator who had a deep dedication to all of the students she worked with in the greater Hartford area. She was a teacher and administrator for 39 years with the Hartford Public schools. Tina served as a long-term Board member for CAACE and was a relentless advocate for adult learners throughout our state.

CAACE Scholarship Fund Awards

The Jim Harrison Memorial Scholarship is awarded to an adult learner through the generous support of individuals that are able to continue to reward excellence in adult education. Jim was a passionate educator and a nationally recognized expert in adult education and literacy. His early years in education were spent as a teacher and director of Adult Education. In 1983, Jim joined the CT Department of Education where he spent 20 years leading the development of policies and programs to improve Connecticut's education services to adults. His contributions in the areas of standards-based education, public transparency, and program accountability continue to shape Connecticut's adult education landscape.

The Kristin Berenson Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a meriting adult education learner. This scholarship was established in memory of Kristin, a life-long educator who contributed to the field of adult education as a teacher, trainer, mentor, advocate, administrator, and friend who reminded us all that "Life is Good".

Through the generous donations of family and friends, *The Aileen Halloran Memorial Scholarship* and *The Fred Silbermann Memorial Scholarship* were recently established to support even more adult learners in Connecticut.

**For information on how to donate to the
CAACE Scholarship Fund, please visit
www.caace.org.**



CAACE Learner of the Year Awards

Friday, March 12, 2021

Fathima Anis

Farmington Adult Education - GED
CAACE Scholarship Fund

Chaimae Mamjoud

Middletown Adult Education-ESL/GED
Joseph B. Murphy Memorial Scholarship

Malgorzata Augustowska

Manchester Adult Education - ESL/ABE
Camille Tyskiewicz Memorial Scholarship

No Nguyen

East Hartford Adult Education - ESL
Dr. Tina Jeter Memorial Scholarship

Carol Bennett

EASTCONN - NEDP
Jim Harrison Memorial Scholarship

Anthony Rongetti

WERACE - CDP
Kristin Berenson Memorial Scholarship

Maria Lazaro

EASTCONN - ESL
Aileen Halloran Memorial Scholarship

Angel Freeman

Naugatuck Adult Education - CDP
Fred Silbermann Memorial Scholarship

CAACE Learner of the Year Award

CAACE Scholarship Fund

Fathima Anis
Farmington Adult Education, GED



Fathima Anis is a student who breaks through barriers, overcomes obstacles and pursues learning and knowledge with a controlled abandon and humility only seen in a few individuals. Regardless of the concept, or its corresponding level of difficulty, Fathima actively works with the material until she has a complete understanding. As a complement to this incredible effort on her behalf, Fathima holds me accountable to facilitate her learning so as to improve my ability to teach. In essence, Fathima's drive and personality in the classroom has provided me the opportunity to grow as an educator.

Fathima's endeavors in the classroom are accomplished while she encounters difficulties with a language that is not Fathima's native tongue as well as cultural items which could pose problems for other students. Fathima views these potential hindrances to her progress as opportunities to expand her capabilities. No matter what is happening at home, or in her life, Fathima shows up to class ready to not only learn but to improve herself for the sake of her family and her own future.

While on this journey of educational enlightenment, Fathima also helps other students in class to overcome difficulties and learn material and concepts presented in class. Fathima's presence helps to put the other students at ease, and her pleasant demeanor helps to enhance the learning experience for all. Fathima is a vital member of our classroom and school community.

Congratulations Fathima!

CAACE Learner of the Year Award

Joseph B. Murphy Memorial Scholarship

Chaimae Mamjoud
Middletown Adult Education, ESL/GED



Chaimae Mamjoud is a shining example of what an adult education student can accomplish through hard work and determination. She emigrated from Italy to the United States in 2016. Chaomae wasted no time and in the fall of 2016 she enrolled in our intermediate ESL class at Middletown Adult Education (MAE). Through her perseverance, consistent practice, and excellent attendance she progressed to a higher level. In September of 2019, she enrolled into the GED preparation classes and concurrently enrolled her two children into MAE's Family Literacy Program.

While at MAE, Chaimae was an active student and utilized the resources available at adult education. She attended resume writing workshops at our College and Career Center that later helped her gain part time employment at Subway and Fedex. In January 2020, Chaimae passed her GED exams and became a high school graduate. As a participant in the WIOA grant, she qualified for the Phlebotomy certification at Middlesex Community College. It was postponed due to the COVID outbreak but eventually she completed and passed it. She has been working as a phlebotomist with an end goal of becoming a nurse. As if that wasn't enough, this October Chaimae passed her citizenship exam. As a new U.S. Citizen she proudly registered to vote for the first time.

Congratulations Chaimae!

CAACE Learner of the Year Award

Camille Tyskiewicz Memorial Scholarship

Malgorzata Augustowska
Manchester Adult Education, ESL/ABE



Malgorzata Augustowska was born in a rural village of Kopciufka, in Poland and lived on a farm with her family rising early to care for the cows, pigs, ducks and other animals. She was expected to cultivate and harvest the crops, before going off to school each day. At 16, she left school as her family decided to immigrate to the United States. Unfortunately, her father died but with the support of her extended family, she was able to start a whole new life in America repairing houses which ultimately led to her family establishing a small real estate business. Starting in her teenage years, Malgorzata, whose nickname is “Gosha,” became involved in all aspects of that real estate/property owning business. However, she knew if she were to achieve true success, she had to thoroughly learn English, gain her GED, and ultimately study and obtain her real estate license.

Gosha has been in MA&CE two and a half years enrolling in ESL classes initially. As her English improved, she was able to take a Customer Service Class specifically designed for ESL students, and then she was also ready to enroll in the GED program. She is making strong progress and hopes to earn her GED by the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

Gosha has a warm and engaging personality, perfectly fit to succeed as a real estate agent. Meanwhile, as she has been attending ESL and GED classes, she works in her family’s real estate business interacting with clients, gaining knowledge and experience of all facets of the real estate business. Her ESL classes have helped her learn and refine her “soft skills” so that she can effectively work with clients to contribute to her family business’ success.

Through the years, Gosha has experienced many hardships, but in spite of them all, she has pressed on to achieve her goals.

Congratulations Malgorzata!

CAACE Learner of the Year Award

Dr. Tina Jeter Memorial Scholarship

No Nguyen
East Hartford Adult Education, ESL



No was born in Vietnam during the Vietnam War. As a girl with a Black American father, she and her family faced many hardships growing up. After No left Vietnam for the Philippines, then finally for the United States, she married and had four children. Now, many years later, No has four grown, all highly successful college-educated children. The time felt right for No to come back to school and focus on her own education.

No is a model student. She shows up for her ESL class each evening, and is on time! I can recount many times over the past four years, walking into No's classroom, seeing her smiling face as I stop in for a classroom observation or visit. Even now, as we have transitioned to remote learning, No is still on camera, on Zoom, on time, each and every night that class is held.

Last year, our program had the opportunity to visit New York City for a Lancôme "Give Back Day." No was one of the four women we choose to send to the city with two chaperones. Well, that was No's first time in New York City and her newfound English skills came in handy as the students navigated streets and chatted with other students present at the event. No had a blast and came home with a makeover and a bag full of Lancôme beauty products. She also came home to East Hartford with additional confidence, knowing that she had a visited New York without needing anyone to translate for her.

Now that No's children are grown, she feels this is her time to shine and with No's personality and work ethic, I have no doubt that she will continue to master the English language and continue to succeed in anything she does in the future. ESL students make up the largest group of adult education students in our program and across the state, and No's story will serve to inspire all of them.

Congratulations No!

CAACE Learner of the Year Award

Jim Harrison Memorial Scholarship

Carol Bennett
EASTCONN, NEDP



Carol is a caretaker by nature. She has raised two children, a son and daughter, and has spent her career working in group-homes caring for the residents. When she started the NEDP program she was also taking care of her father-in-law who had health issues. The majority of the responsibility for him fell on her and her husband. She was very open about the struggle of juggling work and family, especially with the long hours at the group home. Even with this responsibility and exhaustion Carol kept pushing herself to set aside time to work on the NEDP.

This juggling does not stop her from finding other ways to give back and care for others and challenge herself. She also volunteers once a week at a church in Putnam Connecticut to help prepare and pack meals for over 100 people. Carol also enrolled and passed an online CNA course to get her a step closer to her goal once she earns her diploma.

Over this past year Carol has faced, like all of us the challenges of COVID, but she has also experienced the loss of her father-in-law and her brother-in-law within months of each other. During all of this, as her father-in-law's health worsened and his needs increased, and then making funeral arrangements, she continued on with the NEDP program.

Carol will be earning her diploma over the next few months. Her drive and big heart are motivators to me and to those around her. She is pushing forward, keeping her goals in her sight. She is more than Learner of the Year - she is a learner of a life-time!

Congratulations Carol!

CAACE Learner of the Year Award

Kristin Berenson Memorial Scholarship

Anthony Rongetti
WERACE, CDP



Anthony is an incredibly hard-working and driven young man. He is a good natured student who always strives to be the best person he possibly can be. He has a desire to learn and a real passion for doing well in his studies. His respectful personality and his kind and affable nature make him a real asset to the WERACE program.

Anthony is respectful, honest, and determined. As I reflect back on his time here at WERACE, what comes to mind is his innate ability to look at situations in a responsible and unique fashion. He takes the time to figure out what the best next step would be and then proceeds to move forward making good choices. He has always been true to himself; a wonderful trait for anyone in today's world. His self-reliance and dedication are attributes that make him a remarkable student and person. He believes in treating all people with respect and dignity. These characteristics will continue to positively contribute to his future endeavors.

Although Anthony may have had some difficulty when in traditional high school when he was younger and immature, he never gave up on himself and is now a model student. He continues to work hard to achieve high standards. He often states that it is not where you start, but where you finish that matters.

Anthony is a remarkable person who has done and will continue to do amazing things!

Congratulations Anthony!

CAACE Learner of the Year Award

Aileen Halloran Memorial Scholarship

Maria Lazaro
EASTCONN, ESL



Maria is a student with a rare passion for learning. She has had to invest great amounts of effort and time into her studies, starting with having to learn to read and write in her first language, since she did not have the opportunity to go to school as a child. She is an inspiration to her classmates, family members and church community. She is a delightful student who is always willing to contribute and look for solutions as a general approach to life. Her nurturing and positive spirit is treasured by both students and teachers--she is delightful to be around.

Rosi started her educational journey as an older adult in the United States. Once her own children were grown and out of the house, Rosi felt that it was time for her to focus on her education and interests. Given her low literacy levels, she first had to learn to read and write in her native language (Spanish). This was a slow process, but one that she took on with great effort and dedication.

After about three years of extremely hard work, she obtained her Spanish GED. Once she obtained her diploma, she enrolled in our National Customer Service Credential and also completed several ServSafe certifications -- since she has a passion for food preparation and cooking—one that she has turned into a small entrepreneurial venture. Rosi sells authentic Mexican food and specialty cakes for weddings and other special occasions.

Since the pandemic began, and despite not being comfortable with the new technology, Rosi attended every live Zoom class. As we progressed, her comfort level increased and she began to feel more at ease. It was a very steep curve for her, but she never said “I can’t do this, or I think this is too much for me”. Instead, she persevered and just kept moving forward. Her dedication, enthusiasm for learning, positive attitude, and community and family involvement makes Rosi a dream student!

Congratulations Maria!

CAACE Learner of the Year Award

Fred Silbermann Memorial Scholarship

Angel Freeman
Naugatuck Adult Education, CDP



Angel has a strong amount of compassion and is extremely caring towards others. She dedicates herself to her family and friends at all times. She has an extremely kind heart and supports her friends, family, classmates, and anyone else in need. I remember when Angel was in middle school, she would always ask me how the students who were not as fortunate as her were doing. She always looked out for them, said hello to them, and offered to help them in any way possible. This positive quality she displayed in middle school has carried on with her through adulthood. I continue to see the same positive behaviors with her peers.

When Angel came into Naugatuck Adult and Continuing Education, she took the program by storm! She would not be stopped from earning her credits and made sure that she was going to finish in order to receive her diploma. Her perseverance, dedication, and goal to finish the program was truly admirable.

Every week, Angel would be seen working diligently in the computer lab on an assignment for another class 45 minutes prior to the start of my class. She would simultaneously work on her independent studies, her core academic classwork, as well as maintaining multiple jobs during the day. A typical day for Angel can be seen as exhausting while juggling jobs during the day and then persevering through fatigue to find the stamina to achieve her academic goals at night. Angel would forbid personal strife and familial matters from hindering her progress of achieving her academic goal. She would never show how these difficult experiences she may have been going through could be affecting her in class. Her struggles never impacted her coursework nor her outgoing personality. She would always come to class happy and ready to learn at all times, even though we both knew that something may have been going on in her personal life. Angel is very resilient and has a talent for handling adversity without letting it get the best of her.

Congratulations Angel!



.... wishes to thank the following individuals for their continued support and assistance throughout the years. Their volunteer efforts continue to ensure our conference is a success.

Special Thanks

A very special thank you to Larry Covino, Heather Pelletier, Jody Huzina, Sarah De Feudis, Dana Little, and the rest of the Conference Committee for planning and coordinating the virtual conference for a second consecutive year! Your time and effort makes a difference for our adult educators and ultimately, our adult learners.

Technology Support

Sarah De Feudis
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*Congratulations to the CAACE
Learner of the Year!*

~ No Nguyen ~

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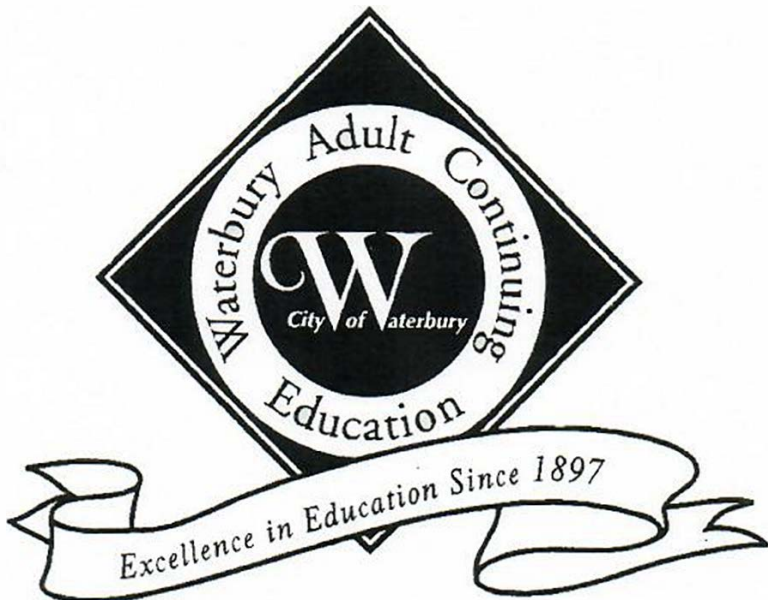
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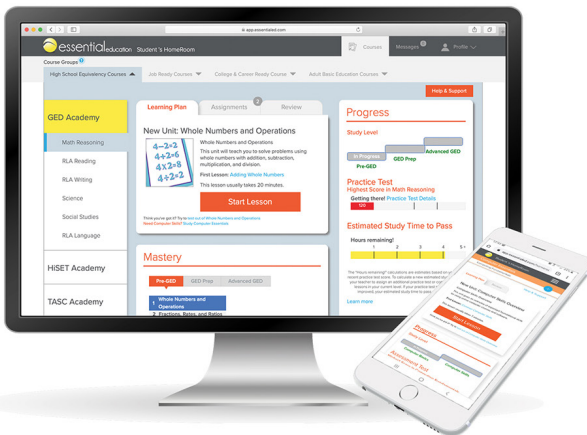
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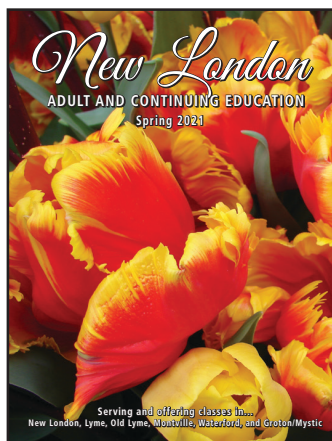
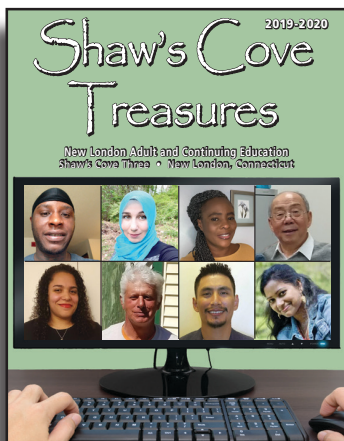
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Anthony Rongetti is the quintessential adult student and is the CAACE student of the year. His positive attitude and unwavering dedication has caught the attention of WERACE professionals and students alike. Anthony success reaches beyond the classroom and into the community as a local first responder. This student of the year award is, without a doubt, in the right hands.

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