

Wednesday, May 8

GED Program Update

Diane Vaccari, GED Testing Service

Vender Presentation

Come see all the new tools and resources that GED Testing Service has created to help educators and students succeed. This session will take a comprehensive look at the GED® program and highlight new tools and best practices for adult educators.

Building Partnerships, Boosting Outcomes: Collaborative Strategies for Libraries and Adult Education Providers

Karen Strange, LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library and Katrina Harkness, Division of Library and Information Services

In this session we will offer ways public libraries can support adult education programs. Participants will learn about successful collaborations and promising projects that benefit both libraries and adult education programs.

Teaching Academic Writing Strategies to Adult ESOL Students

Iliyana Vassileva, CTAE

This presentation will introduce adult ELL educators to strategies for teaching academic writing, based on Mezirow's transformative learning theory. Key themes include academic writing for workforce readiness and reading for writing. Understanding such relationships can support student success and workforce contributions.

Social Media Strategy for Small Organizations

Peyton Whittington, Adult Literacy League

Social media is an amazing tool for adult education organizations, but it's easier said than done when you're working with a small staff or team of volunteers. Participants will learn social media tips and tricks for small (but mighty!) organizations

Florida Literacy Coalition Annual Meeting

Find out what's new at the Florida Literacy Coalition (FLC). Your participation is welcome as we review and discuss FLC programs and future directions. Be the first to get a copy of the newly released adult learner essay book, *Pathways*. Several student authors will read their essays, which is always a highlight! So, grab your lunch and join us. Attendees will be entered to win two free 2025 Florida Literacy Conference registrations.

Essential Education: Get the Classroom Demonstration You've Always Wanted

Brittney Napolitano and Tara Keily, Essential Education

Vender Presentation

This fun, interactive session will demonstrate a handful of ways educators can implement Essential Education in their classrooms immediately. If you do not use Essential Education software, there will still be great takeaways and ideas to implement into any classroom.

50 Ways to Encourage and Inspire a Love for Reading

Matthew Fitzpatrick, Orange Technical College - South Campus

It is one thing to know how to read and understand, but it's another thing to love reading. This session will share multiple ways teachers can encourage and inspire students to love reading.

Develop Learning Strategies to Achieve Academic Success

Veronica Pavon-Baker, Literacy Volunteers of Collier County

Learn how to get organized and increase purposeful behaviors to be able to process information. Explore ways to create a study plan to achieve your academic goals.

Meeting Supply Chain Needs, IET's supporting English Language Learners

Lorri Benjamin and Julie Kennedy, Brevard Adult & Community Education

We will explore how to implement an IET program focusing on logistics that caters to the English Language learner. Strategies and best practices for a successful implementation of an IET program that upskills students will be shared.

Learn the Skills that Pays the Bills: A Novel Approach to Employability

Rholine Rose, FRB-Atlanta

Upskilling allows workers to improve in current jobs, prepare for better jobs, and ultimately embrace their dream careers. Join us in this session as we explore resources for employability and practice skills-based activities. We can transition from a job to your career by learning skills.

Making the Move from ESL to ABE

Christina Miller, Aztec *Vender Presentation*

Join our session targeting English language learners transitioning to adult education for a high school equivalency. Explore crucial skills essential for progression. This close examination aims to empower learners, facilitating their journey towards academic attainment. Join us to pave the path to success.

USCIS Naturalization 101

Don Jarrell, US Citizenship & Immigration Services

This session will cover the process of naturalization from A to Z. The presentation will provide information on the eligibility requirements of naturalization, how to apply, what to expect at the interview and an overview of the educational testing required.

A Beginner's Guide to Financial Literacy

Alison Bell, Florida Literacy Coalition

This session aims to improve students' confidence navigating finances with practical skills such as budgeting, saving, and smart spending habits.

Entrepreneurship and How SCORE Can Help

Lois Perry, SCORE Orlando

Learn basics of entrepreneurship and how SCORE provides mentoring and business education to help.

Pictures: Worth More Than 1000 Words

Therese Martin, Literacy Council of Upper Pinellas (LCUP)

Inspired by the announcement of proposed changes to the US Citizenship test, this workshop explores using pictures and visuals in adult ESOL instruction. We'll look into not only how to describe a photo, but also how to improve conversation skills, reading, writing and much more.

Using the ELPs Standards to Guide Instruction in the ESL Classroom

Veronica Pavon-Baker, Literacy Volunteers of Collier County

The future workforce will be facing many critical challenges. Adult education practitioners will need to provide effective education to prepare students. ESL instruction should focus on measuring higher-order skills and teachers need to apply effective instructional strategies to ensure student academic success.

Keeping Learners Motivated and Engaged

Christina Miller, Aztec

Keeping learners coming to classes can be challenging for the most seasoned instructor. By understanding how students learn and what motivates them to stay in your classes can yield tremendous results. This session will provide practical strategies for engaging learners and increasing academic outcomes. This is not a vendor presentation. No sales or product information in this presentation.

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Books & Cooks: Building Healthy Habits through Reading

Jennifer Wise, University of Florida

Books and Cooks is a free program for New Worlds Reading Initiative families to support them through the learning of simple, at-home literacy and nutrition strategies that can be easily added into daily routines. Our curriculum incorporates DOE approved nutrition-related books and Florida literacy standards.

Unlock the Written Word

Whitney Noel and Carter Figg, Newsela *Vender Presentation*

During this session, you will explore how to create walled gardens for teachers and students - providing autonomy and choice under restrictive legislation. Also get a sneak peek into new products including assessment, instructional delivery tools, and a brand-new AI writing tool to support students.

Adult Learner Experience

Marty Finsterbush

Join this interactive workshop as adult learners discuss why they have enrolled and stayed in their programs. Adult learners attending this session will get a chance to share their stories and experiences in life and adult education.

Learn English Anywhere: Strategies for Successful Online English Conversation Classes

Dana Williams, Florida Literacy Coalition

Practical tips and strategies for individuals and programs looking to establish or expand upon online English conversation classes. Participants will learn how to recruit and retain students, different class models and frameworks, as well as resources teachers can use to enhance their students' learning.

Integrating ELA into Social Studies & Science**Chris Heintz and Maggie Senor, Britannica Education***Vender Presentation*

Participants will learn how high-quality digital content can be used to reach diverse learners through personalized learning in Social Studies and science. During the session, participants will explore SS and Science topics, through differentiated text, images/videos/primary sources and will be paired with targeted learning tasks.

AI for ESOL: Tools, Techniques, and Transformation**Anna Gandrabura, English for IT**

Join this cutting-edge session focusing on the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teaching. Tailored for ESOL educators, we will delve into AI essentials, reviewing its applications to simplify lesson planning, aid in teaching various language aspects, and streamline assessments.

Infusing Financial Literacy into an ESOL Course**Lucas Katz, Miami Dade College**

This session will cover how a first-time Financial Literacy grant recipient organized the inclusion of financial literacy-related material into a higher-level ESOL course. Topics such as budget allocations, lesson planning, project-based learning, partnerships, and student responses will be covered.

Thursday, May 9**Florida Department of Education Update****Carol Bruner & Phil Anderson, Florida Department of Education**

Representatives from the Florida Department of Education will present updates on core components of the Adult Education Program including Assessment, Curriculum Frameworks, Professional Learning Opportunities, Integrated Education & Training.

Family Literacy in Action Panel**Dana Williams, Florida Literacy Coalition, & Panel**

A panel discussion with family literacy providers from across the state of Florida. Panelists will discuss the services their programs provide, the challenges they face, and the impact their programs have made in their communities. Includes time for audience questions.

Literacy Mastery: Unveiling Effective Instruction Using CASAS Assessments & Tools**Karla V. Galleguillos, CASAS**

We will introduce participants to the new CASAS Reading & Listening STEPS assessments, look at sample test items, explore their alignment to the College and Career Readiness and English Language Proficiency Standards, and explore how the new reports can be used to target instruction.

IPDAE: Meeting Teachers where They Are Through Sustained Professional Development

Juna Rall & Tammy Serrano, IPDAE

Join us as we dive into our easily navigated and responsive website. IPDAE offers various PD delivery and format options including, e-trainings, online courses, webinars, face-to-face workshops and much more. Learn about our resources and strategies that you can immediately implement into your workplace.

Health Literacy and Patient Outcomes

Jessica Daly, AdventHealth University

Uncover how individuals with low health literacy face increased risks related to patient safety, often leading to medical instructions and medication errors. Moreover, we will discuss how limited health literacy can hinder preventive health measures, contributing to poorer physical and mental health patient outcomes.

Reading to Learn - Strategies for the Struggling Reader

Christina Miller, Aztec

Enhance learners' reading skills with active teaching strategies in academic reading. Gain insights on approaching subjects and practical methods for struggling readers. Join this session to empower educators and improve overall literacy in a focused, practical environment. This is not a vendor presentation. No sales or product information in this presentation.

Empowering Leaders and Stakeholders: Understanding, Identifying, and Supporting Core Instruction

Talia Cotton, Tallahassee Community College

This session will empower Leaders, Administrators, and Teachers to understand, identify, and support Core Instruction. Participants will leave the session with an action plan to implement core instruction in classrooms, schools, and programs, build a culture of continuous improvement, and enhance student learning outcomes.

Using AI in the ESOL Classroom

Johnny Hernandez, Brevard Adult & Community Education

We will share strategies that effectively enhance the language acquisition of adult learners by incorporating ChatGPT in engaging lessons.

Roundtable for Community-Based Literacy Directors

Greg Smith, Florida Literacy Coalition

Community and volunteer-based literacy programs experience unique challenges and opportunities. Join directors and program managers from around the state for a roundtable discussion on trends, promising practices, and strategies for effectively managing adult education and literacy programs.

A Face for Radio, A Voice for Print

Rob Wilkison & Andrea Selkirk, Florida State College at Jacksonville

Tutors produced useful, cost-effective digital and physical instructional objects that work together to enhance student learning. Between free digital resources and easy to procure DIY projects, educators can produce these helpful tools for student use.

Must-Know Spanish Essentials to Most Benefit Spanish-Speaking ELs

Mary Quijano, Literacy Council of Upper Pinellas

ESOL Instructors of Spanish-speaking ELs can benefit their learners by knowing simple syllable-stress rules, variations in pronunciation of some Spanish letters, and cognates. These related words between two languages share a similar meaning, spelling, and origin that will be explained via examples with links and practice.

Connecting the New CASAS STEPS Assessment and Classroom Instruction

Veronica Pavon-Baker, Literacy Volunteers of Collier County

The new CASAS test series STEPS will focus on measuring higher-order skills including academic language. In preparation for the upcoming CASAS new assessments, teachers need to acquire knowledge of the changes and be ready to apply effective instructional strategies to ensure student academic success.

Reading XR: Using Extended Reality for Reading Assessment

Shelley Peterson, Reading XR

Vender Presentation

Reading XR will be discussing and demonstrating how to use Extended Reality Technology to do a Reading Assessment. READING XR is a tool for evaluating reading fluency, using eye movements to identify the underlying factors causing reading difficulties.

Putting The “Personal” in Personal Finance

Cara Macksound, Money Habitudes *Vender Presentation*

Financial literacy is developed through knowledge, behaviors, and observation. This session will discuss how our habits impact our attitude towards money and provide strategies for educators to use Money Habitudes in their classrooms/programs

Decreasing Attention Spans Demand a Response: Strategies for Today's

Facilitator

Merri Beth Treadway, FL Department of Corrections

With attention spans on the decline, how should teachers of adult learners respond? What strategies can facilitators use to engage students, and where can they gain valuable hands-on experience? Participants will acquire tools to empower their students as they focus on the main thing--- learning!

What’s Next? Where Research Meets Practice

Karen Welch, New Readers Press

Join us for an enlightening session where we explore "What's Next?" – a research-based reading series that seamlessly embeds and reinforces phonics instruction within relevant content. This approach fosters a comprehensive and immersive learning experience tailored for ESL students.

From The Classroom to The Workplace

Brittney Napolitano & Tara Keily, Essential Education

This session will cover transferable skills employers seek and how to empower students to discover and articulate them as nontraditional students. HSE prep, survival jobs, raising families, volunteering in their communities, supporting fellow workers, and engaging in civics, build a foundation for work-force readiness.

Using Biographies to Inspire Student Success

Matthew Fitzpatrick, Orange Technical College, South Campus

"A wise person learns from their mistakes. A wiser person learns from the mistakes of others. The wisest person learns from the success of others." Participants will learn the what, how, and wow of using biographies to inspire students toward success and reaching their dreams.

Ventures and Teaching the Speaking Skill

Jim Goldstone, Cambridge University Press and Assessment

Ventures is the most popular Adult ESOL program in the U.S. Adult ESOL students attend your English program because they want to learn how to communicate better in English--that means Speaking English. Jim will demonstrate how Ventures gives the students many opportunities to speak English!

Technology Programming in Correctional Education

Demeetris Beachum, Florida Department of Corrections

This presentation covers the introduction of different software used for various purposes and programming in the Florida Department of Corrections.

CASAS: A Compass for Effective Program Implementation

Karla V. Galleguillos, CASAS *Vender Presentation*

Learn about the latest CASAS innovations to support implementation of quality ABE, HSE and ESL programs that include accountability measures, tools for students, teachers, and administrators. Let us be your compass - from beginning literacy through transition to post-secondary and the workforce.

Literacy in Correctional Libraries

Saritza Legault, Florida Department of Corrections

A roundtable with the education supervisors and library technical assistants discussing the various states of their library literacy programs, first introduced at the 2023 Florida Literacy Conference.

IET in Corrections

Walker Hicken, Florida Department of Corrections

This presentation will cover the Florida Department of Corrections' efforts to establish IET programming in our Career and Technical Education Classrooms.

LitFit™: Literacy Integration with Fitness Education

Lindsey Franxman, LitFit, Miss America Opportunity

LitFit™ integrates literacy with fitness education, providing workshops plus a virtual LitFit™ Toolkit of curated stories, activities, and resources which promote "LitFititude": the energy and confidence gained from development of literacy skills, strong bodies (nutrition, exercise), and mental health.

How Can AI Help to Improve Reading at My School?

Samantha VanLiew & Ken Spiegel, LanguaMetrics, Inc.

Feeling a bit overwhelmed by all the chatter about AI lately? Wondering if it's really necessary in our schools? Well, this session is here to help you cut through the noise and figure out the deal with the big buzzword of 2023.

Discover Yourself and Grow Yourself and Your Adult Learners

Pamela Jo Wilson, Palm Beach Schools Adult Education

According to an Indeed.com article on the challenges of teamwork, one of the 14 challenges is self-awareness. Then self-awareness triggers many of the other 13 challenges. Come experience how we can help ourselves and our learners succeed in the power skill of self-management.

Using Edpuzzle to be a Literacy Rockstar!

Marybeth Harter-Schultz, Edpuzzle

The session would focus on a demonstration of using Edpuzzle in the classroom. Participants will be introduced to our platform and how this tool can be utilized for formative assessment and personalizing instruction at all grade levels. Increase student engagement and achievement!

Friday, May 10

The Florida Adult Education Curriculum Frameworks

Phil Anderson, Florida Department of Education

In 2024, the Florida DOE offers 13 courses in the following programs: Academic Skills Building, Adult Basic Education, Adult English for Speakers of Other Languages, and GED® Preparation. Session participants will explore the frameworks and discuss ways to develop a curriculum for their students.

SOS and the 21st Century Adult ESOL Classroom

Pamela Jo Wilson, Adult Education

Shiny object syndrome and the pandemic put us in the passenger seat where we are being whiplashed by many "shiny objects" for ESOL instructors and learners. Come, let's get back in the driver's seat and put the learners and what really matters first.

Tips and Techniques for Serving a Very Diverse Group of Adult Learners

Shannon Maitland, Literacy Services of Indian River County

Do you customize your services to meet the needs/goals of adult literacy students? We do! Our students come from 5 continents, 35 countries, and many are newcomers to America. They speak 20+ languages, often with other alphabets and their education levels vary greatly. Hear how we help everyone.

Screening and Identification of Learning Disabilities for Literacy Practitioners

Dr. Rochelle Kenyon, 21st Century Creative Consulting

Between 50% to 80% of literacy learners that read below the 5th-7th grade may have diagnosed or suspected learning disabilities. This presentation covers the basics of learning disabilities, introduces practitioners to information/resources that identify difficult-to-reach and challenging-to-teach students,

and covers LD referral and diagnosis.

Literacy for the Ages: Jacksonville's Senior Memoirs & More

Jennifer Blalock, Literacy Pros of Jacksonville, Inc.

Learn the highlights and best practices for creating a dynamic intergenerational senior citizen focused literacy initiative in your community from Jacksonville's Senior Memoirs Project, which included thirty 55+ readers who had reading circles and wrote their own memoirs.

Demystifying Artificial Intelligence: Exploring Practical Applications for Instructional Use

Talia Cotton, Tallahassee Community College

This session will explore the practical and professional uses of Artificial Intelligence, especially ChatGPT. Participants will uncover AI's potential, explore best practices, and brainstorm instructional applications and uses. Attendees will leave with the knowledge and inspiration to immediately utilize AI.

If You Can Talk, You Can Learn to Read

Viki Stein, EBLI

Learn how to teach students of any age how to read, write, and spell to their highest potential. Structured Linguistic Literacy: A systematic, explicit, research-aligned approach of integrated, accelerated instruction that teaches the components of reading and writing leading with speech, not letters.

Ease, Engage and Encourage!

Alexia Navarro, Palm Beach County School District

In this interactive session, participants will explore strategies and activities that will help ease their students' anxiety through engagement and fun in the classroom.

SIMPLE ENGLISH: Matter of Method, Not of Time

Lynda McReynolds, El SOL Jupiter Neighborhood

Hear how to flip the coin on learning English - no need to be young, smart, or lucky. Using a newfound method rooted in neuroscience and personal development, I authored a bestseller. You can break free from your obstacles and unleash your full potential. It's your time to shine!

Creating and Continuing a Conversation Class

Marianne Heard, Palm Beach County Library System Adult Literacy Project

Learn about strategies and resources to assist in designing and facilitating a fun filled class for English Language Learners to meet and practice their English in an informal setting. Join us for a hands-on session highlighting conversational games, print materials and online resources.

Learning from Families in a Parent-Child Book Program: Implications for Early and Adult Literacy Practitioners

Jacqueline Lynch, Florida International University

Review a family literacy program with immigrant Hispanic mothers and their Head Start children where

the focus was on providing books to families and fostering parent-child engagement. The important implications of this research for adult literacy will be shared in this session.