

# WHAT WORKS!

## Research and Practice in Adult Education

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Join us for a special afternoon with adult education and literacy researchers from throughout the U.S. Choose from among six different sessions, covering relevant research and evidence-based strategies designed to help you to enhance programming and instruction for your adult learners.

**Date:** December 2, 2017

**Time:** 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Location:** Hillsborough Community College  
Ybor City Campus, 2112 N 15th St, Tampa, FL 33605

**Registration:** FREE

**Certificate for continuing education credit is available.**

### Symposium Schedule

**1:00 – 1:30** Opening

**1:30 – 3:00** Concurrent Sessions (3)

- **Session One:** *Contextualizing Instruction – Family Literacy*
- **Session Two:** *Writing Prompts for the Adult Education Classroom*
- **Session Three:** *Teaching Grammar*

**3:15 – 4:45** Concurrent Sessions (3)

- **Session Three:** *Integrating Technology Into Instruction*
- **Session Five:** *Cancelled*
- **Session Six:** *Motivating and Retaining PreGED Students*

**4:45 – 5:00** Closing

**Pre-registration is required. Space is limited, so register today!**

To register online, [click here](#).

## Session Descriptions

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**1:30 – 3:00**

### Contextualizing Instruction – Family Literacy

**Presenters:** Sophie Degener, National-Louis University, Kristen Perry, University of Kentucky

This session will focus on how teachers can support literacy development by creating meaningful reading and writing activities that are contextualized within the lives of adult students, their children and their families. The presentation will highlight how to investigate learners' current literacy practices in their homes and communities in order to use these as the basis for curriculum and instruction. We will also focus on using family and community strengths and existing funds of knowledge to develop literacy skills in out-of-school settings. Participants will work together to identify the kinds of "everyday" literacy practices that can connect homes and schools and offer opportunities for literacy instruction that includes authentic uses of text.

### Writing Prompts for the Adult Education Classroom

**Presenter:** Erik Jacobson, Montclair State University

In this workshop, we will roll up our sleeves and do some writing. At the beginning of the workshop the presenter will share some sample writing prompts and have participants try them out. This will include prose, poetry and expository writing. Then as part of a discussion, participants will be asked to share their own insight into helping students with their writing, with a particular focus on getting started. Finally, the presenter will also share lessons learned from the New Jersey adult learner writing contest, and we will think together about how to share ideas about writing pedagogy on an on-going basis.

### Teaching Grammar

**Presenter:** Carmela Romano Gillett, University of Michigan

Facilitating a learner's development of English grammar can be a tedious and daunting undertaking. In this session, we will discuss some approaches to working with grammar that include integrating multiple language skills (speaking, writing, etc.) and balancing form and function. These approaches are engaging, easy to set up, and provide real-world applications of grammar use and meaning.

**3:15 – 4:45**

### Integrating Technology Into Instruction

**Presenter:** Jill Castek, University of Arizona

In this session, participants will explore the use of a variety of free digital tools that can be implemented across different context to support learners. We will actively participate in the use of the tools, and reflect on their uses, affordances, and constraints. The goal of this workshop is to provide you resources and teaching ideas for working with a range of adult learners.

### Working with Adults with Learning Disabilities

**Presenter:** Leah Saal, Loyola University Maryland

*Cancelled due to presenter family situation.*

### Motivating and Retaining PreGED Students

**Presenter:** Erik Jacobson, Montclair State University

This session will review research that suggest that rather than “dropping out,” students “stop out” of programs due to changes in their lives. This shifts the focus to thinking about how programs can help students continue studying, provide learning support while they are out of school, and create policies that help them return to school. After discussion general issues with retention and persistence, we will turn our attention to the particular issues facing learners and programs in Florida. The goal of the workshop is to identify concrete steps students, teachers and programs can take together.

[See presenter bios here](#)

Hosted by Florida's Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center, a program of the Florida Literacy Coalition. Special thanks to our presenters and to Hillsborough Community College for providing the location for this event.

This symposium is made possible through the generous support of [the Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education.](#)



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