

CAACE Conference Workshops

Thursday, March 23, 2023

Session 1

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Session # 1A

A Teacher's Dozen: Activities to Engage Your Learners

Presented by: Ticiana Coleman, Dave Lysonski

Focus Topic: ESL (Exhibitor Presentation - Burlington English)

In-person, virtual, hybrid...donut worry! No matter what your English language classroom looks like, dip into our session to learn how to spice up your teaching and make any lesson more engaging. From warm-up activities and vocabulary lessons to grammar topics and pronunciation practice, we'll have a variety pack of ideas and activities to energize your classroom. Participants will leave full of new strategies to support their English language learners. Join our conference classroom and sweeten your day with the Burlington English team!

Session # 1B

Bridging the Digital Skill Gap through Mobile-Friendly Applications

Presented by: Jose Adorno

Focus Topic: Digital Literacy

Unlock the opportunity for students to continue to build Digital Literacy skills through mobile-friendly resources that can then be transferred to other device interfaces like a laptop or PC. In this presentation, you will find resources that are not only mobile-friendly, but can also help students reach the next level, even if they are still learning to navigate using a mouse or typing on a keyboard.

Session # 1C

Working With Your Local Community College

Presented by: Larry Covino, Susan Passini

Focus Topic: Collaboration/Partnerships

Participants will learn all of the different ways to collaborate with their local community colleges and the programming available to our adult learners. Topics to be addressed include dual enrollment opportunities, certification courses, financial assistance and working together in support of post secondary initiatives.

Session # 1D

Empowering Adult Education Students and Parents Through Leadership Training

Presented by: Rick Raucci, Faye Griffiths-Smith

Focus Topic: Family Literacy

The partnership between Milford Adult Education and UConn, provides leadership training to adult learners through funding from CSDE's Parent Trust Fund. Learn about how to implement successful parent leadership training locally. We'll highlight action steps needed to pilot the UConn Extension People Empowering People Communities Program, which helps adult learners gain confidence and realize that their community is a better place because they take part in it.

Session # 1E

Investing in Our Future: Recruiting Talent, Making Connections, and Building Success with Strengths Based Leadership

Presented by: Michelle Bonora

Focus Topic: Program Development

Is your program experiencing challenges with faculty recruitment and retention? Are you looking to attract and retain high quality teachers and staff? In this session learn how New Haven Adult & Continuing Education Center has implemented a strengths-based leadership approach to maintain competitiveness with recruiting talent, engaging, and motivating new and current faculty instructors. Participants will leave with real ideas to immediately incorporate into every day practice.

Session # 1F

Student Advisory and a Culture of Collaboration

Presented by: Christy Martin, Joe Neff

Focus Topic: Program Development

Participants will walk away with the information of what has worked (or not) for New Milford Adult education as our program has evolved. Student's have gone from simply attending classes to reviewing program standards, planning and running events, implementing community service projects and becoming the voice of our student body.

Session # 1L

Conscious Conflict & Maintaining Community

Presented by: Adrianna Flax

Focus Topic: Program Development

As organizations, how we manage conflict directly impacts the health and psychological safety of our communities. This session introduces the concept of Conscious Conflict (CC), an approach for conflict resolution that provides a new model for addressing harms like microaggressions in a way that promotes trust and inclusion. An underlying premise of CC is that everyone is as capable of committing harm as we are of experiencing harm.

Session # 1T

Tricks & Tips to Marketing

Presented by: Bobbi Brown

Focus Topic: Program Development

Marketing a program, organization or product doesn't have to be complicated. Find out about free or reasonably priced easy tools you can use to boost awareness and gain followers. Audience members will gain tips on how to track marketing analytics, improve social media visibility, build cross agency marketing collaboration and create an interactive marketing campaign.

Session 2

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Session # 2A

Workplace Safety for ESL Students

Presented by: Marcy Reed

Focus Topic: ESL

Workplace rights and safety are often misunderstood by those who are new to this country or do not speak English well. Employers sometimes take advantage of undocumented status or of workers' lack of knowledge about their rights in the workplace. Employers of low wage workers are particularly guilty of wage and hour violations and our ESL students can be at risk. This session will provide ESL teachers with information and lessons to share with their students in order to educate them about employees' rights and the resources available if they require assistance with issues about rights and safety on the job.

Session # 2B

GED Connection: Through the Eyes of the Immigrant Experience

Presented by: Linda Blakesley, Rima Riedel

Focus Topic: High School Completion

Workshop facilitators will utilize an interdisciplinary approach emphasizing poetry, as well as interactive activities, incorporating key GED elements from Social Studies and Language Arts. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with their own immigrant story while also uplifting and honoring the immigrant experiences of students, thus creating a safe space where students are seen and valued.

Session # 2C

Rebuilding Connection in a Post COVID World

Presented by: Pam Anderson, Lori Ouelette

Focus Topic: Collaboration/Partnerships

Many adult education programs have experienced a post-pandemic impact on student engagement and community partnerships. Please join us for a roundtable discussion of techniques we can use to: restore connections with students, maintain strong relationships with community partners and create a welcoming environment for all learners. This will be an opportunity to exchange ideas on what we can do to build a sense of community amongst the students we serve.

Session # 2D

Effective Classroom Implementation and Modalities for Diverse Learners

Presented by: Brittney Napolitano, Peggy Bernard

Focus Topic: High School Completion (Exhibitor Presentation - Essential Education)

This session will allow teachers to set the stage for adult learning in remote, hybrid and classroom environments. Participants will learn skills to track students' progress, accelerate learning, maximize learning gains, and provide strategies for how to use resources in the classroom. This session will also cover how to orient students, use data to drive instruction, explore effective classroom strategies, and where to find additional student & teacher resources.

Session # 2E

Becoming CT State: Statewide Leverage, Local Legacy

Presented by: Ann Harrison, Thomas Coley

Focus Topic: Collaborations/Partnerships

Connecticut's 12 community colleges will augment the strength of their collective parts to become one CT State Community College this year. This means deepening K12 relationships, College Career Pathways, dual enrollment, and early college programs. This session will explore topics including implementing cooperative/work-based learning programs and opportunities, and expanding and deepening relationships between industry, job market, and areas of study to ensure that each student is provided the opportunity to pursue an affordable and quality education that aligns with their identities, lives, and skills required for livable-wage careers.

Session # 2F

NEAT Programs and Services: Assistive Technology Across the Lifespan

Presented by: Maggie Wurm

Focus Topic: Disabilities

People of all ages and abilities can benefit from assistive technology (AT) tools to support their access to the world. New England Assistive Technology (NEAT), an Oak Hill Center, aims to guide individuals, families, and support teams in identifying customized AT options and implementing them in meaningful ways. This session will provide an overview of the NEAT services that can help individuals attain impactful opportunities after transitioning from public schools, such as to support vocational tasks, independent living, and social engagement.

Session # 2L

Blended Learning with Aztec Software, Steck-Vaughn, and Paxen Publishing

Presented by: Mitch Rosin

Focus Topic: Program Development (Exhibitor Presentation - Aztec Software)

The global pandemic challenged adult education programs to effectively use technology to continue to provide both assessment and learning options for adult learners. Many programs quickly switched to a distance learning model while still utilizing print materials via a blended learning model. This workshop will highlight blended learning models, how technology can enhance the delivery of curriculum, and how English and Spanish curriculum from Aztec, Paxen, and Steck-Vaughn can provide the ideal solution for a blended learning model.

Session # 2T

Engaging Activities for the Multi-Level ESL Classroom

Presented by: Shelby Adams, Catherine Bosco

Focus Topic: ESL

This interactive workshop will teach participants how to create differentiated learning experiences that you can readily use in your classroom when working with multi-level ESL learners. These learning experiences will focus on communication skills including; listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Session 3

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Session # 3A

Enhanced CASAS and Burlington English: A WIOA-Focused Combination to Prepare Workers for Skilled Jobs

Presented by: Robert Breitland

Focus Topic: ESL (Exhibitor Presentation - Burlington English)

National workforce reports show that higher-order skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving are becoming more vital for all workers. To prepare students for the rigorous demands of the workplace, adult education providers need to make the most of their instructional resources and assessment tools. Join this session to hear how enhancements to CASAS and BurlingtonEnglish contribute to student success in IET/IELCE programs and in the workplace.

Session # 3B

ABE: The Stepping Stone to ALL High School Completion Options

Presented by: Amy Shea

Focus Topic: High School Completion

After registering and pretesting your new students are placed into your ABE-level classes. What do you do with them after they are placed? Do you just focus on basic skills? Do you give these new eager students options? This workshop will focus on what happens with our ABE students and the options they are given to move throughout the program. Keeping communication going and meeting with students regularly may be the key to their success.

Session # 3C

Integrated Resource Teams- Addressing Barriers to Success

Presented by: Pam LaRosa, Heather Pelletier

Focus Topic: Collaboration/Partnerships

Integrated Resource Teams can have a powerful impact in addressing the barriers facing many participants. These teams, made up of representatives from multiple partner agencies, come together to strategize on how to best mitigate barriers to success. This is a common-sense, can-do approach to coordinating partner services and maximizing the outcomes for those we serve.

Session # 3D

Mathematical Reasoning: It's All in the Numbers

Presented by: Debi Faucette

Focus Topic: High School Completion

An educator's classroom experience and the GEDTS research data tells us the same story: Mathematical Reasoning is the content area most challenging for students. We will address skills and strategies to tackle different ways to address items most difficult for students, as well as share what has been learned since the original research.

Session # 3E

2-1-1: A Connection to Community Resources

Presented by: Alana Kroeber

Focus Topic: Community Resources

Participants will understand the services offered through 2-1-1 Connecticut and how to use the 211ct.org website to help individuals find and connect with community resources.

Session # 3F

Diversity and Inclusion in Adult Education

Presented by: Marcy Reed

Focus Topic: Program Development

Members of the Racial Equity Taskforce will discuss their ongoing work on equity and inclusion in adult education and why it is important work for all adult education staff to fully engage with.

Session # 3L

Teaching Upstream: Trauma-Informed Caring Strategies for Adult Educators & Learners

Presented by: Emily Escobar

Focus Topic: Instruction / Personal Development

Over the past several years, COVID-19 has upended everyday life as we knew it, while the long-ranging impacts have stretched far beyond what we expected. Educators are exhausted from working on the frontlines of the pandemic. This mini-retreat session will introduce basic trauma-informed principles and personalized strategies for rest, renewal, and rejuvenation at a critical time for recharging our reservoirs. Join us for a restorative session: all who teach and support adult learners are welcome.

Session # 3T

Universal Design for Vocabulary Access for Adult ED & Family Literacy

Presented by: Melissa Giandurco

Focus Topic: Family Literacy

In this workshop participants will learn various intervention strategies, as well as create make and take reading activities, for students to use with their families to help increase student engagement. Participants will also learn the value of differentiation when creating a personalized learning experience for students struggling with comprehension, reading and writing.

Session 4

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Session # 4A

Authentic Learning & Adult ESL Learners

Presented by: Stacy-Ann Bennett

Focus Topic: ESL

The workshop will examine the different ways Authentic Learning can be implemented in Adult Education especially in the ESL classroom. Participants will be able to use authentic learning as a strategy in the classroom to pull on students' prior learning and relevant experiences in various social contexts to foster creativity, critical thinking and an opportunity to collaborate based on learners' perspectives.

Session # 4B

Interactive & Engaging Resources to Support Adult Ed Instructors

Presented by: Dave Wilkerson

Focus Topic: High School Completion (Exhibitor Presentation - Boardworks Education)

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

Understand the benefits that Boardworks brings to their instructors in their programs now and for several years to come; Explain how Boardworks can be used as a tool for engaging synchronous or asynchronous instruction; Understand the importance of teacher-centered instruction.

Session # 4C

Partnering with Legal Services: Public Benefits and Education Law

Presented by: Matthew Dillon

Focus Topic: Community Resources

Two attorneys from Connecticut Legal Services will provide information on CLS and the assistance that adult education students can receive. The presentation will include an overview of public benefits (Social Security, Medicaid, cash assistance, food stamps) and special education protections for students. Participants will be able to issue spot potential legal issues and make appropriate referrals.

Session # 4D

GED Program Update

Presented by: Scott Salesses

Focus Topic: Program Development

This session will provide an update on the GED testing program in Connecticut. This will include GED testing volume & pass rates at the national level, and Connecticut, as well as key updates and information for adult educators, and all other stakeholders involved with GED testing and preparation, so that educators have the information and resources they need to share with their students and help them succeed. There will be time allotted for Q&A from the audience.

Session # 4E

Heroin Education Action Team - Opioid Awareness Outreach Initiative

Presented by: Patrick Caruso

Focus Topic: Community Resources

We are providing awareness on the opioid epidemic that is currently ongoing. We aim to provide the participants with information to identify the drugs, the signs of addiction, and to help reduce the chances of addiction.

Session # 4F

Supporting Your LGBTQ+ Adult Learners

Presented by: Anthony Mangiafico, Kristin Hempel

Focus Topic: Program Development

This session will review a brief history of the LGBTQ+ movement in the United States, especially as it involves education. Best practices will be shared in how to support students in the classroom and provide wrap around services for their other needs. Participants will walk away with a greater knowledge base of this community and action steps that can be put in place to support all learners and staff who may identify as LGBTQ+. The focus will not be on the politics of this issue, but on the human beings who are in this community and how to create a safe space for all our learners to access the educational programming they deserve and build the futures they desire.

Session # 4L

Bellyrobics for Health and Happiness

Presented by: Rima Riedel

Focus Topic: Enrichment/Personal Development

A fun way to get a jump-start back into health and fitness by firming and toning, developing better breathing techniques, and working on tension points. This is a low impact, high energy workout designed for all ages and abilities. Modifications available for those who are non-ambulatory or have certain disabilities.