

CAACE Conference Workshops

Thursday, March 10, 2022

Session 1

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Session # 1A

What are the Skills of Adults in Connecticut?

Presented by: Emily Pawlowski, Alex Lesniak

Focus Topic: Site Management

Are you interested in knowing more about literacy and numeracy skills of the population in Connecticut? Do you know how the skills of adults in your county compares to neighboring counties? What implications does this have for your program or how you teach? This session is focused on helping you answer these questions and more using the many features of the U.S. Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) Skills Map.

Session # 1B

Aligning Community College Workforce Programs with Employer Needs

Presented by: Christian Lund

Focus Topic: Workforce Development

This session presents the results of a 2021 doctoral study conducted to identify best practices being utilized by workforce organizations to close the middle skills gap. This study focused on state higher education and workforce professionals and their practices used to ensure community colleges offer programs that meet employer needs. The study's primary research question was: How do stakeholders describe the ways they align community college degree curricula, workforce training, and credential programs with the workforce needs of employers? The study results may identify best practices that could be emulated or adopted by other practitioners nationwide.

Session # 1C

Replenishing the Reservoir: A Rest-Stop for Adult Educators

Presented by: Emily Wilson

Focus Topic: Personal Development

The pandemic has upended everything we knew it, while the long-ranging impacts have been far beyond what we expected. Educators are exhausted and overwhelmed. This mini-retreat session will introduce informed principles and bite-size strategies for renewal and rejuvenation. It is a critical time for refilling our reservoirs. Join us for a restorative session: anyone who teaches and supports adult learners is welcome.

CANCELED

Session # 1D

Learn about the Benefits of Green Commuting with CTrides.

Presented by: Kerrice Reynolds

Focus Topic: Other

CTrides, a free program of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, helps the people of Connecticut enjoy the environmental, financial, and health benefits of driving alone less. Learn about the transportation options available to you and everyone in Connecticut and find out how together, we will create a better place to live and work.

Session # 1E

Employer-based Pathways: Increasing Diversity, Inclusion, Equity for Immigrants at Tyson Foods

Presented by: Anson Green

Focus Topic: Workforce Development

Increasingly, businesses seek partnerships to build programs that address social risks and limited upward mobility arising from skill and language gaps in their immigrant workforce. Unaddressed, these gaps lead to worker instability with direct impacts including costly turn-over and reduced ability to support inclusive promotional pathways. Tyson will present their AEFLA-based workplace literacy, digital literacy, and career pathways models designed to support upward mobility and equitable access to promotions while supporting NRS performance for providers.

Session # 1F

Enhancing Student Engagement with Cooperative Learning and Protocols

Presented by: Susan Domanico

Focus Topic: High School Completion

This session will revisit some instructional strategies that oldies but goodies to promote student-centered, active learning in all kinds of classrooms. Participants will review the structures of various cooperative learning strategies and instructional protocols that shift the responsibility for learning to the students. These strategies promote independence, risk-taking, differentiated tasks, and equity in the classroom.

Session # 1G

UVSV® – Use the Visual to Stimulate the Verbal®

Presented by: G.A. Mudge

Focus Topic: ESL/Citizenship

The UVSV® (Use the Visual to Stimulate the Verbal®) teaching technique and the UVSV® books provide an effective methodology to teach English as a second language and other subjects. Correcting student writing and explaining lessons learned from student mistakes encourage the active and creative involvement of a teacher, thereby mitigating and minimizing teacher fatigue, boredom and burnout while teaching basic language. Speaking and reading lessons evolve naturally from writing lessons.

Session # 1H

Prepare for CASAS with BurlingtonEnglish to Get the Test Results You Need!

Presented by: Brandi Cardwell, Barry Nitzberg

Focus Topic: ESL/Citizenship

Discover why BurlingtonEnglish has been recognized by CASAS as an official partner in education! In this session, learn how our CASAS preparation course, Prepare for CASAS, helps teachers assess students, identify learning needs, and target instruction. You will get a view of practice tests, progress reports, and interactive lessons designed to help students master the CASAS competencies. Participants will learn how to navigate our CASAS In-Class Lessons and utilize this powerful teaching tool to engage students in lessons they can apply to the test and in real life. This session is perfect for current users and anyone interested in learning about BurlingtonEnglish.

Session 2 – Featured Speaker

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Session # 2

Keynote Speaker

Presented by: Dr. Donna Beegle

Focus Topic: General Audience

Dr. Beegle's inspiring story of moving from 28 years of homelessness to achieving a doctorate and her groundbreaking work assisting people to move out of poverty has been featured on the internet, in newspapers, and on television around the nation. She is presently completing a PBS documentary with award-winning producer, George Rivera and was featured on CNN in The Other America segment. Dr. Beegle has received numerous awards (i.e. National Speaker of the year for the New Mexico Bar Foundation and the Oregon Ethics in Business award). In 2013 Donna was named Woman of Influence by the Portland Business Journal and received the Orchid Award which honors women who are compelling, affect change and represent their positions with strength, wisdom and grace. Just re-cently, Dr. Beegle was named a prestigious Woodrow Wilson Princeton Fellow through their Office of Governmental Relations.



Session 3

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Session # 3A

Changed People, Changed Systems, Part 1

Presented by: Ryan Parker, Jason Fredlund

Focus Topic: Equity

Activists, Educators, and members of Manchester's Department of Race & Equity, Jason Fredlund and Ryan Parker, are excited to take you on a journey that explores the personal work of (re)claiming our individual humanity as a pathway towards liberation. Balancing theory and practice, we'll build capacity and confidence to actualize commitments to racial equity at the individual, interpersonal, and operational domains. Join us to explore 'tools/toys' that allow us to actualize the transformational relationships that our communities deserve.

Session # 3B

Creating a Pre-Apprenticeship Program: Our Journey, Part 1

Presented by: Andrew Rockett, Cortney Gerlach, Risa Filkoff

Focus Topic: Workforce Development

VRABE's Pre-Apprenticeship Program began this semester, but was 3 years in development. Among the hurdles were funding, finding a manufacturing partner, developing the curriculum, seeking additional partners, staffing, marketing and operational issues. Building on the fine work of others, we've developed a program that partners not only with a plastics manufacturer and the Connecticut Department of Labor, but also with Rockville High School and a national professional organization. Our journey may help you plan your own.

Session # 3C

Trauma Informed Care and Adult Foundational Literacy, Part 1

Presented by: Rochelle Galeski

Focus Topic: Personal Development

Participants will learn principles of Trauma Informed Care and how to apply them to building community partners, intake and retention of Adult Foundational Learners. We will examine Implicit Bias and removing our "blind spots" by being Trauma-Informed.

Session # 3D

The Struggle is Real: Self Care and Balance for Educators, Part 1

Presented by: Allison Reid

Focus Topic: Personal Development

Working in education is meaningful, important, rewarding... and hard. Recent events have only exacerbated the challenges faced by teachers, advisors, and leaders. To do our best work and sustain our efforts, we must find ways to manage the challenges, amplify the positives, and maintain our energy. This workshop will explore specific strategies that educators can use to take care of themselves and show up for students.

Session # 3E

Behind Every Employer Campaign: Engaging Companies in Adult Education

Presented by: Celina Shands, Sharon Bonney

Focus Topic: Workforce Development

If you are struggling to engage employers, then join us to learn about Behind Every Employer, a campaign led by the Coalition on Adult Basic education that strategically connects companies with educators across the country to provide solutions for the workforce challenges they face. Apply the campaign toolkit to help you attract employers, receive employer referrals through the campaign's locator map, and replicate case studies on how to launch a localized campaign to increase employer engagement.

Session # 3F

We're All On the Same Team With the Same Goal

Presented by: Astrid Robitaille, Amy Shea

Focus Topic: High School Completion

This workshop will discuss the intersection of ABE, GED, and NEDP for adult learners, and how these areas overlap. Presenters will share ways to improve communication with staff members to ensure adult learners will "bloom where they are planted."

Session # 3G

Getting Started with CASAS eTests, Part 1

Presented by: Elizabeth Scheib

Focus Topic: Site Management

This presentation will explain how to get started with CASAS eTests. We will discuss how to proctor eTests on-site and remotely. This will be helpful for those interested in learning about CASAS eTests or new users.

Session # 3H

Education to Change Lives/Essential Education

Presented by: Peggy Bernard, Stephanie Kirkwood

Focus Topic: High School Completion

A one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work for most adult learners. Because of this, teachers often struggle to create learning plans to fit various needs. Learn how our GED Academy® pinpoints the missing CCRS skills, then creates an individualized learning pathway for each student, all while giving teachers the resources they need to make sure every student is successful. Learn to accelerate learning so every student can achieve success - without exceptions!

Session 4

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Session # 4A

Changed People, Changed Systems, Part 2

Presented by: Ryan Parker, Jason Fredlund

Focus Topic: Equity

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Session # 4B

Creating a Pre-Apprenticeship Program: Our Journey, Part 2

Presented by: Andrew Rockett, Cortney Gerlach, Risa Filkoff

Focus Topic: Workforce Development

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Session # 4C

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Presented by: Rochelle Galeski

Focus Topic: Personal Development

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Session # 4D

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Working in education is meaningful, important, rewarding... and hard. Recent events have only exacerbated the challenges faced by teachers, advisors, and leaders. To do our best work and sustain our efforts, we must find ways to manage the challenges, amplify the positives, and maintain our energy. This workshop will explore specific strategies that educators can use to take care of themselves and show up for students.

Session # 4E

Democracy, Dialogue, and Civility in a Social Media Age

Presented by: Judith Rosenbaum

Focus Topic: Other

The popularity of social media has created fierce debates about the state of American democracy. Do these platforms contribute to political polarization, or do they allow for much-needed dialogue between political opponents? In this workshop, we reflect on what a well-functioning democracy looks like in a world dominated by social media. We will consider how and when the often inflammatory and one-sided discussions on social media can still make a meaningful contribution to American democracy.

Session # 4F

Mathematical Reasoning and the GED(R) Test

Presented by: Debi Faucette, Scott Salesses

Focus Topic: High School Completion

There are a lot of students across the country, who are so close to earning a high school credential, if they could just master the skills needed for the GED Math test. Research has identified trends in student's knowledge and skills gaps. This session will focus on mathematical reasoning for a content-based approach to instructional strategies. Combining computational skills with an understanding of "how to think through" (determine a process) to solve the problem will lead to a student success.

Session # 4G

Getting Started with CASAS eTests, Part 2

Presented by: Elizabeth Scheib

Focus Topic: Site Management

This presentation will explain how to get started with CASAS eTests. We will discuss how to proctor eTests on-site and remotely. This will be helpful for those interested in learning about CASAS eTests or new users.

Session # 4H

VirtualJobShadow.com - Online Career Readiness for Workforce and Transition Programs

Presented by: Lily Shaw

Focus Topic: Transitions (Post Secondary Education & Training), Workforce Development

Join my workshop for a walkthrough of VirtualJobShadow.com: an inclusive, web-based career exploration platform that empowers people to learn more about themselves, suitable career pathways, and the skills necessary for independent living. The heart of the platform features hundreds of professionally produced "day in the life" videos that showcase workforce realities, while making connections to post-secondary education. By featuring diverse individuals at actual employer worksites, our videos inspire job seekers of all backgrounds and abilities.

Session 5

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Session # 5A

Digital ATDN Technology Resources

Presented by: Jose Adorno

Focus Topic: Technology & Digital Literacy

This workshop is a walkthrough that would cover the different services and resources provided through the CSDE tech grant. Some of these include: how to access past recorded presentations, where to find the resources, how to sign up for tech support and other services that are currently being offered in the tech grant.

Session # 5B

Labor Market Information and Resources

Presented by: Patrick Flaherty, Jessy George

Focus Topic: Workforce Development

The Connecticut Department of Labor's Office of Research would be pleased to provide a presentation of the Labor Market Information that can be used for job search and career planning. The presentation will focus on opportunities in the Connecticut economy for workers of all skill levels but will focus on 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 # 5C

The Making of Chasing the Wind - A Novel

Presented by: Maria Rivera

Focus Topic: Personal Development

I would love for participants to walk out with a message of hope and perhaps an untapped writing talent.

Session # 5D

How to Manage Your Energy, Not Your Time

Presented by: Ellen Goodwin

Focus Topic: Personal Development

Time management is a myth. You can schedule out every minute of every day, but if you don't have the energy to do the things you've planned, then what does it matter? In this fun, highly interactive training, Ellen introduces the 4 Ps of Energy Management, shows how to assess (and leverage) personal energy patterns, and shares the secrets to increasing the ability to focus more deeply (and why it matters).

Session # 5E

More Than Pointy Sticks: The Mental Health Benefits of Fiber Arts

Presented by: Astrid Robitaille

Focus Topic: Personal Development

Participants will learn about the mental health and stress- reducing benefits of knitting and crochet for both students and educators. We'll look at a knitting program for incarcerated adults in Maryland, and share resources for those who are interested in learning more about how this ancient handwork has been helping generations of women (and men!) to relax and recharge.

Session # 5F

GED Program Update

Presented by: Scott Salesses

Focus Topic: High School Completion

This session will provide key information and updates for those involved with GED test preparation and testing. Included in this session will be an update on Connecticut GED testing volume, national testing volume, overview of the online GED test, how to have a successful online GED testing experience, policy differences between the online GED test vs at a test center, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion update as well as key educator resources, tools and products to help prepare students for success.

Session # 5G

Dance Your Way to Health and Happiness

Presented by: Rima Riedel

Focus Topic: Personal Development

A combination of belly dance, salsa, folk and flamenco-- with a little faux Bollywood thrown in for good measure, Bellyrobics encompasses a variety of music from many countries. A fun and energizing hour, it will help whip you into shape as well as prepare you to take on the day.

Session # 5H

Get Your ESL Students Speaking with FlipGrid

Presented by: Katie Welch

Focus Topic: ESL/Citizenship

Is your ESL class too quiet? Do some of your students feel reluctant to speak? Wish you had a way to monitor how every student is progressing in their spoken English? Learn how to instantly elevate student voice in your classroom through FlipGrid, an easy-to-use app that allows students to record videos of themselves speaking—and to interact with other students. Join us as we explore how this free tech tool can open doors to more engagement, higher-quality conversations, and better assessment.

CAACE Conference Workshops

Friday, March 11, 2022

Session 6

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Session # 6A

OK, But How? Building a Real-World Toolkit for Student Engagement

Presented by: Allison Reid

Focus Topic: ABE

Many teachers value learner centered education and strive for student engagement; but in the busy day-to-day of teaching, are daunted by the potentially time consuming task of creating unique, engaging activities for each class. In this workshop we'll explore flexible, practical strategies that teachers can use to transform teacher centered, passive or low engagement activities into active, learner centered lessons.

Session # 6B

Reworking "RETHINK ADULT ED." What's Next?

Presented by: Catherine Awwad

Focus Topic: Workforce Development

After working with the region's Adult Ed providers to submit a comprehensive Rethink Adult Ed proposal, we will not leave the plan on the shelf. We will explore avenues to fund and implement the plan, supporting both adult ed students and manufacturing employers creating a career pathway to apprenticeships.

Session # 6C

How Grand is Your Total?

Presented by: Connie Rivera

Focus Topic: High School Completion

Come explore a math unit that uses puzzles and questions with multiple solution paths to engage students in learning about properties of numbers and operations, the meaning of equality, and the power of place value. This unit also builds foundational concepts for algebra; specifically, it lays the groundwork for formal learning about properties, inverse operations, and solving equations. You will leave with access to this unit of instruction.

Session # 6D

Digital Tools to Support Instruction for Adult Learners

Presented by: Catherine Bosco

Focus Topic: Technology & Digital Literacy

Adults benefit from a variety of tools to help support learning in various educational settings. Participants will experience multiple tools to address comprehension, collaboration and communication, while supporting digital literacy and skills necessary to be workforce ready.

Session # 6E

Differences Between IDEA/ADA in Relation to School-Prison Pipeline

Presented by: Debbie Dorfman, Michael Whilby

Focus Topic: Equity

This presentation will address the rights of students with disabilities in primary and secondary education to have equal educational opportunity and with respect to school discipline. Specifically, the presentation will explore the differences between the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in the context of rights of students with disabilities at school.

Session # 6F

Understanding the CAN System

Presented by: Jessica Kubicki

Focus Topic: Other

A clear understanding of the homeless response system, known as the CAN (Coordinated Access Network) and the collaboration between the homeless service providers in each of the communities. This presentation will review step by step the access points and milestones of the system that clients will experience and how providers can assist their clients in a housing crisis.

Session # 6G

An Educator's Best Choice: Effectively Using Free GED Resources!

Presented by: Debi Faucette, Scott Salesses

Focus Topic: GED, High School Completion

Supporting students and educators is an on-going and sustained effort for your GED Testing Service partners. Identifying the rich and robust free resources on the GED.com website is the first of a three-part process. It is not only important to know 1) they exist, but equally important to know, 2) how to access them, 3) and use them effectively in the classroom. Join us to explore the website resources and to connect the dots to into individualized classroom instruction.

Session # 6H

Improving Students' CASAS Scores with Aztec Software and Paxen Publishing

Presented by: Karyn Ruiz

Focus Topic: ABE, High School Completion

By the end of this session, attendees will have clear steps to identify areas of needs from their CASAS Content Standards reports and how they can then assign aligned Aztec classes or Paxen print lessons to reteach those identified skills and assist their students in making learning gains both on their CASAS tests as well as their other academic goals.

Session 7 – CAACE Awards Presentation

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Session # 7

Educator, Support Staff, Leader, and Student Awards

Focus Topic: General Audience

Sponsored by: Aztec Paxen Publishing



Session 8

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Session # 8A

In Your Own Words III: I've Found My Voice, Now What?

Presented by: Linda Blakesley, Rima Riedel

Focus Topic: ABE

This third workshop in the series presents new ideas on introducing writing to your students by empowering them through their own words. This segment will focus on developing and polishing your students' new found skills. Take the fear out of writing by having your students write their story while simultaneously applying essential language arts writing skills needed to be successful on the GED or any other high school completion writing course.

Session # 8B

Agency Overview - AJC, BRS, DMHAS

Presented by: Mary Hennessey, Ellen Econs

Focus Topic: Workforce Development

Overview of employment services offered at the American Job Center, Aging and Disability Services/BRS, and Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Session # 8C

Reasoning and the RLA GED(R) Test

Presented by: Debi Faucette, Scott Salesses

Focus Topic: High School Completion

We all acknowledge that reasoning skills are important because they are needed in every aspect of life. We must guide our adult learners to understand not only why the reasoning skills are important, but to develop their best reasoning skills. Strategies to be used in the classroom, as well as indications from GED research will be shared to support students achieving better reasoning skills through guided instruction.

Session # 8D

Organizing with Wakelet

Presented by: Jose Adorno

Focus Topic: Technology & Digital Literacy

Wakelet is a website that allows users to collect different online resources in one page. We will explore how to utilize it as a tool to create bulletin boards, topic of the month resources, and even as a place where you can organize your most used sites.

Session # 8E

Secretly Promoting Confidence through Literacy

Presented by: Nasreen Al Omari

Focus Topic: ESL/Citizenship

Different titles that can be used with ESL students to help build their confidence, reading skills and fluency.

Session # 8F

Creating Engaging Marketing Posts for Your Program

Presented by: Amarilda Vuka

Focus Topic: Site Management

Use online tools to create marketing posts to promote adult programs.

Session # 8G

Utilizing Intercultural Competence to Boost Your ESL Teaching Effectiveness

Presented by: Amy Russell

Focus Topic: ESL/Citizenship

The study of how cultures differ from each other has much to offer teachers of English as a Second language. Building on the work of G. Hofstede, who sees culture as the “software of the mind,” this presentation introduces some of the major cultural differences teachers are likely to encounter in the classroom. Participants will learn how to use their understanding of different cultures to tailor their approaches and to teach more effectively.

Session # 8H

From Warehouse to Doorstep – Careers in Supply Chain/NRF Foundation

Presented by: Kate Fessler

Focus Topic: Workforce Development

When ordering coffee online, what’s its journey from harvest to cup? If you purchase chairs in the metaverse, when will they arrive? Both items likely spend time in warehouses. Consumers’ expectations for on-time delivery are at an all-time high. This requires efficiency and translates into new supply chain jobs. Attend this lively discussion about in-demand careers in warehouses and logistics. Receive complimentary access to materials that cover skills needed to thrive in this space.

Session 9

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Session # 9A

Trauma-Informed Education

Presented by: Teresa Campbell

Focus Topic: ABE

What does it mean to use a trauma-informed approach to education? How does this approach help students learn?

Session # 9B

10 Cognitive Science Insights to Maximize Adult Students Learning

Presented by: Teddy Edouard

Focus Topic: ABE

This session's objective is to discuss 10 cognitive insights, their implications on instructional practices, and strategies to integrate them in the adult education classroom. This session will expose participants to some brain-based research findings. We will define cognitive science and its influence on teaching and learning. Then, we will discuss 10 insights and their implications for learning facilitation. Finally, we will explore strategies to apply the takeaways in different teaching contexts.

Session # 9C

Faux Poe: Channel the "Father of the Detective Story/Master of Macabre" in Your Writing

Presented by: Rima Riedel

Focus Topic: High School Completion

This workshop will include short excerpts from Edgar Allan Poe's work, as well as the opportunity to create your own. Great for teaching Language Arts and creative writing to students of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

Session # 9D

Formative Assessments in a Digital Classroom

Presented by: Nicholas Stevens

Focus Topic: Technology & Digital Literacy

A look at utilizing online tools in formative assessments to gather both quantitative and qualitative data to help you tailor your lessons to your students and their needs.

Session # 9E

What are the Kids Doing?

Presented by: Ruth Stewart-Curley

Focus Topic: Family Literacy

Family Literacy ideas for interactive activities for parents and children for both live and distance learning. Time will be included for participants to brainstorm in small groups to make their own lessons and then present their ideas to the whole group. You will leave with several examples of lessons you can put to use immediately!

Session # 9F

Creating Calm in Traditional and Virtual Classrooms to Promote Learning

Presented by: Laura DiGalbo

Focus Topic: Distance Learning

In 2022 we are in limbo between virtual and in person learning. It is an uncertain time. Going back and forth can be extremely unsettling. This workshop will explore how we as teachers can bring calm to both environments so learning can be accomplished. Participants will be exposed to the influence of environment on learning; develop understanding emotional and cognitive pitfalls of consistently changing environments; leave with strategies to create calm for students and ourselves in both environments to promote learning.

Session # 9G

Never Done: To-Do Lists, Productivity and Priorities for Educators Trying to Do It All

Presented by: Allison Reid

Focus Topic: Personal Development

Adult educators must reconcile ambitious goals, high standards, and often limited hours. This can leave dedicated teachers feeling that they are never done - the to do list is simply too long. We will explore actionable strategies that teachers, advisors, and others can use to assess and prioritize their to-do list, and use their time -- however limited -- more productively.

Session # 9H

Interactive and Engaging Instructional Content to Support Adult Education Instructors

Presented by: Dave Wilkerson

Focus Topic: Technology & Digital Literacy

This session will serve as a full demonstration of the teaching and learning benefits of the Boardworks interactive resources for instructors, students, and program leaders. We will focus on the benefits of Boardworks for adult education instructors and learners and why its essential for instructors to be at the forefront of great teaching to engage with their students no matter the learning environment. We will demonstrate how Boardworks is an ideal resource for adult education programs as an opportunity to improve learning outcomes in their GED and adult education offerings.