

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

MAY 7 (WEDNESDAY)



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<a href="#">Important Deadlines and Links</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
President's Welcome	<a href="#">3</a>
Sponsor Acknowledgements	<a href="#">4-5</a>
Exhibitor Information	<a href="#">6-9</a>
Registration, Payment, Cancellation, and Refund Information	<a href="#">10-11</a>

Directions to Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel	<a href="#">12</a>
Workshop Session Descriptions	
Session 1	<a href="#">13-17</a>
Session 2	<a href="#">18-22</a>
Session 3	<a href="#">23-27</a>
Session 4	<a href="#">28-31</a>
Workshop Schedule At-A-Glance	<a href="#">32-35</a>
Presenters' bios	<a href="#">36-50</a>
NETWORK 2025 Conference Committee	<a href="#">51</a>
Acknowledgements	<a href="#">52</a>
NETWORK 2026 –Save the Date!	<a href="#">53</a>

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES AND LINKS

<b>April 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special overnight room rate reservation at hotel</li> </ul>
<b>April 28</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NETWORK 2025 registration</li> <li>• Special accommodations/dietary requests</li> <li>• Cancellation and refund requests</li> </ul>
<b>Registration link</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/s5mkhmd/lp/fb7e57c5-63fb-498c-b5c0-3e710de741d2">https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/s5mkhmd/lp/fb7e57c5-63fb-498c-b5c0-3e710de741d2</a></li> </ul>
<b>Hotel discount</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.22024.html?groupId=7A4UY3C5">https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.22024.html?groupId=7A4UY3C5</a></li> </ul>

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the MCAE Board of Directors and the NETWORK 2025 Conference Committee, welcome to NETWORK 2025!

NETWORK is always a chance for us to hit pause from our daily routines to recharge ourselves – to learn from each other, to renew friendships, and to create new

connections. As the German writer, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, wrote, “We must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves; otherwise, we harden.”

While we continue to face even greater challenges now than we could have imagined when we met last year, adult educators are creative, unstoppable, and resilient. Today is the day to celebrate the joy and purpose in your work, the ever-present camaraderie in the field of adult education, and the values of lifelong learning and curiosity that propel what we do.

We celebrate the courageous efforts of our students, our staff, and our volunteers who have always pushed their way past seemingly insurmountable challenges and been an inspiration. Please take time at NETWORK to thank someone you see who has inspired you.

Our program this year is fresh and exceptional and offers something for everyone. We have long-time favorites who are returning as well as brand new offerings that reflect the changing times. Enjoy the sessions!

MCAE’s NETWORK 2025 would not have been possible without the extraordinary support of our sponsors, presenters, exhibitors, and volunteers and the outstanding work of the NETWORK Conference Committee. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to making this event possible.

Best wishes,



Roberta Soolman  
MCAE Board President

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS! (LIST TO DATE)

CORPORATE



**WORLD EDUCATION**

A DIVISION OF JSI

SILVER

**ENGEN**

BRONZE



**BURLINGTON ENGLISH®**  
THE PUBLISHER THAT CARES



COPPER



City of Boston  
Worker Empowerment



FRIEND



**GREATER LOWELL**  
WORKFORCE BOARD

CONTRIBUTOR










**NORTH CENTRAL**  
WORKFORCE BOARD

# VISIT THE EXHIBITORS' BOOTHS AND WORKSHOP SESSIONS

	<p>Geoffrey Healy and Michael Sherrod  E: <a href="mailto:conference@aztecsoftware.com">conference@aztecsoftware.com</a>  T: 973-258-0011  W: <a href="http://www.aztecsoftware.com">www.aztecsoftware.com</a></p>
	<p>Melissa Theroux  E: <a href="mailto:mtheroux@bpl.org">mtheroux@bpl.org</a>  T: 857-364-7378  W: <a href="http://www.bpl.org">www.bpl.org</a>  Workshop session I-D</p>
	<p>Ticiana Coleman  E: <a href="mailto:ticiana.c@burlingtonenglish.com">ticiana.c@burlingtonenglish.com</a>  T: 774-366-6861  Courtney Carter  E: <a href="mailto:Courtney.c@burlingtonenglish.com">Courtney.c@burlingtonenglish.com</a>  T: 774-844-9481  W: <a href="http://www.burlingtonenglish.com">www.burlingtonenglish.com</a>  Workshop session 2-K</p>
	<p>Regina Mazzola-Snyder  E: <a href="mailto:regina.snyder@cambridge.org">regina.snyder@cambridge.org</a>  T: 646-469-2594  W: <a href="http://www.cambridge.org">www.cambridge.org</a>  Workshop session 3-K</p>
	<p>Christopher Cummings  E: <a href="mailto:chrisc@cummingsprinting.com">chrisc@cummingsprinting.com</a>  T: 603-860-9558  Shawn Valcourt  E: <a href="mailto:shawnv@cummingsprinting.com">shawnv@cummingsprinting.com</a>  T: 603-769-5828  W: <a href="https://www.cummingsprinting.com/">https://www.cummingsprinting.com/</a></p>

	<p>Ben Buckwold  E: <a href="mailto:ben@ellii.com">ben@ellii.com</a>  T: 204-227-1402  W: <a href="http://www.ellii.com">www.ellii.com</a>  Workshop session 4-N</p>
	<p>Linnette Mancuso  E: <a href="mailto:linnette@getengen.com">linnette@getengen.com</a>  T: 571-969-8650  W: <a href="http://www.getengen.com">www.getengen.com</a>  Workshop session 3-D</p>
	<p>Brittney Napolitano  E: <a href="mailto:brittney@essentialed.com">brittney@essentialed.com</a>  T: 434-841-6336  W: <a href="http://www.essentialed.com">www.essentialed.com</a>  Workshop session 1-J</p>
	<p>Scott Salesses  E: <a href="mailto:scott.salesses@ged.com">scott.salesses@ged.com</a>  T: 781-296-9357  W: <a href="http://www.ged.com">www.ged.com</a>  Workshop session 2-D</p>
	<p>Trish O'Hare  E: <a href="mailto:trish@gemmamedia.com">trish@gemmamedia.com</a>  T: 617-818-2133  W: <a href="http://www.gemmamedia.com">www.gemmamedia.com</a></p>
	<p>Stephanie Bauer  E: <a href="mailto:stephanie.bauer@psionline.com">stephanie.bauer@psionline.com</a>  T: 855-694-4738  W: <a href="http://www.psionline.com">www.psionline.com</a>  Workshop session 4-D</p>
	<p>Greg Moore  E: <a href="mailto:greg.moore@imaginelearning.com">greg.moore@imaginelearning.com</a>  T: 774-238-0945  Tim Shaw  E: <a href="mailto:tim.shaw@imaginelearning.com">tim.shaw@imaginelearning.com</a>  T: 202-993-0039  W: <a href="http://www.imaginelearning.com">www.imaginelearning.com</a>  Workshop session 1-L</p>

	<p>Elizabeth Daniels  E: <a href="mailto:edaniels@ket.org">edaniels@ket.org</a>  T: 859-258-7745  W: <a href="https://education.ket.org/for-educators/adult-education">https://education.ket.org/for-educators/adult-education</a></p>
  A member of Ascentria Care Alliance	<p>Alen Omerbegovic  E: <a href="mailto:aomerbegovic@thelanguagebank.org">aomerbegovic@thelanguagebank.org</a>  T: 603-540-2760  Nazir Ehklass  E: <a href="mailto:aekhlass@thelanguagebank.org">aekhlass@thelanguagebank.org</a>  T: 603-722-8531  W: <a href="https://thelanguagebank.org/">https://thelanguagebank.org/</a></p>
	<p>Jeff Roberge  E: <a href="mailto:jroberge@massshirenorthcentralwb.com">jroberge@massshirenorthcentralwb.com</a>  T: 978-534-1023  Staci Johnson  E: <a href="mailto:sjohnson@massshirenorthcentralwb.com">sjohnson@massshirenorthcentralwb.com</a>  T: 978-534-1481  W: <a href="http://www.massshirenorthcentralwb.com">www.massshirenorthcentralwb.com</a></p>
	<p>Dawn Blodgett  E: <a href="mailto:dawn.blodgett@cengage.com">dawn.blodgett@cengage.com</a>  T: 508-561-8345  Joy MacFarland  E: <a href="mailto:joy.macfarland@cengage.com">joy.macfarland@cengage.com</a>  T: 781-799-9877  W: <a href="http://www.cengage.com">www.cengage.com</a>  Workshop session 4-J</p>
 <b>Make Today an Orijin Story.™</b>	<p>Adam Henderson  E: <a href="mailto:adam.henderson@orijin.works">adam.henderson@orijin.works</a>  T: 917-647-4484  Michelle Gingras  E: <a href="mailto:michelle.gingras@orijin.works">michelle.gingras@orijin.works</a>  W: <a href="http://www.orijin.works">www.orijin.works</a>  Workshop session 4-E</p>
	<p>Greg Stultz  E: <a href="mailto:gstultz@proliteracy.org">gstultz@proliteracy.org</a>  T: 315-214-2468  W: <a href="http://www.proliteracy.org">www.proliteracy.org</a>  Workshop session I-C</p>



# PRO LINGUA LEARNING

Elise Burrows  
E: [burrowsbookservices@gmail.com](mailto:burrowsbookservices@gmail.com)  
T: 802-989-0199  
Andy Burrows  
E: [burrowsbookservices@gmail.com](mailto:burrowsbookservices@gmail.com)  
T: 802-989-3414  
W: [www.prolingualearning.com](http://www.prolingualearning.com)



Alexandra Papagno  
SABES Program Support PD Team and  
MA Adult Education Help Desk  
E: [alexandra\\_papagno@worlded.org](mailto:alexandra_papagno@worlded.org)  
T: 617-385-3765  
W: [www.sabes.org](http://www.sabes.org)  
W: [www.adultedhelpdeskma.org](http://www.adultedhelpdeskma.org)

Heidi Schuler  
SABES Math and Adult Numeracy PD Team  
E: [heidi\\_schuler@terc.edu](mailto:heidi_schuler@terc.edu)  
T: 617-873-9838

Sherry Soares  
SABES Math and Adult Numeracy PD Team  
E: [sherry\\_soares@terc.edu](mailto:sherry_soares@terc.edu)  
T: 617-873-9801

Heidi Larson  
SABES Communications Team  
E: [hlarson@edc.org](mailto:hlarson@edc.org)  
T: 617-618-2886

Jennifer Yurof  
SABES Communications Team  
E: [jyurof@edc.com](mailto:jyurof@edc.com)  
T: 781-867-9352; 617-922-7564

SABES workshop sessions: I-A, I-F, I-H,  
2-A/3-A, 2-C, 2-F, 2-G, 3-G, 4-H, 4-I

# REGISTRATION, PAYMENT, CANCELLATION, REFUNDS, AND SPECIAL INFORMATION

## IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE REGISTERING!

- **Registration for everyone (attendees and presenters) must be completed online before 11:59 p.m. on April 28 when online registration will be closed.**
- All registrations must be paid in full by the day of the conference unless prior arrangements have been made with MCAE.
- Participants are encouraged to register early. **There will be no onsite registration if NETWORK is sold out as it was last year.**
- **Please note that providing your workshop preferences does not guarantee you a reserved spot in your selected workshops.**
- Sessions will not be recorded, but photos will be taken throughout the day. When you register, you will have the option to ask for a special sticker for your name tag so you will not be intentionally photographed. However, please note that it is not possible to guarantee you will not be photographed in a crowd shot.

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE – April 28, 2025

### Registration:

- To register, use this [link](#) or go to [www.mcae.net](http://www.mcae.net) and click on [Register](#) for the NETWORK 2025 link.
- Each person must register separately in order to make their workshop and menu choice.
- Standard registration is \$200/person.
- Please select one 1<sup>st</sup> choice and one 2<sup>nd</sup> choice workshops for each of the time slots **or** indicate you will not attend a workshop during a particular time slot.
- **You must fully complete your registration and CLICK THE SUBMIT BUTTON for your registration to be recorded.**
- **Partially completed registrations are not saved, and you will be required to start a new form when you return to the registration site.**

### Special dietary needs – deadline April 28:

- **We will be unable to satisfy special dietary accommodations that are not requested via the online registration form by April 28.**

### Registration confirmation:

- Your registration confirmation will be sent to the email you used to register.
- To ensure receipt of your registration confirmation, please:
  - Add “[mcaenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:mcaenetwork@gmail.com)” to your allowable email contacts.
  - Check your Promotions folder if you used a Gmail account to register.
  - Check your spam folder.
- If you don't receive an email confirmation, please email [mcaenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:mcaenetwork@gmail.com).

## Discounted registration for MCAE member organizations:

- All Leadership Circle and Organizational memberships paid at last year's conference registration must be renewed to obtain the discounted registration fee for member organizations.
- Organizations can sign-up or renew their MCAE Leadership Circle Member (\$500) or their MCAE Organizational Member (\$200) when paying for registration.
- Leadership Circle members are entitled to 4 discounted registrations at \$150/person instead of the standard registration rate of \$200/person.
- Organizational members are entitled to 1 discounted registration at \$150/person instead of the standard registration rate of \$200/person.
- When registering staff, the organization decides which staff will use the discounted registration fee.
- For more information about MCAE membership, go to <https://mcae.net/get-involved/membership/>.

## Payment:

- You can pay online as the final step in the registration process.
  - Online payment can be made by PayPal or by a debit/credit card using PayPal [even if you do not have a PayPal account](#).
  - Although each person must register separately in order to make their workshop and menu choice, one person may be designated to pay for several people. For proper payment credit, please be sure to include the names of the registrants covered by the payment.
- You can pay by check.
  - Make check payable and mail to **MCAE, c/o JSI-World Education, 44 Farnsworth Street, Boston, MA 02210.**
  - For proper payment credit, please be sure to include the attendees whose registration is being covered by the check. A list of names can be included with the check, be written on the check, or be emailed to [mcaenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:mcaenetwork@gmail.com).

## Onsite registration and payment at the conference:

- **Participants are encouraged to register early. There will be no onsite registration if the conference is sold out as it was last year.**
- If the conference is sold-out, a message will be distributed via email and be posted to [www.mcae.net](http://www.mcae.net).
- Visa, Mastercard, Discover, checks, and cash are accepted for payment at onsite registration. Checks should be made payable to MCAE following the instructions above for proper payment credit.

## Cancellations and refunds – deadline April 28:

- To cancel your reservation, send an email to [mcaenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:mcaenetwork@gmail.com).
- Cancellations received by 11:59 p.m. on April 28 will receive a refund minus a \$30.00 processing fee.
- No cancellations will be accepted after April 28 without prior written authorization from MCAE, and unauthorized cancellations will not be refunded.
- Registered but unpaid no-shows will be billed.

## Special overnight hotel rates – deadline April 5:

- The Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel is offering special overnight room rates for the conference at \$129.00 per night plus tax.
- To receive the special rate, you must use this link to book your reservation no later than **April 5:**

## **DIRECTIONS TO THE BEST WESTERN ROYAL PLAZA HOTEL MARLBOROUGH, MA**

**Address/GPS:** **181 Boston Post Road West (Route 20) Marlborough, MA 01752**

*The hotel is not visible from the street. It is located about ½ mile back from the road.*

**Directions:** **Choose the road closest to you to reach Route 495:**

**From Route 2:** Take Route 2 to Exit 113A to Route 495 South to Exit 63B (Route 20 West); The Royal Plaza entrance is located 1 mile WEST on RIGHT side.

**From Mass Pike:** Take Mass Pike to Exit 106 to Route 495 North to Exit 63B (Route 20 West); The Royal Plaza entrance is located 1 mile WEST on RIGHT side.

**From Route 495:** Take Route 495 to Exit 63B (Route 20 West); The Royal Plaza entrance is located 1 mile WEST on RIGHT side.

# WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

## SESSION I

Workshop Code: I-A

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### **Help! I'm Not a Math Person**

**Presenter:** Aren Lew, Curriculum and Training Development Specialist, SABES Mathematics and Adult Numeracy Curriculum and Instruction Professional Development Team

**Description:** If you've ever said, "I'm not a math person," this session is for you. Do you bring creativity and passion to the other subjects you teach but feel unequipped to do more than help students memorize steps in math? Are you and your students just trying to survive math together? It doesn't have to be that way. You don't need a math background to become a confident and capable math teacher. Come learn how you can change your relationship with math.

---

Workshop Code: I-B

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### **Scaffolded Learning Centers in the ESOL Classroom**

**Presenters:** Kerri Enman, ESOL Teacher, Care Alliance; Thomas Godfrey, ESOL Teacher, Ascentria Care Alliance; and Sheila Rotkiewicz, ESOL Teacher, Ascentria Care Alliance

**Description:** This workshop will present scaffolded centers that are easy to implement. Teachers can use these centers to differentiate instruction, provide extra practice, and review material taught in class. Even new students can use these centers independently and successfully. Teachers will be able to view sample centers at multiple levels and brainstorm ideas for centers that will meet their students' needs.

---

Workshop Code: I-C

### **VENDOR WORKSHOP – PROLITERACY NEW READERS PRESS**

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### **Career Power!**

**Presenter:** Greg Stultz, Educational Sales Consultant and Training Coordinator, ProLiteracy/New Readers Press

**Description:** Communication, interpersonal skills, teamwork, problem solving, work ethic: How can you teach your students these essential skills and prepare them for success in the workplace? In this interactive workshop, we will explore lesson ideas and activities you can use in the classroom to do just that!

---

Workshop Code: I-D

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### **Online Instructional Resources for Adult Learners through the Boston Public Library**

Presenter: Melissa Theroux, Literacy Coordinator, Boston Public Library

Description: The Boston Public Library serves as the library for the Commonwealth and provides a wide range of resources beyond just books. With a library card and PIN, anyone living in Massachusetts can access online resources for language learning, building basic academic skills, school and career test preparation and skill building in the workplace. In this presentation, we will provide an introduction to these resources and discuss how they can support adult learners with their educational and career goals.

---

Workshop Code: I-E

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### **Advisor Resource and Idea Sharing (For Advisors and Counselors Only)**

Presenters: Alisha Beltramini, College and Career Advisor, MassSTEP at North Shore Community College Danvers; Stephanie Moriarty, MassSTEP Coordinator and Advisor, MassSTEP at North Shore Community College Danvers

Description: Alisha and Stephanie would like to create a space where advisors can sit down and share what is working well, what is not working, and what ideas they have to make our programs better for students. Participants will have a chance to share in a small group and large group and rotate to meet other advisors during the session. By the end of the session, Stephanie and Alisha will connect all advisors via contact pages/LinkedIn and share ideas that were brought forth during the session so that programs can implement new methods, improve existing systems, and create new ways of helping students succeed. Networking amongst advisors in different programs across the state will not only be encouraged, but easier to do after this workshop.

---

Workshop Code: I-F

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### **Integrating Teaching Skills That Matter Into Your Instruction**

Presenters: Christa Exter and Ann-Marie Hallagan, Teaching Skills That Matter (TSTM) State Trainers, Public Adult Education of MA SABES PD System; Cynthia Faulker, ESOL and Professional Development Specialist, EDC's SABES ESOL PD Team

Description: Learn strategies to build the foundational skills your multi-level learners need to meet the demands of the workforce, of civic life, and of community life. You will briefly learn about the main TSTM components: the nine Central Skills; the five Focus Areas, and the three Instructional Approaches. In the workshop, you will analyze a sample lesson plan from the TSTM toolkit. Participants will walk away with resources that can be used in both ABE and ESOL classrooms.

---

Workshop Code: I-G

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### **Enhancing Student Motivation**

**Presenter:** Andjela Kaur, Assistant Teaching Professor, Pennsylvania State University

**Description:** Strengthening our approach to disability inclusion supports students in taking charge of their own learning journey and benefits all students, whether or not they have a disclosed or diagnosed disability. In this session, we will explore foundational ideas in disability studies and practical tools and strategies to guide our work to strengthen disability inclusion and meet the needs of all learners. Along the way, we will consider what it means to be disability inclusive, identify key components of disability-inclusive programming, look at practical tools and models such as the Basic Disability Screening for Adult Education (BDSA), and hear from programs that are currently working towards more inclusive teaching and learning practices.

---

Workshop Code: I-H

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### **EdTech Routines: Adult Educators' Digital Skill Strategies**

**Presenters:** Eliana Stanislawski, Professional Development Specialist, SABES Program Support PD Team, World Education; Colleagues TBD

**Description:** Ready to seamlessly weave digital skills into your classroom? Join this dynamic showcase featuring Massachusetts educators who are doing just that! Inspired by the SABES course, EdTech Routines: A Strategy for Building Digital Skills with Any Content, these innovative instructors have developed practical, replicable digital activities you can use immediately. Discover how these routines boost student learning, demystify technology integration, and streamline digital skill-building across any subject. We'll highlight these powerful routines and review World Education's EdTech Integration Strategy Toolkit – your go-to resource for strategies, resources, and activities that support meaningful EdTech integration and digital skill development.

---

Workshop Code: I-I

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### **Reading to Learn – Strategies for the Struggling Learner**

**Presenter:** Chris Miller, National Consultant

**Description:** Adult education teachers often come from diverse backgrounds, many without formal training in teaching reading skills. To support struggling readers, teachers must understand essential strategies to improve students' academic success. This session will introduce effective methods for teaching academic reading, helping learners better engage with subjects like science and social studies. Participants will explore active learning strategies designed to foster a smooth transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." These strategies provide learners with an organized approach to course content and equip teachers with practical tools to enhance their instructional methods across various academic subjects.

---

Workshop Code: I-J **VENDOR WORKSHOP – ESSENTIAL EDUCATION** 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### **Successful Strategies for Student Retention and Engagement**

Presenter: Brittney Napolitano, Northeast Regional Manager, Essential Education

Description: This session will illuminate the unique characteristics, values, and needs of adult learners. It will explore what it means to create intentional, timely, relevant, and engaging instruction. The topics will examine classroom culture, strategies to support student motivation, personalized learning, and success skills. The research presented will highlight the connection between relationship and retention and propose activities to strengthen this link. Student assessment practices will move educators beyond reviewing numbers on a page to measuring, tracking, and celebrating student progress. This session is appropriate for all roles within a program.

---

Workshop Code: I-K 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### **Empowering Workers: Strategies for Supporting ABE Career Ladders**

Presenters: Brooke Machado, Senior Program Manager for Adult Education, City of Boston Mayor's Office of Workforce Development; Sarah Soroui, Director of Research, Evaluation and Analytics, City of Boston Mayor's Office of Workforce Development

Description: Mayor Wu and the Office of Workforce Development (OWD) are committed to ensuring all Boston residents can participate in the city's economic growth by aligning systems that connect low-income individuals to job training and education. OWD has researched barriers to adult learners' transitions to post-secondary education and training and identified best practices for success. This workshop will share key findings and effective strategies, followed by a peer-learning exchange where participants discuss program models and approaches. Attendees will leave with actionable insights and resources to enhance their own programs.

---

Workshop Code: I-L **VENDOR WORKSHOP – IMAGINE/EDGENUITY** 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### **Digital Curriculum/Courses for Adult Learners**

Presenters: Greg Moore, Area Sales Director, Imagine Learning; Tim Shaw, Account Executive, Imagine Learning

Description: Discover rigorous, evidence-based solutions for any instructional model. Help students meet their personal academic goals, whether they need rigorous coursework to accelerate learning or the opportunity to earn credits. Engage students with 400+ interactive courses covering core, electives, world languages, test prep, career and technical education (CTE), and GED Test Prep. Also discover how High Dosage Tutoring can be effective for Test Prep and Language Acquisition.

---



### **How to Create a Resume and Develop an Effective Job Search Campaign**

**Presenter:** Stacie Fehrm, Certified Professional Resume Writer, Stacie Writes Resumes

**Description:** Help your students position themselves for career success with a resume and cover letter that is targeted, concisely written, and eye-catching. Learn the elements of an effective job search campaign, the importance of keywords, and how to optimize AI. Adult Education students face unique challenges in finding satisfying work and earning a living wage. Many have gaps in employment, CORI issues, and/or little or no training. But they have more going for them than they may think they do! Learn to capitalize on their strengths to highlight what they can do for an employer to get noticed, land an interview, and get hired.

---

### **Trauma-Informed Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Strategies for HiSET Testing**

**Presenters:** Colin Winslow, HiSET Instructor, Bridge Over Troubled Waters; Diana Saintil, Associate Director of Education and Career Development, Bridge Over Troubled Waters; Mayda Curet, Success Coach (Career Counselor), Bridge Over Troubled Waters; Seann Macnamara, Education Manager, Bridge Over Troubled Waters; Janice Chory, Job and Career Development Program Manager, Bridge Over Troubled Waters

**Description:** The workshop approaches Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles to support students dealing with trauma or acute stress, particularly in small, computer-based HiSET classes. It focuses on providing flexible, accessible learning environments that accommodate students' varying needs, including those who may have inconsistent attendance or experience stress related to testing and classroom settings.

---

### **Laughter Yoga as a Tool to Enhance Learning**

**Presenter:** Alemyr Navas, Certified Laughter Yoga Teacher (Laughter Yoga University in India) and HiSET Teacher, Mujeres Unidas Avanzando

**Description:** Laughter Yoga is a technique created by Dr. Madan Kataria in India and is based on the principle that anyone can laugh without relying on humor, combining laughter exercises with deep yogic breathing (Pranayama). This practice generates physiological, emotional, and cognitive benefits, improving overall well-being. Through group dynamics, Laughter Yoga allows participants to experience genuine laughter, fostering connection, creativity, and motivation. The session will provide educators with tools to integrate laughter as an innovative methodology in their teaching practice. By experiencing this activity firsthand, they will discover how emotional well-being directly impacts the teaching-learning process. **Wear comfortable clothing!**

---

## **SESSION 2**

Workshop Code: 2-A

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **Mathematizing Your ESOL Health Unit – Part I**

*Double session – also choose 3-A*

**Presenter:** Connie Rivera, Professional Development Specialist, SABES Math Team at TERC

**Description:** ESOL classes teach English in contexts relevant to students' lives. By including math and numeracy in those contexts, we can more fully prepare students to navigate those contexts in life. Come experience activities from the five-lesson packet, Integrating Math into ESOL Units: Health. You will deepen your understanding of ratios and rates and represent your reasoning using words, expressions, and tables. The health topics include heart rate, nutrition, and exercise. You will leave with print and digital access to ESOL lessons that include ready-to-use math.

---

Workshop Code: 2-B

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **View from the Hill**

**Presenters:** Former Senator Steven Panagiotakos, Moderator; Senator Sal DiDomenico; and Representative Steven Ultrino

**Description:** Ever wonder what really happens during the legislative and budget processes at the State House, how they affect adult education programs, and how everything works from a legislator's point of view? The panel will share their perspectives and insights into the budget process, the legislative process, current pressing problems in the Commonwealth that impact setting budget and legislative priorities, and advice on how adult education staff and supporters can be more effective advocates with their legislators and other elected officials. Come with your questions!

---

Workshop Code: 2-C

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **Building Algebraic Reasoning with CALM**

**Presenters:** Melissa Braaten, Curriculum and Training Consultant, SABES Mathematics and Adult Numeracy Curriculum and Instruction Team; Marde Louis, Adult Education Student, Haitian Multi-Service Center

**Description:** The Curriculum for Adults Learning Math (CALM) was designed to give adult students a strong conceptual foundation in mathematics. CALM makes use of manipulatives, visuals, non-routine problems, and student collaboration and may feel very different (to both students and teachers) from their previous math experiences. In this workshop, participants will try and reflect on a CALM activity that builds the foundations of algebraic reasoning through an exploration of area and perimeter. This session will be co-facilitated by a CALM teacher and a CALM student, to provide perspectives on teaching and learning algebra using an integrated and conceptual approach.

---

Workshop Code: 2-D **VENDOR WORKSHOP – GED TESTING SERVICE** 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **GED Testing Program in Massachusetts**

Presenter: Scott Salesses, Director of Strategic Accounts and Testing Operations, GED Testing Service

Description: This session will provide in depth updates and information about the GED testing program in Massachusetts and nationally. Topics covered will include MA student performance on the GED test, GED Manager overview and tips, educator and student resources to help prepare and pass the GED test, GED Ready Official Practice Test information along with updates on new tools and products for educators to utilize with students.

---

Workshop Code: 2-E

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **Communities of Practice: Essential for Professional Development**

Presenters: Marie Cora, Professional Learning Pathways Coordinator, RI Adult Education Professional Learning Pathways; Mariangel Allan, Technology Integration Specialist, RI Adult Education Professional Learning Pathways; Carolina Montoya, Administrative Assistant, RI Adult Education Professional Learning Pathways

Description: The presenters will describe the development of four Communities of Practice (CoPs) for the state of Rhode Island: ABE/GED, ESOL, LD, and Digital Literacy. Learn about the rationale for creating the CoPs, why these content areas were selected, how they are facilitated, typical activities and discussions, and challenges and success stories.

---

Workshop Code: 2-F

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **A Step-by-Step Guide to Stronger English Language Arts Units**

Presenters: Karen Greaves, Instruction and Professional Development Specialist, SABES ELA PD Team; Lauren Twardy, ABE/ASE Instructor, Middlesex Community College

Description: Delivering high-quality English Language Arts (ELA) instruction to adult students starts with strong curricula. However, including all the required components (CCRS/AE, EBRI, differentiation, etc.) in unit plans can be time-consuming and challenging for many teachers. The SABES ELA PD Team has a step-by-step guide that supports Massachusetts adult educators in developing strong ABE/ASE unit plans for English Language Arts. Hear how one MA adult educator used the ELA Team's curriculum design tools and resources to revise her unit plan and learn how you can also develop stronger ELA units that are more relevant, culturally responsive, and classroom ready.

---

### **Inspiring Career Development and Action: A Curriculum Guide**

**Presenter:** Dani Scherer, Technical Advisor, SABES Program Support Team and World Education

**Description:** This session introduces you to the Inspiring Career Development and Action (ICA): A Curriculum Guide for Adult Educators. The ICA contains ready-to-use lesson plans and activities that will guide your learners through a supportive and realistic career awareness, career exploration and career planning process. After exploring the curriculum, you will identify ways in which you plan to use the curriculum and discuss adaptations needed to meet the needs of your learners in your states, programs and classrooms.

---

### **Supporting Successful Reentry for Formerly Incarcerated Students**

**Presenters:** Yvonne Gittelsohn, Corrections Program Specialist, MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education/Adult and Community Learning Services; Lori D'Alleva, Director, Charlestown Adult Learning Center; MaryEllen McGorry, Director of Education, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department

**Description:** This workshop is intended for CALCs and any community-based programs that would like to support formerly incarcerated individuals in completing their HSE once released from custody or supervision. We know that once released from custody or supervision, the many competing pressures of finding housing, employment, transportation, and more often take precedence and completing the HSE becomes difficult. We will profile how one community-based program, Charlestown Boston Housing Authority (BHA), was able to beat the odds and build a program where students routinely complete their HSE, obtain housing, find jobs, and more. We'll learn about the challenges students face inside correctional facilities that prevent them from completing their HSE on the inside. We'll hear from a formerly incarcerated student who recently earned their HSE, and how they've become part of the Reentry community. We'll hear from the Director of Charlestown BHA how she grew her program step by step and braided a variety of grant funding sources to provide wraparound services for her students.

---

### **Learn AI with AI: Close the Knowledge Divide**

**Presenters:** Conzolo Migliozi, Instructional Designer, I199 SEIU Training and Employment Fund; Ophelia Smith, Program Coordinator, I199 SEIU Training and Employment Fund

**Description:** As AI rapidly evolves, the gap between those who can harness its power and those left behind widens. Designed for all experience levels, this hands-on workshop will trace AI's progression from simple text generators to today's multimodal reasoning models capable of PhD-level research. We'll use tools like NotebookLM to learn how retrieval augmented generation grounds responses in your chosen sources. Based on participant interest, we will use AI research tools to explore topics such as preserving critical thinking, information literacy, and the future of work. Leave with the foundational skills to empower your learners to narrow the AI knowledge divide.

---

### **Using Graphic Organizers to Compare Texts**

Presenter: Cynthia Peters, Editor, The Change Agent, World Education

Description: Key college and career readiness skills include being able to take notes on texts and use those notes as a basis for comparing information and then writing and presenting about it. In this workshop, come and learn about The Change Agent as a source of texts and ready-to-use graphic organizers that will help students organize information so that it can be the basis of their own piece of writing. Participants will leave with access to adaptable graphic organizers that can be used in a variety of contexts.

---

Workshop Code: 2-K **VENDOR WORKSHOP – BURLINGTON ENGLISH** 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **Embracing Diversity in a Multilevel Classroom**

Presenters: Ticiania Coleman, Customer Manager, BurlingtonEnglish; Courtney Carter, Customer Representative, BurlingtonEnglish

Description: In every multilevel classroom, teachers encounter a variety of diverse learning scenarios. By leveraging various strategies and best practices, teachers can foster an inclusive learning environment that encourages student engagement, motivation, and learner autonomy, empowering students to take active roles in their language acquisition journey. In this session, we will explore classroom activities from BurlingtonEnglish to illustrate how educators can tailor their teaching to support all learners, regardless of their proficiency level, goals, backgrounds, and skills, thereby enhancing the overall learning experience in multilevel adult ESL classrooms.

---

Workshop Code: 2-L

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **Fun and Engaging Career Readiness Activities**

Presenter: Judithann Walz, CEO and Founder, Lotus & Papers

Description: This workshop includes practical, hands-on activities to develop essential career readiness skills. Through interactive exercises, participants will explore real-world scenarios that build confidence and prepare their students for the workforce. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will have actionable tools to help their students succeed in today's job market.

---

### **Did I Pass? Assessment Conversations to Inspire Growth**

**Presenters:** April Zenisky, Research Professor, University of Massachusetts/Amherst; Kat Tremblay, Research Fellow, University of Massachusetts/Amherst; Ava Landry, Director of Operations, Webster Public Schools; Pasha Black, Director of ESOL, Holyoke Community College; Ash Aliengena, Literacy Specialist, Holyoke Community College

**Description:** Effective use of assessment data is essential for fostering student engagement, instructional improvement, and data-driven decision-making. This session explores strategies for facilitating productive conversations between educators and students about standardized assessment results. Attendees will learn about targeted conversation framing tools designed to support assessment use, help students take ownership of their learning, and support educators in data-informed planning. Through discussion and interactive exploration, attendees will leave with ideas to enhance the role of assessment in their programs and leverage assessment data as a tool for meaningful dialogue, learning, and growth.

---

### **Understanding Your Students: Working Together to Reduce Test Anxiety**

**Presenter:** Danielle Callahan, Project Manager, ProLiteracy

**Description:** This workshop will guide you through tips and strategies to assist learners collaboratively to alleviate test anxiety and achieve success in their upcoming assessments, testing and goals.

---

### **Urban Coalitions for Adult Literacy/Foundational Education**

**Presenters:** David Rosen, President, Newsome Associates; Brooke Machado, Senior Program Manager for Adult Education, City of Boston Mayor's Office of Workforce Development; Anna Fernandez-Beuhrens, Program Director, Julie's Family Learning Program; Lauren Osowski, Senior Advocacy, Research and Projects Manager, ProLiteracy

**Description:** Participants will learn about the free services of the national Urban Alliance for Adult Literacy, an affiliate of ProLiteracy, and about local urban coalitions across the U.S., including the Boston Adult Literacy Initiative (ALI). We will discuss opportunities and challenges for teachers, tutors, and program administrators working in urban or metropolitan environments. This is a great opportunity for practitioners, especially in urban areas, to learn about and stay connected with other Urban ABE practitioners across the U.S.

---

## **SESSION 3**

Workshop Code: 3-A

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### **Mathematizing Your ESOL Health Unit – Part 2**

*Double session – also choose 2-A*

Presenter: Connie Rivera, Professional Development Specialist, SABES Math Team at TERC

Description: ESOL classes teach English in contexts relevant to students' lives. By including math and numeracy in those contexts, we can more fully prepare students to navigate those contexts in life. Come experience activities from the five-lesson packet, Integrating Math into ESOL Units: Health. You will deepen your understanding of ratios and rates and represent your reasoning using words, expressions, and tables. The health topics include heart rate, nutrition, and exercise. You will leave with print and digital access to ESOL lessons that include ready-to-use math.

---

Workshop Code: 3-B

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### **Know Your Workplace Rights**

Presenter: Rick Rabin, Senior Trainer and Technical Consultant, Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health

Description: The workshop will cover workplace rights, including health and safety, wage and hour, discrimination, and workers' compensation. In an interactive presentation, participants will learn about many of the significant workplace hazards and rights of immigrant and minority workers, and the kinds of actions they can take when work is unsafe or employees are treated badly.

---

Workshop Code: 3-C

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### **Participatory Learning for Beginner-Level Students**

Presenter: Meenakshi Khanna, ESOL Instructor, Action for Boston Community Development

Description: Participatory learning is based on the idea that when students are actively involved in the learning process, they will succeed. In this interactive session, we will discuss participatory, student-centered learning with beginner-level ESOL students. The presenter will define participatory, student-centered learning and present examples of curricula and participatory methods, as well as examples of student work from her beginner-level class. We will discuss how to choose topics and guiding questions that are authentic and meaningful to students, questions to consider while developing curriculum, and activities that engage students in authentic communication. Informal, classroom-based student assessment will also be addressed.

---

**Flexible Models for ESL Transitions to Credentials and Careers**

**Presenters:** Linnette Mancuso, Director of Key Accounts, State and Public Markets, EnGen; Erin Paszko, PhD, Director of Adult Education, Community Action, Inc.; Nataliya Ratilovska, ESOL Instructor, Catholic Charities - Boston

**Description:** With waitlists for ESL programs and the changing needs of learner populations (including incumbent workers and working adults), innovative new service models are emerging. A "one size fits all" approach simply does not work for adult English language learners. It is important to individualize instruction/coaching based on the needs and educational backgrounds of students. Participants will explore blended learning options, learner persistence and goal setting, contextualized ESOL, and ITP program elements including industry-specific ESL and TOEFL. The participants in this session will develop a better understanding of how to build flexibility and improved access to career training for their adult learners.

---

Workshop Code: 3-E

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**A Public Speaking Workshop: Because Teachers Get Nervous Too**

**Presenter:** Yexcica Cappas Santiago, Learning Facilitator, Genesis Center

**Description:** Get a hands-on experience on how to conquer your self-doubt when it comes to presenting. Some think teachers or students have it easier when it comes to talking in public. However, we all get the jitters no matter how long you've been in the game. During this workshop you will learn about body language, the "do and don't", basic public speaking survival tips, and have the chance to put everything into practice.

---

Workshop Code: 3-F

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Using DISC Personality to Enhance Relationships**

**Presenters:** Michael McGee, Site Manager, Training Resources of America; Tom Fratolillo, Career and Education Advisor, Training Resources of America

**Description:** Whether you are managing staff, managing students or just having to work in a team environment, this workshop will help you understand others better so you can enhance your relationships and improve results.

---



### **Writing Fluency: Strategies That Work!**

**Presenter:** Evonne Peters, Director, English Language Arts Professional Development Team, SABES

**Description:** Do your students struggle with writing? During this practical session, learn several teaching strategies that will help your in-person or remote adult learners become more confident and accomplished writers. Easy to implement methods such as quick writes, bio-poems, and writing frames can help reduce students' reluctance to write and increase their writing fluency. Writing is hard, but with the right approach, you can help your learners overcome their fear of writing and enjoy the process!

---

### **Leading with Strength and Compassion in Challenging Times**

**Presenter:** Wyvonne Stevens-Carter, Associate Commissioner, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/Adult and Community Learning Services

**Description:** In uncertain times, compassionate leadership is crucial. This 90-minute interactive workshop equips leaders and staff with practical strategies to manage fear, stress, and support immigrant students with legal status concerns. Participants will explore effective leadership practices, ways to support colleagues, and provide meaningful help despite challenging circumstances. Through discussions, reflection, and resource sharing, attendees will gain tools to foster resilience, create safe spaces, and lead with empathy and hope.

---

### **Initiating Student Engagement with Open Pedagogy**

**Presenter:** Andjela Kaur, Assistant Teaching Professor, Pennsylvania State University

**Description:** In an environment increasingly filled with ready-made, fee-for-use course materials, promoting collaborative teaching and learning has become a priority. Through the collaborative design of teaching materials, instructors can enhance students' curiosity about learning and increase their persistence. This workshop introduces the audience to the principles of open pedagogy and provides examples of how these principles can be enacted in an adult education classroom. By examining mechanisms of open pedagogy, such as open syllabi and collaborative assessment design, participants will engage in hands-on activities and discussions on the possible uses of open pedagogy in adult education.

---

### **Unlocking Potential: Supporting Unhoused Youth**

**Presenters:** Seann Macnamara, Education Manager, Bridge Over Troubled Waters (BOTW); Janice Chory, Jobs and Career Development Program Manager, BOTW; Colin Winslow, HiSET Instructor, BOTW

**Description:** Homelessness is a significant issue impacting many young adults. At Bridge Over Troubled Waters in Boston, we specialize in offering comprehensive support services, such as securing housing, providing mental health and addiction counseling, and assisting with educational needs—whether it's obtaining a high school diploma (HiSET), navigating college applications, or excelling in college courses. Additionally, we offer job and career guidance. This workshop invites participants to explore the diverse factors contributing to youth homelessness and to discuss ways to support young adults in completing or advancing their education.

---

### **VENDOR WORKSHOP CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS**

#### **Explore How the Ventures Series Aligns with MA English Language Proficiency Standards (MELPS)**

**Presenter:** Regina Mazzola-Snyder, English Language Specialist – Northeast USA, Cambridge University Press

**Description:** Learn how the Ventures series fosters contextual learning and aligns instruction with the MA English Language Proficiency Standards (MELPS) to build students' language skills and confidence for real-life applications. With practical lesson examples, gain insights into strategies for teaching vocabulary, reading comprehension, and listening skills. Review the correlations of the MELPS to the Ventures series to help create teacher lesson plans and report progress aligned to the MELPS standards.

---

### **Fail Fast, Learn Faster: Workplace English That Works!**

**Presenters:** Suzanne Metro, Business Partnerships Manager, English for New Bostonians; Celia Martinez, Workplace ESOL Teacher and Coordinator, English for New Bostonians

**Description:** What takes a workplace English program from good to great? Join English for New Bostonians' English Works Business Services team to explore how meaningful employer engagement and strategies that align with real business priorities can elevate outcomes for both employees and employers. Participants will leave with realistic strategies to tackle common challenges, build stronger partnerships, and make incremental progress—even when full engagement seems out of reach. Whether you're just starting to think about starting a workplace training program or you're a seasoned expert, come ready to share, reflect, and leave with tools that will help you fail fast, learn faster, and deliver workplace English that works.

---

**Supporting International Medical Graduates: Insights for Career Success in the U.S.**

Presenter: Dr. Sheryl Buchanan, Education Director – Evening Programs, Genesis Center

Description: Explore how adult education empowers international medical graduates (IMGs) as they navigate the challenges of the U.S. job market. This session presents key insights drawn from firsthand interviews with IMGs currently working toward certification, highlighting real strategies for overcoming language barriers, financial obstacles, and professional transitions. Gain a deeper understanding of the support IMGs find most valuable in enhancing career readiness and integration into the healthcare workforce. Join us to hear directly from their experiences and discover actionable ways to better assist IMGs on their path to professional success in the United States.

---

**Designing Results Reports to Enhance Learning and Instruction**

Presenters: Jennifer Lewis, Research Fellow, Center for Educational Assessment (CEA) at UMass; Maura Maxfield, Senior Research Fellow, CEA at UMass; April Zenisky, Research Professor, CEA at UMass

Description: The Center for Educational Assessment at UMass (CEA) is developing the English Test for Adults (ETA) to assess English proficiency and provide learning-centered feedback. This interactive workshop focuses on the power of results reports to support both adult English learners and instructors. Working in small groups, you'll sketch out an ideal results report showing a learner profile, key skills, and instructional needs, given a description of a learner's performance and a list of skills. We'll then discuss and collaboratively refine report elements. Join us to explore how assessment data has the power to enhance learning and impact classroom instruction!

---

**Does Bradley Leave Samantha? A Soap Opera**

Presenter: Meryl Becker, Teacher, SCALE (Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences)

Description: Need exciting material that will make ESOL and ABE learners look forward to reading? Samantha is a romantic soap opera that is high interest, develops vocabulary, and stimulates discussion on moral, social, and cross-cultural issues, including men and women's roles and single parenthood. The interesting topics raised provoke students to verbalize their own ideas and at the same time provide them with excellent practice in reading comprehension, vocabulary building, and idiom usage. Participants will learn how this material was developed, review a chapter, and discuss an episode as students would in the classroom.

---

## **SESSION 4**

Workshop Code: 4-A

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **Becoming a Math Person through Instructional Routines**

**Presenters:** Zuzka Blasi, Adjunct Mathematics Instructor, Middlesex Community College; Jean Oviatt-Rothman, Senior Learning Specialist/STEM, MassLINKS; Ann Taft, Senior Learning Specialist/STEM, MassLINKS; Aren Lew, Curriculum and Training Development Specialist, SABES Mathematics and Adult Numeracy Curriculum and Instruction Professional Development Team

**Description:** Instructional routines are accessible activities that support teachers and students in developing critical thinking. For those of us who have ever felt like we are not math people, instructional routines can help us expand our confidence and creativity. Instructional routines are fun, powerful tools for supporting student engagement and learning. They help students feel relaxed and empowered. For teachers, instructional routines create opportunities to grow in our own math identities. In this session, you'll experience routines with educators who use them every day in their classrooms and leave ready to try one with your students.

---

Workshop Code: 4-B

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **ABCs of Immigration and Best Practices for Supporting Immigrant Families**

**Presenters:** Catherine Ramirez Mejia, Access and Resource Specialist, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Coalition (MIRA); Jessica Chicco, Director of Training, MIRA

**Description:** The training begins with an introduction to the various immigration statuses that exist, enabling participants to gain a deeper understanding of terminology related to immigration. Later in the training, participants learn about typical obstacles and difficulties that immigrant families encounter when seeking services. The training then covers the best practices that service providers can adopt, emphasizing the use of cultural humility and community partnership to establish trust within the immigrant community. The training also informs service providers about the fundamental rights and resources that are available to immigrants. The overall goal of this comprehensive training is to equip service providers with the necessary tools to efficiently serve the immigrant community while fostering a safe and inclusive environment.

---

Workshop Code: 4-C

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **Games for ESOL**

**Presenter:** Emma Almanzar, ESOL Level 2 and 3 Instructor, Valley Opportunity Council

**Description:** This workshop is about making and using games in an ESOL classroom. This includes the process of making your own games based on topics or grammar points, ideas for different types of games (board, quiz-style, etc.), and using them in the classroom successfully.

---

Workshop Code: 4-D

**VENDOR WORKSHOP -- HiSET**

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**HiSET Insights for Educators and Test Centers**

Presenter: Stephanie Bauer, Account Manager, HiSET

Description: Join us for an interactive session tailored for adult educators and test center personnel to explore the HiSET exam. Learn how to determine if HiSET is the right fit for test takers, review the five subject tests, and get key updates for the current testing year. Whether you support test takers or manage test administration, this session provides the latest information and best practices to enhance success.

---

Workshop Code: 4-E

**VENDOR WORKSHOP -- ORIJIN**

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Education Without Walls – How Technology Extends Your Reach!**

Presenters: Adam Henderson, Vice President of Sales, Orijin PBC; Tracy Borrelli, Deputy Director of Inmate Education and Training, Massachusetts Department of Correction; Sherri Travers, Virtual Learning Lead Teacher, Massachusetts Department of Correction

Description: In this session, you will learn about how the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) has used secure technology and toolsets to help incarcerated individuals to further their education and prepare for a career post release. The Deputy Director of Inmate Education and Training, Tracy Borrelli, and Virtual Learning Lead Teacher Sherri Travers will discuss how they created programs and embraced the hybrid learning model for education and workforce development to reach all their residents. The DOC has been able to extend their reach by more than 300,000 hours of programming at all security levels using the Orijin Learning First Platform.

---

Workshop Code: 4-F

**Lessons in Generative AI**

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Presenter: John Strachan, ESOL Instructor, Action for Boston Community Development

Description: Do you use AI in your work or daily life? Are you excited about its possibilities—or worried it might take over the world? If you answered yes to any of these questions, this workshop is for you! Designed for ESOL/ABE teachers, career advisors, and program coordinators, this workshop demystifies generative AI — what it is, what it isn't, and how it can work for you. Participants will identify practical ways to save time and enhance learning with AI. **Please bring a laptop or download ChatGPT or Gemini to your phone before the workshop.**

---

### **Building Human Understanding Through Dilemmas of History**

**Presenters:** Michelle Perry, Program Specialist, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/Adult and Community Learning Services; Marie Troppe, Program Specialist, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/Adult and Community Learning Services

**Description:** Through personal reflection and meaningful dialogue, participants will explore how historical events shape and illuminate today's realities. Living in uncertain times, we need to foster our own and each other's resilience. Structured dialogue identifying similarities and differences between the past and the present can help us gain perspective on the current moment. Our case study will be an historical event that occurred in 1898 in Wilmington, NC and which was recalled in Charles Chesnutt's *The Marrow of Tradition*. By building human understanding of contemporary challenges through historical perspectives, we can increase feelings of efficacy, for ourselves and our communities.

---

### **Strengthening Disability Inclusion: Theory and Practice**

**Presenters:** Alexandra Papagno, Director, SABES Program Support Team; Andjela Kaur, Assistant Teaching Professor, Pennsylvania State University

**Description:** Strengthening our approach to disability inclusion supports students in taking charge of their own learning journey and benefits all students, whether or not they have a disclosed or diagnosed disability. In this session, we will explore foundational ideas in disability studies and practical tools and strategies to guide our work to strengthen disability inclusion and meet the needs of all learners. Along the way, we will consider what it means to be disability inclusive, identify key components of disability-inclusive programming, look at practical tools and models such as the Basic Disability Screening for Adult Education (BDSAE), and hear from programs that are currently working toward more inclusive teaching and learning practices.

---

### **Dynamic Virtual Instruction for Literacy-Level Learners**

**Presenter:** Eliana Stanislawski, Professional Development Specialist, SABES Program Support Team, World Education

**Description:** Serving learners developing literacy in their native language, English, and the digital world presents unique challenges. While technology offers some support, these learners are still too often left behind. This interactive workshop will equip you with concrete, imaginative strategies to reach and teach these students successfully in a virtual environment. We'll delve into key areas like communication, materials design, creative engagement routines, and effective demonstrations, offering practical techniques you can implement immediately. Join fellow instructors, curriculum designers, and program staff to brainstorm, share best practices, and leave with tangible strategies to transform your online teaching for these vital learners.

---

Workshop Code: 4-J

**VENDOR WORKSHOP  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LEARNING/CENGAGE**

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Success in Life Online – Digital Literacy for Adult Learners**

**Presenters:** Joy MacFarland, Head of Regional Marketing – ELT US and Canada, National Geographic Learning; David Sandberg, Marketing, Sales and Operations Coordinator, Cengage Group

**Description:** Digital literacy skills are crucial to adult learners' daily lives and to achieving academic and professional success. This session will focus on activities for adult ESL students to develop essential digital literacy skills: privacy and security, managing your digital footprint, online etiquette, tips for online or hybrid classes, and more.

---

Workshop Code: 4-K

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Career Explorers: Journey to the Dream**

**Presenter:** Cleopatra Muhammad, Director of Client Services, Jewish Vocational Services (JVS)

**Description:** The best workers (educators, tutors, counselors, etc.) are those with high job satisfaction and a sense of purpose. Yet, we are often so busy helping others along the journey to their dreams that we rarely stop to assess where we are on the journey. This workshop is designed to give you space to engage in meaningful self-reflection and small group discussion. Participants will leave the workshop with a greater sense of their own journey and a plan for their next steps.

---

Workshop Code: 4-L

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Leveraging Youth Leadership and Innovation in Health Literacy**

**Presenters:** Beier Nelson, Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director, The Health Fluency Project; Aditya Tummula, Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director, The Health Fluency Project

**Description:** The Health Fluency Project is a student-led nonprofit that empowers non-English language preference (NELP) students with the English skills to navigate the healthcare system. Since our founding in 2023, we have hosted over 40 workshops both in Boston and beyond, reaching over 450 individuals, leveraging the power of youth leadership and a community-centric approach. We are also pioneers in leveraging the use of AI in health literacy, both through partnerships and in-house innovations. This workshop will be focused on discussing strategies to expand health literacy programs through the use of youth leadership and novel technology.

---

**Authentic Assessment of Listening and Speaking Skills: BEST Plus 3.0**

**Presenters:** Anna Zilberberg, Senior Director – Language Assessment, Center for Applied Linguistics;  
Ekaterina Maksimova, Adult ESL Educator, Jookender

**Description:** This interactive session will guide you through the features, training options, and usage tips for the new BEST Plus 3.0 approved by the U.S. Department of Education for National Reporting System (NRS) accountability reporting through July 13, 2030. This presentation will provide an overview of BEST Plus 3.0 and introduce brand-new item types that measure proficiency at the most advanced level as well as cutting-edge software with user-friendly features and cloud-based data storage. To better assist programs in this transitional phase, we will also share different training options for those wishing to be certified as test administrators.

---

**Enhance Your Students' Learning Experience with Ellii**

**Presenter:** Ben Buckwold, CEO and Founder, Ellii (formerly ESL Library)

**Description:** Discover how Ellii's innovative platform boosts student engagement and improves learning outcomes. Explore features that save teachers prep time while empowering students in their learning journey. With thousands of ready-to-use printable and digital lessons, Ellii supports ESL and adult education, including IET and workplace English courses for in-class or distance learning. For 20 years, our in-house team has created new materials daily, meeting the needs of busy educators. Join us for an introductory session to learn how to easily find and assign resources tailored to your students' unique needs.





# NETWORK 2025 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE—MAY 7th

## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Visit Our Exhibitors</b>  <b>8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b>          Visit Exhibitors’ booths in the Exhibit Area, and visit their workshop sessions</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Awards Ceremony Luncheon</b>  <b>Honoring the Awesome</b>          Roberta Soolman          MCAE Board President  <b>12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.</b></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session 1</b>  <b>8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session 2</b>  <b>10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session 3</b>  <b>2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session 4</b>  <b>3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b></p>	
<p><b>1-A</b>          Help! I’m Not a Math Person   <i>Aren Lew</i></p>	<p><b>2-A</b>          Mathematizing Your ESOL Health Unit – Part 1   <i>Connie Rivera</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Double Session</b>  </p>		<p><b>4-A</b>          Becoming a Math Person through Instructional Routines   <i>Zuzka Blasi, Jean Oviatt-Rothman, Ann Taft, Aren Lew</i></p>	
<p><b>1-B</b>          Scaffolded Learning Centers in the ESOL Classroom   <i>Kerri Enman, Thomas Godfrey, Sheila Rotkiewicz</i></p>	<p><b>2-B</b>          View from the Hill   <i>Former Senator Steven Panagiotakos, Senator Sal DiDomenico, Representative Steven Ultrino</i></p>	<p><b>3-B</b>          Know Your Workplace Rights   <i>Rick Rabin</i></p>	<p><b>4-B</b>          ABCs of Immigration and Best Practices for Supporting Immigrant Families   <i>Catherine Ramirez Mejia, Jessica Chicco</i></p>	
<p><b>1-C</b>  <u>VENDOR</u>  <b>PROLITERACY/NEW READERS PRESS</b>          Career Power!   <i>Greg Stultz</i></p>	<p><b>2-C</b>          Building Algebraic Reasoning with CALM   <i>Melissa Braaten, Marde Louis</i></p>	<p><b>3-C</b>          Participatory Learning for Beginner-Level Students   <i>Meenakshi Khanna</i></p>	<p><b>4-C</b>          Games for ESOL   <i>Emma Almanzar</i></p>	
<p><b>1-D</b>          Online Instructional Resources for Adult Learners through the Boston Public Library   <i>Melissa Theroux</i></p>	<p><b>2-D</b>  <u>VENDOR</u>  <b>GED TESTING SERVICE</b>          GED Testing Program in Massachusetts   <i>Scott Salesses</i></p>	<p><b>3-D</b>  <u>VENDOR</u>  <b>ENGEN</b>          Flexible Models for ESL Transitions to Credentials and Careers   <i>Linnette Mancuso, Erin Paszko PhD, Nataliya Ratilovska</i></p>	<p><b>4-D</b>  <u>VENDOR</u>  <b>HISSET</b>          HiSET Insights for Educators and Tests Centers   <i>Stephanie Bauer</i></p>	
<p><b>1-E</b>          Advisor Resource and Idea Sharing  <b>For Advisors and Counselors Only</b>   <i>Alisha Beltramini, Stephanie Moriarty</i></p>	<p><b>2-E</b>          Communities of Practice: Essential for Professional Development   <i>Marie Cora, Mariangel Allan, Carolina Montoya</i></p>	<p><b>3-E</b>          A Public Speaking Workshop: Because Teachers Get Nervous Too   <i>Yexcica Cappas Santiago</i></p>	<p><b>4-E</b>  <u>VENDOR</u>  <b>ORIJIN</b>          Education Without Walls – How Technology Extends Your Reach!   <i>Adam Henderson, Tracy Borrelli, Sherri Travers</i></p>	

	<p align="center"><b>Visit Our Exhibitors</b>  <b>8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b>  Visit Exhibitors’ booths in the Exhibit Area, and visit their workshop sessions</p>		<p align="center"><b>Awards Ceremony Luncheon</b>  <b>Honoring the Awesome</b>  Roberta Soolman  MCAE Board President  <b>12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.</b></p>	
<p align="center"><b>Session 1</b>  <b>8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Session 2</b>  <b>10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Session 3</b>  <b>2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Session 4</b>  <b>3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b></p>	
<p><b>1-F</b>  Integrating Teaching Skills That Matter into Your Instruction   <i>Christa Exter, Ann-Marie Hallagan, Cynthia Faulkner</i></p>	<p><b>2-F</b>  A Step-by-Step Guide to Stronger English Language Arts Units   <i>Karen Greaves, Lauren Twardy</i></p>	<p><b>3-F</b>  Using DISC Personality to Enhance Relationships   <i>Michael McGee, Tom Fratolillo</i></p>	<p><b>4-F</b>  Lessons in Generative AI  See tech requirements under workshop description   <i>John Strachan</i></p>	
<p><b>1-G</b>  Enhancing Student Motivation   <i>Andjela Kaur</i></p>	<p><b>2-G</b>  Inspiring Career Development and Action: A Curriculum Guide   <i>Dani Scherer</i></p>	<p><b>3-G</b>  Writing Fluency: Strategies That Work!   <i>Evonne Peters</i></p>	<p><b>4-G</b>  Building Human Understanding Through Dilemmas of History   <i>Michelle Perry, Marie Troppe</i></p>	
<p><b>1-H</b>  EdTech Routines: Adult Educators’ Digital Skill Strategies   <i>Eliana Stanislawski</i></p>	<p><b>2-H</b>  Supporting Successful Reentry for Formerly Incarcerated Students   <i>Yvonne Gittelson, Lori D’Alleva, MaryEllen McGorry</i></p>	<p><b>3-H</b>  Leading with Strength and Compassion in Challenging Times   <i>Wyvonne Stevens-Carter</i></p>	<p><b>4-H</b>  Strengthening Disability Inclusion: Theory and Practice   <i>Alexandra Papagno, Andjela Kaur</i></p>	
<p><b>1-I</b>  Reading to Learn – Strategies for the Struggling Learner   <i>Chris Miller</i></p>	<p><b>2-I</b>  Learn AI with AI: Close the Knowledge Divide   <i>Conzolo Migliozi, Ophelia Smith</i></p>	<p><b>3-I</b>  Initiating Student Engagement with Open Pedagogy   <i>Andjela Kaur</i></p>	<p><b>4-I</b>  Dynamic Virtual Instruction for Literacy-Level Learners   <i>Eliana Stanislawski</i></p>	
<p><b>1-J</b>      <b>VENDOR</b>  <b>ESSENTIAL EDUCATION</b>  Successful Strategies for Student Retention and Engagement   <i>Brittney Napolitano</i></p>	<p><b>2-J</b>  Using Graphic Organizers to Compare Texts   <i>Cynthia Peters</i></p>	<p><b>3-J</b>  Unlocking Potential: Supporting Unhoused Youth   <i>Seann Macnamara, Janice Chory, Colin Winslow</i></p>	<p><b>4-J</b>      <b>VENDOR</b>  <b>NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LEARNING/CENGAGE</b>  Success in Life Online – Digital Literacy for Adult Learners   <i>Joy MacFarland, David Sandberg</i></p>	
<p><b>1-K</b>  Empowering Workers: Strategies for Supporting ABE Career Ladders   <i>Brooke Machado, Sarah Soroui</i></p>	<p><b>2-K</b>      <b>VENDOR</b>  <b>BURLINGTON ENGLISH</b>  Embracing Diversity in a Multilevel Classroom   <i>Ticiana Coleman, Courtney Carter</i></p>	<p><b>3-K</b>      <b>VENDOR</b>  <b>CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS</b>  Explore How the Ventures Series Aligns with the Massachusetts English Language Proficiency Standards (MELPS)   <i>Regina Mazzola-Snyder</i></p>	<p><b>4-K</b>  Career Explorers: Journal to the Dream   <i>Cleopatra Muhammad</i></p>	

	<p align="center"><b>Visit Our Exhibitors</b>  <b>8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b>  Visit Exhibitors’ booths in the Exhibit Area, and visit their workshop sessions</p>		<p align="center"><b>Awards Ceremony Luncheon</b>  <b>Honoring the Awesome</b>  Roberta Soolman  MCAE Board President  <b>12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.</b></p>	
<p align="center"><b>Session 1</b>  <b>8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Session 2</b>  <b>10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Session 3</b>  <b>2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Session 4</b>  <b>3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b></p>	
<p><b>1-L</b> <b>VENDOR</b>  <b>IMAGINE EDGENUITY</b>  Digital Curriculum/Courses for Adult Learners   <i>Greg Moore, Tim Shaw</i></p>	<p><b>2-L</b>  Fun and Engaging Career Readiness Activities   <i>Judithann Walz</i></p>	<p><b>3-L</b>  Fail Fast, Learn Faster: Workplace English That Works!   <i>Suzanne Metro, Celia Martinez</i></p>	<p><b>4-L</b>  Leveraging Youth Leadership and Innovation in Health Literacy   <i>Beier Nelson, Aditya Tummala</i></p>	
<p><b>1-M</b>  How to Create a Resume and Develop an Effective Job Search Campaign   <i>Stacie Fehrm</i></p>	<p><b>2-M</b>  Did I Pass? Assessment Conversations to Inspire Growth   <i>April Zenisky, Kat Tremblay, Ava Landry, Pasha Black, Ash Aliengena</i></p>	<p><b>3-M</b>  Supporting International Medical Graduates: Insights for Career Success in the U.S.   <i>Dr. Sheryl Buchanan</i></p>	<p><b>4-M</b>  Authentic Assessment of Listening and Speaking Skills: BEST Plus 3.0   <i>Anna Zilberberg, Ekaterina Maksimova</i></p>	
<p><b>1-N</b>  Trauma-Informed Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Strategies for HiSET Testing   <i>Colin Winslow, Diana Saintil, Mayda Curet, Seann Macnamara, Janice Chory</i></p>	<p><b>2-N</b>  Understanding Your Students: Working Together to Reduce Test Anxiety   <i>Danielle Callahan</i></p>	<p><b>3-N</b>  Designing Results Reports to Enhance Learning and Instruction   <i>Jennifer Lewis, Maura Maxfield, April Zenisky</i></p>	<p><b>4-N</b> <b>VENDOR</b>  <b>ELLII</b>  Enhance Your Students’ Learning Experience with Ellii   <i>Ben Buckwold</i></p>	
<p><b>1-O</b>  Laughter Yoga as a Tool to Enhance Learning  Wear comfortable clothing!   <i>Alemyr Navas</i></p>	<p><b>2-O</b>  Urban Coalitions for Adult Literacy/Foundational Education   <i>David Rosen, Brooke Machado, Anna Fernandez-Beuhrens, Lauren Osowski</i></p>	<p><b>3-O</b>  Does Bradley Leave Samantha? A Soap Opera   <i>Meryl Becker</i></p>		

# PRESENTERS' BIOS

## **Ash Aliengena**

*Literacy Specialist, Holyoke Community College*

Ash Aliengena (they/them) teaches beginner level ESOL and coordinates assessments at Holyoke Community College. They are also interested in inclusion, accessibility, and materials development.

## **Mariangel Allan**

*Technology Integration Specialist, RI Adult Education Professional Learning Pathways*

Mariangel Allan specializes in technology integration for professional development. With a background as an ESL instructor, medical interpreter trainer, and tech specialist, she now provides adult education practitioners in RI with the training and resources they need to enhance their digital literacy, adopt new tools, and innovate in their teaching.

## **Emma Almanzar**

*ESOL Level 2 and 3 Instructor, Valley Opportunity Council*

I graduated college in 2020, and in 2022 I began teaching adult ESOL full-time in Chicopee. I have taught levels 1, 2, and 3. Currently, I teach a level 2 and a level 3 course.

## **Stephanie Bauer**

*Account Manager, HiSET*

With 20+ years in K-12 programs, Stephanie Bauer brings extensive expertise to her role as HiSET Account Manager. She manages state-level program implementation, collaborating with clients, vendors, and test centers. In her leisure time, Stephanie is an avid traveler and Broadway aficionado.

## **Meryl Becker**

*Teacher, SCALE (Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences)*

Meryl Becker is the author of *Samantha, A Soap Opera* and *Vocabulary Book for Students of English as a Second Language* and *Samantha, The Sequel* and has also written several short historical plays for use in ESOL classes. She has been teaching for over 30 years.

## **Alisha Beltramini**

*College and Career Advisor, Adult Learning Center at North Shore Community College, Danvers*

After graduating with a MSW and having 20 years of social work experience doing home visits, outpatient hospital care, and private practice, Alisha decided to pivot to an academic setting and help students earn their High School Equivalency. She has been working at the Adult Learning Center on the North Shore Community College campus for two years as a College and Career Advisor and loves her students as well as her team of colleagues. While having dozens of adult education campuses across the state is a good thing, not seeing or talking with other advisors very often can be challenging. This is why Alisha and her colleague, Stephanie, wanted to create a place where advisors can share resources in person at Network 2025.

**Pesha Black**

*Director of ESOL, Holyoke Community College*

Pesha Black has served for the past 10 years as the Director of ESOL at Holyoke Community College, where she collaborates with a team of 50 ESOL educators, serving approximately 700 students annually through CALC, MassSTEP, and Pay for Performance models, and leads the Juntos Collaborative of Holyoke adult education providers. She enjoys thinking deeply with others about student, staff, and organizational learning and growth, and creating environments where people with diverse backgrounds and experiences flourish! Pesha provides subject matter expertise to the SABES ESOL Curriculum and Instruction PD Team and Center for Educational Assessment, particularly focused on educational leadership. Prior to Holyoke Community College, she taught ESOL at Center for New Americans.

**Zuzka Blasi**

*Adjunct Mathematics Instructor, Middlesex Community College*

Zuzka Blasi is an adult basic education instructor at Middlesex Community College. She supports learners to develop mathematics fluency and confidence using a student-centered, Modern Classroom Project structured approach. She is also a graduate student at University of Massachusetts Boston, where she conducts research into issues in urban mathematics education.

**Tracy Borrelli**

*Deputy Director of Inmate Training and Education, Massachusetts Department of Correction*

Tracey is an innovative and forward-thinking educational leader in Massachusetts, overseeing nine correctional schools throughout the state. With twenty-eight years of experience as a public-school administrator and teacher in the Commonwealth, Tracey is deeply committed to developing literacy and English language skills for adult learners. She actively supports the Education Division's goal of reducing recidivism by increasing educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals by ensuring that each student has equitable access to educational programs and career skills necessary to gain successful reentry.

**Melissa Braaten**

*Curriculum and Training Consultant, SABES Mathematics and Adult Numeracy Curriculum and Instruction Team*

Melissa Braaten has been teaching adult numeracy for the past fourteen years in Dorchester, MA, and works as a curriculum and training consultant for the SABES Mathematics and Adult Numeracy Curriculum and Instruction Team. She is also the lead developer for the BeCALM series (Beginning Curriculum for Adults Learning Math).

**Sheryl Buchanan**

*Education Director – Evening Programs, Genesis Center*

Dr. Sheryl Buchanan, a dedicated educator for over two decades, brings expertise in ESOL, citizenship, GED, and IET programs. Holding a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, she directs evening programs, guiding a team of over 10 instructors in curriculum development and instructional excellence. Her visionary leadership cultivates a comprehensive, high-impact learning environment, empowering both educators and adult learners through innovation and professional growth.

**Ben Buckwold**

*CEO and Founder, Ellii*

After five years of teaching English in Tokyo, Ben founded Ellii (formerly ESL Library) in 2002. As CEO, he has grown Ellii into a leading ELT content platform used in over 10,000 schools worldwide, providing English teachers with engaging, relevant, and easy-to-access resources.

## **Danielle Callahan**

*Project Manager, ProLiteracy*

Danielle Callahan works as a Project Manager for ProLiteracy. Since joining in 2022, she has been responsible for the Teacher Training Plus Project, the Notebook publication, Membership Meetups, and other special projects. Prior to coming to ProLiteracy, Danielle spent time as the Coordinator of Tutor Services at Nashua Adult Learning Center and as a mental health counselor at Greater Nashua Mental Health Center, both in Nashua, NH, where she worked one-on-one with adult learners working to achieve their HiSET and reenter the workforce.

## **Yexica Capps Santiago**

*Learning Facilitator, Genesis Center*

Yexica Andrea Capps Santiago is from Puerto Rico. She has a bachelor's degree in linguistics with a secondary English teaching certification and a master's degree in English education with a TESOL certification from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. Six years ago, she moved from Puerto Rico to Rhode Island.

## **Courtney Carter**

*Customer Representative, Burlington English, Inc*

Courtney spent the past 15 years working in public education, including the last 8½ years as an adult ESL instructor in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In this role, she taught in both traditional face-to-face classroom settings and online, as well as in local factories with a focus on workforce English. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Central Michigan University. She will soon complete a Master of Education in Instruction and Curriculum from Grand Valley State University.

## **Jessica Chicco**

*Director of Training, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition*

Director of Training, Jessica Chicco joined MIRA as Staff Attorney in January 2020 after more than a decade working with immigrant communities. She oversees the education and training programs and the citizenship program, and also works on federal policy issues.

## **Janice Chory**

*Job and Career Development Program Manager, Bridge Over Troubled Waters*

Janice Chory has more than 30 years of experience providing employment support and job placement services to individuals with disabilities and other underserved populations, helping them to obtain and retain community-based employment. She has worked with individuals in various settings, including transitioning individuals with significant disabilities into community-based jobs as well as transitioning high school students and college students. Janice has worked for the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitation, MassAbility, community colleges and other service providers. She has a Master's in Collaborative Vocational Evaluation from George Washington University and currently works for Bridge Over Troubled Waters as the Jobs and Career Development Program Manager.

## **Ticiana Coleman**

*Customer Manager, Burlington English, Inc*

Ticiana Coleman has over 25 years of experience in the education field, with a particular focus on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). She is proficient in intercultural communication, English as a Second Language (ESL), and Portuguese/English translation and interpretation. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Teaching Portuguese and English as a Second Language, as well as a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

## **Marie Cora**

*Professional Learning Pathways Coordinator, RI Adult Education Professional Learning Pathways*

Marie Cora has worked in adult education since 1984. She holds an M.Ed. in TESL and a PsyM in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. Marie currently serves as the Adult Education Professional Learning Pathways Coordinator for the state of Rhode Island.

**Mayda Curet**

*Success Coach (Career Counselor), Bridge Over Troubled Waters*

Mayda Curet holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and is dedicated to empowering homeless youth through career development and professional growth. At Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Mayda helps young individuals build job readiness skills, cultivate professionalism, and discover their strengths. Passionate about fostering resilience and self-sufficiency, she provides guidance on employment opportunities, interview preparation, and workplace success. Through mentorship and support, they strive to create lasting opportunities for youth to achieve stability and independence.

**Lori D'Alleva**

*Director, Charlestown Adult Learning Center*

Lori D'Alleva is the Director of Charlestown Adult Education. Her holistic approach to adult education has resulted in her creating a program that includes a career center, reentry services, a financial advisor, food pantry and behavioral therapist services, as well as expanding its academic outreach through online classes. Her passion is working with legal-system-involved students.

**Sal DiDomenico**

*Massachusetts State Senate*

Senator Sal DiDomenico has proudly served as State Senator of the Middlesex and Suffolk district of Massachusetts since 2010. He currently represents Chelsea, Everett, Cambridge and Charlestown. Since his election to the Senate, Senator DiDomenico has been a vocal advocate of ensuring high-quality and accessible early education and care for children in the Commonwealth, tackling environmental injustice, improving economic opportunities for working families, fighting food insecurity in our communities, increasing public education funding, and providing world-class healthcare for all children and their families in Massachusetts. Senator DiDomenico currently serves as Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate, Chair of the Senate Committee on Bills in the Third Reading and Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Ethics. He holds a position in Senate President Karen Spilka's leadership team, joining a select group of members chosen for their ability to lead and their commitment to advancing important issues for the Commonwealth. Sen. DiDomenico also serves as a member of the Joint Committee on Education, the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, and the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

**Kerri Enman**

*Teacher, Ascentria Care Alliance*

Kerri teaches ESOL to new Americans at Ascentria Care Alliance in Worcester. She has a background in special education and trauma-informed care.

**Christa Exter**

*TSTM State Trainer, Public Adult Education of MA SABES PD Team*

Christa Exter is a Teaching Skills That Matter (TSTM) State Trainer, trained by AIR, the American Institute for Research. She has 20 years teaching experience in Adult Education, many of those spent at the Methuen Adult Learning Center. She is STAR-certified (STudent Achievement in Reading) and was a pilot instructor in 2017 for the CALM (Curriculum for Adults Learning Math) initiative.

**Cynthia Faulkner**

*ESOL and PD Specialist, SABES*

Cynthia Faulkner is an adult ESOL professional with 16+ years of experience in language instruction, program leadership, and professional development. As a PD specialist for EDC's SABES ESOL Team, she supports educators statewide. She specializes in English language instruction, assessment, and second language acquisition.

## **Stacie Fehrm**

*Certified Professional Resume Writer, Stacie Writes Resumes*

With over 20 years of experience in Adult Education, Stacie understands the unique challenges your students face. As a Career Advisor at The Literacy Program of Greater Plymouth, Assistant Director of The Rockland Adult Learning Center, and Outstation Advisor at The South Shore Career Center, she prepared resumes for hundreds of students! Stacie holds 2 career services credentials. She is a Certified Professional Resume Writer (CPRW) and a Nationally Certified Online Profile Expert (NCOPE). Through her business, Stacie Writes Resumes, she prepares job search documents and provides job search strategy advice for job seekers ranging from new grads to C-suite executives.

## **Anna Fernandez-Buehrens**

*ABE Program Director, Julie's Family Learning Program*

Anna Fernandez-Buehrens has been in the adult education field for over 25 years as a teacher and director. Since 2019, she has been the ABE Program Director at Julie's Family Learning Program in South Boston. Anna is a SABES ELA coach. When not at work, Anna enjoys spending time with her kids and playing chamber music with friends.

## **Tom Fratolillo**

*Career and Education Advisor, Training Resources of America*

Thomas Fratolillo is the Career and Academic Advisor for the ESOL and Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs at Training Resources of America in Quincy. He supports adult learners in career development, job readiness, and academic success. Thomas also serves as the online ABE instructor, helping students prepare for the HiSET exam and build essential skills. With a background in career advising and workforce development, he is dedicated to empowering adult learners through personalized support and guidance.

## **Yvonne Gittelson**

*Corrections Program Specialist, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/Adult and Community Learning Services*

Yvonne Gittelson is the Corrections Program Specialist at DESE who oversees and supports corrections education programs funded by ACLS. She is the former Education Director at the Hampshire County House of Correction and has coordinated college and vocational programs taught in correctional settings.

## **Thomas Godfrey**

*Teacher, Ascentria Care Alliance*

Tom is an ESOL instructor at Ascentria Care Alliance. In addition to ESOL, he has taught EFL at all age levels in South Korea. He has a master's degree in Global Studies from Fort Hays State University and has spent much of his professional life as a community journalist focused on immigrant diaspora in Seoul and Massachusetts.

## **Karen Greaves**

*Instruction and Professional Development Specialist, SABES ELA PD Team*

Karen Greaves is the Instruction and PD Specialist for the SABES ELA Team. She served at Boston Public Schools for over 15 years as a K-12 and adult education ELA teacher and program manager. Karen holds a B.A. in Literature from Emerson College and an M.Ed. in Secondary Education from UMass Boston.

## **Ann-Marie Hallagan**

*TSTM State Trainer, Public Adult Education of MA SABES PD System*

Ann-Marie Hallagan is a Teaching Skills That Matter (TSTM) State Trainer with the MA SABES PD System and the Special Programs Coordinator for the Online Adult Education Program at Bristol Community College. She is an experienced ELA and Social Studies instructor, is STAR-certified and is an ELA curriculum coach for SABES.



**Adam Henderson**

*Vice President of Sales, Orijin, PBC*

Adam brings with him a deep knowledge of Adult Education and pedagogical practices for programmatic success. Adam works with jurisdictions of all sizes and demographics to guide them with best practices and programming to assist in reducing the recidivism rate. The path to livable wage careers is a key tool to returning citizens. Adam is rooted in digital literacy and the best practices to deliver outstanding programs in challenging settings.

**Andjela Kaur**

*Assistant Teaching Professor, The Pennsylvania State University and SABES*

Andjela Kaur is a disability studies scholar whose work examines the relationship between workers with disabilities and vocational rehabilitation systems. She has worked in adult education and community mental health as a teacher, vocational counselor, program manager, and ADA coordinator. She is an Assistant Teaching Professor at Penn State, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Biobehavioral Health, Human Services and Disability Studies. Andjela is a Motivational Interviewing (MI) trainer, a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and Vocational Evaluator, and holds a doctorate in Global Inclusion and Social Development from UMass Boston.

**Meenakshi Khanna**

*ESOL Instructor, Action for Boston Community Development*

Meenakshi Khanna is an ESOL instructor at ABCD. Prior to working at ABCD, Meenakshi worked as a curriculum developer with a team from Vanderbilt University. The team developed translanguaging curricula for multilingual middle and high school students. Meenakshi is deeply interested in participatory learning and culturally responsive pedagogy.

**Ava Landry**

*Director of Operations, Webster Public Schools*

Ava Landry is currently the Director of Operations for Webster Adult Basic Education *Linkages*/Webster Public Schools. She has 10+ years in education including Higher Education, K-12, and Adult Basic Education. Ava received her Bachelor's degrees in Chemistry and Sociology from SUNY Geneseo and her Master's degree in Sociology from UMASS Amherst. She has published in TRAILS, MELUS, and Acta Crystallographica. In addition, Ava has presented on topics including universal design for learning, instructional technology, artificial intelligence, racial and religious identity, political movements, social stratification, and immigrant acculturation.

**Aren Lew**

*Curriculum and Training Development Specialist, SABES Mathematics and Adult Numeracy Curriculum and Instruction PD Team*

Aren has worked in the field of adult numeracy for over ten years. They develop and facilitate trainings and workshops and coach numeracy teachers as a consultant for the SABES Mathematics and Adult Numeracy Curriculum and Instruction PD Team at TERC. They are the treasurer for the Adult Numeracy Network.

**Jennifer Lewis**

*Senior Research Fellow, Center for Educational Assessment at UMass Amherst*

Jenn Lewis is a Senior Research Fellow leading the development of the English Test for Adults with the Center for Educational Assessment at UMass Amherst. Jenn specializes in test design and applied research methodologies to enhance feedback for decision-making in educational, behavioral, and psychological contexts.

**Marde Louis**

*Student Presenter, Haitian Multi-Service Center*

Marde Darline Louis is from Haiti. She did part of high school in Haiti and was a teacher in Haiti. She is now continuing her education at Catholic Charities so that she can earn a high school diploma.

## **Joy MacFarland**

*Head of Regional Marketing – ELT US and Canada, National Geographic Learning*

Joy MacFarland is originally from the Boston area, lived in Madrid, Spain for many years, and has also spent time in Mexico and France. She started out her career as an ESL teacher overseas, and eventually founded and ran a school in Spain. After many years, she moved back to Boston where she worked in management and administration of private ESL schools, before taking on the role of Head of Regional Marketing-ELT for the US and Canada at National Geographic Learning. Joy has served on the Board of Directors for EnglishUSA and is active in TESOL on a national level and MATSOL in Massachusetts. She is extremely passionate about publishing and English Language Teaching as well as professional development (if she could she would be a professional conference-goer!). She lives between Boston and Cape Cod, MA, and loves books, news, languages, the gym, board games, and trips back to Spain.

## **Brooke Machado**

*Senior Program Manager for Adult Education, City of Boston Mayor's Office of Workforce Development*

Brooke Machado oversees adult education initiatives for the City of Boston Mayor's Office of Workforce Development and manages the Adult Literacy Initiative (ALI), a coalition of 33 Boston-based adult education providers. She has worked as an instructor, curriculum writer, and professional development specialist for over 20 years in adult education.

## **Seann Macnamara**

*Education Manager, Bridge Over Troubled Waters*

I'm the Education Manager at Bridge Over Troubled Waters, where I work with incredible students and educators every day.

## **Linnette Mancuso**

*Director of Key Accounts, State and Public Markets, EnGen*

Linnette Mancuso is dedicated to advancing adult education programs and expanding initiatives with employers and educational partners. She helps grow workplace literacy programs to improve access to apprenticeships and industry certifications. Specializing in program coordination and learner support, she is passionate about lifelong learning and enhancing educational access for adult learners to foster skills development and career advancement.

## **Celia Martinez**

*Workplace ESOL Teacher and Coordinator, English for New Bostonians*

As Workplace ESOL Teacher and Coordinator at English for New Bostonians, Celia develops and adapts curricula to the training needs of her students and their employers, while coordinating evaluation of student outcomes and progress. Celia also supports ENB's Business Partnerships Manager in conducting workplace ESOL needs assessments for new employer partners.

## **Maura Maxfield**

*Senior Research Fellow, Center for Educational Assessment at UMass Amherst*

Maura Maxfield is an Assistant Research Professor in the Center for Educational Assessment at UMass Amherst, working on developing a new test of English language proficiency for adult learners in Massachusetts. She is passionate about creating fair and informative tests for all learners, focusing on English learners and people with disabilities. Her background is in special education and educational assessment.

## **Regina Mazzola-Snyder**

*English Language Specialist - Northeast USA, Cambridge University Press*

Regina oversees Ventures Teacher Training and professional development across the Northeastern U.S., from New Jersey to Maine. She collaborates with Adult ESL and Literacy programs and Academic ESL departments in community colleges and universities, providing training on the pedagogy and proven classroom methods of the Ventures series. She also supports educators in effectively implementing the extensive range of Ventures print and digital classroom resources. With over 25 years in ESL/ELT publishing and 15 years of experience teaching Adult ESOL in one of Connecticut's most extensive ESL programs, Regina has helped countless students improve their language proficiency, achieve their educational and career goals, and pursue their lifelong aspirations.

## **Michael McGee**

*Site Manager, Training Resources of America*

Michael has over 25 years of experience in both private and public sector involving Business Mentorship, Advising, Educating and motivating individuals and groups towards achievement of goals.

## **MaryEllen McGorry**

*Director of Education, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department*

MaryEllen McGorry is the Director of Education at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. She earned a BA in Communications, a J.D., and is certified as a principal in Massachusetts. She has experience in large, urban high schools, recovery high schools, and corrections education. Her passion is working with underserved and marginalized students.

## **Ekaterina Maksimova**

*Adult ESL Educator, Jookender (nonprofit educational organization)*

Ekaterina Maksimova is an Adult ESL Educator at Jookender, serving Russian-speaking newcomers to the US. With formal education in linguistics and professional communication, she has over a decade of experience designing adult ESL curricula, delivering lectures, and creating key learning strategies for course instruction.

## **Suzanne Metro**

*Business Partnerships Manager, English for New Bostonians (ENB)*

As Business Partnerships Manager, Suzanne acts as liaison to ENB's partner businesses, bringing them from inquiry to operational English learning site. This includes hiring and ongoing support for teaching consultants to develop and implement contextualized curricula, and managing scheduling and other needs with the business to offer classes in a timely manner.

## **Conzolo Migliozi**

*Instructional Designer, I I 99 SEIU Training and Employment Fund*

Conzolo is an instructional designer specializing in adult education and workforce development. He is exploring artificial intelligence's impact on education, international relations, and the future of work.

## **Chris Miller**

*National Consultant*

Ms. Miller has over 30 years of experience in adult education, managing programs for 2,000+ students annually. She developed state-level professional development initiatives and now consults for Aztec, leading training workshops, conducting national webinars, and presenting at state and national conferences.

**Carolina Montoya**

*Administrative Assistant, RI Adult Education Professional Learning Pathways*

My name is Carolina Montoya. I am an administrative assistant, a social sciences student, and an ESL learner with four years of experience in the education field. I have developed skills in organization, student tracking, and data administration. Currently, I support the planning and implementation of professional learning for adult education in Rhode Island.

**Greg Moore**

*Area Sales Director, Imagine Learning*

Greg is a former teacher and High School Administrator who has been in the education field for over 35 years. As the Area Sales Director for Imagine Learning, Greg has worked with over 200 schools and organizations to provide digital forward solutions for all learners, including digital courses for adult learners.

**Stephanie Moriarty**

*MassSTEP Coordinator and Advisor, MassSTEP at North Shore Community College Danvers*

Stephanie Moriarty is a passionate professional with a Bachelor's degree in Human Services from Fisher College and is currently completing her Master's degree in the HESA program at Salem State University. She has over a decade of experience as an Advisor for Adult Basic Education programs in the North Shore area. In her current role as Program Coordinator for specialized skills training programs like MassSTEP and TechRISE, Stephanie is dedicated to creating pathways for individuals from diverse backgrounds to enter the tech industry. Committed to lifelong learning, she has also earned certifications in Motivational Interviewing, Entrepreneurial Leadership, Advising, Peer Support, and Trauma Training. Stephanie firmly believes in the transformative power of education to empower individuals, fostering their independence and success.

**Cleopatra Muhammad**

*Director of Client Services, Jewish Vocational Service (JVS Boston)*

Cleopatra Muhammad is the Director of Client Services at a workforce development non-profit focused on helping adults achieve their education, training and career goals. She holds a master's degree in social work and undergraduate degree in psychology.

**Brittney Napolitano**

*Northeast Regional Manager, Essential Education*

At the start of my career, I taught Spanish in K-12 public school settings over 8 years throughout the East Coast. During that time, I began tutoring adults part-time in foundational skills and GED readiness and became a board member for an Adult Literacy Foundation. I attained my certification for ESOL and served as lead teacher for the Central VA region before transitioning to the Program Design and Curriculum Specialist position. Currently, I serve as your dedicated Educator Support Specialist.

**Alemyr Navas**

*Certified Laughter Yoga Teacher (Laughter Yoga University in India) and HiSET Teacher, Mujeres Unidas Avanzando*

Alemyr is a Certified Laughter Yoga Teacher from the Laughter Yoga University in India with over 10 years of experience applying this philosophy in education, leadership and personal development. She is also a HiSET teacher at Mujeres Unidas Avanzando, supporting adults in their academic journey. She is an expert in accelerated learning techniques applied in education and personal transformation processes.

**Beier Nelson**

*Co-Founder, Co-Executive Director, The Health Fluency Project*

Beier Nelson is a Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of The Health Fluency Project, a nonprofit organization that aims to address language barriers in healthcare in Boston and beyond. Beier is a student at Harvard University pursuing a double concentration in Chemical and Physical Biology and Government.

## **Lauren Osowski**

*Senior Advocacy, Research, and Projects Manager, ProLiteracy*

Since joining ProLiteracy in 2021, Lauren has been responsible for the projects related to workforce development, technology, and advocacy in addition to managing the Journal publication and other special initiatives. Prior to coming to ProLiteracy, Lauren spent more than 15 years working in New Hampshire and abroad as an ESL/ABE teacher, mentor, facilitator, presenter, and program director. She holds a master's degree in education from Rivier University.

## **Jean Oviatt-Rothman**

*Senior Learning Specialist/STEM, MassLINKS*

Jean Oviatt-Rothman is a Senior Learning Specialist and STEM Instructor for MassLINKS Adult Education Online Academy, a fully remote state-wide program. She worked previously in math and science coaching and curriculum leadership at the K-12 level. Jean is a member of the Adult Numeracy Network.

## **Steven Panagiotakos**

*Former Massachusetts State Senator*

From 1997-2010, Steven C. Panagiotakos was a Massachusetts State Senator representing Lowell, Tyngsboro, Dunstable, Groton, Pepperell and Westford. Over that time, Steve served as Co-Chairman of the Joint Committee on Federal Financial Assistance, Energy, Housing and was Vice-Chairman, then Chairman of the Senate Committee on Ways And Means. He also served as a Lowell School Committee member for two terms (1990-1993), followed by two terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives (1993-1996). Steve attended the Lowell Public Schools, Phillips Academy Andover, received his Bachelor's degree from Harvard College and obtained a Juris Doctorate from Suffolk University Law School. Steve has been a practicing attorney in the city of Lowell since 1991 and a Massachusetts Executive and Legislative Agent ("Lobbyist") since 2012.

## **Alexandra Papagno**

*Director, SABES Program Support Team*

Alexandra Papagno is the Director of the SABES Program Support PD Team and leads the team's work around Educational Leadership and Program Management. Alexandra has worked in adult education and volunteer management for over 10 years as an ESOL instructor, program coordinator, and the MA Adult Education Help Desk Coordinator.

## **Erin Paszko, PhD**

*Director of Adult Education, Community Action, Inc.*

Dr. Erin Paszko serves as Program Director at Community Action, Inc. in Haverhill, MA, where she oversees ESOL classes, High School Equivalency classes, and a MassSTEP ESOL program. She has over a decade of higher education teaching experience and continuously strives to integrate contextualized education in her adult education program.

## **Michelle Perry**

*Program Specialist, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Adult and Community Learning Services*

Michelle Perry has served as a Program Specialist at DESE/ACLS for five years. Previously, she was a Career Pathways Advisor and Life Skills teacher at Catholic Charities of Boston. She holds a degree in Social Work, a Black Studies minor, and a certificate in nonprofit management from BU.

## **Cynthia Peters**

*Editor, The Change Agent, World Education*

Cynthia Peters is a nationally known professional development provider and a former ABE and ESOL teacher. She is also the editor of World Education's online resource, *The Change Agent*.

**Evonne Peters**

*Director, ELA PD Team, SABES*

Evonne Peters has led the SABES ELA Curriculum and Instruction PD Team in Massachusetts since 2020. In addition to her prior experience as an adult education instructor and program coordinator, Evonne has presented and consulted on topics including evidence-based reading and writing instruction, assessment, ELA content and professional standards, and teacher licensure.

**Richard Rabin**

*Senior Trainer and Technical Consultant, Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health*

Rick Rabin has been a volunteer with the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health for over 40 years. He directed the Occupational Lead Poisoning Registry at the Massachusetts Department of Labor for over 20 years. He has worked and volunteered in the fields of public and occupational health for over 40 years.

**Catherine Ramirez Mejia**

*Access and Resource Specialist, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition*

As the Access and Resource Specialist, Catherine Ramirez Mejia helps to build organizational knowledge of immigrant access to various systems. She creates and leads trainings, and designs resources and tools for diverse audiences. Additionally, Catherine advises the Policy Team on immigrant access to systems and service access issues.

**Nataliya Ratilovska**

*ESOL Instructor, Community Action, Inc.*

My name is Nataliya Ratilovska. I was born and grew up in Ukraine. Graduated from the pedagogical university in 1997. Worked as a secondary school teacher. Raised 3 children. Worked as a first line psychological support for the Ukrainian refugees at CAW in Belgium. Arrived to the USA in 2023, and started to work as an ESOL instructor at Laboure, Catholic Charities Boston.

**Connie Rivera**

*Professional Development Specialist, SABES Math Team at TERC*

Connie guides adults through critical thinking and hands-on experiences, allowing them to uncover meaning and discover connections, and therefore act with increased confidence in their numeracy.

**David Rosen**

*President, Newsome Associates*

David Rosen is President of Newsome Associates in Boston. He is a steering committee member of the Urban Alliance for Adult Literacy, a national affiliate of ProLiteracy. As the Executive Director of the Adult Literacy Resource Institute in Boston, he was a member of the City's Adult Literacy Initiative.

**Sheila Rotkiewicz**

*Teacher, Ascentria Care Alliance*

Sheila Rotkiewicz (she/her) is a western Massachusetts-based ESOL teacher working at Ascentria Care Alliance. She has many years of experience teaching emergent multilingual learners in both high school and adult education environments across a range of subjects and has a M.A. in TESOL.

**Diana Saintil**

*Associate Director of Education and Career Development, Bridge Over Troubled Waters*

Diana Saintil, Ed.M., believes in education as an emancipatory tool to transform lives. She earned her B.A. in Economics from Spelman College and her Ed.M. in Education Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Diana began her career in the financial sector where tutoring remotely rekindled her passion for education and justice. Inspired by Proverbs 31:8-9, she is currently a J.D. candidate at Suffolk University Law School. Diana's professional experience includes serving as a former Director of Education at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department and as the current Associate Director of Education and Career Development at Bridge Over Troubled Waters.

**Scott Salesses**

*Director of Strategic Accounts and Testing Operations, GED Testing Service (GEDTS)*

Scott Salesses joined GED Testing Service in 2011 and has worked with many states across the U.S. as their lead contact from GEDTS. Currently, Scott is the Director of Strategic Accounts and Testing Operations. In this role, Scott works as the primary contact from GED Testing Service for several states in the U.S. as well as leading our GEDTS Operations team. He regularly interacts with adult education programs, GED testing centers, correctional educators as well as state leadership and other stakeholders involved with GED testing. Scott resides in Boston, MA.

**David Sandberg**

*Marketing, Sales, and Operations Coordinator, Cengage Group*

David Sandberg is a marketing and operations professional at National Geographic Learning, specializing in adult education and English language teaching (ELT). He supports sales and business development by managing key accounts, coordinating conferences, and developing marketing strategies. David is passionate about supporting educators and learners through innovative resources and engagement initiatives.

**Dani Scherer**

*Technical Advisor, SABES Program Support Team and World Education*

Dani Scherer is a technical advisor at World Education, Inc. As a member of the SABES Program Support PD Team, Ms. Scherer leads the design and delivery of professional development related to career pathways, integrated education and training, and career navigation for adult educators in Massachusetts. Nationally, she provides technical assistance on federally funded workforce development projects.

**Tim Shaw**

*Account Executive, Imagine Learning*

Tim taught in public schools for 18 years and currently supports district partners in adopting HQIM, courseware, school services, and interventions.

**Ophelia Smith**

*Program Coordinator, 1199 SEIU Training and Employment Fund*

Ophelia is a healthcare workforce development professional with experience in administration and adult education. She is certified in medical coding, health data literacy, and healthcare analytics, driving career advancement for adult learners and contributing to a stronger healthcare workforce.

**Sarah Soroui**

*Director of Research, Evaluation, and Analytics, City of Boston Mayor's Office of Workforce Development*

Sarah Soroui is the Director of Research, Evaluation, and Analytics at OWD, where she leads research and evaluation to support the agency's strategic planning and programs. She joined OWD from the Institute for Economic and Racial Equity (IERE) at Brandeis University, where she was a senior research associate researching workforce development, labor, and housing policies. Before joining IERE, she was a policy officer with the U.S. Department of State and a research associate for the U.S. Institute of Peace. She is currently an affiliated scholar and adjunct professor in the Masters in Public Policy program at Brandeis University. Her research and publications span topics in employment policies, socio-technical systems, workforce development, and economic development. Dr. Soroui has a BA in Social Work and History from Virginia Commonwealth University. She also holds an M.S. in Peace Studies from George Mason University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Social Policy from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University.

**Eliana Stanislawski**

*Professional Development Specialist, SABES Program Support Team, World Education*

Eliana Stanislawski is a Professional Development Specialist specializing in digital literacy for the SABES Program Support Team. She brings ten years of experience in adult education and deep expertise in virtual learning, literacy, and refugee support. In addition to her work at World Education, she is on the Educational Linguistics faculty at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Wyvonne Stevens-Carter**

*Associate Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Adult and Community Learning Services*

Wyvonne Stevens-Carter is the Associate Commissioner for Adult and Community Learning Services at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. With over 25 years in human services, education, and workforce development, she is dedicated to advancing equity, access, and innovation in adult learning to strengthen communities statewide.

**John Strachan**

*ESOL Instructor, Action for Boston Community Development*

John Strachan is an ESOL teacher with 10+ years of experience. John is known for his innovative lessons where his students are encouraged to dream big and grow as people. He is interested in utilizing digital technology to help his learners learn about the world around them.

**Greg Stultz**

*Educational Sales Consultant and Training Coordinator, ProLiteracy New Readers Press*

Since 2008, Greg has served as an educational sales consultant and product trainer for New Readers Press, the publishing division of ProLiteracy. Greg's prior work experience in adult education includes eight years in Japan as a teacher-trainer and ELL instructor.

**Ann Taft**

*Senior Learning Specialist/STEM, MassLINKS*

Ann Taft has spent her entire career as a STEM educator. After working for thirteen years as a high school Biology teacher, she joined the field of Adult Education. Ann is now a Senior Learning Specialist and STEM Instructor for MassLINKS Adult Education Online Academy, a fully remote state-wide program.



**Melissa Theroux**

*Literacy Coordinator, Boston Public Library*

Melissa Theroux has been a librarian at the Boston Public Library since 2013, serving as the Literacy Coordinator since 2018. She works with instruction staff, volunteers and community partners to offer English classes, conversation groups and immigration informational resources to adult learners in Boston and throughout Massachusetts.

**Sherri Travers**

*Virtual Education Lead Teacher, Massachusetts Department of Correction*

Sherri is responsible for releasing the Department's first design-with, tablet-based course shells, the Transferable Skills series, which are created directly with input from teachers and students. Sherri is a seasoned educator with 27 years of experience in K-doctoral education. Sherri is committed to helping all learners to attain their maximum potential by developing critical thinking skills, with real-world/marketable applications, through equitable, design-with approaches to learning.

**Kat Tremblay**

*Research Fellow, University of Massachusetts Amherst*

Kat is a Research Fellow in the Center for Educational Assessment (CEA) at UMass Amherst. Much of her research has focused on the literacy skills of adults with low literacy proficiency. This work assessed the reading comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and writing quality of adult learners in comparison to skill- and age-matched readers. Now at UMass, she works to support assessment efforts throughout adult education programs across the state of Massachusetts.

**Marie Troppe**

*Program Specialist, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Adult and Community Learning Services*

Marie Troppe has been the Professional Development Program Specialist at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for three years. Previously, she served as Director of Transitions to College and the Adult Learning Center at Holyoke Community College. She earned a Ph.D. in African American literature.

**Aditya Tummala**

*Co-Founder/Co-Executive Director, The Health Fluency Project*

Aditya Tummala is a Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of The Health Fluency Project. Aditya is a student at Harvard University studying Biomedical Engineering. He is passionate about socioeconomic disparities as a barrier to health care in rural and marginalized communities, looking towards biomedical and sociological innovation as a tool for dismantling these barriers.

**Lauren Twardy**

*ABE/ASE Instructor, Middlesex Community College*

Lauren Twardy has been an adult educator at Middlesex Community College for 2.5 years, specializing in English Language Arts and College and Career Readiness. She also works as a Learning Specialist and Tutoring Coordinator at Lasell University. Lauren holds a B.A. from Emmanuel College and an M.A. from UMass Boston.

## **Steven Ultrino**

*Massachusetts House of Representatives*

Steve Ultrino has been the State Representative for the 33rd Middlesex District of Malden since 2014. He previously served as the Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on Education and was recently appointed as the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management. He was first elected to the Malden City Council in 2012 and was a School Committee Member for eight years prior to that. Representative Ultrino is also a life-long educator: he currently teaches courses in education, public policy and communications at both Salem State University and Suffolk University, and previously taught at Malden Catholic High School and served as Principal at St. Mary's Parish in Winchester. He was the Director of Education for the Middlesex Sheriff's Office, where he worked to educate and re-train inmates to reduce their rate of recidivism and help them become productive members of society upon their release from incarceration. He is also a lifetime member of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and was recognized across the Commonwealth for his service and doctoral research in 2013. He is also active in his community as a current member of the Malden Kiwanis, and previously served as President of the Massachusetts Correctional Education Association for four years, as President of the State Directors Council for the International Correctional Education Association, and was on the Board of Monsignor Neagle Housing Association.

## **Judithann Walz**

*CEO and Founder, Lotus & Papers*

Judithann has 24 years of teaching and leadership experience in English, business, ESL/ELL, and writing. In 2025, she launched *Lotus & Pages*, a literary magazine for nonfiction and memoir. Judithann holds an MBA and a BA in English and will finish her MFA in Creative Nonfiction in Publishing in 2026.

## **Colin Winslow**

*HiSET Instructor, Bridge Over Troubled Waters*

Dedicated and passionate educator that enjoys collaborating with all students to ensure they have reached their fullest life potential.

## **April Zenisky**

*Research Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst*

April L. Zenisky is a Research Professor at UMass Amherst and Director of the Center for Educational Assessment. She leads assessment support for Massachusetts adult education, oversees the MAPT, and researches results reporting and test design. She co-edits the journal *Practical Assessment, Research, and Evaluation*.

## **Anna Zilberberg**

*Senior Director, Language Assessment, Center for Applied Linguistics*

Anna Zilberberg, PhD, is the Senior Director of Language Assessment and Instructional Research at the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL). In collaboration with content experts and researchers at CAL, she ensures that the Basic English Skills Test (BEST) assessments are developed and validated in accordance with industry's best standards, yield reliable and valid scores, and meet the needs of adult education programs across the United States.

# NETWORK 2025 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

***Thank you to the NETWORK 2025 Conference Committee for their countless contributions, enthusiasm, collaboration, and good humor in making this event possible.***

## **Committee and Sub-Committee Chairs**

Christine Cordio <i>Exhibitor Sub-Committee</i>	Clinton Adult Learning Center
Cheyenne Deveney <i>Facilitator Sub-Committee</i>	Action for Boston Community Development
Caryn Kelley <i>Day-of-the-Event Coordinator</i>	Consultant
Elizabeth McKiernan <i>Awards Sub-Committee</i>	Abisi Adult Learning Center – Lowell
Luis Reynoso <i>Technology Sub-Committee</i>	East Boston Harborside Community School
Roberta Soolman <i>Conference Committee Chair</i>	Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
Bonnie Taylor <i>Program Sub-Committee</i>	Action for Boston Community Development

## **Committee Members**

Fred Abisi	Abisi Adult Learning Center – Lowell
Jeanne Annino	Retired, Literacy Program of Greater Plymouth
Susan Despres	Methuen Adult Learning Center
Barbara Krol-Sinclair	BU/UNH Adjunct Faculty, Education Consultant
Jocelyn Marte	SCALE
Suzanne Martin	Retired, Brockton Public Schools
Alisa Povenmire	Notre Dame Education Center – Lawrence
Esmeralda Rojas	Northern Essex Community College
Barbara Sherman	Consultant
Noah Sullivan	Framingham Adult ESL Plus
Luanne Teller	Retired, World Education, Inc.
Christine Tibor	Retired, Framingham Public Schools

## **Photographer**

Bev Ness | Plymouth Public Library Trustee

# **MANY THANKS!**

**Thank you to everyone who generously shared their time and talents  
and helped make NETWORK 2025 a success.**

**WORKSHOP PRESENTERS**

**WORKSHOP FACILITATORS**

**EVENT VOLUNTEERS**

**SPONSORS**

**EXHIBITORS**

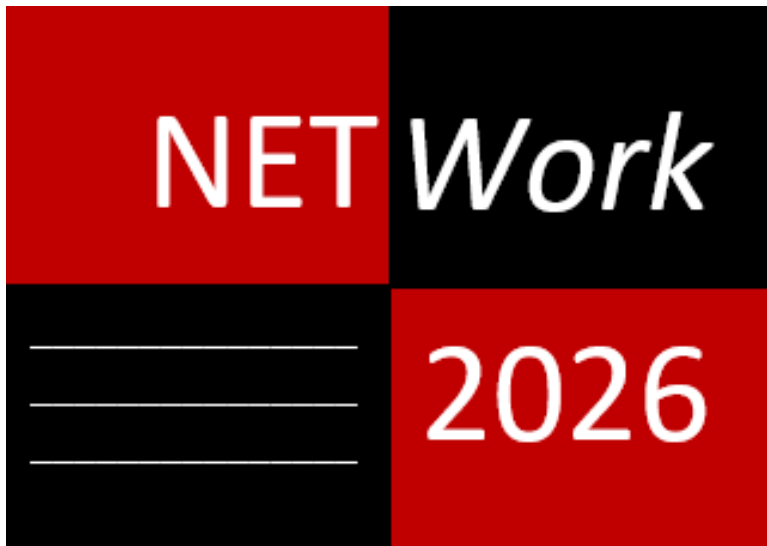
**We are grateful  
for your commitment and dedication to adult education,  
and for your support of the  
Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education and NETWORK.**



*Special thanks to Angela Lyman and the  
staff at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel*

Thank you for joining us today!

## SAVE THE DATE!



**May 6 (Wednesday)**

*Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel  
181 Boston Post Road West  
Marlborough, MA*

