

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 Bercau

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

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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)