

St. Paul/Minneapolis Spring Regional Conference “Serving Urban Learners” – Friday, February 13, 2009

Session I

Keynote Follow-up (Grand Hall, 2nd floor)

Presenter: Julie Strawn

Intended Audience: General

Teaching Pronunciation (Classroom A, 2nd floor)

This session will provide teachers with concrete ways to explicitly teach pronunciation to Intermediate and Advanced ELLs from different language backgrounds.

Presenter: Marlene Schoenburg, Accent Expert

Intended Audience: ELL Instructors

CD Resource for Work-focused (or general) ESL Classes (Conference Room B300, 3rd floor)

Through an MLC technology mini-grant, Bethany Gustafson created a resource for work-focused ESL classes. The project is video footage of employees doing 6 entry-level jobs. The videos are accompanied by text and sound describing what the worker is doing. Learners see a housekeeper cleaning an actual hotel room, a prep cook working, packaging workers driving forklifts, and more. Participants in the session will receive a copy of the video files and a list of great ideas for classroom use at multiple levels. The resource can also be copied for program use! Come and find out about this one-of-a-kind "real-life" work resource.

Presenter: Bethany Gustafson, ELL Instructor

Intended Audience: ELL Instructors

Technology Panel (New Orleans Room, 3rd floor)

This session will be an opportunity for participants to have their technology questions answered by a panel of presenters with experience using various educational technologies. Two of the panel facilitators are computer instructors and two are classroom teachers who regularly use technology to further classroom learning.

Presenters: Gina Jarvi & Stephanie Sommers, Minneapolis ABE and Adam Kieffer & DJ Dahl, Hubbs Center

Intended Audience: All Instructors, at all levels

Math Preparation for Accuplacer (Classroom B, 2nd floor)

We will discuss what the Accuplacer expects the students to understand for the math test. I will show an example of an online Accuplacer quiz that will be available soon. We may also discuss some games that can be used to help the students warm up their mathematical thinking.

Presenter: James (Andy) Albee, ABE Math Instructor

Intended Audience: ABE & GED Instructors

Working with Multiple Cultures of Mind: How stages of adult psychological development shape motivation and learning (Executive Dining Room, 3rd floor)

Most ABE and ESOL practitioners appreciate the importance of accommodating different individual and cultural learning styles. Most of us have also seen activities ‘click’ with some learners and not with others, despite comparable English proficiencies. Learn how to meet learners not only at their language-learning edge, but at their meaning-making edge.

Presenter: Jennifer Ouellette, ELL Instructor

Intended Audience: ELL Instructors

Resources for CASAS Life and Work: How to prepare your learners (Training Center, 1st floor)

Ease the transition to CASAS Life and Work (reading)! Participants will have an opportunity to preview CASAS-ready lesson plans available online and learn about an effective framework within which to teach real-life reading skills while also equipping learners for testing. Participants will collaborate to create a new CASAS Reading lesson plan for use in their classrooms.

Presenters: Suzanne McCurdy, Instructional Support Consultant & Nancy Bjorn Nordeen, ELL Instructor

Intended Audience: ELL Instructors

Lunch:

“America’s Perfect Storm” presented by Anne Marie Leland, State Program Administrator, MN DEED and policy information from Barry Shaffer, State ABE Director

Session II

Refugee and Immigrant Adult Learners: The Effect of Trauma, Grief, and Displacement (Grand Hall, 2nd floor)

This presentation discusses the special learning needs of the Adult Refugee/Immigrant learner. The role of trauma, resulting from war, deprivation, and displacement, is broadly discussed in the context of acculturation, and specifically discussed in terms of English language acquisition. How brain functioning is affected by trauma and related losses; the common mental illnesses that result; and how these illnesses might manifest in the classroom are explored. Suggestions for managing persons with trauma-related illnesses are discussed.

Presenter: Elizabeth Rogers, Doctor of Nursing Practice and psychiatric nurse practitioner at the Community University Health Care Center, part of the University of MN. She holds the position of Director of Psychiatry and Therapy.

Intended Audience: General

Strategies and Activities for Improving Reading Comprehension (Training Center, 1st floor)

In this workshop, we will share and demonstrate a variety of in-class techniques and activities to improve reading skills and comprehension for beginning and intermediate ABE/ESOL learners. Participants will learn and practice activities for before, during, and after the reading task, building test-taking strategies with paragraph-level texts, and increasing fluency and comprehension through extensive reading.

Presenters: Celeste Mazur, ESOL and Reading Instructor & Jennie Sartain, Reading Instructor (St. Paul College)

Intended Audience: ELL Instructors

Post-Secondary Reading Preparation (Classroom A, 2nd floor)

This session will address specific reading preparation for students planning to move into post-secondary education at a community or technical college. Topics addressed will be tips for preparing ABE students for the Accuplacer reading test, developing foundational and advanced developmental reading skills and teaching strategic reading. The presenter brings the perspective of both an ABE reading teacher and a Hennepin Technical College developmental reading instructor.

Presenter: Kristine Kelly, ABE Reading/Writing Instructor and Developmental English Adjunct at Hennepin Technical College

Intended Audience: ABE & GED Instructors

Incorporating Life-skills Math into English Lessons (Classroom B, 2nd floor)

We will share some of the work we've done integrating math into our ESL classes as well as provide you some time to generate your own ideas for math lessons that could be incorporated into your pre-existing units being taught. In addition, we will share information about our proposed life-skills math website for intermediate level ELLs and teachers.

Presenters: Kate Mueller, ELL Instructor & Nikki Carson-Padilla, ELL Instructor

Intended Audience: ELL Instructors

Sustainable Resource Development for ABE Staff (New Orleans Room, 3rd floor)

Are you looking for grants and resources for your ABE class or program? Learn creative, sustainable ways to support your class activities.

Presenter: Colleen Sanders, Community Programs Manager

Intended Audience: General

Teaching Writing to Grow On (Executive Dining Room, 3rd floor)

Our learners need to learn how to compose text that is appropriate for the writing tasks they encounter in the workplace, whether the tasks are done on a computer or notepad. In this session, we will look at examples for the types of writing found in the workplace, consider purpose and audience, and demonstrate a variety of classroom activities to support the teaching of writing. Participants will analyze different types of writing and propose ways to incorporate higher-level writing skills into even simple writing tasks so that learners are prepared to move in the direction of job advancement or college courses.

Presenter: Diane Pecoraro, ABE/ESL Consultant

Intended Audience: ELL Instructors

Supported Distance Learning with Learner Web (Conference Room B300, 3rd floor)

This session will provide an overview of the Learner Web, a national demonstration project of which the St. Paul Community Literacy Consortium is a regional partner. The Learner Web is a new platform for developing and delivering structured and supported distance learning and self-study materials for adult learners. During this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to "test drive" the Learner Web using the "Become a U.S. Citizen" learning plan.

Presenters: Susan Wetenkamp-Brandt, Educational Technology Trainer & Jenifer Vanek, Learner Web Consultant

Intended Audience: All Instructors