



MAY 6, 2026
(WEDNESDAY)

**REGISTRATION
INFORMATION**



Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel
Marlborough, MA

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IMPORTANT DEADLINES AND LINKS

April 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special overnight room rate reservation at hotel • https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.22024.html?groupId=H67DE9B0
April 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NETWORK 2026 registration for attendees and presenters • https://network2026.vfairs.com/ • Special accommodations/dietary requests • Cancellation and refund requests

WELCOME TO NETWORK 2026!

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the MCAE Board of Directors and the NETWORK 2026 Conference Committee, welcome to NETWORK 2026!

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 also celebrate the courageous efforts of our students, our staff, and our volunteers who have always pushed their way past seemingly insurmountable obstacles and have been an inspiration. While we will present awards to a special few, there are many among us who deserve thanks and recognition. Please take time at NETWORK to thank someone you see who has inspired you.

Each year, our program is more outstanding than the last, and this year is no exception. We have long-time favorites who are returning as well as brand new offerings that reflect the ever-changing times, new research and unprecedented student needs.

MCAE's NETWORK 2026 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.

NETWORK is a day to recharge ourselves – to learn from each other, to renew friendships, and to create new connections. We hope you enjoy your workshops and have a great day!




Best wishes,



Roberta Soolman
MCAE Board President

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

(LIST TO DATE)

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<p>BRONZE <i>Continental Breakfast</i></p>	 <p>BURLINGTON ENGLISH® THE PUBLISHER THAT CARES</p>
<p>COPPER <i>Coffee Breaks</i></p>	 <p>ellii</p>

FRIEND



CONTRIBUTOR



VISIT THE EXHIBITORS' BOOTHS AND WORKSHOP SESSIONS (LIST TO DATE)

 <p>The logo for Aztec features the word "Aztec" in a blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a stylized orange arrow pointing to the right, composed of several horizontal bars of varying lengths, with a small registered trademark symbol (®) below it.</p>	<p>Mike Sherrod E: conference@aztecsoftware.com T: 973-258-0011 W: www.aztecsoftware.com</p>
 <p>The logo for Boston Public Library features a stylized black silhouette of a fan-shaped plant or flower on the left. To its right, the words "BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY" are stacked vertically in a bold, black, sans-serif font.</p>	<p>Melissa Theroux E: mtheroux@bpl.org T: 617-859-2445 Shakera Laguerre W: www.bpl.org</p>
 <p>The logo for Burlington English features a blue globe with a black headset on the left. To its right, the text "BURLINGTON ENGLISH®" is written in a blue, sans-serif font. Below this, the tagline "THE PUBLISHER THAT CARES" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font, enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.</p>	<p>Ticiania Coleman E: ticiania.c@burlingtonenglish.com T: 774-366-6861 Jessica Michel E: jessica.M@burlingtonenglish.com T: 617-872-1308 W: www.burlingtonenglish.com Workshop session 2-N</p>

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Workshops: 1-C, 1-D, 1-I, 2-C, 2-E, 2-G,
 3-C, 4-B, 4-J



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REGISTRATION, PAYMENT, CANCELLATION, REFUNDS, AND SPECIAL INFORMATION

WHAT'S NEW AND WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW

NEW!

- **Group registrations:** Programs can now register groups of up to 45 people using one registration form. The Contact Person on the registration form will receive one numbered invoice showing the balance due for the entire group. **Note:** All required information will need to be completed for everyone in the group in one sitting. Partial registrations are not saved.
- **Payment using purchase order or check:** If you select purchase order or check as your payment method, the Contact Person on the registration form will automatically receive a numbered invoice showing the balance due. The invoice will list the individual registrants. Use the invoice and your registration confirmation email to process your purchase order.
- **Payment using a credit card via Stripe:** If you choose to pay by credit card, you will be redirected to the Stripe portal where your credit card will be processed. The Contact Person on the registration form will be sent an invoice marked "paid."

NEW!

- **Leadership Circle Members** will receive a \$200 discount on their total invoice instead of \$50 registration discounts for 4 individual people. See instructions below.
- **Organizational Members** will receive a \$50 discount on their total invoice instead of a \$50 discount for one person. See instructions below.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – APRIL 29 (or until sold out)

- **Registration must be completed online by 11:59 p.m. on April 29** when online registration will be closed.
- **All presenters, including panelists, must register.**
- If you have already registered online as an exhibitor, you do not need to register again.
- Please note that providing your workshop preferences **does not** guarantee you a reserved spot in your selected workshops.
- **YOU MUST CLICK THE SUBMIT BUTTON** and wait for the thank you message to appear for your registration to be recorded.

CONFERENCE SELL OUT

- Participants are encouraged to register early. NETWORK has sold out for the past two years.
- **If NETWORK is sold out, there will be no onsite registration, and online registration could close before April 29.**

PAYMENT DEADLINE

- All registrations must be paid in full by the day of the conference unless prior arrangements have been made with MCAE.

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 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 INSTRUCTIONS: DEADLINE – APRIL 29, 2026

REGISTRATION FEES FOR ATTENDEES AND PRESENTERS

- If you plan to attend workshops or have lunch, you must register.
- Standard registration fee is \$200/person.
- Up to 2 presenters per workshop can register for FREE. Choose the PRESENTER – FREE ticket.
- Additional presenters can register for a discount at \$150/each. Choose the PRESENTER - \$150 ticket.
- Panelists count as presenters. If there are more than two presenters, the presenters will decide who uses the free registration and who pays the discounted fee.

DISCOUNTED REGISTRATIONS FOR MEMBERS AND PROMO CODES

- Organizations can sign-up or renew their MCAE Leadership Circle Member (\$500) or their MCAE Organizational Membership (\$200) when paying for registration.
- All Leadership Circle and Organizational Memberships paid at last year's conference registration must be renewed to obtain the member discount for NETWORK 2026.
- Leadership Circle Members will receive a \$200 discount on their total invoice instead of \$50 registration discounts for 4 people. **You must enter the promo code LEADER to receive the discount.**
- Organizational Members will receive a \$50 discount on their total invoice instead of a \$50 discount for 1 person. **You must enter the promo code ORGMEM to receive the discount.**
- The discount will be applied during registration only if the form is also used to register attendees. The discount is not valid if no attendees are registered on the registration form used to pay for membership.

IF YOU ARE REGISTERING INDIVIDUALLY

- Use this [link](#) and click on the red button that says **REGISTRATION FOR ATTENDEES, SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS.**
- Select one 1st choice and one 2nd choice workshop for each of the time slots or select the option to indicate that you will not attend any workshop during a particular time slot.
- Select your lunch choice.
- Complete your contact information and all required fields.
- Select your payment method: check, purchase order or credit card.
- A numbered invoice will be automatically emailed to the Contact Person's email provided at registration.
 - The invoice will be marked "paid" if it was paid by credit card.
 - The invoice will show a balance due if purchase order or check was selected as the payment option.
 - Use the invoice and registration confirmation email to process your purchase order and check payment.
- If you need a W9 form, please email mcaenetwork@gmail.com.

IF YOU ARE REGISTERING A GROUP OF 2 TO 45 PEOPLE ON ONE FORM

- Up to 45 people can be registered on one form. See instructions for groups on registration form and event site.
- Use this [link](#) and click on the red button that says **REGISTRATION FOR ATTENDEES, SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS.**
- **All contact information, workshop selections, the lunch choice, and all required fields must be completed for each person in one sitting. Partially completed forms are not saved.**
- Select your payment method: check, purchase order, or credit card.
- One numbered invoice for the entire group will automatically be emailed to the Contact Person's email.
 - The invoice will be marked "paid" if it was paid by credit card.
 - The invoice will show a balance due if purchase order or check was selected as the payment option.
 - Use the invoice and registration confirmation to process your purchase order and check payment.
- If you need a W9 form, please email mcaenetwork@gmail.com.

TO SUBMIT YOUR REGISTRATION

- **YOU MUST CLICK THE SUBMIT BUTTON** and wait for the thank you message to appear for your registration to be recorded.
- Registration must be completed in one sitting. **Partially completed registrations are not saved**, and you will be required to start a new form when you return to the registration site.

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

- Your registration confirmation will be sent to the email listed for the Contact Person on the submitted registration form.
- If you don't receive a confirmation, please:
 - Check your promotions folder if you used a Gmail account to register.
 - Check your spam folder.
- If you still haven't received a confirmation, please email mcaenetwork@gmail.com to have it re-sent.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Select your payment option: check, credit card processed by Stripe, or purchase order.
- **Checks:** Make payable to MCAE and mail to MCAE, c/o JSI-World Education, 44 Farnsworth Street, Boston, MA 02210. Please include your invoice number on the check to ensure proper credit.
- **Credit card:** You can pay online by credit card and will be redirected to the Stripe portal to provide your card information.
- **Purchase order:**
 - A numbered invoice will be emailed to the Contact Person listed on the registration form.
 - Use the invoice and your registration confirmation email to process your purchase order.
 - If you need a W9 form, please email mcaenetwork@gmail.com.
- **Incorrect selection of ticket categories or discounts will be billed or credited accordingly.**

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS AND OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS – DEADLINE APRIL 29

- Special dietary and other accommodations must be requested via the online registration form by April 29.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS – DEADLINE APRIL 29

- To cancel your reservation, send an email to mcaenetwork@gmail.com.
- Cancellations received by **11:59 p.m. on April 29** will receive a refund minus a \$30.00 processing fee.
- No cancellations will be accepted after April 29 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 10

- The Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel is offering a special overnight room rate for the conference at \$134.00 per night plus tax.
- To receive the special rate, you must use this [link](#) to book your reservation no later than **April 10**.

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 most convenient road 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.

Citizenship Interview: Teaching to the Test

Presenters: Andy Koppel, Volunteer Citizenship Instructor, The Immigrant Learning Center; Kate Atkinson, Citizenship Instructor, The Immigrant Learning Center

Description: The goals of this workshop are to demystify the citizenship process and to teach to the test. We divide the interview into multiple parts: civics, reading, and writing, as well as personal questions and questions from Part 9 of the N-400 application. In addition to the core exercises, we cover everything an applicant needs to know from entering until exiting the building. Specifics for the instructor include how to review the N-400 application and how to conduct personalized mock interviews. We will conclude with a real-time mock interview with an Immigrant Learning Center student. Digital handouts will be provided to reinforce every aspect of the workshop.

Workshop Code: I-B

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Speed Dating for Automaticity in Speaking English

Presenter: Laura Davis, ESOL Teacher, Ascentria Care Alliance

Description: In this workshop, you will learn to use the template of 'Speed Dating' to teach your students to practice oral language for various different speech acts of life, including introductions of self, asking for clarification or assistance, making and accepting invitations, and talking about work. By using the template of speed dating, it is possible for students to practice beginner to advanced level English speech acts to gain comfort and proficiency. Please get ready to be an active participant in this session, as I will be directing attendees to play the role of students. Going forward, you will be able to employ this practice for teaching, reviewing, and assessing the oral capabilities of your students.

Workshop Code: I-C

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Help! I'm Not a Math Person!

Presenter: Aren Lew, Training and Curriculum Development Specialist, SABES

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-D

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Advisors Workshop: Connecting, Sharing, Networking
(For Advisors and Counselors Only)**

Presenters: Alisha Beltramini, Consultant for SABES, College and Career Advisor, Adult Learning Center, North Shore Community College – Danvers, Zoe Fogarty, College and Career Advisor, Distance Learning Coach, Adult Learning Center, North Shore Community College – Danvers; Dani Scherer, SABES Program Support Professional Development Team

Description: Advisors in Massachusetts Adult Education need space to tackle shared challenges and swap proven strategies. This workshop offers a rare opportunity to connect in person and in real-time. Bring your toughest questions; leave with fresh perspectives and a stronger professional network. Workshop topics will be peer-selected, and corresponding discussions will be peer-facilitated. This workshop is open to anyone with advising responsibilities, and all who join are invited to continue the conversation in our peer-led Advising Community of Practice (CoP), and ongoing virtual Advisor Sharing Groups.

Workshop Code: I-E

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Poetry as Language Learning: Engaging Students Through Prose

Presenter: Avery Walsh, Teacher, Framingham Adult ESL Plus

Description: Poetry is an amazing and useful tool to teach English. Using poems from around the world, attendees will learn how they can share the beauty of this art form with their students. From Rumi to Emily Dickinson, Jack Prelutsky to Japanese Haikus, students can practice English by reading, reciting, and creating their own poetry. Through partner work, oral group readings, vocabulary study, and writing their own short poems, attendees will examine the benefits of teaching poetry to their students. Teachers will emerge with a full lesson plan to teach a poetry unit either in person or online.

Workshop Code: I-F

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Courageously Queer Inclusive ESOL is Easier Than You Think!

Presenter: Ash Aliengena, Adult ESOL Literacy Specialist, Holyoke Community College

Description: This interactive workshop shows how simple, practical shifts can make Adult ESOL classrooms more inclusive of transgender, nonbinary, and queer identities. Participants will explore research- and standards-aligned strategies to integrate gender and sexual diversity into everyday lessons—without overhauling their curriculum. Through hands-on activities and a model lesson on singular they, educators will gain ready-to-use tools, adaptable materials, and concrete routines that build confidence and belonging. Walk away with manageable, meaningful steps to make your ESOL teaching courageously queer inclusive—starting tomorrow!

Workshop Code: I-G

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Encouraging a Growth Mindset in the High School Equivalency/ESOL Classroom

Presenters: Andrea Weiss, ESOL Teacher, Abisi Adult Education Center, Lowell Public Schools; Martha Rzepala, Lead Teacher – ESOL, Abisi Adult Education Center, Lowell Public Schools

Description: In this interactive workshop, we will learn why and how to apply a growth mindset when a learner leaves their comfort zone and enters the “learning/stretch zone”. This multi-purpose workshop will help prepare your students when they face a challenge--whether that’s speaking up in class, using the present perfect, or converting decimals to fractions. Many of these techniques can work for us, the educator, too! You’ll leave with material to teach and activities to do with both High School Equivalency and ESOL students, plus a heavily-researched takeaway tool that will increase student and personal motivation!

Workshop Code: I-H

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Beyond Compliance: Supporting Test-Takers Before, During, and After Assessment

Presenters: April Zenisky, Research Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst; Kat Tremblay, Research Fellow, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Description: This interactive session equips educators and test administrators with equity-centered strategies for communicating with learners about standardized assessments, without altering publisher-approved testing procedures. Grounded in the National Reporting System Assessment Good to Know Guides, we’ll explore practical ways to reduce test-taker anxiety and confusion by improving the expectations and interactions surrounding tests. Through real-world scenarios and conversation-based activities, participants will share experiences, explore compliant and culturally responsive practices, and co-create a Supportive Testing Practices Guide. Our goal is to support trauma-informed, inclusive testing across in-person and remote settings, doing assessment with compassion, and placing adult learners’ experiences at the center of assessment.

Workshop Code: I-I

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Build Your Digital Learning Plan

Presenters: Elena Stanislawski, Professional Development Specialist, SABES Program Support Professional Development Team; Alexandra Papagno, Director, SABES Program Support Professional Development Team

Description: Regardless of your starting point, finding the time and the right resources to grow your digital skills can be a challenge. Join SABES for a hands-on session designed to meet you where you are in creating a customized plan for your digital skill building. In this workshop, you will engage directly with the newly released SABES Digital Literacy resources to identify your own digital skills growth areas and navigate to corresponding, high-quality training materials. Leave with a Personal Learning Plan and a strategy for sharing these resources with your program.

Workshop Code: I-J

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Immigration Policy Updates and Resources

Presenter: Jessica Chicco, Director of Training; MA Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)

Description: This training will provide accurate and up-to-date information on changes in immigration policies, including Temporary Protected Status, travel bans, and pauses in processing of application, eligibility for work authorization and immigration enforcement practices. We will explore the policies and their impact on our Massachusetts communities. We will also provide local resources that exist to support immigrant communities throughout the state.

Workshop Code: I-K

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Identifying Ways to Increase Enrollment, Capacity, and Rigor

Presenters: Michelle Perry, Program Specialist, Adult and Community Learning Services Office, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Joselyn Marte, Director of Continuing Education, Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE)

Description: This workshop focuses on helping adult education programs expand enrollment while maintaining high academic standards. The director will share her experience and real-life applications of strategies used to increase access through improved outreach, flexible scheduling, partnerships, and efficient use of resources. Participants will engage in discussion to explore how these approaches can be adapted and applied within their own programs. The session will also address strengthening instructional rigor through curriculum alignment, effective teaching practices, and data-driven improvement. Attendees will leave with practical, actionable ideas to grow their programs while ensuring quality and supporting learner success.

Workshop Code: I-L

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

The Happy Teacher: Learning Through Laughter

Presenter: Alemyr Navas, HiSET Teacher, Mujeres Unidad Avanzando (MUA Boston)

Description: This interactive session invites adult educators to experience how joy transforms learning. Participants will identify how teacher attitude and emotional energy directly influence adult student participation. We will consider how to apply laughter-, movement-, and brain-based strategies to humanize instruction without sacrificing curriculum goals, and integrate joy as a sustainable teaching practice that supports emotional regulation, motivation, and connection. Through laughter therapy, brain gym exercises, and joyful breathing practices, educators will discover practical tools they can immediately use in any classroom. This is not only a learning experience –

it is a felt experience. Attendees will learn, reflect, move, laugh deeply, and leave inspired to teach in ways students want to return to.

Workshop Code: I-M

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Teaching the Skills That Matter

Presenters: Dana Varzan-Parker, Program Specialist, Adult and Community Learning Services Office, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Leah Gregory, Program Coordinator/Teacher, East Boston Harborside Community Center

Description: This interactive workshop engages teachers in using the Teaching Skills That Matter (TSTM) framework to design instruction that builds workforce preparation and employability skills aligned with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Participants will explore lesson examples that develop communication, collaboration, problem-solving, and self-management skills through authentic workplace tasks and scenarios. The session emphasizes planning strategies that allow instruction to “do double duty,” supporting academic growth while strengthening transferable skills employers value. Attendees will actively practice adapting lessons and leave with concrete tools and ideas they can implement immediately in ABE and ESOL classrooms.

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

Beyond Trauma: Trauma-Informed Instruction for Adult Educators

Presenters: Peggy Bernard, Northeast Regional Manager, Essential Education; Brittney Napolitano, Implementation Specialist, Essential Education

Description: Adult learner success extends beyond academic achievement and skill acquisition. True student growth includes emotional development and overall well-being. As rates of anxiety and depression continue to rise, adult educators must be knowledgeable, responsive, and prepared to address the diverse intrapersonal needs of their learners. When students feel overwhelmed or defeated, skill development and class attendance often decline. Trauma-informed instructional practices, the integration of social and emotional learning, and increased mental health awareness are essential tools for engaging adult learners and supporting goal completion. This session will share practical insights and strategies drawn from a global professional learning community of adult educators, equipping participants to foster resilience, engagement, and holistic student success.

Unlocking HiSET Success Through Data and Collaborative Pathways

Presenter: Stephanie Bauer, HiSET Account Manager, HiSET – PSI

Description: A strong HiSET program begins with understanding what learner data reveals about access, performance, and outcomes. This session reviews the HiSET Statistical Report to highlight participation trends, pass rates, subject-level strengths and challenges, and retesting patterns. Participants will consider what the data suggest about learner demand, where individuals may be encountering barriers, and which supports most effectively strengthen persistence and completion. The focus is on moving from “data awareness” to “data-informed action” by identifying practical improvements across preparation supports, referral workflows, and test center operations. The session also introduces the HiSET Workforce Hub, which connects credential attainment to career pathways and streamlines coordination among partners.

SESSION 2

Workshop Code: 2-A

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Meeting the Challenges of the 2025 Citizenship Test

Presenter: Lynne Weintraub, Textbook Author and ESL/Citizenship Coordinator, Jones Library ESL Center – Amherst

Description: The civics portion of the US Citizenship Test changed in October of 2025. It now covers more content, higher level concepts, and more challenging vocabulary/language structures than before. Passing the test is still within reach for most of our ESL students, but we'll need to add some new instructional strategies to our toolkits to facilitate comprehension, memorization, and production of more advanced civics material. In this presentation, a veteran in the field of ESL/literacy will share the tricks she has developed through 40 years of teaching and developing materials for beginning-level ESL citizenship students.

Workshop Code: 2-B

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Bingo! Hands-On Learning in the Multimodal Classroom

Presenters: Sara Beqo, Adult ESOL Instructor, Intergenerational Literacy Program, Chelsea Public Schools; Alyssa Fajardo, Adult Education Instructor, Intergenerational Literacy Program, Chelsea Public Schools

Description: This session will explore how the skills developed through hands-on activities can support learners' language goals and transfer to their everyday lives. Participants will engage in interactive, content-specific examples related to goal setting, child development, nutrition, and mythology. Activities will include tabletop games, creative crafts, and other ESOL-friendly approaches. All activities can be adapted across ESOL proficiency levels and modified for digital learning environments.

Workshop Code: 2-C

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Teaching Word Problems to Beginning Math Learners

Presenter: Melissa Braaten, Curriculum Developer and Professional Development Specialist, SABES Mathematics and Adult Numeracy Curriculum and Instruction Team

Description: Many students struggle with word problems, even if they are competent at reading and calculating. What makes word problems so challenging? How can we help our students build the skills they need to be successful? This workshop will explore the intersection between language and math and offer strategies for teaching math vocabulary, grammar, and problem types. The strategies in this session can be used for students studying math at any level, but the examples focus on beginning math learners (Grade Level Equivalent 2–4), who may require more intentional scaffolding and support.

Workshop Code: 2-D

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Strengthening Learning Connections by Advising with Purpose

Presenters: Jannette Marte, ABE Education and Career Advisor, Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE); Wagner Bastos, English Language Learner Educator and Career Advisor, Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE)

Description: This workshop explores techniques that advisors can utilize to help learners stay engaged and connected to their educational and career pathways. It also concentrates on obtaining information from students and creating strategies to help them overcome personal barriers. This session focuses on best practices and effective advising strategies in ABE and ESOL programs that intentionally strengthen learners' relationships, promoting goal-driven success. Participants will examine student-centered, culturally responsive practices that build trust and address challenges to persistence. "Advising with Purpose" emphasizes meaningful connections, data-informed guidance, and coordinated support that empower adult learners to transition confidently to postsecondary education, training, and employment.

Workshop Code: 2-E

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Strategies for Engaging Learners in English Language Arts

Presenters: Karen Greaves, Instruction and Professional Development Specialist, SABES English Language Arts Curriculum and Instruction Professional Development Team; Beth McDermott, Curriculum Specialist, Worcester Adult Learning Center

Description: Foster and promote deep learning in English Language Arts (ELA) classes by implementing student-engagement strategies tailored specifically for adult learners. This session will provide participants with foundational knowledge of adult learning practices that, when implemented, ensure all students are actively engaged and cognitively challenged during ELA lessons. Participants will engage in hands-on activities and leave the session equipped with strategies and resources they can immediately implement into classroom instruction.

Integrating Haitian Culture into Adult Foundational Education ESOL Classrooms

Presenters: Kevin O'Connor, Director, Framingham Adult ESOL Plus; Noah Sullivan, Manager of Special Projects, Framingham Adult ESOL Plus; Faith Bertrand, Business Service Representative Shelter Specialist, MassHire Framingham Career Center; Emile Exilhomme, Student Advisor, Framingham Adult ESOL Plus

Description: ABE programs in Massachusetts have welcomed more students from Haiti. All students bring a rich diversity of cultures, and when we see an increase in one group, we must think about how to adapt our programmatical and instructional practices to incorporate their educational expectations and learning styles. In this session, we will cover: How the history of Haiti may have impacted our students' educational background; the history and status of the 2023 cohort of Haitian New Arrivals to MA; how to adapt our instruction to meet their needs and expectations; and how to adapt our advising to best support these students.

Meeting the Moment: Program Leadership for Meaningful Employment

Presenters: Alexandra Papagno, Director, SABES Program Support Professional Development Team; Alisa Povenmire, Executive Director, Notre Dame Education Center – Lawrence; Joselyn Marte, Director of Continuing Education, Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE)

Description: Most of our adult learners come to ABE or ESOL classes to gain the skills, language, and credentials they need in order to obtain a job, advance in their current role, or train for a new career. A growing number of adult education programs are seeking opportunities to align programming more closely with students' employment goals, but what does this look like in practice? Join this special in-person meeting of the SABES Directors Sharing Group for a collaborative discussion on meeting the moment through program design, support for all learners, and program leadership. *The session is open to any director or program leader, regardless of their title.*

Build the Conversation: A Hands-On English Test for Adults (ETA) Design Lab

Presenters: Maura Maxfield, Assistant Research Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst; Jennifer Lewis, Assistant Research Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst; April Zenisky, Director of Computer-Based Testing, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Description: This interactive workshop invites English language educators to co-create conversation scenario test items for the Listening and Speaking components of the English Test for Adults (ETA). The participants will design real-world, adult-relevant dialogue prompts that reflect authentic communication contexts—workplace, community, healthcare, education, and civic life. Guided by the ETA development team, educators will translate classroom experience into assessment tasks that are practical, culturally responsive, and aligned to proficiency levels. Together, we will generate field-informed conversation items that ensure the ETA reflects the lived experiences and communication needs of adult English learners.

Workshop Code: 2-I

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Tech Tuesdays: Microlearning for Professional Development and Community Engagement

Presenter: Mariangel Allan, Technology Integration Specialist, Rhode Island Professional Learning

Description: Tech Tuesdays is a monthly microlearning series designed to deliver short, targeted professional development for adult educators. This session showcases how short asynchronous videos paired with practical tips and community engagement can provide intentional and flexible professional development.

Workshop Code: 2-J

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

View from the Hill

Presenters: Former State Senator Steven Panagiotakos, Moderator; Senator Sal DiDomenico, Massachusetts Senate; Senator Jamie Eldridge, Massachusetts Senate; and Representative Steven Ultrino, Massachusetts House of Representatives

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-K

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Neuroplasticity in My Classroom?

Presenter: Laura Palumbo, Adult Learning Facilitator, Genesis Center

Description: This interactive presentation explores the role of neuroplasticity in adult learning environments, focusing on how the brain's capacity to change and adapt impacts teaching and learning. By demystifying the science of neuroplasticity, the session invites adult educators to reflect on their instructional strategies and consider how to create more effective, brain-friendly learning experiences. Participants will engage with real-life examples, discuss implications for diverse learners, and examine how to harness the brain's ability to rewire itself—regardless of age. This session is designed for educators who want to deepen their understanding of how adults learn and apply practical, neuroscience-informed methods to their classroom practice.

Workshop Code: 2-L

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Using DISC Personality to Enhance Relationships

Presenters: Michael McGee, Site Manager, Training Resources of America; Gullar Imamverdiyeva, Career 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 relationships and improve results.

Workshop Code: 2-M

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Suffolk County District Attorney's Office Emerging Adult Program

Presenters: Mswati Hanks, Emerging Adult Program Coordinator, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office; Dr. Robert Kinscherff, Executive Director, Center for Law, Brain & Behavior; Lori D'Alleva, Executive Director, Charlestown Adult Education Workforce and Reentry; John Blazo, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office; Panel of Program Participants

Description: We will review the Emerging Adult Program (EAP) and how it came to be; how Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden's vision and mission helped Boston become "The safest big city in America"; EAP's partnership with MGH and Harvard's Center for Law, Brain & Behavior; EAP's partnership with Charlestown Adult Education Workforce and Reentry; and successes and challenges so far. In addition to presenters, participants in the program will share their stories on how EAP and Charlestown Adult Education Workforce and Reentry have helped transform their lives.

Workshop Code: 2-N

VENDOR WORKSHOP: BURLINGTON ENGLISH

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Rise to the Challenge with Burlington Core and Boost Classroom Success

Presenters: Ticiana Coleman, Senior Customer Manager, Burlington English, Inc.; Jessica Michel, Customer Representative, Burlington English, Inc.

Description: In this dynamic session, we will spotlight a variety of challenges in adult education today. As we address each challenge, participants will share ideas, discuss strategies, and identify meaningful ways to boost student engagement and promote student success. From creative in-class activities to innovative learning opportunities beyond the classroom, participants will leave the session equipped with a robust set of strategies to support and advance the journey of English language learners.

Workshop Code: 2-O

VENDOR WORKSHOP
PROLITERACY – NEW READERS PRESS

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Engaging Reading Instruction? Finally, Some GOOD News!

Presenter: Greg Stultz, Training Coordinator, ProLiteracy – New Readers Press

Description: What do dedicated educators, a captivating news article, an evidence-based reading instruction lesson template, and effective strategies and classroom activities have in common? They can all be found in this session! Come as your favorite sponge and be ready to soak up some fresh ideas!
News Flash: Attendees will receive a free newspaper and a 2-week trial to News for You Online!

SESSION 3

Workshop Code: 3-A

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Eco Club: ESOL Conversation and Leadership Development

Presenter: Mina Reddy, Teacher, Cambridge Community Learning Center

Description: Eco Club is a conversation and leadership development class for intermediate to advanced ESOL students. The class focuses on environmental issues such as natural disasters, energy, plastic, pollution, transportation, and soil health. It is highly interactive, with hands-on activities and exchanging of knowledge and observations. Students share their new information with their family, friends, and classmates, and deliver presentations to their ESOL classes. In this workshop, we will review the class curriculum, sample some activities, and learn about student responses to the program.

Workshop Code: 3-B

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Hands-On Improv for Adult ESOL Classrooms

Presenter: Harold Burnett, ESOL Instructor, Valley Opportunity Council

Description: In this highly physical, participatory workshop, adult ESOL instructors stand, move, and interact through improvisation and role-play grounded in the techniques of Michael Chekhov and the theater games of Viola Spolin. Participants experience side coaching, ensemble play, and embodied exercises that lower speaking anxiety and support spontaneous spoken English, including natural contractions and everyday conversational forms. Activities are low-prep, adaptable for Levels 2–3, and aligned with Massachusetts Adult ESOL Proficiency Standards. Attendees leave with immediately usable activities for classrooms and Language Cafés.

Workshop Code: 3-C

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

SABES Math Foundation Academy Mini

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

Description: This session is designed for teachers and classroom support professionals who want to learn in community while deepening their mathematical knowledge for teaching. Together, participants will engage in a rich mathematical task and debrief the powerful underlying ideas that drive student learning. This experience offers a glimpse into the full Math Foundation Academy (available Fall 2026), where conceptual learning extends into the classroom through instructional planning and ongoing coaching to support sustained professional growth.

Workshop Code: 3-D

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Empowering Math Students with Technology Tools

Presenter: Zuzka Blasi, Instructor, Middlesex Community College

Description: Using research-backed strategies and universal design, teachers can enable students to take the lead in their own knowledge construction. The Modern Classrooms Project (MCP) model employs self-paced, blended, mastery-based instructional strategies to empower students. This approach enables integration of technology tools so that students can be responsible for their own learning and teachers can provide timely, informed, and focused instruction. Through experiencing an MCP-style math lesson, attendees will learn about the structure and strategies and explore technology opportunities. These include: video-based instruction, technology-supported practice, and virtual feedback. Platforms for math learning shared will include Screencastify, DeltaMath and Amplify.

Workshop Code: 3-E

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Using Graphic Organizers to Compare Texts

Presenter: Cynthia Peters, Professional Development Provider and Editor of *The Change Agent*, World Education

Description: Key college and career readiness skills include being able to take notes on texts, using 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 on relevant themes such as transferable skills, navigating disabilities, and digital skills. All materials are FREE to DESE-supported programs in Massachusetts.

Workshop Code: 3-F

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Having Hard Conversations: Racism and Intercultural Awareness in Class

Presenter: Yexcica Cappas Santiago, Learning Facilitator, Genesis Center

Description: This interactive session explores how to navigate difficult conversations about racism and intercultural awareness in adult education classrooms. Drawing from experiences with multilingual learners from diverse cultural backgrounds, the session highlights strategies to foster empathy, reduce stereotypes, and encourage open dialogue. Participants will engage in activities, discussions, and case examples that demonstrate how sensitive topics can be approached in ways that build trust, respect, and deeper cultural understanding.

Leading with Intention: Supporting Educators Through Challenging Classroom Dynamics

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

Description: Adult educators are increasingly navigating classrooms shaped by uncertainty, heightened emotions, and complex learner needs. These conditions can affect instructional flow, educator confidence, and learner engagement. This session is designed to support adult education practitioners by strengthening intentional teaching practices that help educators respond effectively to challenging classroom dynamics. Through guided reflection, scenario analysis, and skills practice, participants will examine how everyday instructional decisions influence classroom climate and learner participation. The session prioritizes practical tools, peer learning, and professional reflection, supporting educators in maintaining productive learning spaces while staying grounded in their instructional role. Participants will leave with strategies they can immediately integrate into their teaching practice, as well as tools they can use for ongoing professional growth and peer support.

Designing with Data: Centering Student Insights

Presenters: Caroline Hickey, Director of Adult Education, Jackson Mann Community Center; Gabe Brum, Digital Literacy Specialist, The Immigrant Learning Center

Description: This workshop explores how integrated data analysis can inform responsive ESOL program design. Drawing on both quantitative metrics—such as enrollment and attendance—and qualitative insights from individual and focus group interviews, we examined what motivates adult learners and what barriers affect persistence. Participants will learn how these findings shaped programmatic decisions and student supports. The session will also introduce practical data-collection tools, interview protocols, and analysis frameworks that can be adapted and replicated across adult education settings to strengthen retention, engagement, and learner outcomes.

Workshop Code: 3-I

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Strengthening Digital Literacy in Adult Education and Workforce Training

Presenters: Sandy Goodman, Director, National College Transition Network, World Education; Brooke Machado, Senior Program Manager for Adult Education, Office of Workforce Development, City of Boston; Sarah Saroui, Director of Research, Evaluation and Analytics, Office of Workforce Development, City of Boston

Description: Boston's Digital Literacy Initiative, a city-led effort in partnership with World Education, is designed to strengthen Boston's adult education and workforce training programs' capacity to effectively and sustainably integrate technology and digital skill building into curriculum and instruction. Presenters will describe the key components of the model, which include completing a comprehensive programmatic digital needs assessment to inform goal setting and action planning to build on program strengths and address gaps. We will discuss how program-based coaching, peer learning, and flexible funding support programs in the implementation of their action plans and foster lasting change.

Workshop Code: 3-J

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Worker Health and Safety Rights

Presenters: Richard Rabin, Trainer and Technical Consultant, Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health; Pietra Check, MPH, Regional Deputy Director, Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health

Description: The workshop will cover workplace rights, including health and safety, wage and hour, discrimination, workers' compensation, and immigrant rights. 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-K

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Enhancing Motivation in Adult Education and Life

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

Description: Motivational Interviewing (MI) is a form of empathic dialogue for strengthening a person's own motivation and commitment to change that can be used in adult education advising and teaching. It is designed to strengthen an individual's motivation to meet their goals by eliciting and exploring a student's own reasons for change and exploring the resistance that arises in the process. This interactive workshop will introduce the audience to how MI can be used in adult education classrooms and advising offices. Participants will understand the central tenets of the approach and will familiarize themselves with several skills used in this method. Participants can expect a dynamic presentation and lots of interaction.

Workshop Code: 3-L

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Designing a Workforce Development Program: TESOL as a Case Study

Presenters: Alisa Povenmire, Executive Director, Notre Dame Education Center – Lawrence; Erin Paszko, Director of Adult Education, Community Action, Inc.; Colleen Pelczar, Curriculum Coordinator, Notre Dame Education Center – Lawrence; Luis Nunez, Conversation Café Leader and Teaching Intern, Notre Dame Education Center

Description: This interactive workshop is designed for adult education directors and instructors who are interested in developing or strengthening Workforce Development training programs within Adult Basic Education. Using the TESOL certification program at Notre Dame Education Center as a case study, participants will consider the practical steps, funding considerations, and partnership strategies for an Integrated Education and Training model, and learn how TESOL training is fostering a career pathway into adult education.

Workshop Code: 3-M

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Adapting Classical Literature for Traditionally Marginalized Students

Presenters: Ellen Pariser, Learning Specialist, Northern Essex Community College; Alex Hill, Learning Specialist, Northern Essex Community College; Rachel Becker-Brown, Education and Career Advisor, Northern Essex Community College

Description: Traditionally marginalized students are often positioned through deficit-based narratives that limit access to rigorous academic texts. This workshop explores how classical literature can serve as a powerful, accessible entry point for adult learners when taught through an asset-based approach. Drawing on classroom practice from a jail-based education program, this session will delve into how educators can use students' existing knowledge, experiences, and curiosity to create meaningful entryways into complex texts. Participants will examine how this approach supports rigor, engagement, and expanded worldviews while honoring adult learners as capable, thoughtful readers and interpreters even in highly restrictive educational environments.

Workshop Code: 3-N

VENDOR SESSION - GED TESTING SERVICE

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

GED® Testing in Massachusetts

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

Description: This session will provide key information on the GED® testing program for educators and administrators. Topics to be covered will include, but not limited to, national updates, Massachusetts specific GED testing policy information, test-taker performance, GED Manager™ overview and training, GED Ready® Official Practice Test, tools and resources for educators and students. In addition, we will look at our GED & Me™ app for students and other key preparation products. Come interact with GED Testing Service to ask questions and get the information you need to help your students succeed!

Strengthening Digital Literacy in Adult Education and Workforce Training

Presenter: Tadd Wamester, Senior Director, Workforce and Government Partnerships, EnGen

Description: Cross-sector English upskilling partnerships unlock high-potential talent pools. We are closing language gaps, building future-ready skills, strengthening talent pipelines, and advancing economic mobility. These efforts align with WIOA priorities and address labor needs in manufacturing, skilled trades, and healthcare. Drawing on real examples from across the country, this session will be highly interactive. Attendees will leave with practical, replicable models for building cross-sector partnerships that advance economic mobility and regional competitiveness. This year, we will explore the new EnGen and Cell-Ed partnership, and demonstrate how EnGen's writing helper can be used by instructors to develop critical writing skills within their students.

SESSION 4

Workshop Code: 4-A

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Games for ESOL

Presenter: Emma Almanzar, ESOL Instructor, Holyoke Community College

Description: Make learning fun and keep the energy up with games in your classroom! This session will cover ready-made games and activities, as well as the steps and tools to make your own. Find ideas for in-person and Zoom classes alike.

Workshop Code: 4-B

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Learning What Students Know – Student Work and Formative Assessment

Presenter: Aren Lew, Training and Curriculum Development Specialist, SABES

Description: Formative assessment is the ongoing work of understanding how your students understand what you are teaching. While there are many ways to do formative assessment, one that is often readily accessible is student work. There is a lot that can be learned by analyzing how students illustrate or describe their thinking—more than just what they got right or wrong. Formative assessment informs instructional decisions so that you can meet students where they are and help them move forward. Although this workshop focuses on analyzing students' math work, you can apply the techniques in ELA and ESOL assessment as well.

Workshop Code: 4-C

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Math Teachers' Roundtable

Presenter: Robert Bailey, Instructor, Adult Education Program, Bristol Community College

Description: Participants will share and discuss favorite math activities for illustrating content, motivating interest, and connecting with real life issues. Experiment with Coptors and join Ducky on her number line! Bring yours for Show and Tell!

Workshop Code: 4-D

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Helping Struggling Readers Succeed at Work

Presenter: Chris Miller, National Consultant

Description: Strong reading skills are essential for success in today's workforce—but many adult learners enter programs reading below a 6th-grade level, lacking the literacy needed for job training, advancement, or even basic workplace communication. This session focuses on practical, workplace-aligned strategies for teaching reading to beginner-level and intermediate adult learners. Attendees will walk away with ready-to-use strategies and adaptable lesson ideas that align with workforce preparation goals while meeting the unique needs of struggling adult readers.

Workshop Code: 4-E

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Navigating Cultural Differences in the Classroom

Presenter: Colin Newcomer, Teacher, Martha's Vineyard Adult Learning Program

Description: How do cultural norms shape adult education? This interactive workshop leverages the presenter's diverse experience in Japan, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, and Thailand to analyze how environmental expectations impact teaching outcomes. Participants will examine case studies and share their own global perspectives to develop a toolkit for instructional flexibility. We will further explore how cultural sensitivity serves as a framework for navigating complex institutional cultures. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to adapt their pedagogy and professional presence to any diverse educational or institutional setting.

Workshop Code: 4-F

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Effective Goal Setting Strategies for Managers and Instructors

Presenters: Sherry Spaulding, Education Manager, International Institute of New England – Lowell; Dedra Carpenter, ESOL Instructor, International Institute of New England – Lowell

Description: The International Institute of New England has a formal goal setting process for staff. The Education Department also has an annual goal setting process for program planning. Goal setting is conducted with students of each class to inform curriculum and ensure it meets students' goals. This session will include an overview of our goal setting processes, the instruments used, and strategies for implementation at various class levels. Instructors will share lesson examples and ideas that aim to meet students' goals. Participants will have the opportunity to participate in processes, discuss their own methods, and share their best practices.

Workshop Code: 4-G

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Important High School Equivalency Updates

Presenters: Sianna Loftus, High School Equivalency Specialist, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Jolanta (Jola) Conway, Team Leader, Adult and Community Learning Services Office, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Description: The MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s High School Equivalency (HSE) Team will share updates to state HiSET and GED policies and will present data on statewide testing and credentialing. Participants will get to discuss the state of testing with the HSE Team and will leave with an understanding of how Massachusetts policies impact adult students and educators.

Workshop Code: 4-H

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Purposeful AI Integration in Adult Education

Presenter: Franki Anderson, Beginner Level I Teacher, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC)

Description: Adult educators are navigating growing pressure to “use AI” without always having a clear strategy for why, how, or when it truly supports learning. This workshop introduces a beginner-centered framework for making intentional AI decisions in curriculum and lesson planning. Rather than focusing on tools, we focus on purpose: aligning AI to learning goals, selecting appropriate supports, and establishing clear classroom boundaries that maintain student ownership. Participants will leave with a practical one-page AI Decision Framework and begin drafting a plan they can immediately adapt for their own classrooms or programs.

Workshop Code: 4-I

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Researching Edtech for Adult Skill Development

Presenters: Lisa Soricone, Research Director, Jobs for the Future; Paul Giguere, Senior Director of Digital Learning, American Institutes for Research

Description: This session will introduce participants to resources from the IES-funded CREATE Adult Skills Network, which focuses on researching technology-supported interventions for adult foundational skill development. During the session, participants will get an overview of the CREATE Adult Skills Network and related resources. Presenters will then facilitate small group discussions and peer exchange focused on which edtech tools audience members use in their work/instruction/planning, and how they made decisions about using those tools. Participants will also share how they access and digest research findings in their day-to-day work to inform future dissemination efforts of the CREATE Network.

Workshop Code: 4-J

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Disability in Adult Education and in Life

Presenters: Andjela Kaur, Assistant Teaching Professor, The Pennsylvania State University and SABES Program Support Professional Development Team; Dani Scherer, Technical Advisor, SABES Program Support Professional Development Team

Description: 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 adult education teachers and learners. Along the way, we will consider what it means to be disability inclusive, identify key components of disability-inclusive programming, and look at practical tools and models developed with SABES, such as the Basic Disability Screening for Adult Education (BDSAE).

Workshop Code: 4-K

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Motivation and Self Worth in Adult Education

Presenter: Evelyn Robertson, GED Instructional Coach, Comprehensive Community Action Program

Description: A fun, high energy workshop that brings Eccles' Expectancy Value Theory & Rogers' Theory of Self Worth to life WITHOUT lecturing. Expect interactive, movement based, practitioner friendly activities to feel the theories, not just read about them. Perfect for adult educators who want to engage in an experiential learning opportunity.

Workshop Code: 4-L

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

A Continuum of Care from Custody to Community

Presenters: Laura Swendig-Dorr, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning, Northern Essex Community College; Ryan Beckett, Education and Career Advisor, Northern Essex Community College; Jessica Oljey, Assistant Superintendent Programs, Reentry Services, and STAR, Essex County Sheriff's Department

Description: Adult education programs often serve learners who have experienced disrupted schooling and disengagement from traditional systems. This workshop explores a relationship-centered continuum model designed to sustain engagement across multiple stages of a learner's journey—through voluntary participation. Drawing from practice in a multi-site education program serving incarcerated and returning community members, this session will delve into how consistent relationships, intentional communication, and ongoing support encourage learners to remain connected even when they are not required to do so. Participants will examine how building trust-based systems can foster persistence, reduce disengagement, and support meaningful educational progress in underserved and marginalized communities.

Workshop Code: 4-M

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Lessons Learned from Teaching Family Literacy

Presenter: Monique Stone, ESOL Instructor, International Institute of New England

Description: This workshop is for teachers and administrators serving pre- and low-literacy students. For the past four years, I have been teaching pre-literacy students online. We call the class family literacy because it was created for women at home with young children. Most of the students have little or no formal schooling experience. Teaching this group online has presented many challenges and opportunities to get resourceful. In this workshop, I will share the resources contributing to student success and reflect on what lessons I have learned. I will encourage others to share their classroom wins both big and small when working with pre/early literacy adults. Please come with at least one teaching resource or trick to share with the group.

Workshop Code: 4-N

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Help Your Students Learn to Ask Good Questions


Presenters: David Rosen, Co-founder and Steering Committee Member, Urban Alliance for Adult Literacy; Sandy Madero, Director of Operations, Right Question Institute; Luz Santana, Co-founder, Right Question Institute

Description: This interactive session will provide you with a concrete method to help adult learners learn how to formulate and use questions strategically. When adult educators deliberately teach this skill, their students feel new agency and confidence, strengthen their ability to think and learn independently, and develop their skills to advocate for themselves in many areas of their lives. We will also share how a Community of Practice of adult educators has been using this method, called the Question Formulation Technique, in their work for student empowerment in the classroom and beyond.



NETWORK 2026 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE—MAY 6

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

	<p>Visit Our Exhibitors 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Visit Exhibitors’ booths in the Exhibit Area, and their workshop sessions</p>		<p>Awards Ceremony Luncheon Honoring the Awesome Roberta Soolman MCAE Board President 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.</p>	
<p>Session 1 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>Session 2 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Session 3 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Session 4 3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</p>	
<p>1-A Citizenship Interview: Teaching to the Test <i>Andy Koppel, Kate Atkinson</i></p>	<p>2-A Meeting the Challenges of the 2025 Citizenship Test <i>Lynne Weintraub</i></p>	<p>3-A Eco Club: ESOL Conversation and Leadership Development <i>Mina Reddy</i></p>	<p>4-A Games for ESOL <i>Emma Almanzar</i></p>	
<p>1-B Speed Dating for Automaticity in Speaking English <i>Laura Davis</i></p>	<p>2-B Bingo! Hands-On Learning in the Multimodal Classroom <i>Sarah Beqo, Alyssa Fajardo</i></p>	<p>3-B Hands-On Improv for Adult ESOL Classrooms <i>Harold Burnett</i></p>	<p>4-B Learning What Students Know – Student Work and Formative Assessment <i>Aren Lew</i></p>	
<p>1-C Help! I’m Not a Math Person! <i>Aren Lew</i></p>	<p>2-C Teaching Word Problems to Beginning Math Learners <i>Melissa Braaten</i></p>	<p>3-C SABES Math Foundation Academy Mini <i>Connie Rivera</i></p>	<p>4-C Math Teachers’ Roundtable <i>Robert Bailey</i></p>	
<p>1-D Advisors Workshop: Connecting, Sharing, Networking For Advisors and Counselors Only <i>Alisha Beltrami, Zoe Fogarty, Dani Scherer</i></p>	<p>2-D Strengthening Learner Connections by Advising with Purpose <i>Jannette Marte, Wagner Bastos</i></p>	<p>3-D Empowering Math Students with Technology Tools <i>Zuzka Blasi</i></p>	<p>4-D Helping Struggling Readers Succeed at Work <i>Chris Miller</i></p>	
<p>1-E Poetry as Language Learning – Engaging Students Through Prose <i>Avery Walsh</i></p>	<p>2-E Strategies for Engaging Learners in English Language Arts <i>Karen Greaves, Beth McDermott</i></p>	<p>3-E Using Graphic Organizers to Compare Texts <i>Cynthia Peters</i></p>	<p>4-E Navigating Cultural Differences in the Classroom <i>Colin Newcomer</i></p>	

	<p style="text-align: center;">Visit Our Exhibitors 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Visit Exhibitors’ booths in the Exhibit Area, and their workshop sessions</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Awards Ceremony Luncheon Honoring the Awesome Roberta Soolman MCAE Board President 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Session 1 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 2 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 3 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 4 3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</p>	
<p>1-F Courageously Queer Inclusive ESOL is Easier Than You Think! <i>Ash Aliengena</i></p>	<p>2-F Integrating Haitian Culture into Adult Foundational Education ESOL Classrooms <i>Kevin O’Connor, Noah Sullivan, Faith Bertrand, Emile Exilhomme</i></p>	<p>3-F Having Hard Conversations: Racism and Intercultural Awareness in Class <i>Yexcica Capps Santiago</i></p>	<p>4-F Effective Goal Setting Strategies for Managers and Instructors <i>Sherry Spaulding, Dedra Carpenter</i></p>	
<p>1-G Encouraging a Growth Mindset in the HSE/ESOL Classroom <i>Andrea Weiss, Martha Rzepala</i></p>	<p>2-G Meeting the Moment: Program Leadership for Meaningful Employment <i>Alexandra Papagno, Alisa Povenmire, Joselyn Marte</i></p>	<p>3-G Leading with Intention: Supporting Educators Through Challenging Classroom Dynamics <i>Dr. Sheryl Buchanan</i></p>	<p>4-G Important High School Equivalency Updates <i>Sianna Loftus, Jolanta (Jola) Conway</i></p>	
<p>1-H Beyond Compliance: Supporting Test-Takers Before, During, and After Assessment <i>April Zenisky, Kat Tremblay</i></p>	<p>2-H Build the Conversation: A Hands-On English Test for Adults (ETA) Design Lab <i>Maura Maxfield, Jennifer Lewis, April Zenisky</i></p>	<p>3-H Designing with Data: Centering Student Insights <i>Carolline Hickey, Gabe Brum</i></p>	<p>4-H Purposeful AI Integration in Adult Education <i>Franki Anderson</i></p>	
<p>1-I Build Your Digital Learning Plan <i>Eliana Stanislawski, Alexandra Papagno</i></p>	<p>2-I Tech Tuesdays: Microlearning for Professional Development and Community Engagement <i>Mariangel Allan</i></p>	<p>3-I Strengthening Digital Literacy in Adult Education and Workforce Training <i>Sandy Goodman, Brooke Machado, Sarah Saroui</i></p>	<p>4-I Researching Edtech for Adult Skill Development <i>Lisa Soricone, Paul Giguere</i></p>	
<p>1-J Immigration Policy Updates and Resources <i>Jessica Chicco</i></p>	<p>2-J View rom the Hill <i>Former State Senator Steven Panagiotakos, State Senator Sal DiDomenico, State Senator Jamie Eldridge, State Representative Steven Ultrino</i></p>	<p>3-J Worker Health and Safety Rights <i>Richard Rabin, Pietra Check</i></p>	<p>4-J Disability in Adult Education and Life <i>Andjela Kaur, Deni Scherer</i></p>	
<p>1-K Identifying Ways to Increase Enrollment, Capacity, and Rigor <i>Michelle Perry, Joselyn Marte</i></p>	<p>2-K Neuroplasticity in My Classroom? <i>Laura Palumbo</i></p>	<p>3-K Enhancing Motivation in Adult Education and Life <i>Andjela Kaur</i></p>	<p>4-K Motivation and Self Worth in Adult Education <i>Evelyn Robertson</i></p>	

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<p>1-L The Happy Teacher: Learning Through Laughter <i>Alemyr Navas</i></p>	<p>2-L Using DISC Personality to Enhance Relationships <i>Michael McGee, Gullar Imamverdiyeva</i></p>	<p>3-L Designing a Workforce Development Program: TESOL as a Case Study <i>Alisa Povenmire, Erin Paszko, Colleen Pelczar</i></p>	<p>4-L A Continuum of Care from Custody to Community <i>Laura Swendig-Dorr, Ryan Beckett, Jessica Oljey</i></p>	
<p>1-M Teaching the Skills That Matter <i>Dana Varzan-Parker, Leah Gregory</i></p>	<p>2-M Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office Emerging Adult Program <i>Mswati Hanks, Dr. Robert Kinscherff, Lori D’Alleva, John Blazo; Panel of Program Participants</i></p>	<p>3-M Adapting Classical Literature for Traditionally Marginalized Students <i>Ellen Pariser, Alex Hill, Rachel Becker-Brown</i></p>	<p>4-M Lessons Learned from Teaching Family Literacy <i>Monique Stone</i></p>	
<p>1-N <u>VENDOR</u> ESSENTIAL EDUCATION Beyond Trauma: Trauma-Informed Instruction for Adult Educators <i>Peggy Bernard, Brittney Napolitano</i></p>	<p>2-N <u>VENDOR</u> BURLINGTON ENGLISH Rise to the Challenge with Burlington Core and Boost Classroom Success <i>Ticiansia Coleman, Jessica Michel</i></p>	<p>3-N <u>VENDOR</u> GED TESTING SERVICE GED Testing in Massachusetts <i>Scott Salesses</i></p>	<p>4-N Help Your Students to Ask Good Questions <i>David Rosen, Sandy Madero, Luz Santana</i></p>	
<p>1-O <u>VENDOR</u> HiSET/PSI Unlocking HiSET Success Through Data and Collaborative Pathways <i>Stephanie Bauer</i></p>	<p>2-O <u>VENDOR</u> PROLITERACY NEW READERS PRESS Engaging Reading Instruction? Finally, Some GOOD News! <i>Greg Stultz</i></p>	<p>3-O <u>VENDOR</u> ENGEN Strengthening Digital Literacy in Adult Education and Workforce Training <i>Tadd Wamester</i></p>		

PRESENTERS' BIOS

Ash Aliengena

Adult ESOL Literacy Specialist, Holyoke Community College

Ash Aliengena (they/them) has worked in Massachusetts Adult Education since 2012. Their primary role has been teaching beginner ESOL classes with Holyoke Community College. Ash is passionate about accessibility and gender representation in language instruction, and in making standardized assessments meaningful for teachers and their students.

Mariangel Allan

Technology Integration Specialist, Rhode Island Professional Learning

Mariangel Allan specializes in technology integration for professional development in adult education. With a background as an ESL instructor, medical interpreter trainer, and technology specialist, she supports adult education practitioners across Rhode Island by providing practical training and resources to strengthen digital literacy, thoughtfully adopt new tools, and innovate their teaching practice.

Emma Almanzar

ESOL Instructor, Holyoke Community College

Emma teaches adult ESOL in western Massachusetts, and loves turning grammar and vocabulary into fun games and activities for her classes. She has taught levels 1, 2, and 3, both in person and online.

Franki Anderson

Beginner Level I Teacher, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center

Franki Anderson is an adult ESOL educator and learning designer who specializes in beginner-centered literacy, digital confidence, and ethical AI integration. She creates practical, scalable frameworks that help teachers move beyond tool overload and design purposeful learning experiences that support clarity, dignity, and real-world success.

Kate Atkinson

Citizenship Instructor, The Immigrant Learning Center

Kate Atkinson has taught citizenship classes and overseen The Immigrant Learning Center's Citizenship Program since August 2024. She is passionate about helping multilingual learners develop English skills and confidence. Alongside a dedicated team of volunteers, Kate teaches highly differentiated classes that aim to support each student's unique needs and circumstances.

Robert Bailey

Instructor, Adult Education Program, Bristol Community College

Bob has been an educator for over 50 years in environmental education, elementary science, and now adult education math and science. Constructivist philosophy and experiential education have shaped his career, and he most enjoys engaging learners in hands-on discovery of the wonders of math and science.

Wagner Bastos

ELL Educator and Career Advisor, Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE)

Wagner Bastos holds a Bachelor of Arts in Language and Literature. He brings many years of experience as an ELL Education and Career Advisor and ESOL teacher. He has also served as a middle and high school teacher, Boston Language Institute Program Coordinator, and Planned Care Coordinator, supporting students and families.

Stephanie Bauer

HiSET Account Manager

Stephanie Bauer, the HiSET Account Manager, focuses on cultivating relationships with state clients, vendors, and internal partners. She manages the implementation of the HiSET program at the state level, collaborating with adult education programs and test centers on contracts and service level agreements. With over 20 years of experience in K-12 programs and a bachelor's degree from Rider University, Stephanie is also certified as a Scrum Master I and Six Sigma Greenbelt. Beyond her professional responsibilities, Stephanie is an avid traveler and Broadway aficionado.

Rachel Becker-Brown

Education and Career Advisor, Northern Essex Community College

Rachel joined the NECC/ECSD team in August 2025 as a Career Advisor. She previously served as a corrections counselor at Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center with Spectrum Health Systems. Passionate about reentry and growth, she holds an A.A., a B.A. in Criminal Justice, and is pursuing an MBA in Public Administration.

Ryan Beckett

Education and Career Advisor, Northern Essex Community College

For the past four years, Ryan Beckett has served as the Education and Career Advisor for the Essex County Sheriff's Department STAR reentry program in Lynn, MA. He supports justice-involved individuals in advancing their education and employment goals through job coaching, college advising, digital literacy instruction, and community partnership development.

Alisha Beltramini

Consultant for SABES, College and Career Advisor, Adult Learning Center, North Shore Community College – Danvers

Alisha holds an MSW and has worked in hospitals, Early Intervention, private practice, Veterans Affairs and home visit settings. Currently, she is a College and Career Advisor with the Adult Learning Center at North Shore Community College in Danvers. Additionally, Alisha works with SABES and World Education creating and curating a communication platform for all Adult Education Advisors across the state. Utilizing Canvas, this Community of Practice provides a place for advisors to communicate and share resources.

Sara Beqo

Adult ESOL Instructor, Intergenerational Literacy Program – Chelsea Public Schools

I have been with the Intergenerational Literacy Program since 2018. I have taught adult ESOL classes, High School Equivalency preparation classes, and computer classes, both in person and online.

Peggy Bernard

Northeast Regional Manager, Essential Education

Peggy is a successful sales executive with over 20 years' experience exceeding quota in educational software sales and technology consulting services. Specific areas of expertise include solution selling at the C level, international business development, effective management of territory sales; accurate forecasting and sales pipeline growth, strategic selling for new market penetration, close and account expansion strategies. Career experience includes several years selling for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Pearson Education, and Essential Education. Ms. Bernard is a native of Boston, MA where she lives with her husband and two daughters.

Faith Bertrand

Business Service Representative Shelter Specialist, MassHire Framingham Career Center

Faith Bertrand is a Career Advisor at the MassHire Framingham Career Center. Previously, she served as a BSR Shelter Specialist with MassHire Metro SouthWest, supporting key shelter projects from 2024 to 2025. As a Haitian American professional, Faith is dedicated to empowering diverse job seekers and strengthening community workforce development.

Zuzka Blasi

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-led, Modern Classroom Project approach that incorporates many technology tools. She is also a PhD student at University of Massachusetts Boston, researching issues in urban mathematics education.

Melissa Braaten

Curriculum Developer and Professional Development Specialist, SABES Mathematics and Adult Numeracy Curriculum and Instruction Team

Melissa Braaten has been teaching adult numeracy for the past 15 years in Dorchester, MA, and also works as a curriculum developer and Professional Development Specialist 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).

Gabe Brum

Digital Literacy Specialist, The Immigrant Learning Center

As an ESOL educator and Digital Literacy Specialist with over ten years of experience, Gabe develops and delivers digital literacy instruction for ESOL learners, co-creates curriculum, and facilitates professional development workshops. His work spans for-profit and nonprofit educational settings in both the United States and Brazil.

Dr. Sheryl Buchanan

Education Director, Evening Programs, Genesis Center

Dr. Sheryl Buchanan is an adult education leader with over 15 years of experience across nonprofit and for-profit sectors. With expertise in TESOL, educational leadership, and program design, she focuses on connecting policy, professional practice, and learner success to expand access and opportunity in adult education.

Harold Burnett

ESOL Instructor, Valley Opportunity Council

Harold is an adult ESOL instructor with 20+ years of experience using improvisational methods. Certified in Michael Chekhov Techniques by the National Michael Chekhov Association and experienced in Viola Spolin's Theater Game, Harold he focuses on standards-aligned, movement-based instruction to support speaking, listening, and confidence in adult ESOL Levels 2–3.

Yexcica Cappas Santiago

Learning Facilitator, Genesis Center

Yexcica Andrea Cappas Santiago is a Puerto Rican ESOL educator with a BA in Linguistics, an MA in English Education, and TESOL certification. Now an Adult Education Facilitator at Genesis Center, she values students' cultural backgrounds and authentic learning. Her work has led her to present at COABE 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Dedra Carpenter

ESOL Instructor, International Institute of New England – Lowell

Dedra S. Carpenter is a seasoned ESOL professional with 28 years of teaching experience. She has taught ESOL to immigrants and refugees at the International Institute of New England for 5 years. She enjoys cultivating classroom experiences that are highly engaging and relevant to students' lives.

Pietra Check, MPH

Regional Deputy Director, Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health

Pietra Check has more than two decades of public health experience with communities, industry, government, and academia. Her work centers and amplifies the voices of people who are and have historically experienced structural and social inequities and has largely concentrated in the field of injury prevention with immigrant populations.

Jessica Chicco

Director of Training, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition

Director of Training, Jessica Chicco (she/her) joined MIRA as Staff Attorney in January 2020 after more than a decade working with immigrants and immigrant communities. She oversees our training and resources work as well as our helpline program.

Ticiana Coleman

Senior Customer Manager, Burlington English, Inc.

Ticiana Coleman is an education professional with over 25 years of experience specializing in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). She holds a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics from the University of Massachusetts Boston and a Bachelor of Arts in Teaching Portuguese and English as a Second Language. Ticiana's expertise includes ESL instruction, intercultural communication, and Portuguese-English translation and interpretation. She is passionate about supporting multilingual learners and empowering educators through effective language instruction and professional development.

Jolanta (Jola) Conway

Team Leader, Adult and Community Learning Services Office (ACLS), MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

Jolanta Conway joined ACLS at DESE in 2007 and is a team leader involved in statewide policy and High School Equivalency implementation. Previously, she taught ESOL and directed the Hudson Maynard Adult Learning Center. Originally from Poland, she moved to the U.S. in 1997 and holds a master's in English Language and Literature.

Lori D'Alleva

Director, Charlestown Adult Learning Center

Lori D'Alleva is a passionate leader who has dedicated her career to giving a second chance to students who have struggled to finish their traditional K-12 education in the past. As the Director of the Boston Housing Authority's Charlestown Adult Education Workforce and Reentry Program, she and her team have helped hundreds of students attain their personal and career goals. Her program is a great avenue for students who might otherwise find themselves unable to move forward with their lives and careers because of a lack of a high school diploma. Her creative approach to diversion and reentry has also helped save countless young men and women from incarceration and helped transform their lives for a stronger, healthier, and more successful future.

Laura Davis

ESOL Teacher, Ascentria Care Alliance

Laura, a new resident of Massachusetts, currently teaches refugees full time for Ascentria Care Alliance in Worcester. Armed with an M.A. in TESOL from George Washington University, Laura has taught for public schools, community organizations, community colleges, universities, and English immersion programs, known as IEPs, around Baltimore Maryland.

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.

Zoe Fogarty

College and Career Advisor and Distance Learning Coach, Adult Learning Center, North Shore Community College – Danvers

Zoe serves as a College and Career Advisor and Distance Learning Coach at the Adult Learning Center at North Shore Community College in Danvers. With 10 years of experience in adult education, she has supported both in-person and online learners throughout their academic and career pathways. Zoe leverages her background in Human Resources to help students navigate their individual journeys and achieve their goals.

Alyssa Fajardo

Adult Education Instructor, The Intergenerational Literacy Program, Chelsea Public Schools

Aly Fajardo has been with the ILP since 2017 and has taught Family Literacy classes since 2021, both in person and online. She has also been the Technology Coordinator for the program since 2024.

Paul Giguere

Senior Director of Digital Learning, American Institutes for Research

Paul Giguere, Ed.D., is Senior Director of Digital Learning at the American Institutes for Research, leading technology-enabled learning initiatives. His work spans adult and digital learning, distance education, accessibility, multimedia production, training, and technical assistance, aligning evidence-based practices with policy and public-sector research requirements across complex, technology-enabled programs.

Sandy Goodman

Director, National College Transition Network, World Education

Sandy provides technical assistance, coaching, training, and project leadership on adult postsecondary success, digital resilience, and career pathways initiatives. She works within and across the adult education, workforce development, and community college systems to equip each to better support adult learners realize their education and career goals.

Leah Gregory

Program Coordinator/Teacher, East Boston Harborside Community Center

Leah Gregory has been teaching for over 12 years in adult education. She has lived almost as much time abroad as in the United States teaching in five countries. She works as a Program Coordinator for the adult education program of the East Boston Harborside Community Center and still continues to teach. Her areas of expertise include curriculum development, technical assistance, staff training, remote and virtual learning, as well as program coordination and support.

Karen Greaves

Instruction and Professional Development Specialist, SABES ELA Curriculum and Instruction Professional Development Center

Karen Greaves serves as the Instruction and Professional Development Specialist for the SABES English Language Arts Professional Development Center. Prior to this role, she taught English Language Arts (ELA) in K-12 and adult education settings for over 15 years. She prioritizes supporting teachers in implementing culturally responsive teaching and contextualized ELA instruction

Mswati Hanks

Emerging Adult Program Coordinator, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office

Mswati currently oversees the Emerging Adult Program for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. Originally from upstate New York, Mswati has called the Boston-area home for almost 30 years. He has worked for, and with, almost every "system" in Boston, including Boston Public Schools, Mass General Brigham Hospital, the juvenile and adult judicial and carceral entities, as well as with multiple City and State Government representatives. It was during his own incarceration in his mid-twenties that Mswati realized his 'life's calling' of working to prevent young people from entering the adult judicial and carceral system(s). The majority of his career has been spent working in direct service of the city's youth by overseeing, and creating, youth enrichment and youth diversion programs

Carolline Hickey

Director of Adult Education, Jackson Mann Community Center

Carolline is a Program Director working in ESOL since 2006, having served as teacher, advisor, and program coordinator across diverse for-profit and nonprofit educational settings in both the US and Brazil. She is experienced working with varied populations and instructional methodologies, with a consistent commitment to student-centered practice and equitable education outcomes.

Alex Hill

Learning Specialist, Northern Essex Community College

Alex Hill is a Learning Specialist and Lecturer at Northern Essex Community College, teaching ELA and ESL courses at the Middleton House of Corrections. He develops curriculum that expands access to higher education in correctional settings and serves as editor of *Handwritten: A Journal of Incarcerated Writers*.

Gullar Imamverdiyeva

Career Advisor, Training Resources of America

Andjela Kaur

Assistant Teaching Professor, The Pennsylvania State University and SABES Program Support Professional Development Center

Andjela H. Kaur is an academic-practitioner who worked in adult education and community mental health settings as a teacher, vocational counselor, program manager, and ADA coordinator. Currently, she is an assistant teaching professor at Penn State, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in biobehavioral health and disability studies.

Dr. Robert Kinscherff

Executive Director, Center for Law Brain & Behavior (CLBB)

Dr. Robert Kincherff has held leadership positions in Massachusetts state government and the trial court, as well as teaching, professional service, and policy advisory/development positions that reflect interest at the intersections of law, policy, applied neuroscience, and clinical/forensic behavioral science.

Andy Koppel

Volunteer Citizenship Instructor, The Immigrant Learning Center

Andy has been a citizenship instructor at The Immigrant Learning Center for the past nine year, having taught remotely and on-site, working with both groups and individuals. Andy specializes in application review and interview preparation, and has created targeted materials, including a mock interview script, and has conducted citizenship training workshops.

Jana Laiz

ESOL Instructor, Adult Learning Program, Berkshire Community College

Jana Laiz has been teaching all levels of ESL for over 40 years. A certified ESL teacher with a M.Ed. in education, she began the first Adult Learning Program in Southern Berkshire County in the 90s that has now grown to the county-wide program it is today. Jana has created a new and vibrant WELCOME Vocabulary card deck to share with participants. She is also an award-winning author, whose books are widely used in ESL and regular classrooms.

Aren Lew

Training and Curriculum Development Specialist, SABES Mathematics and Adult Numeracy Curriculum and Instruction Professional Development Team, TERC

Aren has worked in the field of adult numeracy for over eleven 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 Professional Development Team at TERC. They are the treasurer for the Adult Numeracy Network.

Jennifer Lewis

Assistant Research Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Jenn Lewis is an Assistant Research Professor co-leading the development of the English Test for Adults with the Center for Educational Assessment at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Jenn specializes in test design and applied research methodologies to enhance feedback for decision-making in educational, behavioral, and psychological contexts.

Sianna Loftus

High School Equivalency Specialist, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Sianna Loftus is the Massachusetts State Chief Examiner for HiSET and GED. She works with Jolanta Conway and Olympia Stroud to support Massachusetts test centers and test takers, develop High School Equivalency testing policies, and increase equitable access to credential attainment. Sianna holds a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction and previously worked as an adult educator at Roca Inc.

Sandy Madero

Director of Operations, Right Question Institute

Sandy Madero's work focuses on supporting the Right Question Institute's educational and empowerment programs. In the past, Sandy led Working Opportunities for Women (WOW) at Project Place, a business venture providing training and job opportunities, along with case management support, to low-income women of the Boston area.

Jannette Marte

ABE Education and Career Advisor, Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE)

Jannette Marte has an M.Ed. in mental health, focusing on trauma and drug abuse. She has years of experience working in adult basic education as an advisor and workforce program facilitator, supporting students pursuing their High School Equivalency Diploma and entering trades and the workforce.

Joselyn Marte

Director of Continuing Education, Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE)

Joselyn Marte is an experienced professional with expertise in the areas of counseling, social work, and education. Her educational experience includes K-12, high school, community college and ABE settings. At present, she is the Director of Continuing Education for the Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE). In this role, she is responsible for the supervision, planning, and coordination of SCALE's programs and staff. She holds an MSW and a BA in Psychology.

Brooke Machado

Senior Program Manager for Adult Education, Office of Workforce Development, City of Boston

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.

Maura Maxfield

Assistant Research Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Maura Maxfield is an Assistant Research Professor in the Center for Educational Assessment at UMass Amherst. She is on the team developing the English Test for Adults.

Beth McDermott

Curriculum Specialist, Worcester Adult Learning Center

Beth McDermott has worked at The Worcester Adult Learning Center for 12 years, where she currently serves as the Curriculum Coordinator. She is currently a coach for the SABES English Language Arts Professional Development Team. She came to Adult Education after teaching third grade for many years.

Michael McGee

Site Manager, Training Resources of America

Over 25 years of experience in both private and public sectors involving business mentorship, advising, educating, and motivating individuals and groups toward achievement of goals.

Jessica Michel

Customer Representative, Burlington English, Inc.

Jessica Michel is a passionate trainer with Burlington English, where she helps educators make the most of Burlington's digital learning tools. Based in Rhode Island, Jessica brings an energetic mix of experience in education, entrepreneurship, and operations to everything she does. Jessica holds an MBA in Global Marketing Concepts from St. Thomas University and a BS in Business Administration from Florida A&M University.

Chris Miller

National Consultant, Aztec

Ms. Miller worked for over 30 years in adult education and managed a comprehensive adult education program serving over 2,000 students annually and served on the state level for a time developing and implementing state-wide professional development programs. Currently, she works as a national consultant providing training workshops, conducting national webinars, and presenting at state and national conferences.

Brittney Napolitano

Implementation Specialist, Essential Education

Brittney Napolitano began her journey in education teaching Spanish in K-12 for over a decade throughout the East Coast. Throughout her Adult Education career as an instructor, coordinator, and specialist, she has developed a wealth of experience with ELL, HSE, foundational and employability skills, digital literacy and IET courses as well as program and curriculum design. As an Implementation Specialist with Essential Education, she provides customized training, professional development and technical support to help adult education teachers and administrators implement a robust online learning system that gives all students the tools they need to learn and succeed in school, work, and life!

Alemyr Navas

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

Alemyr Navas is a laughter therapist, adult educator, and life coach with extensive experience designing experiential learning programs. She integrates neuroscience, emotional intelligence, and embodied learning to improve engagement, motivation, and retention in adult learners across diverse educational and professional environments.

Colin Newcomer

Teacher, Martha's Vineyard Adult Learning Program

Colin Newcomer has worked as an ESL instructor and trainer in various universities and institutions around the world, such as Saudi Aramco, Westgate Corp of Japan, the University of Medellin, and Huachiew University in Thailand. His focus is on classroom dynamics and finding the students' deeper motivations to learn.

Kevin O'Connor

Director, Framingham Adult ESL Plus

Kevin O'Connor is the director of Framingham Adult ESL Plus. For over 30 years, Dr. O'Connor has worked in a variety of teaching and leadership roles in adult education and teacher education. He has taught in universities, community colleges, and workplace education programs, but has always stayed in adult education.

Luis Carlos Nunez

Conversation Café Leader and Teaching Intern, Notre Dame Education Center – Lawrence (NDEC)

Luiz brings over 25 years of professional experience in the performing arts as a dancer and actor, with a strong background in communication, storytelling, and audience engagement. He is a Student Ambassador for Adult and Community Learning Services – MA Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education. He is also a Conversation Café leader and is completing a teaching internship at NDEC.

Jessica Oljey

Assistant Superintendent Programs, Reentry Services, and STAR, Essex County Sheriff's Department

Jessica Oljey is Assistant Superintendent IV of Programs, Reentry Services, and the STAR Division at the Essex County Sheriff's Department. With over 20 years of experience in public safety, she leads the development of programs supporting justice-involved individuals in custody and in the community. She brings expertise in leadership, crisis intervention, and strategic planning. Jessica holds a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and is a two-time recipient of the Massachusetts Commonwealth Citation for Outstanding Performance.

Laura Palumbo

Adult Learning Facilitator, Genesis Center

Laura has over 27 years of experience teaching English to non-native speakers in a myriad of contexts and learning settings both in Paraguay and in the US. She earned a Bachelor's degree in English from Universidad Nacional de Asunción, and a postgraduate degree as a Specialist in University Didactics and Pedagogy from Universidad Autonoma del Paraguay. She also holds a professional license as a Sworn Public Translator registered at the Supreme Court of Justice in Paraguay where she worked for several years before moving to the U.S. She has been working as an EFL and ESOL facilitator since 1997, providing instruction to students in various contexts and levels, ranging from age four to adults. She has also served as a court interpreter among other legal settings, including medical and educational, both in Paraguay and in the U.S. Being proficient in Spanish, English and Portuguese, she has also worked on providing written and sight translations from Italian and French into English and Spanish.

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 Professional Development 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.

Ellen Pariser

Learning Specialist, Northern Essex Community College

Ellen Pariser is a Learning Specialist at Northern Essex Community College, teaching at Middleton Correctional Facility. She holds a master's degree in education and is completing a second in English, focusing on Classical Studies and 17th-century British literature. She has presented at MLA and CEA, and her first publication is forthcoming.

Erin Paszko, PhD

Director of Adult Education, Community Action, Inc.

Dr. Erin Paszko is the Director of Adult Education at Community Action, Inc. in Haverhill, MA, where she oversees programs in ESOL, High School Equivalency, and MassSTEP. In her program, she continuously strives to broaden workforce readiness and training initiatives that integrate a contextualized approach to adult education.

Colleen Pelczar

Curriculum Coordinator, Notre Dame Education Center – Lawrence

Colleen Pelczar is the Curriculum Coordinator at Notre Dame Education Center. She leads the development, implementation, and evaluation of the ESOL curriculum, ensuring alignment with state standards and student needs. Colleen began teaching English to adults while serving in the Peace Corps, where she realized the power of language teaching and learning. She has taught ESOL in a variety of settings including college readiness programs, TOEFL preparation, business English, and community centers. Her passion is to help students connect with the community they live in, and help them access resources within that community.

Michelle Perry

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

Michelle comes to the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the ACLS (Adult and Community Learning Services) team as a Program Specialist, providing technical assistance, executive coaching, and program design support to program leaders and leadership teams. She has many years' experience in adult education, grassroots community organizing, and nonprofit work with youth, individuals with differing abilities, family advocacy, teaching, and training. Most recently she has over 10 years' experience as an advisor in career pathways and as a life skills educator. She has worked at the Department of Career Services, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Developmental Services and Roxbury Court and Mass General Brigham as a Forensic Social Worker and community builder.

Cynthia Peters

Professional Development Provider and Editor of The Change Agent, World Education

Cynthia Peters is a nationally known professional development provider. She has taught in (almost) all aspects of ABE, and is currently teaching HiSet preparation at Julie's Family Learning Program in South Boston. She is also the editor of World Education's online resource, *The Change Agent*.

Alisa Povenmire

Executive Director, Notre Dame Education Center – Lawrence

Alisa Povenmire is the Executive Director of Notre Dame Education Center – Lawrence. Alisa has worked for over 30 years in adult education in a variety of roles: teacher, advisor, program coordinator, project manager, training provider, and director. She is committed to developing rigorous, engaging, and impactful education and training programs for adults.

Richard Rabin

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 almost 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. He has given many presentations and trainings on occupational health and safety. He has published several articles on both child and adult lead poisoning and initiated the first lawsuit against the lead paint industry.

Mina Reddy

Teacher, Cambridge Community Learning Center

Mina Reddy is a teacher at the Cambridge Community Learning Center and Bunker Hill Community College. Despite having worked as a program director for much of her career, her first love has always been teaching. She has taught all levels of ESOL and ABE and particularly enjoys theme-based curricula.

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.

Evelyn Robertson

GED Instructional Coach, Comprehensive Community Action Program

Evelyn has been in adult education for eight years. Prior to that, she worked in K-12 as an upper elementary and middle school teacher for seven years. She is preparing a dissertation on GED stigma and student resilience.

David Rosen

President, Newsome Associates

A decades-long adult educator and long-time Boston resident, Dr. David J. Rosen is a co-founder and Steering Committee member of the Open Door Collective of Literacy Minnesota and of the Urban Alliance for Adult Literacy. In these roles, he works with the Right Question Institute to provide free training and a community of practice for a national pilot project to train educators to help their adult learners to use the Right Question Strategy. He can be reached at

djrosen123@gmail.com.

Martha Rzepala

Lead Teacher – ESOL, Abisi Adult Education Center – Lowell

Martha Rzepala is a passionate English and ESOL educator who loves helping learners find their voice. With decades of experience in both the Lowell Public Schools (K-12) and Adult Education, she builds welcoming classrooms, supports teachers, and designs meaningful curriculum that connects language, confidence, and community, always believing education changes lives for everyone she serves.

Scott Salesses

Director of Strategic Accounts, GED Testing Service (GEDTS)

Scott Salesses is Director of Strategic Accounts at GED Testing Service. He joined GED Testing Service in 2011 and has worked with many states across the U.S. as their lead contact from GEDTS. He regularly interacts with adult education programs, GED testing centers, and correctional educators as well as state leadership and is involved with test security. Scott resides in Boston, MA.

Luz Santana

Co-Founder, Right Question Institute

Luz is the co-author of *Partnering with Parents to Ask the Right Questions and Make Just One Change: Teach Students to Ask Their Own Questions*. Luz has spent 30 years advocating for students, parents, schools and low-income communities. She was most recently an adjunct lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Dani Scherer

Technical Advisor, SABES Program Support Professional Development Team

Dani Scherer is a technical advisor at World Education, Inc. As a member of the SABES Program Support Professional Development 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.

Lisa Soricone

Research Director, Jobs for the Future

Lisa Soricone, Ed.D., is Research Director at Jobs for the Future, where she leads research and evaluation of programs and policies that help adults succeed in career pathways and postsecondary education and training. She is currently a member of the CREATE Adult Skills Network Lead.

Rachel Soule

Assistant Director of English Language Programs, The Immigrant Learning Center

Rachel Soule is the Assistant Director of English Language Programs at The Immigrant Learning Center, where she oversees curriculum development, professional development, and digital literacy integration. She has over 10 years of experience in adult ESOL teaching and program management, across diverse educational contexts both in the US and abroad.

Sherry Spaulding

Education Manager, International Institute of New England – Lowell

Sherry works as the Education Manager at the International Institute of New England (IINE) Lowell office. She has been with IINE for more than 30 years in various roles. She holds a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics from UMass Boston and a Bachelor's degree in French from Keene State College. Her loyalty to IINE is due, in part, to her commitment to IINE's mission and values, and my passion for helping newcomers.

Sarah Soroui, Ph.D.

Director of Research, Evaluation, and Analytics, Office of Workforce Development, City of Boston

Dr. Sarah Soroui leads research and evaluation to support OWD's strategic planning and programs. Previously she was a senior research associate for Economic and Racial Equity (IERE) at Brandeis University. 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 Professional Development Team, World Education

Eliana Stanislawski is a Professional Development Specialist for the SABES Program Support Professional Development Team working on digital literacy. She is a curriculum developer, practitioner trainer, and education researcher with a decade of experience in virtual learning, literacy development, and refugee community support.

Monique Stone

ESOL Instructor, International Institute of New England

Monique is ESOL professional with over 20 years of experience working with populations facing barriers to formal education. Monique is originally from New Mexico and relocated to Massachusetts in 2019. She has been with the International Institute of New England since April of 2022.

Greg Stultz

Training Coordinator, ProLiteracy New Readers Press

Since 2008, Greg Stultz 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.

Noah Sullivan

Manager of Special Projects, Framingham Adult ESL Plus

Noah Sullivan is the Manager of Student Services at Framingham Adult ESL Plus. Drawing on his background in linguistics and experience in ESL programs across Massachusetts, Noah's current work is focused on providing high-quality support and skills training to help diverse adult learners achieve their educational goals.

Laura Swendig-Dorr

Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning, Northern Essex Community College

Laura Swendig is Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning for Northern Essex Community College's Correctional Education program, overseeing educational programming across five correctional sites. She leads curriculum innovation, instructional excellence, and faculty development, advancing rigorous, student-centered learning. Laura holds a master's degree in education and advocates for transformative reentry through higher education.

Kat Tremblay

Research Fellow, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Kat Tremblay is a Research Fellow in the Center for Educational Assessment (CEA) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Kat has over a decade of experience working with adult learners and has managed multiple grant-funded projects related to adult education.

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.

Dana Varzan-Parker

Program Specialist, Adult and Community Learning Services Office, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Dana Varzan-Parker has 15 years of experience as an ESOL teacher in a public schools and adult education setting. In her current role as adult education curriculum, instruction, and assessment specialist with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), she is responsible for coordinating curriculum, instruction and assessment policies for the DESE-funded adult education programs and working closely with the statewide curriculum and instruction Professional Development providers to implement Professional Development that is data-driven, relevant to adult educators and likely to affect student outcomes.

Avery Walsh

Teacher, Framingham Adult ESOL Plus

After moving to Massachusetts six years ago, Avery made the transition from learning specialist to ESOL teacher, joining Framingham Adult ESL Plus in 2022. Avery also has taught middle school and high school English and is passionate about getting students engaged in language and literature!

Tadd Wamester

Senior Director, Workforce and Government Partnerships, EnGen

Tadd builds bridges to careers through English upskilling programs at employers and educational partners. He has 15+ years of experience in immigrant and refugee focused workforce development programs, including a decade at Upwardly Global where he scaled impact working with Internationally Trained Professionals (ITPs). Tadd is focused on expanding workplace literacy programs and increasing access to apprenticeships and in-demand career pathways.

Lynne Weintraub

Textbook author and ESL/Citizenship Coordinator, Jones Library ESL Center – Amherst

Lynne Weintraub has directed the Jones Library ESL Center for 40 years. She is the author of the textbook series "Citizenship: Passing the Test," co-founder of the Citizenship ECHO project, and publisher of Citizenship News, a blog for citizenship educators.

Andrea Weiss

ESOL Teacher, Abisi Adult Education Center, Lowell Public Schools

Andrea Weiss is an ESOL teacher and experiential ed facilitator who loves helping individuals grow. Her 15+ years of diverse educator experience, ranging from training local teachers in Cambodia to facilitating blind trust walks for teambuilding programs, gives Andrea a unique perspective in supporting the "whole student" throughout their learning journey.

April Zenisky

Research Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Dr. April Zenisky is Research Professor in Educational Policy, Research, and Administration at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Director of the Center for Educational Assessment. Her work focuses on operational psychometrics, technology-based assessment, and score reporting, with extensive leadership in national and international measurement organizations and journals.

NETWORK 2026 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Thank you to the NETWORK 2026 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>	MBTA
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

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Barbara Krol-Sinclair	BU/UNH Adjunct Faculty, Education Consultant
Mary Beth MacNeil	Plymouth
Suzanne Martin	Retired, Brockton Public Schools
Alisa Povenmire	Notre Dame Education Center – Lawrence
Luanne Teller	Retired, World Education, Inc.

Photographer

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MANY THANKS!

Thank you to everyone who generously shared their time and talents and helped make NETWORK 2026 a success.

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**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*

Save the Date!



A

May 5 (Wednesday)

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

