



# OPEN

Florida Literacy Conference

# BOOKS

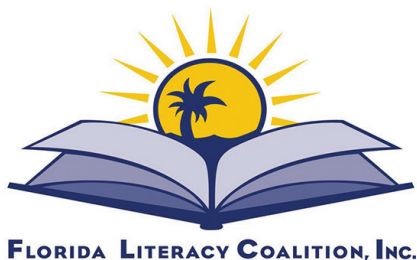
May 13-15, 2025

# OPEN

The Shores Resort & Spa    Daytona Beach Shores, FL

# MINDS





## 41 Years of Open Books Open Minds

Greetings and welcome to the Florida Literacy Conference! We're honored to have you with us as we celebrate the 41st year of this remarkable gathering. Throughout the conference, you'll have plenty of chances to exchange ideas with peers, hear from leaders in the field, and build new and lasting relationships.

Our agenda features over sixty workshops and special sessions, all aimed at highlighting the exceptional contributions of Florida's adult education and literacy community, as well as the achievements of our learners. The theme "Open Books, Open Minds" pays tribute to the tireless work of educators, tutors, and administrators statewide. Your commitment is life-changing, empowering adults and families to build skills and confidence so they can experience the transformative power of literacy.

The Florida Literacy Coalition (FLC) would like to express sincere appreciation to everyone who has played a role in bringing this event to life. Special thanks go to our Conference Planning Committee, presenters and the dedicated FLC staff, board, and volunteers. We are also most thankful to our conference sponsors whose generous support allows us to bring you this quality educational experience. Be sure to visit our exhibitors to discover a variety of tools and services that can enhance your programs.

Whether this marks your inaugural attendance, or you've been part of the Florida Literacy Conference for many years, rest assured that we are committed to ensuring your experience is both welcoming and fulfilling!

Gregory Smith  
*Executive Director*  
Florida Literacy Coalition

**"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends;  
they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors,  
and the most patient of teachers."**

**- Charles W. Eliot**





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## Southwest Airlines® is dedicated to your community.

Our mission is to make the connections that empower communities to thrive. Through our meaningful relationships, we proudly support your efforts in the many communities we call home. Whether in the air or the ground, we believe community is more than a place – it's at the Heart of what brings us together.

**Southwest Airlines® is a proud partner of the Florida Literacy Coalition.**

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## About the Florida Literacy Coalition

Established in 1985, The Florida Literacy Coalition (FLC) promotes, supports and advocates for the delivery of quality adult and family literacy services in the state of Florida. As a statewide umbrella literacy organization and the host of Florida's Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center, FLC provides a range of services to support more than 250 adult education, literacy and family literacy providers throughout Florida. Special emphasis is placed on assisting community based literacy organizations with their training and program development needs.

### Our Services:

#### Florida Literacy Conference

One of Florida's premier literacy events, this three-day annual conference, offers a wide range of training and networking opportunities to literacy practitioners and volunteers.

#### Training and Technical Assistance

FLC offers professional development opportunities that provide literacy practitioners and volunteers with tools and resources to enhance program quality. Focus areas include program management, planning, curriculum development, marketing, fundraising, board development and volunteer tutor training.

#### Literacy Promotion and Toll Free Literacy Hotline

FLC promotes reading and raises awareness about literacy issues in Florida. A trained referral specialist provides on-call information about education programs and volunteer opportunities in communities throughout the state.

#### Networking and Communications

FLC promotes and facilitates information sharing, networking and collaborative programming among literacy providers through services such as moderated discussion lists, the Florida Literacy Directory and Resource Guide and targeted technical assistance in developing regional literacy coalitions.

#### Publications and Resources

FLC provides a wide range of free reference and outreach materials, serving as a clearinghouse for the distribution of quality resource materials for literacy instructors and administrators.

#### Florida Health Literacy Initiative

The Florida Health Literacy Initiative, funded by the Florida Blue Foundation and operated by FLC, provides grants, professional development and technical assistance in support of quality health literacy programs. This initiative combines ESOL instruction and health education in a multi-disciplinary approach that teaches English to adults and families while helping these individuals acquire skills and knowledge to make informed choices regarding their health and nutrition.

#### Florida Financial Literacy Initiative

This initiative, funded by Wells Fargo and operated by FLC, provides grants, professional development and technical assistance to support incorporating much needed financial education into adult education programs.

#### Florida Family Literacy Initiative

Made possible through the support of the Kislak Family Foundation, this initiative provides resources and grants to help Florida schools and educational programs to establish or expand upon family literacy programs in their community.

#### Online English Conversation Classes

Supported by the Kislak Family Foundation, this multi-organization collaboration provides Florida adult learners with opportunities to practice and improve their English through free online conversation classes.

#### Advocacy

FLC serves as an advocate for community-based literacy programs and quality literacy services statewide.

## Board of Directors

### Governing Board:

Jan Setzekorn, President  
*Read Pinellas*

Ann Breidenstein  
*Learn to Read St. Johns County*

Chris Catania  
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Heidi Curtis, Treasurer  
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### Coalition Staff

Greg Smith  
*Executive Director*

Jannellie Rivera  
*Resource & Communication Specialist*

Stephanie Rodgers  
*Education & Training Coordinator*

Dana Williams  
*ESOL Project Coordinator*

Susan Chapman  
*Bookkeeper*

Ana Chust Puchades  
*Work Study Assistant*

Lydia Willams  
*Work Study Assistant*

# Acknowledgements

**Thank you for making the 2025 Florida Literacy Conference a success!**

## Conference Planning Committee:

<b>Lori Benjamin</b> Brevard County Schools Adult Education	<b>Shannon Maitland</b> Problem Solving Plus
<b>Ann Breidenstein</b> FLC and Learn to Read St. Johns	<b>Mark Mallak</b> Brevard County Schools Adult Education
<b>Carol Bruner</b> Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education	<b>Veronica Pavon Baker</b> Literacy Volunteers of Collier County
<b>Dawn Frascella</b> Palm Beach Library	<b>Josue Raymond</b> Orange County Public Schools
<b>Katrina Harkness</b> Florida Division of Library and Information Services	<b>Ed Rivadeneyra</b> Seminole State College
<b>Walker Hicken</b> Florida Department of Corrections	<b>Gina Solomon</b> Adult Literacy League
<b>Alison Hoefler</b>	<b>Travis Thomas</b> Flagler Technical College
<b>Julie Kennedy</b> Brevard County Schools Adult Education	<b>Carrie Verge</b> Daytona State College

## Additional Representatives Serving on the Adult Learner Committee:

**Marty Finsterbusch**

## Silent Auction Donors:

3 Daughters Brewing	Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra
4 Rivers Smokehouse	Orlando Science Center
Clearwater Aquarium	Raising Cane's
Color Me Mine	Southwest Airlines
Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurants	The Florida Aquarium
Florida Everblades	The Ringling
Foxtail Coffee Co.	Tijuana Flats
Frost Science Museum	Topgolf
Fun Spot America	Universal Orlando Resort
Jacksonville Zoo	Urban Air Adventure Park
Jerimiah's Italian Ice Winter Park	Vera Bradley
K1 Speed	Wawa
Kendra Scott	Wonderworks
Kennedy Space Center	Zoo Miami
Oriental Trading	

## Invaluable Others:

Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Education	Florida Literacy Coalition Staff
Volunteer Session Presenters and Facilitators	Formality Singers Choir, Flagler Palm Coast High School
Conference Volunteers	Flagler Palm Coast High School AFJROTC
Conference Exhibitors	The Dave Capp Project
Florida Literacy Coalition Board of Directors	Brad Bell, Brevard County Schools Adult Education
	Corey Alexander

# Conference Sponsors

Our special thanks to the following **sponsors** and **supporters** who have made the 2025 Florida Literacy Conference possible.

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## Platinum (\$4,000 and higher)



## Gold (\$2,500-\$3,999)



## Silver (\$1000-\$2,499)



## Bronze (\$500-\$999)





# Schedule at a Glance

## Tuesday, May 13

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8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Registration Open
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Exhibits Open
8:30 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.	Adult Learner Orientation
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Opening General Session
11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
12:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Lunch on Your Own and Time to Visit Exhibitors
	Complimentary box lunches provided in River Room
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Florida Literacy Coalition Annual Meeting
2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Extended Break with Exhibitors
4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
5:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Time to Visit Exhibitors
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Opening Reception

## Wednesday, May 14

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8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Registration Open
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors
8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Exhibits Open
9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch on Your Own and Time to Visit Exhibitors
1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Extended Break with Exhibitors and Silent Auction Closes
3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions

## Thursday, May 15

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8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Closing General Session & Florida Literacy Awards Luncheon

# Sessions at a Glance

## Tuesday, May 13, 2025

### 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- GED Program Tools and Resources for Student Success – [Richard Petty](#)
- Unlock IPDAE's Resources and Future Innovations for 2025-26 Success! – [Dolphin](#)
- Engaging Beyond the Lesson Plan: Strategies for Deeper Instruction – [France B](#)
- Adult Learner Experience (ALD) – [France C](#)
- Supporting the Adult ESOL Learner on their Academic Journey – [River](#)
- Speak Like a Native: Fun with American Idioms (ALD) – [Atlantic](#)
- Entrepreneurship and How SCORE Can Help (ALD) – [Coastal](#)
- Increasing Student Retention and Engagement – [Surf](#)
- Health Literacy Grantee Meeting – [Azure Restaurant](#)

### 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- FLC Annual Meeting (Optional) – [Richard Petty](#)

### 2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- Develop Learning Strategies to Achieve Academic Success (ALD) – [Richard Petty](#)
- Taking the Fear Out of GED® Test Preparation – [France B](#)
- Building Vocabulary and Reading Skills with Stand Out – [France C](#)
- Managing your Money with Smart Credit and Safe Choices (ALD) – [River](#)
- Common English Mistakes Spanish Speaker Make (and How to Fix Them Easily!) – [Atlantic](#)
- Innovative IET Programs in ESOL: Workforce Skills, Certification, and Success – [Coastal](#)
- IET in Corrections – [Surf](#)

### 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

- From Self Awareness to Self-Management in the Adult ESOL Classroom – [Richard Petty](#)
- Hack ESOL Teaching with AI – [Dolphin](#)
- Rethinking Mandatory Literacy – [France B](#)
- Sounds of Success: Boosting Adult ELL Confidence through Pronunciation – [France C](#)
- Your Fundraising Questions Answered – [River](#)
- How to Retain Your Volunteer Instructors: Competence, Relatedness, and Autonomy – [Atlantic](#)
- Shifting the Trajectory: Creating New Pathways to Success – [Coastal](#)

## Wednesday, May 14, 2025

### 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

- Florida Department of Education Update – [Richard Petty](#)
- Enhancing Academic Success: Integrating the AWL in ELL Instruction – [Dolphin](#)
- Adding Love to Your Lessons – [France B](#)
- EE Behind the Scenes: Get the Classroom Demonstration You've Always Wanted – [River](#)
- Teaching with the ELL Student in Mind – [Atlantic](#)

### 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

- Strategic Implementation: Making the Florida Adult Education Curriculum Frameworks Work for You – [Richard Petty](#)
- CASAS TOPSpro Enterprise (TE) for Program Administrators, Data Managers and Coordinators – [France B](#)
- Growing from One Time Donor to Long Time Supporter – [France C](#)
- English for Families – [River](#)
- Leading with Financial Literacy – [Atlantic](#)
- We Should be Committed! – [Coastal](#)

### 1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

- Navigating Partnerships and Community Collaborations – [Richard Petty](#)
- Supporting Correctional Literacy Initiatives Through Technology – [Dolphin](#)
- From Research to Practice: Focus on Structured Literacy, Dyslexia, & Phonology [Part 1] – [France C](#)
- Empowering Communities Through Family Literacy: Insights from Florida Initiatives – [France B](#)
- Leadership and Innovation: From Theory to Practice – [River](#)
- Student Leaders for Student Retention – [Coastal](#)

### 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- Man and Machine: Using AI to Assist, not Replace – [Richard Petty](#)
- Maximizing Google in the Adult ESOL Classroom – [Dolphin Room](#)
- Transitioning Adult Learners to College and Career – [France B](#)
- From Research to Practice: Focus on Orthography, Morphology, and Fluency [Part 2] – [France C](#)
- Hands on Banking Program Resource – [River](#)
- Growing Literacy Leaders: Culture and Practice in Action – [Atlantic](#)
- Roundtable for Community-Based Literacy Directors – [Surf](#)

## Thursday, May 15, 2025

### 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

- Tools and Techniques to Support Adult Learners who Have Children – [Dolphin](#)
- Preparing Students for the GED RLA Extended Response – [France B](#)
- Respond to Cultural Differences: Use EI to Reach E.A.C.H. Student – [France C](#)
- Florida Ready to Work: Integrating Career Readiness into Adult Literacy Programs – [River](#)
- It is a Brand New Day in Adult Education – [Atlantic](#)
- Health Literacy Grant in Action – [France A](#)

### 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

- Financial Literacy for High Intermediate ESOL Students – [France A](#)
- Generative AI and Literacy Instruction: The Good, the Bad, and the Lovely – [Dolphin](#)
- Ready STEPS Let's Go! – [France B](#)
- Unlocking Growth: Level Up Instruction & Program Performance with the CASAS Teacher Portal – [France C](#)
- Preparing Students for a Changing Workforce – [River](#)
- Grant Writing Basics for Beginners – [Atlantic](#)

# Schedule - Tuesday

## CONFERENCE TRACKS

- Adult Learner
- Corrections
- English Literacy/ESOL
- Family/2 Gen Literacy
- Health Literacy\*
- Learning Disabilities
- Library Literacy
- Program Management
- Reading
- Technology
- Volunteers in Literacy
- Workforce Education/College and Career Readiness
- ABE, GED, and Adult High School
- Financial Literacy\*

\* Special thanks to Florida Blue for sponsoring the Health Literacy Track and Wells Fargo for sponsoring the Financial Literacy Track.

## Tuesday, May 8

### Adult Learner Day



Welcome Adult Learners! Today is filled with Adult Learner friendly workshops, which are indicated by the open book icon. Special thanks to FLC's Adult Learner Committee for planning this event. For more information about Adult Learner Day, stop by the registration table.

**8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Registration Open - Bill France Foyer**

**8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Exhibits Open - Bill France A**

**8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Adult Learner Registration - Bill France B**

**8:30 a.m. - 9:20 a.m. - Adult Learner Orientation - Bill France B**

**Marty Finsterbush**

This session will review the day's events and orient students to the Conference. Come to learn, have fun, and make new friends!

**9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Opening General Session - Richard Petty Ballroom**



### Opening Keynote Speaker - Cameron Mattingly

Cameron Mattingly brings nearly 30 years of leadership in the Coca-Cola system and currently oversees the company's philanthropy across North America. Diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD, Cameron once hid his learning differences. Today, he champions literacy and advocates for children and adults who learn differently. He also leads behavioral health efforts in rural Georgia and has volunteered on global education and care projects. He lives in Jesup, GA with his wife and two children.

## 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

**GED Program Tools and Resources for Student Success - Richard Petty**

**Diane Vaccari, GED Testing Service - Vendor Presentation**

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

**ABE, GED, and Adult High School**



= Adult learner focused session



# Schedule - Tuesday

**11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Tuesday, May 13 - Continued**

## **Unlock IPDAE's Resources and Future Innovations for 2025-26 Success! - Dolphin (Computer Lab)**

**Tamara Serrano, IPDAE**

Join us to explore IPDAE's cutting-edge resources, dynamic training programs, and innovative initiatives. Discover practical strategies to enhance your work and get an exclusive sneak peek at what's coming in 2025-26 to meet your professional learning needs and stay ahead of the curve!

**ABE, GED, and Adult High School / Corrections**

## **Engaging Beyond the Lesson Plan: Strategies for Deeper Instruction - Bill France B**

**Christina Miller, Aztec Software**

Explore strategies that transform lesson plans into tools for deeper learning. Participants learn how to implement active learning techniques, facilitate critical thinking, and create real-world connections to make content meaningful. Through these approaches, teachers transform lessons into impactful tools for engaging, empowering, and inspiring learners.

**ABE, GED, and Adult High School**

## **Adult Learner Experience - Bill France C**



**Marty Finsterbush, Cameron Mattingly**

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

**Adult Learner**

## **Supporting the Adult ESOL Learner on their Academic Journey - River**

**Pamela Jo Wilson & Rona Barnett-Passard, SDPBC Adult & Community Education**

Explore strategies that transform lesson plans into tools for deeper learning. Participants learn how to implement active learning techniques, facilitate critical thinking, and create real-world connections to make content meaningful. Through these approaches, teachers transform lessons into impactful tools for engaging, empowering, and inspiring learners.

**English Literacy/ESOL / Program Management**

## **Speak Like a Native: Fun with American Idioms - Atlantic**



**Mary Quijano, Literacy Council of Upper Pinellas**

Learn common American idioms like "break the ice" and "hold your horses" in this interactive session! Discover fun and useful English phrases that Americans use to help you sound more like a native speaker.

**Adult Learner / English Literacy/ ESOL**

## **Entrepreneurship and How SCORE Can Help - Coastal**



**Carlos Soldevilla, SCORE Volusia/Flagler**

Are you interested in starting or growing a small business? Learn the basics of entrepreneurship and how SCORE provides free mentoring and business education to help.

**Adult Learner / Workforce Education/ College and Career Readiness**

## **Increasing Student Retention and Engagement - Surf**

**Brittney Napolitano and Tara Keily, Essential Education - Vendor Presentation**

This session will illuminate the unique characteristics, values, and needs of adult learners. Topics will examine classroom culture, strategies to support student motivation, personalized learning, and success skills. Research presented will highlight the connection between relationship and retention and propose activities to strengthen this link.

**ABE, GED, and Adult High School / Workforce Education/College and Career Readiness**

## **Health Literacy Grantee Meeting - Azure Restaurant**

**Greg Smith, Florida Literacy Coalition**

By invitation only.



= Adult learner focused session

# Schedule - Tuesday

*Tuesday, May 13 - Continued*

**12:30 p.m. - Lunch on Your Own/Time to Visit Exhibitors**  
**Complimentary box lunches available in River Room**

## **Florida Literacy Coalition Annual Meeting (Optional) - Richard Petty Ballroom**



**1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Find out what's new at the Florida Literacy Coalition (FLC). Your participation is welcome as we review and discuss FLC programs and future directions. Be the first to get a copy of the newly released adult learner essay book, *Perspectives*. Several student authors will read their essays, which is always a highlight! So, grab your lunch and join us. Attendees will be entered to win two free 2026 Florida Literacy Conference registrations.

## **2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions**

### **Develop Learning Strategies to Achieve Academic Success - Richard Petty**



**Veronica Pavon-Baker, Literacy Volunteers of Collier County**

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

**Adult Learner**

### **Taking the Fear Out of GED® Test Preparation - Bill France B**

**Karen Welch, New Readers Press - Vendor Presentation**

GED® test preparation doesn't have to be overwhelming for students or instructors. We designed our latest series—GED® Test Mastery to target the High Impact Indicators, complete with a comprehensive teacher guide. Come explore how these resources support student success.

**ABE, GED, and Adult High School**

### **Building Vocabulary and Reading Skills with Stand Out - Bill France C**

**Cindy Le, National Geographic Learning - Vendor Presentation**

This session will explore ways to help students build vocabulary and improve their reading skills for success in their communities, workplaces, and on the CASAS STEPS with Stand Out.

**English Literacy/ESOL**

### **Managing your Money with Smart Credit and Safe Choices - River**



**Lucas Katz, Miami Dade College**

Learn how credit scores work, build strong credit habits, and spot common scams. Gain tools to protect your finances and avoid identity theft.

**Adult Learner**

### **Common English Mistakes Spanish Speakers Make (and How to Fix Them Easily!) - Atlantic**

**Peyton Whittington, Adult Literacy League**

Native Spanish speakers will learn common English mistakes, why they make them and how to easily remedy them. (Ex. this vs. these, the book of Sarah vs. Sarah's book, etc.)

**English Literacy/ESOL**



= Adult learner focused session

# Schedule - Tuesday

**2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Tuesday, May 13 - Continued**

## **Innovative IET Programs in ESOL: Workforce Skills, Certification, and Success - Coastal**

**Eray Aktas, Brevard Adult & Community Education**

This presentation will highlight our IET in ESOL programs for Logistics and Healthcare, showcasing certification success, industry-specific skills, AVID strategies, and innovative tools like VR, Burlington English, and EnGen. Participants will learn how we equip students for workforce success through language acquisition and workforce training.

**English Literacy/ESOL | Workforce Education/College and Career Readiness**

## **IET in Corrections - Surf**

**Demeetric Beachum & Walter Hicken, Florida Department of Corrections**

This presentation will both provide a general overview of the delivery of IET programming in our correctional facilities as well as a “sequel” to the presentation given at the 2024 FLC Conference, where we discuss progress made over the past year as well as new challenges within the correctional environment.

**Corrections | Workforce Education/College and Career Readiness**

**3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Extended Break with Exhibitors - Bill France A**

**4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions**

## **From Self-Awareness to Self-Management in the Adult ESOL Classroom - Richard Petty**

**Pamela Jo Wilson, SDPBC Adult Education**

In adult ed classrooms, a primary task is hard skills practice that support career pathways. Getting the job is sometimes the easy part, but how do we empower learners to keep the job? How do we teach soft skills? Come explore with us.

**English Literacy/ESOL | Workforce Education/College and Career Readiness**

## **Hack ESOL Teaching with AI - Dolphin (Computer Lab)**

**Anna Gandrabura, English For IT**

Discover how to integrate AI into your ESOL classroom with simple, practical techniques. This session empowers educators to create AI-powered tools to enhance engagement, personalize learning, and streamline lessons. Whether new to AI or experienced, gain actionable strategies to elevate your teaching practice.

**English Literacy/ESOL**

## **Rethinking Mandatory Literacy - Bill France B**

**Walker Hicken, Florida Department of Corrections**

The Florida Department of Corrections carries a statutory obligation to provide literacy programming to inmates who do not demonstrate functional literacy. This presentation (geared toward FDC employees, but open to all) will cover how programming has looked in the past and how the department will be reorienting our adult education programs to place a greater emphasis on serving mandated literacy students. Will cover curriculum implementation as well as operational concerns.

**ABE, GED, and Adult High School | Corrections**

## **Sounds of Success: Boosting Adult ELL Confidence through Pronunciation - Bill France C**

**Karin Bates, Intercambio Uniting Communities**

This interactive workshop gives instructors tools for adult English learners to build confidence to speak clearly and be understood. Participants will learn how to create consistent opportunities for pronunciation practice. The session emphasizes building confidence through engaging activities that make pronunciation practice enjoyable and motivating.

**Corrections | English Literacy/ESOL**



# Schedule - Tuesday & Wednesday

**4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. - Tuesday, May 13 - Continued**

## **Your Fundraising Questions Answered - River**

**Marcus Haile, Literacy Alliance of Northeast Florida, Inc.**

Get answers to your fundraising questions. Whether you are new to fundraising overall, new to fundraising in adult literacy, or an experienced professional in everything except on area or another, this session will help take the mystery out of fundraising.

**Program Management**

## **How to Retain Your Volunteer Instructors: Competence, Relatedness, and Autonomy - Atlantic**

**Maria Soto, DePorres P.L.A.C.E.**

The Self-Determination Theory (SDT) states that the psychological needs such as competence, autonomy, and relatedness are core pillars for optimal functioning (Deci & Ryan, 2012). When these basic needs are met, volunteer instructors feel confident, valued, and a part of something greater leading to volunteer retention.

**Volunteers in Literacy | Workforce Education/College and Career Readiness**

## **Shifting The Trajectory: Creating New Pathways to Success - Coastal**

**Josue Raymond, Orange County Public Schools**

How do we accelerate the pace to help our students reach their full potential? Today's presentation will assess AGE students' educational backgrounds and any industry certifications. We'll also discuss ways to locate and analyze data that determines the academic needs of each county in Florida.

**ABE, GED, and Adult High School | English Literacy/ESOL**

**5:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Time to Visit Exhibitors - Bill France A**

**6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Opening Reception - Ocean Terrace**

Join us for an evening of music, food, and fun! Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served. Music performed by The David Capp Project. Sponsored by Essential Education

## **Wednesday, May 14**

**8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Registration Open - Bill France Foyer**

**8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors - Bill France A**

**8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Exhibits Open - Bill France A**

**9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions**

## **Florida Department of Education Update - Richard Petty**

**Ashley Olevitch, Florida Department of Education**

Join us for an update from the Florida Department of Education on core components of Adult Education! We will be sharing information on assessments, curriculum frameworks, various professional learning opportunities, Integrated Education & Training, GED and more!

**ABE, GED, and Adult High School | English Literacy/ESOL**

## **Enhancing Academic Success: Integrating the AWL in ELL Instruction - Dolphin (Computer Lab)**

**Christine Briggs, Collier Adult Education**

Why use the Academic Word List? It will help improve academic vocabulary, which is essential for success in both studies and future professional environments.

**English Literacy/ESOL | Reading**

# Schedule - Wednesday

**9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. - Wednesday, May 14 - Continued**

## **Adding Love to Your Lessons - Bill France B**

**Dawn Frascella & Marianne Heard, Palm Beach County Library System Adult Literacy Project**

Combat the statement “This curriculum is boring/too dry/not relevant” by introducing a valuable but often underused resource, supplemental materials. There will be suggestions for finding the right materials, tips on how to pay for them, and easy to share activities for tutor and student use.

**English Literacy/ESOL I Reading**

## **EE Behind the Scenes: Get the Classroom Demonstration You’ve Always Wanted - River**

**Brittney Napolitano and Tara Keily, Essential Education - Vendor Presentation**

This session will demonstrate ways Essential Education can be implemented into classrooms. For those who don’t use the software, there will still be great takeaways and ideas for all programs. Key topics include orientation, rapport building techniques, as well as monitoring progress.

**ABE, GED, and Adult High School I Program Management**

## **Teaching With the ELL Student in Mind - Atlantic**

**Alith Casey, Lake County Schools**

The workshop helps participants understand the needs of English Language Learners by experiencing their challenges in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Participants will use an ELL Instructional Strategies Guide aligned with WIDA Can-Do philosophy to identify effective teaching strategies for ELLs with different proficiency levels.

**English Literacy/ESOL I Reading**

## **10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions**

## **Strategic Implementation: Making the Florida Adult Education Curriculum Frameworks Work for You - Richard Petty**

**Maia Brown, Florida Department of Education**

Unlock the potential of the Florida Adult Education Curriculum Frameworks! Explore 13 courses covering Academic Skills Building, Adult Basic Education, Adult ESOL, and GED® Prep. Join us for an interactive session to create engaging, effective curricula tailored to your students’ needs.

**ABE, GED, and Adult High School I English Literacy/ESOL**

## **CASAS TOPSpro Enterprise (TE) for Program Administrators, Data Managers and Coordinators - Bill France B**

**Cristina Urena, CASAS**

This training covers CASAS TOPSpro Enterprise (TE), the data management system designed to streamline testing and reporting. Key topics include program overview using the Navigator, which guides users through Edit View, Sites, and various administrative tools. The training also covers essential management features such as Test Administration, User Access Groups, Testing Sessions, Testing Stations, and Records, ensuring efficient program operation

**ABE, GED, and Adult High School I English Literacy/ESOL**

## **Growing from One Time Donor to Long Time Supporter - Bill France C**

**Joseph Cinney & Barbara Horton, Learn to Read of St. Johns County, Inc**

As a non-profit organization, funding can come from a myriad of sources. An essential component is the financial and mission support from individual or organizational donors. We will examine how to grow a one-time donor into a longtime supporter.

**English Literacy/ESOL I Program Management**

## **English for Families - River**

**Lyndsay Amiro, Orange County Library System**

English for Families is designed to specifically improve the language proficiency of individuals whose native language is not English (ESOL) by providing essential reading strategies needed for school-age children to achieve success in the classroom while also developing adults’ basic language skills.

**English Literacy/ESOL I Family/2 Gen Literacy**

# Schedule - Wednesday

**10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. - Wednesday, May 14 - Continued**

## **Leading with Financial Literacy - Atlantic**

**Dr. Shelletta Baker, Florida State College at Jacksonville**

During this session participants will learn about a leadership and financial literacy course designed for adults housed at correctional facilities. Participants will also engage in activities related to financial protection, planning for the future, emotional intelligence, and leadership intelligence.

**Corrections | Financial Literacy**

## **We Should be Committed! - Coastal**

**Nicole Wesley, Michele Wallace, Aurora Ascension Irizarry, and Angelic Verzaro, Seminole State College of Florida**

Seminole Commits is a community-based education program that provides free ESOL and GED prep classes. The program also offers upscaling of skills for jobs and referrals for community assistance. Come hear about the origins and future of our program from our amazing staff and faculty!

**ABE, GED, and Adult High School | English Literacy/ESOL**

**11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Lunch on Your Own/Time to Visit Exhibitors - Bill France A**

## **1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions**

### **Navigating Partnerships and Community Collaborations - Richard Petty**

**Gina Solomon, Adult Literacy League**

For CBO program managers/directors - how to identify, cultivate, and navigate community partnerships, including fee-for-service opportunities.

**Program Management**

### **Supporting Correctional Literacy Initiatives Through Technology - Dolphin (Computer Lab)**

**Melvin Herring, Florida Department of Corrections**

This presentation will provide an overview of the ways in which the Florida Department of Corrections has used classroom technology to enhance literacy initiatives.

**Corrections | Technology**

### **From Research to Practice: Focus on Structured Literacy, Dyslexia & Phonology [Part 1] - Bill France C**

**Judith Cohen, IDA – Florida Branch**

This session is the first of a two-part series that will focus on the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy when teaching struggling adult literacy learners. It will review common characteristics of adult learners with Dyslexia. Several instructional activities will be demonstrated and practiced.

**Reading**

### **Empowering Communities Through Family Literacy: Insights from Florida Initiatives - Bill France B**

**Moderator: Dana Williams, Florida Literacy Coalition**

**Panelists: Joseph P. Cinney, Learn to Read of St. Johns County; Kathy Severson, School District of DeSoto County; Lisa Alexander, Literacy Alliance of Northeast Florida, Inc.**

Join us for a panel discussion of organizations receiving support through the Florida Family Literacy Initiative grants program. Panelists will discuss the services their programs provide, the challenges they face, and the impact their programs have made in their communities.

**English Literacy/ESOL | Family/2 Gen Literacy**



# Schedule - Wednesday

**1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. - Wednesday, May 14 - Continued**

## **Leadership and Innovation: From Theory to Practice - River**

**Mitch Rosin, Aztec Software**

This workshop will focus on identifying your leadership style, understanding the 5 skills of disruptive innovation, and putting your leadership skills into best practice. Participants will learn strategies that can be implemented immediately to enhance outcomes through leadership action and operational innovations.

**Program Management | Workforce Education/College and Career Readiness**

## **Student Leaders for Student Retention - Coastal**

**Ariel Pechokas & Valerie Guillaume, Collier County Public Schools**

Student leaders can be empowered to support new students, ensure retention, and build a community of learners. Hear from real student leaders and learn how to build your own student leader program. Participants will be ready to recruit and effectively utilize student leaders.

**Workforce Education/College and Career Readiness**

**2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. - Extended Break With Exhibitors - Bill France A**

**Silent Auction Closes at 3pm!**

## **3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions**

### **Man and Machine: Using AI to Assist, Not Replace - Richard Petty**

**Johnny Hernandez, Brevard Adult & Community Education**

Many educators are concerned with the impact of AI in the classroom. This presentation seeks to alleviate those concerns as well as provide practical applications to use on day one. AI is not here to replace you; it is here to help you.

**ABE, GED, and Adult High School | English Literacy/ESOL**

### **Maximizing Google in the Adult ESOL Classroom - Dolphin (Computer Lab)**

**Pamela Jo Wilson, SDPBC Adult Education**

Attend this interactive showcase of a teacher's use of Google applications to create resources aimed at uplevelling the digital literacy skills of her adult ESOL learners. Bring your own laptop and a free personal Gmail account for hands-on practice.

**English Literacy/ESOL | Technology**

### **Transitioning Adult Learners to College and Career - Bill France B**

**Ariel Pechokas & Valerie Guillaume, Collier County Public Schools**

Adult learners often wonder what's next after completing ESL or a GED program. In this session, participants will discuss and develop college and career preparation programs and strategically plan for students' successful transition.

**Workforce Education/College and Career Readiness**

### **From Research to Practice: Focus on Orthography, Morphology, and Fluence [Part 2] - Bill France C**

**Judith Cohen, IDA - Florida Branch**

This session will continue the discussion on foundational skills and strategies that are grounded in the Science of Reading. It will focus on the importance of orthography, morphology, and fluency - critical components for accurate reading and spelling. Several interactive activities will be demonstrated and practiced.

**Reading**

# Schedule - Wednesday & Thursday

**3:15 p.m - 4:30 p.m. - Wednesday, May 14 - Continued**

## **Hands on Banking Program Resource - River**

**Marilyn Drayton, Wells Fargo**

Attend this interactive showcase of a teacher's use of Google applications to create resources aimed at uplevelling the digital literacy skills of her adult ESOL learners. Bring your own laptop and a free personal Gmail account for hands-on practice.

**Financial Literacy**

## **Growing Literacy Leaders: Culture and Practice in Action - Atlantic**

**Gina Solomon & Martha Beltran, Adult Literacy League**

We plan to discuss what it's come to mean to the Adult Literacy League - in terms of culture and value-added - to invite, encourage, welcome, and support students to transition into volunteer roles, leadership roles, and even staff roles. We will have staff and board present to discuss

**Program Management**

## **Roundtable for Community-Based Literacy Directors - Surf**

**Greg Smith, Florida Literacy Coalition**

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

**Program Management | Volunteers in Literacy**

## Thursday, May 15

**8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions**

## **Tools and Techniques to Support Adult Learners who Have Children - Dolphin (Computer Lab)**

**Laticia "Nikki" Boswell, Helping Hands Program of South County**

As adults, we must focus on our own literacy and growth by identifying our strengths, embracing our identity, and recognizing areas needing improvement. By zoning in on these aspects, we can continuously evolve, setting an example and fostering development for ourselves and others.

**Family/Gen 2 Literacy | Learning Disabilities**

## **Preparing Students for the GED RLA Extended Response - Bill France B**

**Diane Vaccari, GED Testing Service**

In this session we will review the "myths" and facts about the GED RLA extended response, identify essential elements of an effective extended response, and review resources.

**ABE, GED, and Adult High School**

## **Respond to Cultural Differences: Use EI to Reach E.A.C.H. Student - Bill France C**

**Merri Beth Treadway, Florida Department of Corrections**

Struggling to provide responsive teaching to students who differ linguistically or culturally? Learn several emotional intelligence concepts and gain application experience. The impact will be far-reaching for you and E.A.C.H. student. Emotional intelligence enhances relationships, promotes workplace success, and produces a healthier outlook on life.

**Corrections | English Literacy/ESOL**

# Schedule - Thursday

**8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. - Thursday, May 15 - Continued**

## **Florida Ready to Work: Integrating Career Readiness into Adult Literacy Programs - River**

***Tiffany Vause, Ready to Work Florida***

Florida Ready to Work equips adult learners with essential employability skills, aligning with Florida's Adult Education Employability Curriculum. This session explores implementation strategies that enhance literacy instruction while preparing students for meaningful employment. Learn how Florida's FREE career readiness solution helps learners earn nationally recognized credentials and succeed in the workforce.

***Corrections | Workforce Education/College and Career Readiness | ABE, GED, and Adult High School***

## **It Is a Brand New Day in Adult Education - Atlantic**

***Veronica Pavon-Baker, Literacy Collier***

Presentation recommended for new teachers. The future workforce faces many critical challenges; adult education practitioners need to prepare students with the necessary skills. Teachers need to acquire knowledge of the changes and be ready to apply effective instructional strategies to ensure student academic success.

***English Literacy/ESOL***

## **Health Literacy Grant in Action - Bill France A**

***Lorraine Matos & Lynette Serrano, Seminole State College of Florida***

This interactive session derives from best practices utilized in our pre-requisite course, Healthy Living, to our Integrated Education and Training Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). Come here how using Staying Healthy curriculum, medical terminology, and community partnership provided a valuable foundation for our Adult Education students.

***English Literacy/ESOL | Health Literacy***

## **10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions**

## **Financial and Health Literacy for High Intermediate ESOL Students - Bill France A**

***Lucas Katz, Miami Dade College***

This session will cover how materials related to health and financial literacy have been incorporated into an ESOL 5 non-credit course. Other topics will include budgeting, time allocation, and project-based learning.

***ABE, GED, and Adult High School | English Literacy/ESOL***

## **Generative AI and Literacy Instruction: The Good, the Bad, and the Lovely - Dolphin (Computer Lab)**

***Talia Cotton, TRC Service Group, LLC***

The session will explore the evolving impact of generative AI on education. This session dives into AI's potential to enhance reading and writing instruction and concerns like academic integrity. Participants will engage in discussions and practical activities to explore the benefits and challenges of AI.

***ABE, GED, and Adult High School | Technology***

## **Ready STEPS Let's Go! - Bill France B**

***Pamela Jo Wilson & Yves Saint-Hillien, SDPBC Adult and Community Education***

Join me for a conversation on reducing test anxiety and preparing our adult ESOL learners for the rigor of the new CASAS STEPS assessment. Let's learn and grow together.

***English Literacy/ESOL***

## **Unlocking Growth: Level Up Instruction & Program Performance with the CASAS - Bill France C**

***Karla V. Galleguillos & Cristina Urena, CASAS***

Ready to boost learning gains? Discover how the CASAS Teacher Portal helps educators use real-time data to deliver feedback, generate reports, and collaborate with ease. Walk away with practical strategies to empower instruction, support students, and improve program performance.

***ABE, GED, and Adult High School | English Literacy/ESOL***

# Schedule - Thursday

10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. - Thursday, May 15 - Continued

## Preparing Students for a Changing Workforce - River

**Rholine Rose, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta**

In this session we will examine local unemployment data, review career opportunities, discuss the changing labor force and examine in demand skills. Session activities examine how an investment in human capital helps students achieve career goals and examine the benefits of networking for career advancement.

*Financial Literacy | Workforce Education/College and Career Readiness*

## Grant Writing Basics for Beginners - Atlantic

**Shannon Maitland, Problem Solving Plus & Laticia "Nikki" Boswell, Helping Hands Program of SouthCounty**

Join our beginning grant writing class to uncover the purpose and foundational skills essential for success. Discover your passion for funding important projects while gaining hands-on experience. This interactive course will equip you with the tools necessary to craft compelling grant proposals with confidence.

*Program Management | Technology*

## Closing General Session & Florida Literacy Awards Luncheon - Richard Petty Ballroom



11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

### Keynote Speaker - Tiffany Vause

Tiffany Vause is the Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Florida Ready to Work program, powered by WIN Learning. In this role, she assists organizations throughout the state with skilling-up the future workforce with the foundational employability skills training that employers have deemed a top priority. With 20 years of communications, relationship building, and project management experience, Tiffany is helping employers, education, and workforce development partners utilize the Florida Ready to Work program to train and identify qualified new hires and skill-up incumbent workers throughout the state.

## 2025 Florida Literacy Award Winners

Excellence in Education  
Osceola Library System

Flight for Freedom Award  
Dothy Naissance

Mary J. Brogan Leadership Award  
Joseph P. Cinney

Outstanding Community Partner  
YMCA of South Palm Beach County: DeVos-Blum Family YMCA

Outstanding Literacy Volunteer  
Deborah Bruning

This is a ticketed event. A limited number of additional tickets are available for purchase at the registration desk.





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# Conference Exhibitors

We invite you to visit our Conference Exhibitors located in Bill France A.

## American College of Education

### Table 1

American College of Education® (ACE) is an accredited, online college with programs in education, business, leadership, healthcare and nursing. Headquartered in Indianapolis, ACE offers over 60-degree programs for adult students, along with graduate-level certificate programs. Additionally, ACE is a Certified B Corporation.

## Aztec Software

### Table 2

Aztec has been improving the lives of adults through computer-delivered instruction since being founded by educators in 1980. Our industry-leading understanding of how adults learn via technology has created learning modules that meet the needs of all levels of adults.

## Cambridge University Press

### Table 3

We are part of the University of Cambridge, with a wealth of expertise in English language learning, curriculum, assessment, and teacher training. Working in partnership with you, we provide a coherent, evidence-based approach, end-to-end support, solutions, and advice for achieving greater educational outcomes.

## CASAS

### Table 4

The mission of CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems) is to assist adults functioning at or below a high school level in attaining the basic literacy skills to function effectively on the job, in the community, and in the family.

## Essential Education

### Table 5

We have helped over 2.5 million people reach their life goals with our award-winning online learning system and print materials. From comprehensive programs for low-level ABE to innovative preparation for HSE tests and core workforce readiness skills, have changed the way adults are being educated.

## Florida Literacy Coalition

### Table 6

Established in 1985, The Florida Literacy Coalition (FLC) promotes, supports and advocates the effective delivery of quality adult and family literacy services in Florida.

## GED Testing Service

### Table 7

GEDTS has helped over 20 million students achieve high school equivalency and pursue a brighter future by offering a program that develops skills that lead to success in higher education and career growth. We strive to empower all students to improve their lives through education.

## Harris Financial Coaching

### Table 8

Annette Harris, author of the “Mommy, Can You Teach Me About Money?” series, empowers families with financial literacy. As founder of Harris Financial Coaching, she provides practical guidance, making money management accessible and engaging for all ages.

## Imagine Learning

### Table 9

Every student is bursting with potential. That’s why Imagine Learning creates K–12 digital-first solutions fueled by insights from educators. We work alongside educators to support 15 million students, in over half of the districts nationwide, with school services and core, courseware, and supplemental solutions.

## Money Habitudes

### Table 10

Money Habitudes is a behavioral finance tool that helps students understand the “why” behind their money choices. Through interactive cards and digital assessments, it sparks meaningful conversations about habits, attitudes, and values. Educators use it to make financial education more engaging and impactful in classrooms.

## National Geographic Learning

### Table 11

At National Geographic Learning, our mission is to bring the world to the classroom and the classroom to life. Through our partnerships with National Geographic and TED, students develop the language and skills they need to be successful global citizens.

## Hidow INTL/Merchandise Plus LLC

### Table 12

HiDow digital pulse massagers re-educate, massage, build and stimulate muscles for everyone from your average joe to a professional athlete.

# Conference Exhibitors

We invite you to visit our Conference Exhibitors located in Bill France A.

## Townsend Press

### Table 13

Townsend Press is an independent publisher of acclaimed and affordable educational materials. We are committed to helping students develop the reading, writing, and language skills needed for success in the classroom and beyond.

## DRC/TABE

### Table 14

TABE® is the leading academic assessment in adult education. The new TABE 13&14 supports smarter hiring, training, and instruction by accurately measuring skills from basic through college levels—giving educators clear insights into each learner's strengths and areas for growth.

## ProLiteracy/New Readers Press

### Table 15

New Readers Press is the publishing division of ProLiteracy, the world's largest member organization of adult literacy programs. For over 50 years, we have been providing educators with instructional tools to help adult learners build the skills needed to succeed in the world today.

## Ellii

### Table 16

Ellii is a comprehensive digital platform that empowers English language teachers around the world with high-quality content and interactive courseware. Ellii can be easily integrated into an existing curriculum, or it can serve as the primary source of teaching materials for both in-person and online classes.



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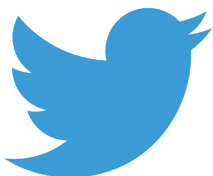
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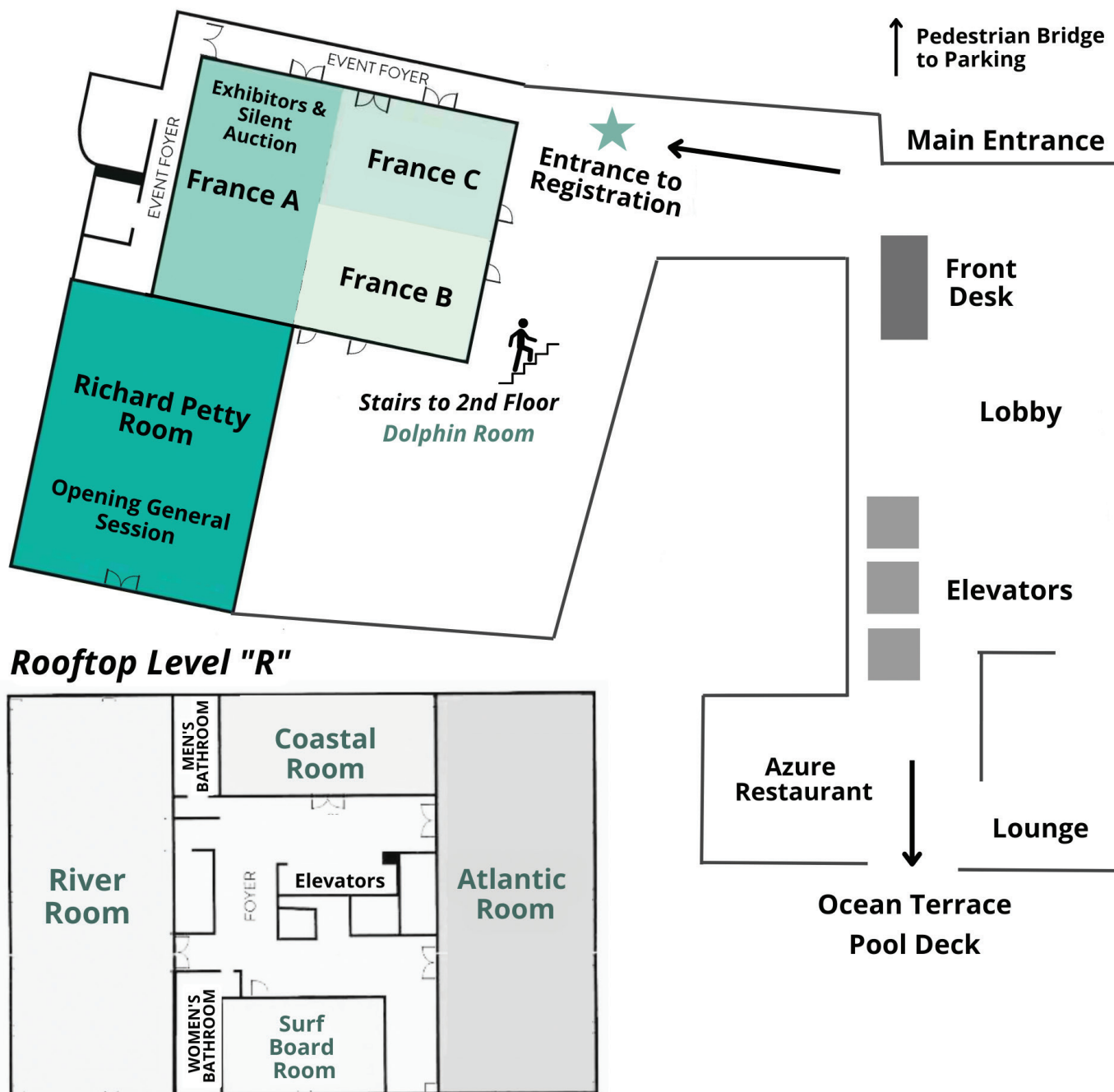
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# Hotel Map



## CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS - LOCATED IN BILL FRANCE A

<b>Table 1</b>	<b>American College of Education</b>
<b>Table 2</b>	<b>Aztec Software</b>
<b>Table 3</b>	<b>Cambridge University Press</b>
<b>Table 4</b>	<b>Casas</b>
<b>Table 5</b>	<b>Essential Education</b>
<b>Table 6</b>	<b>Florida Literacy Coalition</b>
<b>Table 7</b>	<b>GED Testing Service</b>
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