

# 2021 Florida Literacy Conference Session List

Wednesday, April 28

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## **Opening General Session**

Henry Mack, Chancellor, FLDOE Division of Career and Adult Education

Keynote Speaker: Brad Meltzer, #1 New York Times Bestselling Author

## **How to Increase Reading Skills in the Virtual Classroom Incorporating the CASAS Reading Standards**

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

Adult Education Programs now more than ever, need to keep students engaged and connected to ensure increased performance and student retention. We all understand remote learning is here to stay. Learn how the CASAS Reading Content Standards can provide guidance in differentiated instruction and lesson planning.

## **Self-Study Guide for Evidence-Based Practices in Adult Literacy Education**

*Kevin Smith, Senior Research Associate & Laurie Lee, Improving Literacy Research Alliance Manager, Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Southeast*

The authors will share an overview of the Self-Study Guide for Evidence-Based Practices in Adult Literacy Education tool. Participants will consider and discuss how to self-evaluate and improve important areas of program implementation.

## **Building Literacy Equality Through Working with Families: National Research into Family Literacy in Ireland**

*Dr. Ann Hegarty, Integrating Literacy Coordinator, Ireland's National Adult Literacy Agency*

This session will present evidence from recent national research into family literacy in Ireland. Participants will have an opportunity to learn about and discuss the guidelines for family literacy and promising practices which have emerged from this research.

## **Digital Literacy Skills that Count!**

*Karen Welch, Assistant Director of Sales, New Readers Press (Vendor Presentation)*

Digital literacy skills are essential for adult learners to participate both academically and in the workplace. Find out how Learning Upgrade's Digital Literacy App and the printed companion workbooks and Teacher Guide provide standards-based lessons that address a wide range of skills necessary for all levels of adult learners.

## **Plain Language to Communicate with Learners, Volunteers, and Community Members**

*Elizabeth Gaytan, Regional Literacy Consultant, Wisconsin Literacy, Inc.*

Using plain language saves time and money, motivates your audience to act quickly and accurately, and reduces time spent prompting, clarifying, and correcting errors. Through a blend of presentation and practical exercises, you will learn strategies you can use immediately to empower adult learners, motivate volunteers, and engage community members.

## **Integrated Education and Training (IET) Overview**

*Carol Bailey, Integrated Education and Training Coordinator, Florida Department of Education*

This session will review the requirements for implementing an IET program, models, a single set of learning objectives, and lesson plans.

## **GED Program Update: New Tools and Resources for Student Success**

*Brian Smith, Regional Manager, GED Testing Service (Vendor Presentation)*

This session will take a comprehensive look at the GED program and highlight new resources and best practices for adult educators. We will also delve into the latest research on GED test-taker outcomes and explore new tools for adult educators to better run their programs.

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### **Improving Equity: Expanding Adult Education Programs that Serve Immigrant Parents**

*Jacob Hofstetter, Associate Policy Analyst, Migration Policy Institute*

Long-standing disparities are undermining the economic mobility and integration of immigrant parents as well as their children's prospects for success. Join us to learn about findings from an analysis of barriers facing many immigrant parents and discussion of ways to expand program equity and access.

### **IPDAE 101**

*June Rall, Executive Director and Tamara Serrano, Training, and Instructional Design Facilitator, IPDAE*

This session will provide an overview of all the data driven resources and trainings IPDAE has to offer. We will dive in and navigate our website, highlight resources, update you on upcoming trainings and webinars and answer some of the most asked technical questions about our site.

### **Tutor Ready Writing Videos: A Free Resource for Literacy Programs**

*Kathy St. John, Adult Literacy Consultant, Literacyworks (CA)*

Tutor Ready Writing Videos provide the information tutors, staff, and learners are looking for about how best to teach and learn about writing at all levels and for all purposes. The videos feature adult literacy tutors and learners and are available for free on YouTube.

### **Applied Digital Skills: Google's Free Digital Literacy Curriculum**

*Amanda Taylor, Special Project Manager, EdTech Team*

Applied Digital Skills is part of the Grow with Google initiative, which aims to help everyone across America access the best of Google's training and tools to grow their skills, careers, and businesses. Applied Digital Skills is a free, project-based curriculum that equips your learners with practical tech skills, including how to make create a resume, do online research, work with spreadsheets, and more!

Through unique challenges and collaborative lessons, your learners will engage in real-life problem-solving activities that call upon their creativity and strengthen their knowledge and familiarity of the Google Workspace apps. In this session, you will get an overview of the curriculum and brainstorm ways to personalize it for your unique teaching role. Get ready to be inspired!

### **Virtual Roundtable Discussions**

Time to network and share. Join us for a half hour open discussion (via zoom breakout rooms) on one of the following topics, 1) adult learner involvement and leadership, 2) student retention and persistence, 3) FLDOE's new adult education request for applications (RFA), and 4) engaging students through distance learning.

## **Thursday, April 29**

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### **Read the Label: Real-World Applications of Reading**

*Jennifer Campbell, Teacher, Suwannee Virtual School*

Bring excitement to your classroom through interactive, engaging activities. Students will learn that reading is essential for life. Introduce real-world applications of reading by using food labels, manuals, brochures, cookbooks, and more. Experience this interdisciplinary approach and receive a link to materials for classroom implementation.

### **Teaching Information Literacy Through a Social Justice Lens**

*Dawn Betts-Green, Florida State University, Florida State University*

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Information literacy and social justice are vital pieces of education but are often unevenly provided. Information literacy courses are perfectly situated to provide both types of education for students. This presentation demonstrates how they can be woven together in order to promote an integrated, well-rounded, and complex curriculum.

### **Let's Speak English: Teaching English Conversation Skills**

*Jan Demers, Conversation Class Leader, Literacy Council of Upper Pinellas*

What are the building blocks of conversation? How does culture affect communication? How does one facilitate a conversation with a range of English speakers? These are a few of the questions participants will consider as they learn about best practices, explore successful activities and resources.

### **Preparing Adults for the Workplace Through Learning Groups**

*Todd Evans, Director of Professional Development, ProLiteracy*

Do you serve adults who want to transition from unsatisfying jobs to rewarding careers? Come learn how to facilitate learning groups using ProLiteracy's free online Workforce Development Curriculum to help adults set career goals, write resumes, ace their interviews, and communicate effectively in their new careers.

### **No Frills Money Skills: Successful Strategies as the World Recovers**

*Lesley Mace, Sr. Outreach Advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta--Jacksonville Branch*

COVID-19 brought not only health concerns, but also financial challenges and an economic recession. Discover tips and resources to improve money habits and financial literacy in any season, including the "Big Three" financial literacy test, personal finance quests, infographics, and insights into the millionaire mind.

### **FLDOE Update**

*Lisa Williams, Program Specialist IV & Phil Anderson, Program Specialist IV, Florida Department of Education*

In this session, the Florida Department of Education will present updates on the following areas: ABE, ESOL, GED curriculum, TABE and CASAS assessment policies, including remote testing. Additional information will be provided on the 2021/2022 Grant RFA.

### **Adult New Reader Books: A Free Online Resource**

*Marilyn Dippell, Tutor Trainer, Read Santa Clara (CA) & Kathy St. John, Adult Literacy Consultant, Literacyworks (CA)*

Learn how Read Santa Clara created 21 original Adult New Reader books that are available for free online. Written for low/intermediate learners, they support independent reading with photos on each page. Several of the books contain "Tutor Tips" for tutors to use in lesson planning.

### **TABE 11/12 Academy--Charting the Course to HSE Success**

*Stephanie Eichner, Sales Representative, Essential Education (Vendor Presentation)*

Essential Education offers a number of resources to support your instructional efforts in the ABE classroom. TABE 11/12 Academy and our ABE Essentials workbooks offer a true blended learning experience for the adult learner. Please join us to learn more...and samples will be provided, too!

### **Fostering Adult Literacy Through Personalization**

*Rick Trietman, Adobe; Kathy Crowley and Marjorie Jordan, Readability Matters; Ben Sawyer, University of Central Florida*

(Description Coming Soon)

## **FLC Annual Meeting and Florida Literacy Awards**

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Friday, April 30

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## **National Research on Basic Skills Correctional Education**

*Margaret Patterson, Senior Researcher, Research Allies for Lifelong Learning*

This interactive session shares new national research on basic skills in corrections. Findings are shared on recidivism and incarcerated adult participation in basic skills and HSE from PIAAC and state NRS data. Findings include how correctional education participation relates to recidivism. Educators will discuss recommendations from findings in group breakouts.

## **U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Update**

*Adonia Simpson, Director, Family Defense Program AI Justice & Vesna Bosnik, Community Relations Officer, USCIS*  
(Description Coming Soon)

## **Using Color Coding to Deconstruct Text to Improve Comprehension**

*Iris Strunc, Professor of Reading, Northwest Florida State College*

Engaging struggling readers in text is difficult. Color coding encourages them to read with a purpose and make choices about the importance of information they read. In this workshop, attendees will use color to deconstruct passages, so learners can analyze text to improve their comprehension.

## **Cultivating Adult Learner Voice through Leadership**

*Margaret Patterson, Senior Researcher, Research Allies for Lifelong Learning*

For adult learners, finding their voice can be difficult. This session shares evaluation findings on the connection of adult learner leadership training with cultivating learner voice. Participants will interact on ways to support learners in developing voice. Recommendations are offered on building relationships, fostering collaboration, and encouraging voice through activities.

## **Teaching Grammar and Making Effective Corrections with Adult ELLs**

*Kira Ross, Partner Services Manager, Intercambio Uniting Communities (Vendor Presentation)*

Teaching grammar can be fun and interactive! In this workshop, we will look at grammar structures, and explore engaging activities and strategies to reinforce grammatical understanding. Additionally, we will observe three techniques for making corrections that build confidence and ignite further curiosity in your students.

## **Health Online: Finding Information You Can Trust**

*Caitlyn Mowatt, Project Manager, Wisconsin Health Literacy*

This program is designed to explore the topic of digital health literacy. During this interactive workshop, participants learn how to navigate and feel confident searching for health information online and how to educate others to find this information.