

RI Adult Education Conference Schedule: September 26, 2016 at NEIT in East Greenwich

8:30-9	Breakfast and Conference Check-In & Late Registration							
9 – 10:30	Talking the Talk with Employers – Part 1 Tyla Pimentel, Shemika Moore & Liz Hanke	Let’s Figure It Out Carol Altreuter	Building Teacher Communities through the Common Core Standards Janet Lopes Neila Healy & Ed Desrosier	Why Performance Assessments Matter Michael Brownstein	Curriculum Challenges – Digital Literacy for staff, ELLs, low literacy and older students Larry Britt	ELL to ELL: English Perspective (a Learner Roundtable) Melinda Goncalves	How Our Tutors Partner with Your Teachers for Student Success Elizabeth McDowell & Stan Brown	Coaching for Career Pathways: Standards, Tools and Support Kristen McKenna
10:30-10:45	Break							
10:45 – 12:15	Talking the Talk with Employers – Part 2 Tyla Pimentel & Meaggan Ward	Learning Differences in Adult Education – Screening and Resources for Diagnosis in RI Beatrice McGeoch	Blended Learning for the Adult Education Teacher or Tutor David Rosen	Introduction to Assessment Literacy: Beyond Standardized Tests Kathleen Curran	Transitions to College and Careers: Embedding Components Of the Transitions Model (Practitioner Panel) Jane May	Voter Education Registration and Action (VERA) Patricia Bellart	Popular Education in Action Cristina Cabrera	The Digital Citizen: Technology in & out of the classroom Keri Marion
12:15-1:15	Lunch							
1:30 – 2:30	“ESOL Good” Bringing Music to Life in Your Classroom David Buchalter	Financial Literacy, Resources, Savings Strategies, And Protection of Wealth For You and Your Students Dr. Albert Alba	Impact of Domestic Violence in Immigrant Victims: Identifying, assisting & referring the most vulnerable victims of domestic violence Gloria Greenfield	Literacy Discussion Circle Lisa Clark	Job Readiness Skills – Sharing Best Practices and Resources Mev Miller	RI Resource Hub Kristen McKenna	The Economic and Social Impact of Adult Education in RI DJ Cratty & Jill Holloway	Customized Labor Market Information (LMI) for Adult Education Kate Greewell, Donna Murray & Robin Adams
2:45-3:45	Q & A with RIDE Staff							

Workshop Descriptions are in the Following Pages

Talking the Talk with Employers- Part I**Tyla Pimentel, Shemika Moore & Liz Hanke**

The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is moving adult education programs to partner closely with employers to prepare learners for success in employment. Dorcas International Institute of RI and Genesis Center are presently working with a number of employers who provide their programs with feedback regarding employment needs, as well as internships and employment prospects for adult learners. In this interactive workshop, Genesis Workforce Coordinator Liz Hanke and DIIRI Employer Relations & Retention Developer Shemika Moore will share some of their challenges and successes with working with employers. Participants will also have the opportunity to strategize and share ideas for employer engagement. Topics will include: - How to approach employers - How to pitch your learners to employers - "Do's" and "Dont's" for working with employers - Preparing learners for success in work - Following up on employed learners - Partnership expectations Participants are encouraged to bring their own topics and questions!

Shemika Moore: Employer Relations and Retention Developer, Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island. Her focus is to develop lasting relationships with employers.

Elizabeth Hanke: Workforce Coordinator, Genesis Center. Liz works directly with many local employers to facilitate internships and identify employment opportunities for Genesis learners.

Let's Figure it Out**Carol Altreuter**

Come ready to sample activities and teaching strategies designed to promote critical thinking, encourage persistence, and spark creativity. Exercises will involve math and science subject matter, but can be adapted to other content areas.. You will leave with a few easy-to-make management tools, website resources, and a Math Tool Kit. Since learning is best accomplished in a non-threatening environment, we'll explore how to use routines to create a "mistakes are expected and valued" atmosphere. We will begin by solving a Math Murder Mystery. Time to discuss the relevance of these activities and strategies to multilevel classrooms will be part of the workshop.

Carol Altreuter's enthusiasm for working with ABE/ASE learners for over 30 years continues. She especially enjoys using activities which encourage active participation, are non-threatening, involve vocabulary development, and promote critical thinking.

Building Teacher Communities through the Common Core Standards**Janet Lopes, Neila Healy & Ed Desrosier**

Adult education professionals need to collaborate more in order to meet the needs of the twenty-first century learner. Building Professional Learning Communities (PLC) is essential to teaching differently; thereby, enhancing curriculum, while encouraging stronger communication with each other. In this workshop we will be discussing teaching smarter strategies and introducing interdisciplinary lessons, teaching methodologies and integrating science as an academic foundation. The principle of goal-oriented Backwards Design will stress the importance of prior knowledge, content-based instruction, critical thinking, and the inter-connectedness of all academic disciplines. Communities of Practice (COP), Common Planning Time (CPT), and effective staff meetings are some of the platforms for information sharing among adult education professionals that will be discussed. Teacher collaboration through effective communication is the essential key to successful student and program outcomes. The Common Core Standard is the thread which binds us all together.

Janet Lopes has over ten years' experience in adult education, GED, NEDP, Transition To College, and Accuplacer Prep at DIIRI. She is presently employed by Pawtucket Adult Education Program.

Neila Healy has been an adult basic education instructor for the Pawtucket School Department for the past ten years. She currently teaches ABE and Computer Science.

Ed Derosier has ten years of experience in adult education and is presently employed by DIIRI as an ABE instructor. He also works as a Math Coach at CCRI.

Why Performance Assessments Matter**Michael Brownstein**

In order to help adult learners develop the skills, knowledge and dispositions necessary to navigate the college, career and life challenges in the 21st century, instructional practice and program design needs to change. This will require a shift in how learning occurs in the classroom. Teachers need to become the facilitators of their students' learner process. Programs also need to be designed to support students as they take greater ownership for their learning. Creating

high quality performance assessments help leverage this change. Performance assessments are open-ended tasks that require students to apply what they know and are able to do through a multi-step process, which results in an original product, performance or solution. In this session, participants will learn about designing and implementing performance assessment, and have practice examining the elements of exemplary ones.

Michael Brownstein provides professional development and tools for building assessment literacy that enable teachers, administrators, and policy makers to create and implement performance assessment systems.

Curriculum Challenges - Digital Literacy for staff, ELLs, low literacy and older students

Larry Britt

Would you like some ideas and resources that could help your staff, administrators and volunteers obtain Northstar Digital Literacy Certifications that meet RIDE requirements? Are you ready to teach your students the same skills that you're encouraged to have? At this session we'll talk about, demonstrate and have participants review solutions that address the challenges of resistance and remediation for practitioners and staff. We'll also talk about and review curricula that are aligned to the Northstar standards. The discussion will include strategies and exploration of online resources that specifically address the Information Literacy needs of ELLs, low literacy learners and those that may be latecomers to the information age. The session will end with a short Q & A with a Digital Literacy Corps member. Teaching beginner computer classes is exhausting alone. Corps members earn a modest stipend for assisting in beginner computer classes. Simultaneously, they improve their own computer skills, gain work experience in the United States and greatly increase their self-confidence.

Larry Britt is a Technology Specialist and Teacher at RI Family Literacy, the RI Statewide Coordinator and Proctor Trainer for Northstar and member of the RI Adult Education Technology Advisory Committee.

ELL to ELL: English Perspective (Learner Roundtable)

Melinda Goncalves

Learning English as another language has many benefits and challenges that vary from language to language. In this focus group, my participants and I will be discussing our personal English experiences. The goal is to have English Language Learners participate in conversations relative to their everyday lives while those interested, may learn how to actively engage or relate to the English Language Learner. As an ELL myself, I understand the obstacles and challenges of immigrants and their children. A primary objective of an ELL classroom is to promote independent learning. I aim to use my experience to help empower ELLs to become educated in a country where the language is not spoken in their mother tongue. In turn, the students will gain a sense of independence, which can break the cycle of immigrant survival and culture shocks.

Melinda Goncalves is an instructor from Pawtucket Adult Education and in this capacity has taught all levels of ELL since 2006.

How Our Tutors Partner With Your Teachers for Student Success

Elizabeth McDowell & Stan Brown

the power of individualized instruction; quick assessments that give us important information about our students' needs; why it's important to train and support tutors.

Coaching for Career Pathways: Standards, Tools and Support

Kristen McKenna

This workshop is an overview of the GWB Career Pathways work in development to support the role of career counselors, advisers and coaches who work with clients and students around the state. It will focus on Career coaching standards, a demo of an online Career coaching tool and the work being done in the Career Coaching Subcommittee of the GWB Career Pathways Advisory Committee. The workshop will consist of presentation, demonstration and discussion.

Kristen McKenna has directed Adult Education programs for 15 years. Currently, she is the GWB Career Pathways Manager. She has a M.Ed. from Eastern Nazarene College.

10:30-10:45 am

Break

Talking the Talk with Employers- Part II**Tyla Pimentel & Meaggen Ward**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is moving adult education programs to partner closely with employers in order to prepare learners for success in employment. Join a group of local employers from different industries, including healthcare, hospitality, customer service, security, and more, for a roundtable discussion that will explore the subject of working with employers. Hear directly from local managers about how to approach employers, maintain strong relationships, understand their needs and priorities, and receive feedback on other employer-related questions or ideas. Gain experience talking with employers in a low-pressure environment with the opportunity for immediate feedback. Time has been built in following the discussion to provide participants with the opportunity to mingle with the featured employers for networking opportunities and to continue with a one-on-one conversation.

This roundtable will be facilitated by Meaggen Ward (Dorcas International Institute of RI) and Tyla Pimentel (Genesis Center).

Learning Differences in Adult Education - Screening and Resources for Diagnosis in RI**Beatrice McGeoch**

Instructor-oriented workshop will review recommended best practice for screening learners (ELL, ABE and ASE) for LD and for when and how to encourage learners to seek formal assessment. Presenter will also give picture of network of resources currently available in RI and answer questions.

Beatrice McGeoch has taught in RI Adult and Secondary Ed classrooms for 15+ years. She is currently the RIDE Office of Multiple Pathways AE LD Specialist.

Blended Learning for the Adult Education Teacher or Tutor**David Rosen**

We will discuss what blended learning is; why it can be useful to students, teachers and programs, including what researchers have found; how teachers and tutors are using blended learning in adult basic education (including ESOL/ESL); and how to address issues concerning student access to technology. We will look at and discuss models that integrate face-to-face and online learning, both "turn-key" models that provide full content, with software for class registration, instruction, assessment and progress reports; and build-it-yourself models providing a platform for teachers to align what happens in class with online assignments, flipped learning presentations, and supplementary instruction. Participants will receive a link to a recently-published free online guide by the presenter, Blended Learning for the Adult Education Classroom.

David Rosen is the moderator the LINCS national Technology and Learning Community of Practice, and the author of Blended Learning for the Adult Education Classroom.

Introduction to Assessment Literacy: Beyond Standardized Tests**Kathleen Curran**

Introduction to Assessment Literacy: Beyond Standardized Tests This workshop will explore all aspects of assessment and how assessment works to promote adult student engagement and how to improve learning outcomes. The workshop will: • Define and distinguish between the various methods of assessment. • Explore strategies for embedded formative assessment that work best for adult learners. • Provide formative assessment tools. • Discuss how to use assessment strategies to personalize adult student learning? • Introduce metacognition as a guide for students to self-assess and take ownership of learning

Kathleen Curran is a former special education elementary school teacher and literacy specialist where she taught reading, and writing to special needs students in language-based classroom settings and in general education inclusion classrooms for the past 20 years. She received a BA in Psychology from the University of Rhode Island and a M.A. in Literacy and Special Education from Lesley University. Her current interests and experiences include coaching AE teachers and professionals in implementing effective evidence-based practices in instruction and assessment. She has helped facilitate Professional Development courses, participated in national webinars on formative assessment, and has recently presented at several statewide national conferences.

Transitions to College and Careers: Embedded Components Of the Transitions Model (Practitioner Panel)**Jane May**

The Rhode Island Transition to College and Careers Initiative is a collaborative effort of the Rhode Island Office of Adult Education and six Rhode Island adult education agencies including: Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center, Community College of RI, Dorcas International Institute of RI, Education Exchange, RI Regional Adult Learning (RIRAL), and Westbay Community Action. The purpose of the Initiative is to support adult learners as they transition to post-secondary education or training. This panel discussion will include an overview of the essential components of a transition to college and careers program. Attendees will

learn about the opportunities for post-secondary preparation available through the RI Transition to College and Careers Initiative as well as strategies for incorporating key transition components in a wide variety of adult education settings.

Jane May, Ph. D. has worked with the *RI Transition to College and Careers Initiative* for seven years. Jane completed a doctoral degree in education with a focus on the adult learner. In addition, Jane is a certified reading specialist with experience teaching literacy to students in K-adult. As the coordinator for the *RI Transition to College and Careers Initiative* Jane advocates for access to postsecondary education for RI adult learners.

Voter Education Registration and Action (VERA)

Patricia Bellart

This workshop invites you to learn more about the non-partisan Voter Education, Registration, and Action (VERA) campaign aimed at mobilizing adult literacy learners and program staff to vote in the 2016 elections and become advocates for themselves and Adult Education. The workshop will provide classroom strategies and program practices for engaging adults in the democratic process. Participants will be introduced to an online Voter's Guide for Adult Students based on hot topic questions from adult students from New England.

Patricia Bellart from RIRAL is the coordinator of VERA activities for Rhode Island.

Popular Education in Action

Cristina Cabrera

In this workshop you will experience and participate in a live popular education classroom based on Paulo Freire's principles. Paulo Freire was a Brazilian educator who pushed other educators to rethink their role in education, language acquisition and social change. During this session, you will be able to elicit (unit) themes from class participants, and you will be able to practice some of the popular education tools to help develop class activities. We hope that you will be able to take these back to your own classrooms and implement them successfully!

Cristina has been practicing popular education based on Paulo Freire's principles since 2007, and it has made a huge difference in language acquisition and in creating meaningful social change.

The Digital Citizen: Technology in & out of classroom

Keri Marion

Adult learners have always been faced with the challenge of blending yesterday's skills with today's technology, and the 21st century continues to prove this maxim. Critical thinking takes a more prominent role in digital citizenship, as more and more information is skewed to present one-sided coercion to buy products or ideas. In the American landscape, we find that "political correctness" has been sold as an idea of repression, when, in fact, a critical thinker can still express his ideas without being offensive. We, therefore, have two objectives in the modern classroom: a) teach effective communication skills that express ideas clearly and objectively, and b) understand how technology plays a role in that communication today. Both of these primary skills are necessary for adult education, as taking tests increasingly require objective understanding and response to materials with tact and timeliness. We'll discuss some strategies to help illustrate the usefulness and benefits of making a digital citizen through an evolving, independent learner.

Keri Marion is a GED and ESL instructor for Pawtucket Adult Education where she has taught since 2010.

12:15-1:15

Lunch

1:30-2:30 pm

Session Three:

"ESOL Good": Bringing Music to Life in Your Classroom

David S. Buchalter

"ESOL Good": Bringing Music to Life in Your Classroom Happy students translate into healthy attendance records. Music in the classroom adds an edifying and entertaining element to the educational experience of ESOL learners--and those who teach them. Any educator can maximize student engagement in a way that is intellectually stimulating and spiritually invigorating! Participants will benefit from and contribute to this workshop by exploring the theory and practice of using cloze exercises to enhance reading, writing, speaking and especially listening skills, in a way that is naturally differentiated to suit the needs of learners of every ability level. Come with your ears, leave with ideas.

David Buchalter has taught English in Beijing, China, at Quinsigamond Community College, at the University of Arizona. He teaches ESOL at Genesis Center in Providence Rhode Island.

Financial Literacy, Resources, Savings Strategies, And Protection of Wealth For You And Your Students

Albert Alba

What financial literacy programs are available for your classroom? What on line financial resources are available free of charge? This presentation will provide valuable resources for your adult students that can help them consider educational programming beyond their GED. The presentation will discuss strategies from investing early in life, budgeting, restructuring your investments later in life, to valuable strategies to protect your hard earned wealth later in life. Simple cost savings strategies will be discussed that can save you thousands of dollars from purchasing a car to choosing the terms of your mortgage. Financial literacy pamphlets and resources that can be used in class will be provided. If you attend this presentation, the cost saving strategies will save you much more than your price of admission to the conference.

Dr. Albert Alba has been teaching adult education for 27 years. His interests are in contextualized instruction. Dr. Alba has also been involved with the RI Jumpstart to Financial Literacy program that is offered through the State of Rhode Island.

Impact of Domestic Violence in Immigrant Victims: identifying, assisting and referring the most vulnerable victims

Gloria Greenfield

In addition to the complex dynamics of domestic violence, being an immigrant and/or the lack of immigration status results in another barrier to leaving abusive relationship. Culture, immigration status and even language barriers present challenges for victims. This training will provide an overview of some of the challenges faced by immigrant victims of domestic violence, recommendations when serving immigrant victims of DV and an overview of immigration benefits to victims of domestic violence.

Manager of Community Programs and BIA Accredited Representative, Gloria runs the Immigration Advocacy program at Sojourner House since June of 2012.

Literacy Discussion Circle

Lisa Clark

This workshop is for people who are teaching or who want to teach adults who have low or no formal education in their first language(s) and are learning English. This is a facilitated discussion, so participants are encouraged to bring favorite materials or lesson ideas to share as well as questions to discuss with the group. Suggested topics include the specific needs of literacy learners, assessment and placement, literacy classes vs. integrating learners into multilevel classes, Language Experience Approach, phonics/phonemic awareness, and class projects. Both new and experienced teachers are welcome.

Lisa Clark is currently the Literacy Coordinator at the East Providence Library. She started teaching literacy in 1999 and is still figuring it out.

Job Readiness Skills - Sharing Best Practices and Resources

Mev Miller

This workshop is more of a share discussion focused on job readiness or life (soft) skills (or whatever you call it)! What resources do you use to support students to get and keep a job, especially if you are working in a job training program? Do you use a set curriculum? Are there books, resources, or website tools you've found especially useful? Do you prioritize specific topics? Skills? Are responsibilities spread among staff? Do you use guest presenters? This session encourages us to learn from each other. Come prepared to share your favorite materials and learn from each other.

Mev Miller, Ed.D. is the Life Skills Manager for the Community Kitchen Program at the RI Community Food Bank. She was also the founder of WE LEARN.

RI Resource Hub

Kristen McKenna

The workshop will explore in depth the newly redesigned RI Resource Hub. Participants will be able to explore the site in a guided session. The site demonstration and practice session will focus on the inventory of programs and the career coaching tool as well as other features.

Kristen McKenna has directed Adult Education programs for 15 years. Currently, she is the GWB Career Pathways Manager. She has a M.Ed. from Eastern Nazarene College.

The Economic and Social Impact of Adult Education Programs in Rhode Island**DJ Cratty & Jill Holloway**

This presentation reports the findings of a recent study conducted by national adult education researcher Stephen Reder, in collaboration with the Providence Public Library and West Bay Collaborative, and funded by the Joint Research Initiative of RIDE and RIOPC. In this study, data from various state agencies are linked to the adult education data, allowing the trajectory of individuals to be mapped from secondary school through to any postsecondary education and into the workforce. A range of economic and social outcomes are then compared for RI adult education program participants relative to similar RI adults who did not participate in the state's adult education programs. These outcomes are discussed in the context of Dr. Reder's findings in other regions as well as the different components and supports of the adult education programs in RI.

Dorothyjean Cratty is an economist on the RIDE/RIOPC Joint Research Initiative Grants researcher/practitioner team studying Rhode Island adult education student supports and outcomes.

Jill Holloway has been the Director of the RI Adult Education Professional Development Center since 2008

Customized Labor Market Information (LMI) for Adult Education**Kate Greenwell, Donna Murray & Robin Adams**

Presenters will identify tips and shortcuts for strategically using Labor Market Information specifically for workforce planning by Adult Education practitioners

Donna Murray and Kathleen Greenwell (RI DLT) have prepared and presented customized labor market reports for various audiences. They have many years of experience collecting, analyzing and presenting workforce data.

Robin Adams (RI PDCenter) has worked with RI practitioners for 15 years offering tips and strategies for integrating and embedding relevant workforce standards, expectations and practices into adult literacy programs and services.