Conference Schedule

TUESDAY, August 15
12:00 p.m.  Pre-conference Registration opens
1:30-7:30 p.m.  ABE Foundations Pre-conference
3:30-7:30 p.m.  CCRS Foundations Pre-conference

WEDNESDAY, August 16
7:15 a.m.  Pre-conference breakfast buffet
8:15-11:45 a.m.  Pre-conference sessions
11:00 a.m.  Registration opens
12:00 p.m.  Lunch
12:30 p.m.  Welcome/Opening Remarks
12:45-1:45 p.m.  Keynote
1:45-2:00 p.m.  Break
2:00-3:30 p.m.  Concurrent Session #1
3:30-4:00 p.m.  Break & Vendor Fair
4:00-5:30 p.m.  Concurrent Session #2
6:00 p.m.  Wood Painting
6:30 p.m.  Summertime by George!
8:00 p.m.  BINGO

THURSDAY, August 17
6:15 a.m.  Yoga
7:30 a.m.  Vendor Fair opens
7:30-8:30 a.m.  Breakfast & Vendor Fair
8:30-9:15 a.m.  Literacy Action Network Annual Meeting & MN ABE Update
               (Vendor Fair closed during meeting)
9:30-11:00 a.m.  Concurrent Session #3
11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  Concurrent Session #4
12:00-1:15 p.m.  Lunch & ABE Update
1:15-2:00 p.m.  Poster Session & Vendor Fair
2:15 p.m.  Vendor Fair closes
2:15-3:45 p.m.  Concurrent Session #5
3:45 p.m.  Coffee & Cookie Break
4:00-5:00 p.m.  Regional Meetings
5:00-6:30 p.m.  Happy Hour & Silent Auction
6:30-8:00 p.m.  LAN Awards Banquet
8:00 p.m.  Movie Night

FRIDAY, August 18
7:30 a.m.  Breakfast and Book Club
7:30-8:30 a.m.  Breakfast
8:15 a.m.  PONI Award(s)
8:30-9:00 a.m.  Mini-keynote
9:15-10:45 a.m.  Concurrent Session #6
11:00-11:45 a.m.  Concurrent Session #7
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Kelly Inn Map (inside back cover)

Civic Center Map (back cover)
Welcome!

Thank you for joining us at the 12th annual Literacy Action Network (LAN) and the Minnesota Community Education Association (MCEA) Adult Basic Education (ABE) Summer Institute (SI). We are so delighted to have you!

As adult educators, we do so much more than teach. We encourage, inspire, and empower. Our theme this year, Empowered Teachers Empowering Students, embraces the notion of "self-care" and the understanding that we can’t motivate our students to succeed if we are not motivated to do so ourselves.

We hope you find empowerment in the sessions you attend, as well as in the additional activities offered this week. There are over 100 unique presentations to choose from! Our colleagues - teachers, managers, and ABE practitioners - have made a tremendous effort to provide us with high quality sessions this year.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the dedication and hard work of our brilliant volunteers from ABE programs across the state. Our planning committee and its many sub committees have volunteered their time to read proposals, help with technology and hospitality events, manage registration, and make Summer Institute the event that it is today.

We open our conference Wednesday with our keynote speaker, Lisa Dembouski. Thursday, we look forward to the ABE updates from Minnesota’s ABE Director, Todd Wagner, and the LAN Awards Banquet in the evening. On Friday, Jodi Versaw and Allie Riley will conduct a special presentation on equity.

While you are here, remember to visit the vendor fair, take advantage of the many hospitality events, place some bids at the silent auction, and enjoy networking at the awards banquet and throughout the duration of the conference. We hope you end this week feeling empowered and ready to empower your students!

Conference Committee

Traci Pederson
Northwest Service Co-op
Chair

Sarah Hoggard
ThinkSelf
Co-Chair

Amber Delliger
Metro North ABE

Amy Dinkel-VanValkenburg
Central Minnesota-North/Freshwater

Andy Albee
Adult Academic Program of Robbinsdale

Brigid Erickson
Metro South ABE

Cathy Grady
Minnesota Literacy Council

Jason Brazier
Minnesota Literacy Council

Jean Johnson
Minnesota Community Education Association

Karla Vien
Literacy Action Network

Kathy Korkowski
Burnsville ABE

Margaret (Molly) Liberto
Metro North ABE

Rob Podlasek
Minnesota Literacy Council

Shane Mueller
South Washington County ACCESS

Susan Wetenkamp-Brandt
Minnesota Literacy Council

Tom Larson
Minnesota Community Education Association
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<td>New English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards for Adult Education - Hmm? What's This Now??</td>
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<td>Weidner</td>
<td>The Three Amigos: A Look at the New ABE Activities under WIOA</td>
<td>Considering Poverty in ABE</td>
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<td>Edelbrock</td>
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<td>Navigators Unite!</td>
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<td>Swisshelm</td>
<td>Morpheme Matrices, a Word Assembly Approach</td>
<td>Sharing our Research on Helping our GED® Students Persist in their Goal of a GED® Credential (and MORE)</td>
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<td>Mitchell</td>
<td>Can Interactive Notebooks Work for Adult Learners?</td>
<td>Nuts and Bolts of ADP in the One Room Schoolhouse</td>
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<td>Adult Career Pathways – New Resources for Designing Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schilplin</td>
<td>Intro to Khan Academy for Distance Learning</td>
<td>Beyond Plato and Burlington English: Other DL Platforms to Excite Your Students</td>
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<td>University A</td>
<td>Introducing Burlington Basics: Our solution for your low literacy students</td>
<td>Four Easy Steps to Success: Helping Students with Learning Challenges/Disabilities</td>
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<td>University B</td>
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<td>New English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards for Adult Education - Hmm? What's this now??</td>
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<td>Congress/Senate</td>
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<td>CCRS Standard for Mathematical Practice 6: Attend to Precision!</td>
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<td>Sunwood</td>
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<td>Hitting the Target: Using Learning Targets and Formative Assessment for Teacher and Learner Reflection</td>
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<td>Absolute Value- It’s More than just Making a Negative Number Positive!</td>
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<td>First American</td>
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<td>From Standards to Student Success: Deconstructing the CCRS</td>
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<td>Thielman</td>
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<td>Word Reading Skills – A How-To Guide for Direct Instruction of Intermediate Level Word Reading Skills (GE 4-9+)</td>
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<td>ADP the DOC way!</td>
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<td>Practical Applications: Northstar in the Classroom</td>
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<td>How Can You Offer Career Planning to Your ABE Students? Explore the New Version of MCIs for ABE.</td>
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- ASC: Adult Secondary Credential (Adult Diploma or GED®)
- DE: Diversity and Equity
- DL: Distance Learning
- E: English as a Second Language
- G: General
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- PMC: Program Management and Coordination
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- SBP: Standards Based Programming (ACES, Northstar, CCRS)
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<td>N Shapes and Stuff-Geometry Activities (CCRS D&amp;E)</td>
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<td>AA TABE Implementation Training</td>
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<td>ESL Implementing Northstar Digital Literacy Standards: Basic Computer Skills for Beginning ESL Students</td>
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<td>TPS Argument Writing 101</td>
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<td>RW The Hidden Curriculum: Supporting Students in the Transition from ABE into College</td>
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<td>ASC Helping Learners Earn a GED®: A Step-by-Step Approach</td>
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<td>DL More Fun with Plato: Deeper Secrets of the PLE</td>
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<td>PMC SID - Beyond the Basics</td>
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<td>RW Promising Practices for the Multi-Level ESL Classroom</td>
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- **PMC** Program Management and Coordination
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**Floor 2**

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- **PMC** Program Management and Coordination
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**KELLY INN**

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**Session 6**

- **Bell** Transitions to Postsecondary: ABE Community Shares Experiences with Minnesota State Partners
- **Alexander** IT Career Pathways for Adult Learners
- **Weidner** Considering Whiteness in ABE
- **Clarke** Resources for Training your Staff, Volunteers, and Yourself
- **Edelbrock**

**Session 7**

- **First American** Standard Adult Diploma Program Staff Discussion
- **Thielman** Tools to Use to Provide Sustainable Healthcare Classes
- **Swisshelm** What’s new with GED* Testing Service?
- **Mitchell** Refugee Resettlement 101
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- **State** Managing Mayhem – An Open Discussion for Program Managers!
EMPOWERED teachers
EMPOWERING learners

Wednesday AUGUST 16

7:15a.m.  Pre-conference breakfast buffet
8:15-11:45a.m.  Pre-conference sessions continue
11:00a.m.  Registration opens
12:00p.m.  Luncheon
12:30p.m.  Welcome/Opening Remarks
12:45-1:45p.m.  Keynote Speaker - Lisa Dembouski
1:45-2:00p.m.  Break
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6:00-8:00p.m.  Wood Painting
6:30-9:00p.m.  Summertime by George!
8:00-9:30p.m.  BINGO

Summertime by George!
5:30-9:00p.m.

“Summertime by George!” is a free concert and festival put on by the Rotary Club of St. Cloud at Lake George. The area will be transformed into a fun and active place with live music, local vendors, and artisans. The concert on August 16th features the band Hitchville! Free trolley service from the Convention Center is available.

Learn more: summertimebygeorge.com/schedule/

Wood Painting
(pre-registration and $35 fee required)
6:00-8:00p.m.

Paint large pieces of wood with inspirational sayings or graphics using stencils.

BINGO
8:00-9:30p.m.

Bring your friends for BINGO! We will play four rounds. We will have winners for small frame, large frame, and cover all. Feeling lucky? Join your colleagues for some evening fun!

Hosted by Donna Escobedo
Lisa M. Dembouski, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Education, Gustavus Adolphus College

I am... a teacher, learner, mentor, friend, sister, teacher educator, advocate, ally, feminist, volunteer, daughter, INFJ, Enneagram 5, introvert, bleeding heart idealist, and a really bad dancer. I regularly trip over flat surfaces* which may or may not correlate with my mad dancing skillz.  
I do ... teacher education and preparation, mentoring, advocacy for exceptionalities (particularly my own), writing (critical pedagogy, socially just education, disability studies in education), and I work hard to cultivate allies and support allyship in all its forms. 
I learned … in a variety of places, including: a B.A. in psychology from St. Ben's/St. John's (just down the road from this conference!), study abroad in Spain, and two years of service with the U.S. Peace Corps in Ecuador, South America. I have a Masters of Education in Special Education/Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Education from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, and worked for 15 years as a D/HH teacher and program lead in the St. Paul (MN) Public Schools. Somewhere in all that I also earned my Ph.D. in Education, Curriculum, and Instruction/Culture and Teaching, also from the U of MN – Twin Cities. I now work to train teachers-to-be at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. My writing and research interests are varied, but have tended to gravitate toward qualitative, narrative scholarship on a variety of topics including D/HH learners, teacher candidates’ experiences of their training program, paving the way for new teachers’ success, and my own perspectives as an educator with a dis/ability.  
I love... the usual (reading, traveling, the outdoors, a great beach, cooking, gardening, taking pictures), the unusual (particularly in the arts), and beauty (which I find pretty much any place I look). Ask me what I’m reading or tell me where to find great Thai food and I’ll enjoy our conversation a good long time.  
I believe we all have times when we enjoy power and privilege, likewise we also have times when we do not; it’s a continuum. The trick, then, is to use our powerful times as an opportunity to empower others. My talk today will consider these notions, and offer suggestions for ways you can empower others in those times of plenty for yourselves, and to receive support and empowerment from others in your times of need. *I may trip on my way to the podium today, if you expect this, it won’t be too large a surprise if it actually happens.
Vendor Fair

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16 / THURSDAY, AUGUST 17
3:30-4:00p.m. / 7:30a.m.-2:15p.m.

Senior Education Specialists
Ann Beeson
Ann@adultedspecialists.com

Aztec Software
Steve Marsh
marketing@aztecsoftware.com

BurlingtonEnglish, Inc.
Margo Hernandez
margo.h@burlingtonenglish.com

Data Recognition Corp
Mike Johnson
mjohnson@datarecognitioncorp.com

DynEd International, Inc.
Thomas Kingery
tkingery@dyned.com

GED® Testing Service
Jim Afdahl
james.afdahl@GEDtestingservice.com

Get This Write, LLC
Cheryl Kirchner
CKirchner@GetThisWrite.com

Hamline University - ATLAS
Marisa Geisler
mgeisler02@hamline.edu

Healing Stones Jewelry
Echo Xiaopian Chen
info@echoshealingstones.com

Houghton Mifflin
Jayne Schultz
jayne.schultz@hmhco.com

JIST Career Solutions
Jill Downs
doahr@emcp.com

Literacy Action Network
Karla Vien
info@literacyactionnetwork.org

McGraw-Hill Education
Paul Osen
Paul.osen@mheducation.com

Minitex
Beth Staats
fried004@umn.edu

Minnesota Literacy Council
Wendy Roberts
wroberts@mnliteracy.org

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Wendy Sweeney
wendy_sweeney@rdale.org

TECFE ABE Task Force
Jan Lichy
jan.lichy@edmn.org

The Enchanted Trunk
Beth Holm
bbholm@mchsi.com
It Takes a Village: Increasing Student Persistence and Success with Volunteer Navigators

*PMC*  **Bell** (Civic Center Floor 1)

In this session, presenters will share findings from current research on student persistence strategies/navigation services and outline the goals, activities and progress to date of SPCLC’s navigation services grant project. They will also share student stories and case studies to illustrate the range of services that can be included in a volunteer navigation program. Participants will be given opportunities to discuss possible strengths and challenges of adding volunteer navigation services to their program and begin a plan for implementation.

*Theresa Sladek* Navigation Project Manager, Minnesota Literacy Council  
*Cathy Grady* Literacy Services Director, Minnesota Literacy Council

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Bridges to Benefits Panel

*PMC*  **Alexander** (Civic Center Floor 1)

Bridge to Benefits is an initiative by Children’s Defense Fund-Minnesota to increase awareness and participation in public work support programs and federal and state tax credits. The project relies on an online screening tool that helps determine potential eligibility for an array of programs that offer tax credits to help low-income workers meet basic needs. Several ABE programs have started to pilot the screening at their sites. Come and hear how it is being implemented in ABE!

*Stephanie Hogenson* Research and Policy Director at Children’s Defense Fund  
*Barb Osvold* ABE Instructor, Detroit Lakes ABE  
*Tracy Chase* ABE Manager, AEOA  
*Sarah Sundberg* ABE Manager, Fergus Falls ABE  
*Karen Gerdin* Assistant Supervisor, St. Paul Public Schools ABE  
*Arlene Birnbaum* Intake Specialist, Metro North ABE

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The Three Amigos: A Look at the New ABE Activities under WIOA

*TPS*  **Weidner** (Civic Center Floor 1)

Tired of the same old ABE activities? At this session we will examine the three new allowable ABE activities permitted under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). These three friends behave alike but they all have their own personalities: (1) Workforce Preparation Activities, (2) Integrated Education and Training (IET) (3) Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education. Together they can support each other in building solid ABE programming.

*Julie Dincau* Adult Basic Education Transitions Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education  
*Jodi Versaw* Adult Basic Education Program Quality Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education  
*Brad Hasskamp* Adult Basic Education ABE Policy & Operations Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education
CASAS Implementation Training - Part 1 (The Assessment Process)

**AA First American (Civic Center Floor 2)**

Part 1 provides an overview of the CASAS assessment. It will cover selection and administration of the appropriate CASAS test, interpretation of test scores, and measurement of student progress. Discussion will focus on CASAS appraisals (for placement, and pre- and post-tests (for measuring progress). Participants who complete both Part 1 and Part 2 will receive a copy of the CASAS Administration Handbook and will be authorized to order and administer CASAS multiple choice assessments.

*Linda Keller* ABE Accountability Coordinator, Metro North ABE

*Kellie Hoyt* Site Coordinator, Minneapolis ABE

**Building Coherence: Exploring Ways to get a Math CCRS level A/B ready for level D/E work.**

**N Thielman (Civic Center Floor 2)**

I teach level A/B math, how do I get them ready for Level D/E? As we work toward getting away from “packet work” and isolated topics we want to find connections that help students build conceptual understanding. In this session we will dig into and explore some hand-on activities to deepen not only the understanding of Level A and B concepts, but also work towards building connections to level D and E standards.

*Rebecca Strom* Math Instructor Mankato Area ABE

**Morpheme Matrices, a Word Assembly Approach**

**RW Swisshelm (Civic Center Floor 2)**

This session will introduce Morpheme Matrices, a research-and-practitioner-based resource for combining or assembling morphemes (prefixes, roots, suffixes) into multi-syllable words. This FREE resource from ATLAS includes (1) a simple morpheme matrix organization, (2) detailed steps for “standalone” use, (3) a chart of common prefixes and suffixes, (4) twenty matrices for building multi-syllable word families and determining word meanings, and (5) a Word Key for checking.

*Marn Frank* Literacy and STAR Coordinator, ATLAS

Can Interactive Notebooks Work for Adult Learners?

**SBP Mitchell (Civic Center Floor 2)**

Having lessons that are interactive has always been important to retention and recall for student knowledge. The interactive notebook is not only a way for students to learn the material, but also recall it, take more responsibility for their education, and participate in class. Find out how to use interactive notebooks in any class you teach and be able to tie the lessons to CCRS, ACES, and TIF.

*Kerin Hanson* Instructor, Bemidji ABE - NW Service Cooperative

**Literacy Ideas from the Web: PBS Learning Media & the National Park Service**

**G T Whitney (Civic Center Floor 2)**

Have a Smart Board? A projector? Teacher Lori Koenig will highlight some of the FREE educational tools available on the Internet. PBS Learning Media will be explored, a site that holds a wealth of educational lessons, videos, images for use with students of all ability levels. Content from the National Park Service will also be shared, for each park website holds video tours, lesson plans, maps and more.

*Lori Koenig* ABE/ GED®/ VOC Teacher, Wisconsin DOC/Stanley Correctional Institution

**Intro to Khan Academy for Distance Learning**

**DL T Schilplin (Civic Center Floor 2)**

Join us for an introduction to Khan Academy for Distance Learning! We’ll learn how to set up a teacher account on this FREE online learning platform, create a class, create student accounts, add student accounts to your class, make recommendations for students, and run distance learning hour reports. If you already use KA, please bring your login information and your questions!

*Susan Wetenkamp-Brandt* Educational Technology Manager, Minnesota Literacy Council
Introducing Burlington Basics: Our Solution for your Low Literacy Students

University A (Kelly Inn)
In this session, Burlington English will show how Burlington Basics is designed to provide your NRS ESL Level 1, (Beginning ESL Literacy) students with a good foundation of basic vocabulary, language structures, work skills, and life skills so they will be able to communicate and interact at work, in school, and in the community. Burlington Basics includes ICL (In-Class Lessons) for face-to-face instruction with accompanying worksheets for classroom use, and Student's Zone (SZ) designed for students to use.

Margo Hernandez Rainwater Customer Manager, Burlington English

IPA, IPA, Hooray

University B (Kelly Inn)
ESL students come from a variety of countries and cultures. They need to learn English in a way that is understandable and understood. Combining the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) with relevant English opens up the lines of communication and gives ESL students that confidence to engage others in this great country. When they can speak with an American accent, it saves them much unneeded stress, embarrassment and time.

Jayesun Israel Sherman ABE Teacher, SW ABE—Worthington

Competency-Based Teaching, Learning, and Assessment 101

Congress/Senate (Kelly Inn)
Not feeling competent in competency-based education? Many ABE programs across the country are moving to a competency-based learning and teaching model, and with the implementation of the Minnesota State Adult High School Diploma and the CCRS, we are all working to develop tasks and assessments that are more applicable and authentic for all learners. This session will provide a foundation of competency-based education and ABE-tested best practices to bring them into our programs.

Amber Delliger Numeracy Coordinator, ATLAS / Metro North
Molly Liberto ABE Program Supervisor, Metro North ABE - Blaine Learning Lab

Coaching Job Seekers Living in Poverty (aka: Flying Alongside Undiscovered Superheroes)

Sunwood (Kelly Inn)
Minnesota has a strong economy, bringing prosperity to many, but not all. Our state also leads the nation in economic disparities that effect our communities of color, immigrants and refugees. The good news is that we work and live among undiscovered superheroes on their way to achieving greatness. Let's talk about how all educators and advisers can encourage low-income job seekers as they fight their way to career pathways that lead out of poverty. This presentation is also offered in Session 3.

Denise Felder Director of Professional Development, Career & Technical Education, Minnesota State Colleges & Universities

How Far They’ll Go: Using Linear Equations in Real-life

Congress/Senate (Kelly Inn)
Have you ever thought: just what are the parts of a linear equation? Or, how does one or graphing one relate in a real life context? Or maybe, linear equations just don’t make sense to me? If so, join us as we examine CCRS Math Standard 8.SP.3 (“Using the equation of a linear model to solve problems…”) with some hands on activities you can use. If your students can multiply, they can learn linear models.

Steven Crump Adult Basic Education Instructor, Challenge Incarceration Program (DOC)
Penny Brown ABE/GED® Teacher, SouthWest Metro ABE
Abby Roza Adult Basic Education Instructor, Hennepin County/ Adult Academic Program
Personal Enrichment Plan

Session 1

Take notes and identify ideas that you want to put into action when you return to your program.

What specific ideas do I want to implement?  What are the benefits and challenges?  Who should I share this info with?
Who can I collaborate with?  What do I want to learn more about?

Session 1 Title:  ____________________________________________

Presenter/s:  ____________________________________________

NOTES  ACTION STEPS

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Session 2

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16
4:00-5:30p.m.

Trauma and Frozen Development—Unthawing Pathways in the Brain

DE Bell (Civic Center Floor 1)

This workshop will look at the physical, psychological and social impacts of trauma on the brain. It will provide information on best practices for educating offenders who have experienced trauma as well as for managing the behaviors of offenders who have traumatic histories. "Real life" experiences will be incorporated and participants will leave with ideas for immediate implementation. Planning for resilience will conclude the session.

Jon Weiss ABE Special Teacher, MCF-Stillwater
Heather Lindstrom Special Teacher, MCF-Stillwater
Ahmed Adam Special Teacher, MCF-Stillwater
Mark Stoltenburg Special Teacher, MCF-Stillwater

New English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards for Adult Education - Hmm? What’s this Now??

ESL SBP Alexander (Civic Center Floor 1)

WIOA legislation highlights the importance of preparing all adults, including adult English language learners, for continued education and training beyond high school. A brand new report from OCTAE identifies 10 English Language Proficiency (ELP) standards that can help ensure that adult English language learners receive the focused and effective instruction they need to access the College & Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education (CCRS). Consider these ELP standards the “language lift” that non-native speakers of English need to reach CCRS! This session will provide an overview of the ELP report and introduce you to the 10 standards. Together we’ll begin thinking about how the ELPs can be useful in your instruction to non-native speakers of English, both in and beyond ESL classes!

Patsy Egan ATLAS Director, ATLAS

Considering Poverty in ABE

DE Weidner (Civic Center Floor 1)

Poverty and socioeconomic disparities are key issues that affect ABE students across Minnesota. In this session participants will consider history and information about poverty, as well as recommendations for working with individuals experiencing poverty. Information and resources from this session are drawn from work by Dr. Donna Beegle, an author, leader, and expert trainer in addressing poverty nationwide.

Jodi Versaw ABE Program Quality Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education
Julie Dincau ABE Transitions Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education

Navigators Unite!

PMC Edelbrock (Civic Center Floor 1)

Navigators Unite is a session for all ABE Navigators (and those serving in a similar role). We will have the opportunity to network with one another and discuss best practices, as well as challenges, unique to our role in the ABE system.

Tonya Roth Navigator, Hiawatha Valley Adult Education
CASAS Implementation Training - Part 2 (Tools to Enhance Instruction)

First American (Civic Center Floor 2)

Part 2 focuses on using the CASAS assessment results to plan instruction. Tools such as the CASAS competencies and ways to use them in designing lessons will be explained. Updates on the new CASAS assessments will be shared. Participants will receive a list of online resources. Those who complete both Part 1 and Part 2 will be authorized to order and administer CASAS multiple choice assessments.

Linda Keller ABE Accountability Coordinator, Metro North ABE
Kellie Hoyt Site Coordinator, Minneapolis ABE

Let’s get FUNctional: A SFL Lens for Solving Math Problems

Thielman (Civic Center Floor 2)

Do your students struggle to identify questions in math word problems? Is identifying the necessary information an equally challenging task? The framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) can help! In this presentation you will learn how focusing on the language of math problems helps students make sense of them. This framework is effective for working with ELLs and native English speakers.

Kristin Knudson Adult Education Instructor, Hennepin County

Sharing our Research on Helping our GED® Students Persist in their Goal of a GED® Credential (and MORE)

Swisshelm (Civic Center Floor 2)

How can we help more students persist on their GED® journeys? What is GED® doing to help ABE attract more students to our programs and persist in class? Learn more about GED® students and what the field of “behavioral science” says about some of the challenges GED® students face. We will have interactive discussions on how you can apply these ideas in your programs and classrooms.

Sarita Parikh Senior Director, Student Engagement and Strategy, GED® Testing Service

Nuts and Bolts of ADP in the One Room Schoolhouse

Mitchell (Civic Center Floor 2)

The presenters will share their experience in Adult Diploma Program (ADP) implementation in a one room schoolhouse. How to introduce and organize ADP for students. Selection of project based assignments which meet E-Level competencies. Nuts and bolts of portfolio submissions.

Vicki Lambert ABE Teacher, MCF-Stillwater
Dmitry Katkov Corrections Teaching Assistant, MCF-Stillwater
Joan Joswiak Corrections Teaching Assistant, MCF-Stillwater

Adult Career Pathways – New Resources for Designing Courses

Whitney (Civic Center Floor 2)

Adult career pathways (ACPs) are now an integral part of our programming in ABE. If you are a manager or teacher starting a new ACP program, this workshop will introduce you to the ATLAS resource library of ACP curricula, so that you can tap course materials already created by others rather than starting from scratch. A useful course design outline tool, curriculum-writing budget guidelines and upcoming PD opportunities will also be shared.

Elizabeth Andress Adult Career Pathways Consultant, ATLAS (ABE Teaching & Learning Advancement System)

Beyond Plato and Burlington English: Other DL Platforms to Excite Your Students

Schilplin (Civic Center Floor 2)

Various distance learning platforms beyond those that are state-funded have been approved by the state for proxy hours. Many of these are free. Each of these platforms addresses different student needs. This workshop will feature a panel discussion by superusers of four such platforms. Those attending will gain a good understanding of the strengths and best usage of each of the platforms, with time for questions and discussion.

Tom Cytron-Hysom Consultant, Distance Learning Supplemental Services, Minnesota Literacy Council
Shari Brunes Site Manager, Hutchinson ABE
Charles LaRue, ESL Instructor, Metro North
Adam Kieffer Distance Learning Teacher, St. Paul ABE
Susan Wetenkamp-Brandt Educational Technology Manager, Minnesota Literacy Council
**Session 2**

**ABE Summer Institute**

**Wednesday, August 16**

**4:00-5:30 p.m.**

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**Four Easy Steps to Success: Helping Students with Learning Challenges/Disabilities**

**University A (Kelly Inn)**

Come to this session to learn about PANDA’s online Learner Intervention and how to use a four step process to help students with learning challenges or disabilities. Hear testimonials of students with various disabilities and find out about common types of hidden disabilities. Gain useful UDL/multi-sensory teaching strategies which are beneficial to all students. This is a computer lab and some computers will be available. Please bring a laptop/iPad, if possible. Please think of a specific student in your classroom that has a learning challenge to use as an example in the session. This workshop meets CEU requirements for Accommodation, Modification, and Adaptation of Curriculum, Materials, and Instruction.

*Wendy Sweeney*  Disability Specialist, PANDA

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**Implementing Northstar Digital Literacy Standards: Basic Computer Skills for Beginning ESL Students**

**University B (Kelly Inn)**

As ESL Teachers, we know the potential computers have to transform our students’ lives. Whether used to maintain social connections or find employment, digital literacy is an essential skill. This hands-on workshop will prepare you to implement a Basic Computer Skills course for students who are new to English and new to a computer. We will provide a sample course outline, fun ideas for the classroom, and an assessment tool adapted for Beginning ELLs. This presentation is also offered in Session 5.

*Holly Larsen*  ESL Teacher, Vietnamese Social Services of MN

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**CCRS Standard for Mathematical Practice 6: Attend to Precision!**

**Congress/Senate (Kelly Inn)**

What does it mean to be precise in a math classroom? Does that mean simply using labels with story problems, or is there more? Let’s explore a math classroom where students communicate effectively, use clear definitions, label and calculate accurately, and express answers with the degree of precision appropriate for the problems. In this session, we’ll explore Math Practice 6 more in depth, and learn ways to grow “precision” in our classrooms.

*Molly Stewart*  ABE Program Supervisor, Metro North ABE

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**Hitting the Target: Using Learning Targets and Formative Assessment for Teacher and Learner Reflection**

**Sunwood (Kelly Inn)**

When we assess clearly defined learning targets, the data helps inform teachers’ instruction and informs students on their own progress and instructional needs. Come and learn how to convert a standard into learning targets and student-friendly “I can…” statements and how to quickly and easily conduct formative assessment that creates opportunities for teacher AND student reflection! Appropriate for all student levels and ABE content areas.

*Kristine Kelly*  Literacy & English Language Arts Coordinator, ATLAS

*John Trerotola*  Instructor, Robbinsdale Area Schools

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**Lessons Learned During Curriculum Development**

**State (Kelly Inn)**

Over the years The Minnesota Literacy Council has developed curricula for volunteer and teacher led ELL and GED classes by committee, with individual contractors, and in partnership with community content experts. This workshop will share lessons learned through these experiences illustrated with curriculum samples. Bring your own lessons learned and questions about overseeing curriculum development projects.

*Burgen Young*  Instructional Manager, Minnesota Literacy Council
# Personal Enrichment Plan

**Session 2**

Take notes and identify ideas that you want to put into action when you return to your program.

- **What specific ideas do I want to implement?**
- **Who can I collaborate with?**
- **What are the benefits and challenges?**
- **Who should I share this info with?**
- **What do I want to learn more about?**

**Session 2 Title:**

**Presenter/s:**

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EMPOWERED teachers
EMPOWERING learners

Thursday AUGUST 17

6:15a.m.  Yoga
7:30-8:30a.m.  Breakfast & Vendor Fair
8:30-9:15a.m.  Literacy Action Network Annual Meeting
(Vendor Fair closed during meeting)
9:30-11:00a.m.  Concurrent Session #3
11:15a.m.-12:00p.m.  Concurrent Session #4
12:00-1:15p.m.  Lunch & MN ABE Update
1:15-2:00p.m.  Poster Session & Vendor Fair
2:15p.m.  Vendor Fair closes
2:15-3:45p.m.  Concurrent Session #5
3:45p.m.  Coffee & Cookie Break
4:00-5:00p.m.  Regional Meetings
5:00-6:30p.m.  Happy Hour & Silent Auction
6:30-8:00p.m.  Literacy Action Network Awards Banquet
8:00p.m.  Movie Night

Yoga for Everyone, Beginners
Welcome!
6:15-7:30a.m.
We will meet in the lobby of Kelly Inn at 6:15 am and walk
to the park together. Please bring your own yoga mat. If
there is inclement weather, we will be using a room at the
Kelly Inn for our yoga session.
The yoga instructors are a mother and daughter team -
Jaclyn and Carol

Movie Night
8:00-9:30p.m. (or 15 minutes after the awards
banquet concludes)
Nickel City Smiler is a movie that will change how you
think! After dinner and awards, stay with us to watch a
documentary about how a Burmese family navigates their
new life in America. If you think you know what it’s like to
be a newcomer, think again!
After the video, there will be a brief, guided discussion
facilitated by Amy Dinkel-VanValkenburg.
Learn more, http://www.nickelcitysmiler.com/

Poster Session
THURSDAY, AUGUST 17
1:15-2:00p.m.
Complimentary Professional Portrait Photography
10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Heidi from Maehill Studios will be available in the Convention Center registration area to take free professional headshots. This service is complimentary for all ABE Summer Institute registrants.

Literacy Action Network Annual Meeting
8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

Literacy Action Network members come together to hear from Committee Chairs and the Board President about the organization's efforts over the past year and issues affecting educators and literacy programs in Minnesota.

2017 Regional Professional Development Meetings
4:00-5:00 p.m.

Join your regional colleagues and members of the statewide PD committee to identify and discuss priorities and activities for the coming year. Learn about PD opportunities planned and how you can get involved. This is your chance to share ideas, provide feedback, and network with others in your region!

Department of Corrections
University B (Kelly Inn)
MCF-Faribault, MCF-Lino Lakes, MCF-Oak Park Heights, MCF-Red Wing, MCF-Rush City, MCF-Shakopee, MCF-St. Cloud, MCF-Stillwater, MCF-Togo, MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake

Northeast
Thielman (Civic Center Floor 2)
AEOA, Duluth

Northwest
First American (Civic Center Floor 2)

Southwest
University A (Kelly Inn)
Faribault County-Blue Earth, Glacial Lakes, AALC-Le Sueur, Mankato, Southwest ABE

Southeast
Alexander (Civic Center Floor 1)
Hiawatha Valley, Rochester, Southeast ABE

West Metro
Weidner (Civic Center Floor 1)
AOIE, Central MN, Metro North, Metro South, Osseo, Robbinsdale, SW Metro, West ABE

East Metro
Bell (Civic Center Floor 1)
Burnsville, Dakota Prairie, Hastings, Lakeville, Metro East, RAVE, South St. Paul, South Washington County ACCESS

Twin Cities
Schilplin (Civic Center Floor 2)
American Indian OIC, Lincoln Adult Education, Minneapolis, St. Paul

MN ABE Update
12:45 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Join Todd Wagner for a review of the past ABE program year and an update on ABE issues and opportunities that may impact our work in the future. Todd Wagner is the State Director of Minnesota's Adult Basic Education system. Todd has been a member of the Minnesota Department of Education ABE leadership team for the past 18 years. Before joining the ABE team, Todd worked as an assessment and evaluation specialist for IDEA and ESEA Title I programs.
Session 3

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17
9:30-11:00 a.m.

Coaching Job Seekers Living in Poverty (aka: Flying Alongside Undiscovered Superheroes)

TPS Bell (Civic Center Floor 1)

Minnesota has a strong economy, bringing prosperity to many, but not all. Our state also leads the nation in economic disparities that effect our communities of color, immigrants and refugees. The good news is that we work and live among undiscovered superheroes on their way to achieving greatness. Let’s talk about how all educators and advisers can encourage low-income job seekers as they flight their way to career pathways that lead out of poverty. This presentation is also offered in Session 1.

Denise Felder Director of Professional Development, Career & Technical Education, Minnesota State Colleges & Universities

Voices from the Field: Benefits of Career-focused Contextualized Basic Skills Instruction

TPS Alexander (Civic Center Floor 1)

In this panel-led discussion, ABE teachers from a variety of programs, will share their experiences with career-focused basic skills curriculum instruction (CCI). Come and learn what is meant by “contextualization” and how this approach to lesson planning can help you teach basic skills while also promoting career awareness and helping learners prepare for a specific career path. Participants will share lessons that they created while participating in the CCI Cohort. Example lessons include those with a focus on health care, early childhood education and construction.

Stephanie Sommers Instructor, Minneapolis Adult Education
Heather Turngren Instructor, Minneapolis Adult Education
George Schooley Instructor, Hubbs Center, St. Paul ABE
Krista Grosland Literacy VISTA, ThinkSelf
Sarah Huhnerkoch ABE Instructor, Stillwater Public Schools

Racial Equity in ABE Classrooms and Programs

DE Weidner (Civic Center Floor 1)

In this panel presentation practitioners from ABE programs across the state will share insights, ideas, resources and discussion about how racial equity work happens within the contexts of our ABE classrooms and programs. Panelists come form a variety of settings including both urban and rural, and will discuss issues around race along with the intersections of other identities including socioeconomic status, gender identity and disability.

Jodi Versaw ABE Program Quality Specialist, MN Department of Education
Liz Andress Adult Career Pathways Consultant, ATLAS
Christian Mccleary AmeriCorps VISTA, St. Paul ABE
Adriana Galvan ABE Coordinator, Guadalupe Alternative Program
Lee Obermiller Instructor/Administrator
Caroline Nerhus ABE Coordinator, Central MN-East ABE
Aaron Gutzke Executive Director, ThinkSelf

Absolute Value - It’s More than Just Making a Negative Number Positive!

N Edelbrock (Civic Center Floor 1)

The Absolute Value of a number is often misunderstood. In this session, we’ll dig into, while looking through the lens of the CCRS’s Mathematical Shifts. We’ll review some level B and C standards to help strengthen coherence, dig into the definition and build conceptual understanding. We’ll continue to explore some Level D/E standards involving both equations and inequalities.

Rebecca Strom Instructor, Mankato Area ABE
From Standards to Student Success: Deconstructing the CCRS

First American (Civic Center Floor 2)

Have you been carrying around your CCRS book for the past three years but still aren’t sure how to make the standards part of your everyday lessons? Are you looking for ways to make the standards more accessible to your students? Come explore different ways to turn standards into measurable objectives and student-friendly learning targets.

Renada Rutmanis ABE Assistant Supervisor, Hubbs Center, St. Paul ABE

Word Reading Skills – A How-to Guide for Direct Instruction of Intermediate Level Word Reading Skills (GE 4-9+)

Thielman (Civic Center Floor 2)

The goal of this session is to give teachers guidance and practice in using direct instruction to delivery an alphabetic mini-lesson – after an introduction to using a word reading assessment to determine students’ needs. According to the Adult Reading Components Study (ARCS 2003), Alphabetic covers a wide range of reading skills from phonics to word analysis. “Typically developed by 4th grade...both native and non-native English speakers – did not fully develop or have not yet been taught the alphabets skills necessary for fluent and proficient reading.”

Terrisa Fisher Teacher/Coordinator, WEST ABE/Buffalo CE

How Can You Offer Career Planning to Your ABE Students? Explore the New Version of MCIS for ABE.

Whitney (Civic Center Floor 2)

In this session participants will learn more about MCIS for ABE and hear from a panel of experts currently using MCIS with ABE learners. Participants will have about 30 minutes for ques-tions of the panelists and hands-on exploration of the MCIS site.

Dorothy Wolf MCIS Training Specialist, Minnesota Career Information System (MCIS)
Melissa Longoria Adult Learner, Detroit Lakes, ABE
Shari Brunes Regional Transitions Coordinator, SW Minnesota, Hutchinson Adult Basic Education
Amy Fish Program Coordinator, Detroit Lakes Adult Basic Education
Cadie Engelking Career Navigator, Hawthorne Education Center, Rochester

Practical Applications: Northstar in the Classroom

Mitchell (Civic Center Floor 2)

The Northstar basic computer benchmarks have been adapted by Minnesota ABE as core content standards. Teaching these skills can be accomplished effectively by integration into the ABE classroom (as opposed to stand-alone instruction). This presentation will provide first-hand knowledge from ABE teachers who have successfully integrated Northstar into the classroom, enhancing the mastery of both Northstar and other ABE content by students.

Tom Cytron-Hysom Manager, Northstar, Minnesota Literacy Council
Manee Thao CTEP, Hubbs Center

Plato New & Refresher Teacher/Administrator Training

Schilplin (Civic Center Floor 2)

This hands-on session will cover need-to-know skills for teachers using the Plato Learning Environment in ABE, including setting up classes, enrolling learners, and running reports. We’ll also take a look at some frequently asked questions and troubleshooting tips. Appropriate for teachers who are new to Plato and for those looking to brush up on their skills and get answers to questions.

Susan Wetenkamp-Brandt Educational Technology Manager, Minnesota Literacy Council
Session 3

Thursday, August 17
9:30-11:00 a.m.

SID from a Teacher’s Perspective

University A (Kelly Inn)

Teachers, are you wondering how you can utilize the data in SID to understand your classes, students and make use of all the information that is being collected? This session will look in-depth at what information is in SID, from a teacher’s perspective, including data on student pages, class based reports and the student portal. There will be time for questions and answers.

Jenny Schluebier Project Manager, Urban Planet

Most Missed Questions on the GED® Test: What Educators Can Do

University B (Kelly Inn)

A lot changed with the new GED® test. High school standards are integrated into the test. Critical thinking is a key component of success with RLA. Math skills are more rigorous. Publisher materials are new. Come hear from GEDTS some best practices and practical techniques on teaching RLA and Math in this new environment.

Jim Afdahl State Relationship Manager, GED® Testing Service
Thomas Ross State Relationship Manager, GED® Testing Service

Rubber Meets the Road: Applying Pronunciation Study Circle Learnings to the Classroom

Congress/Senate (Kelly Inn)

Pronunciation instruction is of increasing interest to ESL practitioners and a key component of learners’ communication needs in the workplace and community. A panel of ESL teachers who participated in a five-week pronunciation study circle will discuss how the study circle impacted their practice, sharing activities, routines and approaches they have implemented in the classroom since the end of the circle. Current pronunciation research and a summary of the study circle will also be presented.

Suzanne Gilchrist McCurdy Instructor, Hamline University
Andrea Eichelberger ESL Training Coordinator, Minnesota Literacy Council
Jamie Kreil, ESL Instructor, Cedar Riverside Adult Education Collaborative
Marilyn Gjerde, ESL Instructor, Hubbs Center
Jolee Mosher, ESL Instructor, Hubbs Center

Inconceivable! Instruction and Standards in a “One Room Schoolhouse”

Sunwood (Kelly Inn)

What does quality instructional practice look like in a one room schoolhouse, a lab or other multi-level/diverse settings? What does it look like to integrate CCRS standards into instruction in a one room schoolhouse? What are different possibilities for what planful instruction can look like in this type of setting? Our panel does not have all the answers, but we’ll share “a-ha’s”, resources, ideas and questions.

Kristin Knudson Adult Education Instructors, Hennepin County / AAP
Abby Roza Adult Education Instructors, Hennepin County / AAP
Terri Ferris Lead ABE Teacher, AEOA
Patti Refsland ABE Teacher, Cass Lake-Bena Walker ABE
Steven Crump ABE Instructor, MN DOC
Meagan Hymes Adult Education Instructor, Hennepin County / AAP

CCRS and TIF for Low Lit and Beginning Students: Yes They Can!

State (Kelly Inn)

In this session, participants will gain experience identifying and defining CCRS and TIF skills in their lessons for beginning or low-lit students. Once the groundwork is laid, participants will plan standards-based lessons that align to both CCRS and ACES/TIF. Drawing on principals of backward design, participants will start by identifying the desired outcomes for a lesson and then choosing skills from both CCRS and ACES/TIF that would support those learning outcomes. Participants will leave this session with a completed lesson plan that is aligned to 2 sets of MN Content Standards, and a better understanding of how CCRS and ACES/TIF work together to support transitions-minded instruction.

Allie Bezat Riley ABE Manager, Hmong American Partnership
Personal Enrichment Plan

Session 3

Take notes and identify ideas that you want to put into action when you return to your program.

**What specific ideas do I want to implement?**  **What are the benefits and challenges?**  **Who should I share this info with?**

**Who can I collaborate with?**  **What do I want to learn more about?**

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Session 3 Title:  

Presenter/s:  

NOTES  ACTION STEPS

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The Refugee Journey

Bell (Civic Center Floor 1)

For many people, the refugee resettlement process is a mystery. If you’ve ever pondered questions about what refugee status means, how refugees get to Minnesota and who helps them learn to navigate their new world, please join us! Emily will guide participants through the refugee journey, from life in the refugee camp to the details of the resettlement process and ways that newcomers adjust to their new lives here in Minnesota.

Emily Hipps English Instructor, International Institute of Minnesota

The U.S. Naturalization Test: Teaching Objectives

Alexander (Civic Center Floor 1)

This session reviews the specific listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills needed to complete all sections of the new naturalization test developed by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Office of Citizenship. This presentation is also offered in Session 7.

Dr. Michael Jones, P.h.D Division Chief, Citizenship Education and Training, Office of Citizenship

The Future of ABE is Still in Your Hands

Weidner (Civic Center Floor 1)

All of us care about our students, our programs, our jobs and the future of our field. Join us to discuss the importance of legislative advocacy and how and why your participation, and the participation of your students is vital to the future success of our field.

Eric Nesheim Executive Director, Minnesota Literacy Council
Tom Cytron-Hysom Manager, St. Paul Community Literacy Consortium

Low Literacy Adult ESL Study Circles Planning & Sharing

Clarke (Civic Center Floor 1)

Are you one of the 100+ teachers who have completed a low-literacy adult ESL study circle through ATLAS? Eager to stay connected to your colleagues, learn what’s new, and strengthen your instruction in this challenging context? This session is for you! Let’s gather to discuss how we continue to apply the study circle teachings in our classrooms, share new resources and teaching ideas, and generate suggestions on how to continue learning as a low-literacy teaching collective. Minnesota is a leader nationwide in this important work; let’s keep growing our expertise and community!

Patsy Egan Director, ATLAS
Andrea Echelberger ESL Training Coordinator, Minnesota Literacy Council

WIOA and Career Pathways 101

Edelbrock (Civic Center Floor 1)

Minnesota has a vision that “all Minnesotans have - or are on a path to - meaningful employment and a family sustaining wage, and where all employers are able to fill jobs in demand.” The “most effective method to achieve these goals is to strategically build on the state’s robust Career Pathway System.” Learn what WIOA means for workforce development and ABE, and the partnerships that are integral to furthering career pathways work.

Anne Kilzer Director, Minnesota Workforce Council Association
Julie Dincau Transitions Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education/Adult Basic Education
Providing Advising and Navigation Services Through Sustainable Community Partnerships

TPS First American (Civic Center Floor 2)

Mankato Area ABE received an “Adult Basic Education Navigating and Advising Support Services Legislative Grant” in December of 2016. During this short presentation, Angie and Karen will provide an overview of the grant goals and progress to date. Participants can expect to learn practical and sustainable strategies to enhance their navigation and advising services for ABE learners through community partnerships.

Karen Wolters Mankato Area ABE Program Coordinator, Mankato Area Adult Basic Education

Angie Blackstad Diploma Program Supervisor, Mankato Area Adult Basic Education

Ask GED® Anything!

ASC Thielman (Civic Center Floor 2)

A lot has happened since the new GED® test was implemented three years ago. It’s your turn to ask people from the GED® Testing Service anything you would like. Bring your questions/issues/concerns. We’re here to listen.

Randy Trask President, GED® Testing Service

Vicki Greene VP Operations, GED® Testing Service

Jim Afdahl State Relationship Manager, GED® Testing Service

Journeys Curriculum: A New Teaching Resource

RW Mitchell (Civic Center Floor 2)

Want to maximize your class use of the Journeys Anthology? Come check out this new teaching resource! Journeys, an annual publication of MN ABE student writing, now features an 8-lesson curriculum written for Advanced ESL learners. It includes eight cumulative lesson plans with ready-to-use activities and materials. In this session we’ll review the curriculum, discuss ideas for implementing it with your learners, and try an activity if there’s time! You’ll walk away with a copy of the curriculum.

Ellie Purdy Operations Coordinator, Minnesota Literacy Council

Using SID to Track Distance Learners

DL Whitney (Civic Center Floor 2)

Understand tools and reports available in SID to keep track of your program’s distance learners, from intake, face to face interactions, logging relevant information, and viewing and utilizing reports and data. Learn best practices for using SID.

Adam Kieffer Teacher/DL Staff, Hubbs Center, St. Paul ABE

Jenny Schlukebier SID Development and Support, Urban Planet

Jessica Ess DL Staff/Teacher, Hubbs Center, St. Paul ABE

An Overview of the Guide on Adult Citizenship Education Content Standards

ESL Swisshelm (Civic Center Floor 2)

This session provides an overview of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Office of Citizenship publication, Guide to the Adult Citizenship Education Content Standards and Foundation Skills. Participants will learn how they can implement adult citizenship content standards into their curriculum and classroom. This presentation is also offered in Session 7.

Domminick McParland Education Program Specialist, USCIS Office of Citizenship

LearningExpress Library for ABE: A Resource for ALL Minnesota Residents

G T Schilplin (Civic Center Floor 2)

Take practice tests and tutorials designed for students elementary through graduate levels and adult learners. Academic or licensing tests are available, with immediate scoring complete answer explanations and individualized results analysis. LearningExpress Library includes but is not limited to the following subjects: Business Writing Success Skills, College Entrance Exams, Cosmetology, Elementary School Skills Improvement, EMS, Firefighter, GED®, High School Skills Improvement, and Law Enforcement.

Beth Staats Reference Outreach & Instruction Librarian, Minitex
Session 4
THURSDAY, AUGUST 17
11:15a.m.-12:00p.m.

Successful Bridge Programs: Learn From Our Successes and Other Trials
TPS  Sunwood (Kelly Inn)
Are you finding it hard to get your Career Pathways Programs off the ground? Are you looking to avoid the common pitfalls of starting a bridge to college program? Kati and Ron will describe the growing pains involved in getting a Pathways To Partnership, FastTRAC, Adult Career Pathways program up and running. Program participants will get course syllabi for Healthcare and Manufacturing Bridge Program and learn the essential components for a successful program.
Ronald (Ron) Fleischmann FastTRAC Supervisor and Instructor, Mankato Adult Basic Education
Dr. Katherine (Kati) Sump FastTRAC/GED®/College Prep Instructor, Mankato Adult Basic Education

Power and Privilege in Adult ESL
DE  University B (Kelly Inn)
The presenter synthesizes research on colonial power dynamics that can exist in ESL classrooms into a workshop that combines theoretical background and the search for tangible solutions. She integrates discussion of historical context and current discriminatory forces, followed by activities that prompt reflection of privilege and power in teaching practices.
Ilse Griffin Learning Center Coordinator, Minnesota Literacy Council

Slacking: It’s Not What You Think
PMC  University A (Kelly Inn)
Is communication a struggle in your program? Is email just not cutting it? Slack may be a solution! Think Self Deaf ABE uses Slack as a one-stop platform for messaging, file sharing, video meetings, and more. This presentation will demonstrate how integrating Slack into your ABE program’s infrastructure can help improve communication, productivity, and morale.
Sarah Hoggard Adult Education Manager, ThinkSelf
Julie Pleski Lead Teacher, ThinkSelf
Kelsey Bjorkman Teacher, ThinkSelf

Four iPad Apps to Use with Beginning Literacy Learners
T  State (Kelly Inn)
This session will briefly outline reasons to use alphabet, phonics and digital book-creating iPad apps with beginning literacy adult learners. Participants will see a demonstration and practice using the following apps: Starfall ABCs, ABC PocketPhonics, ABC Spelling Magic 1 and Story Creator. This session is also offered in Session 7.
Meghan Boyle ESL Teacher, Minnesota Literacy Council

CCRS Reading for Beginning ESL: Show Me the Evidence
ESL  Congress/Senate (Kelly Inn)
Are you wondering how to get started implementing CCRS instructional shifts in a beginning ESL class? In this session, the presenter will share some ways he has started implementing CCRS reading standards in his beginning ESL classes. Attendees will leave with ideas of how to use and modify existing reading materials to further align to CCRS. The focus will be on evidence citation and CCRS reading anchor 1.
Dan Bruski ESL Teacher, Adult Options in Education
Take notes and identify ideas that you want to put into action when you return to your program.

What specific ideas do I want to implement?  What are the benefits and challenges?  Who should I share this info with?
Who can I collaborate with?  What do I want to learn more about?

Session 4 Title: __________________________________________

Presenter/s: __________________________________________

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Session 5

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17
2:15-3:45p.m.

Adult Ed and Workforce: A Strategic Combo
Bell (Civic Center Floor 1)

Join us for a look at a new vision for an already existing partnership between Duluth Adult Education and the Duluth Workforce Center. Working from previous managers’ good foundations, the Duluth Adult Education Manager and the Manager of Duluth Workforce Center discuss and outline some of the innovations and expansions that have created a more effective and broader ABE and WFC collaboration.

Patty Fleege ABE manager, Duluth Adult Education
Paula Reed Manager of Workforce Development, City of Duluth

Implementing the CCRS in Minnesota ABE: Lessons Learned
Alexander (Civic Center Floor 1)

This year 14 ABE programs from around the state participated in a cohort training focused on the alignment of curriculum and instruction to the CCRS and the development of a long-term standards implementation plan. In this session, a panel of these programs will share their lessons learned about standards implementation. Come learn about the strategies and resources your colleagues are using to sup-port the integration of the CCRS in a variety of instructional contexts.

Astrid Liden ABE Professional Development Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education
Patsy Egan Director, ATLAS
Renaida Rutmanis ABE Assistant Supervisor, SPPS Hubbs Center
Amy Fish Program Coordinator, Detroit Lakes ABE
Nicki Olalde ESL Instructor, Lyndale Neighborhood Association
Kathleen Moriarty ABE Supervisor, Metro North ABE
Kirsten Fuglseth ABE Coordinator, NW Service Cooperative ABE

Exploring Place Value
Clarke (Civic Center Floor 1)

Place value is at the heart of all mathematical computations. Have you ever wondered how to more effectively explain place value, as well as regrouping and decomposition (carrying and borrowing)? This session will deepen your understanding of place value and our counting system. This session is appropriate both for experienced math teachers as well as ESL teachers who are just beginning to incorporate numeracy into their lessons.

Brenda Anfinson ELL instructor, Hmong American Partnership
Steve Johnson ABE Instructor, AEOA- ABE

Shapes and Stuff-Geometry Activities (CCRS D&E)
Edelbrock (Civic Center Floor 1)

Activities to work through geometric concepts of shapes, scale (dilation), translation, rotation. We will discuss (and with time, make) a tessellation and a scale drawings and shape cut outs which we can use to solve problems.

Andy Albee Teacher, Adult Academic Program

Impacts of PTSD on Learning: Prevalence, Behaviors, and Strategies for Adult Classroom Success
Weidner (Civic Center Floor 1)

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a common mental health disorder affecting a disproportionally large percentage of Adult Basic Education students. Learn how PTSD impacts brain functioning and its effect on learning, including second language acquisition. Leave with strategies that can be used in the classroom to improve cognitive functioning, classroom behaviors, novel learning, and outcome measures when PTSD is present.

Rachel Johnson Graduate Student, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
TABE Implementation Training

First American (Civic Center Floor 2)

This session covers selecting and administering the appropriate TABE test, interpreting test scores, and measuring student progress. Discussion will focus on best practices for using the TABE Locator, and pre- and post-tests. The use of the Individual Diagnostic Profiles to determine instructional needs will be clarified. Updates on the new TABE test will be shared. Print and online instructional resources will be discussed. Participants will receive a copy of the TABE Administration Handbook.

Marty Olsen ABE Coordinator, SW ABE-South, SW ABE
Dave Haugen Assessment Coordinator, Minneapolis ABE

Implementing Northstar Digital Literacy Standards: Basic Computer Skills for Beginning ESL Students

Thielman (Civic Center Floor 2)

As ESL Teachers, we know the potential computers have to transform our students’ lives. Whether used to maintain social connections or find employment, digital literacy is an essential skill. This hands-on workshop will prepare you to implement a Basic Computer Skills course for students who are new to English and new to a computer. We will provide a sample course outline, fun ideas for the classroom, and an assessment tool adapted for Beginning ELLs. This presentation is also offered in Session 2.

Holly Larsen ESL Teacher, Vietnamese Social Services of MN

Argument Writing 101

Swisshelm (Civic Center Floor 2)

Argument Writing 101 will guide literacy teachers through the process of reading a higher level text, analyzing an author’s ideas, deconstructing the essay, and writing an ADP/GED appropriate extended response essay.

Adam Kuehnel ABE Literacy Instructor, Minnesota Department of Corrections

The Hidden Curriculum: Supporting Students in the Transition from ABE into College

Mitchell (Civic Center Floor 2)

How can ELL, GED®, Adult Diploma, and College Readiness instructors guide students in their transitions into college? This interactive workshop will (a) introduce you to college entrance assessment results and how to interpret them, (b) prepare you to answer student questions about the college entrance path, and (c) provide a model for ABE/Community College partnerships and discuss the benefits and challenges of these collaborations.

Andrea Morgan College Navigator, Duluth Adult Education
Lauren Hagen College Navigator, International Institute of Minnesota

Helping Learners Earn a GED®: A Step-by-Step Approach

Whitney (Civic Center Floor 2)

Are you wondering how to make the most of the GED.com website? This session will provide a thorough tour of the website and a detailed, step-by-step plan for helping students earn the GED®. We will explore tutorials, free practice tests, the GED® Ready, and will discuss how to create an individualized learning plan for students that includes classroom and distance learning. Participants will be given documents that can be customized for each ABE program.

Shari Brunes Site Manager, RTC, Glacial Lakes ABE; MDE

More Fun with Plato: Deeper Secrets of the PLE

Schilplin (Civic Center Floor 2)

Is one session on Plato not enough for you? Are you ready to go beyond the basics and explore lesser-known features of the PLE? This is the session for you! We’ll take a look at Flex Assignments, creating Custom Courses, and more tools for customizing classes and monitoring learner progress. Completion of Plato teacher training sometime in the past year required. You will need to be able to access your Plato Program Administrator account to fully participate in the session.

Susan Wetenkamp-Brandt Educational Technology Manager, Educational Technology Manager
SID - Beyond the Basics

University A (Kelly Inn)

We are one year into the transition to SID, it is time to dig into areas you may not have had time to explore. This session will re-introduce you or dig deeper into features such as the Student Portal, History Items and Goals. We will also cover valuable reports from the program level, to class and individual student level. There will be time for sharing your best practices with fellow practitioners and questions and answers.

*Jenny Schlukebier* Project Manager, Urban Planet

Developing College & Career Readiness with Paired Reading

University B (Kelly Inn)

High interest, paired readings help ELL and ABE learners develop their critical literacy and cross-cultural awareness while expanding their reading strategies—important elements of college and career readiness. Participants experience and explore the key steps in creating, preparing, and teaching paired reading lessons. Sample readings and lesson plans provided.

*Kristine Kelly* Literacy & English Language Arts Coordinator, ATLAS

*Heather Turngren* ABE Instructor, Minneapolis ABE

Promising Practices for the Multi-Level ESL Classroom

Congress/Senate (Kelly Inn)

Multi-level classes provide ongoing challenges for teachers in all sizes and shapes of ESL programs. In this workshop, learn about the research behind promising practices for multi-level classroom management, and hear about one teacher’s management system and how she plans her lessons to meet the needs of learners at all levels. Participants will have the opportunity to practice using organizational tools to manage their classrooms, and come away with some concrete strategies and activities for multi-level classes.

*Andrea Echelberger* ESL Training Coordinator, MN Literacy Council

*Pamela Dane* Teacher, West ABE Consortium

#IamABE: Amplifying Student Voices Through Social Media Activism

Sunwood (Kelly Inn)

The recent political climate has been a call to action for many and for others, especially our students, it can feel downright threatening. In this session, we will introduce a new curriculum with flexible lesson plans at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced/GED levels designed to launch a social media campaign which elevates student voices and shares the great work that we do in ABE.

*Kristin Klas* ESL Instructor, HAP English School

*Jamie Kreil* ESL Instructor, Cedar Riverside Adult Education Collaborative

Balancing Bias and Facilitating Difficult Conversations in the Classroom

State (Kelly Inn)

This workshop will explore ways to examine your own biases as an instructor and effectively tackle and facilitate conversations about race and equity in diverse settings. By the end of this session, participants will be able to name various unconscious biases, and plan an approach to a lesson that includes potentially difficult themes such as racial justice, violence, and stereotypes.

*Allie Bezat Riley* ABE Manager, MORE
Personal Enrichment Plan

Session 5

Take notes and identify ideas that you want to put into action when you return to your program.

What specific ideas do I want to implement? What are the benefits and challenges? Who should I share this info with?

Who can I collaborate with? What do I want to learn more about?

Session 5 Title: ____________________________________________

Presenter/s: ____________________________________________

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7:30a.m.  Breakfast & Book Club
7:30-8:30a.m.  Breakfast
8:15a.m.  PONI Award/s
8:30-9:00a.m.  Mini-Keynote: Dig into Equity
9:15-10:45a.m.  Concurrent Session #6
11:00-11:45a.m.  Concurrent Session #7

**Breakfast and Book Club**
7:30-8:30 a.m.
The book for this year is Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance. Tables will be reserved at the back of the main breakfast area. Enjoy breakfast while discussing the book.

**Dig into Equity**
8:30-9:00a.m.
Join us for a brief discussion about the word equity and its practical forms in ABE classrooms and larger ABE systems.
Led by Allie Bezat Riley and Jodi Versaw

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Thank You Conference Sponsors!
Session 6

**Transitions to Postsecondary: ABE Community Shares Experiences with Minnesota State Partners**

*Bell (Civic Center Floor 1)*

Adult Basic Education programs are encouraged at the national and state levels to transition adult learners into postsecondary education. How far has Minnesota ABE come in implementing this work and what changes will impact the future? Participants in this session will hear how innovative partnerships with Minnesota State campuses improve transitions for adult learners. You will also have the opportunity to give your input to shape on-going work of transitioning adults to postsecondary.

**Julie Dincau** Adult Basic Education Transitions Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education  
**Denise Felder** Minnesota Career & Technical Education’s Professional Development Director, Minnesota State Career and Technical Education  
**Jessica Espinosa** Director of College Transitions, Minnesota State

**IT Career Pathways for Adult Learners**

*Alexander (Civic Center Floor 1)*

The information technology (IT) industry desperately needs skilled IT workers. Right now, there are more vacancies in IT positions nationally than there are qualified people to fill them. Information Technology positions promise living wages and career paths that start from entry level positions requiring very short term training and certificate programs. Short term, stackable credentials in the IT field are common and replicable at various ABE locations. Women, English Language Learners, and persons of color are currently under-represented in IT careers.

**Brent Olinger** Manager, Mounds View Public Schools  
**Scott Helland** ABE Coordinator, North St Paul Schools

**Considering Whiteness in ABE**

*Weidner (Civic Center Floor 1)*

In a field that serves a large percentage of students who identify as People of Color/Native, many of our staff are white people. In this session we will consider the implications of this demographic difference between staff and students, by understanding the historical context and development of “whiteness” as a social construct in the U.S. and how various ethnic groups have lost their ethnic identity to become “white”.

**Jodi Versaw** ABE Program Quality Specialist, MN Department of Education

**Resources for Training your Staff, Volunteers, and Yourself**

*Clarke (Civic Center Floor 1)*

Volunteers are a huge asset in the ESL classroom, but finding time to prepare volunteer activities can be time-consuming for teachers and coordinators. In this session, learn where you can access free online resources, such as the new classroom activity videos, pull-out kits, and Tutor Tips to help support and train your volunteers. Learn strategies for managing expectations and maximizing the results for learners and teachers. All resources can also be used as professional development.

**Andrea Echelberger** ESL Training Coordinator, MN Literacy Council
Session 6

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18
9:15-10:45a.m.

Standard Adult Diploma Program Staff Discussion
ASC First American (Civic Center Floor 2)
This session is only for current standard adult high school diploma program staff! Join state and local diploma staff as we check in with each other to ask persistent questions, identify issues, share best practices and brainstorm ideas to make our diploma programs better and graduate even more students.
Brad Hasskamp Adult Secondary Credential and Education Policy, Minnesota Department of Education Specialist

Tools to Use to Provide Sustainable Healthcare Classes
TPS Thielman (Civic Center Floor 2)
This presentation will include two models and one free literacy curriculum resource that can be used to provide sustainable Healthcare instruction. The first part will share the Adult/Youth Career training model used in Marshall to provide CNA classes. The second part will demonstrate how ABE programs can access state funding for any student they financially supported in attaining certification and who has been successfully employed at a long-term nursing facility. The final part of the presentation will include sharing an online reading curriculum that focuses on low- and high-intermediate learners and is designed to assist individuals desiring to move into the Healthcare field.
Pat Thomas Manager, SW ABE - Marshall Region
Kristine Kelly Instructor and Atlas coordinator, Robbinsdale ABE and Atlas

What’s new with GED® Testing Service?
ASC Swisshelm (Civic Center Floor 2)
GED® Testing Service will share new products, new tools, and new initiatives to reach the students that are struggling to persist through completion. A variety of publisher initiatives will be shared as well as an update on GEDPrep Connect and the number of MN students that are reaching out to adult educators through GED.com.
Jane Bledsoe Senior Product Marketing Manager, GED® Testing Service

Refugee Resettlement 101
DE Mitchell (Civic Center Floor 2)
This training is presented by the Department of Human Services Refugee Resettlement Program Office and covers the basics of the refugee journey from the refugee camp, through the extensive security vetting process, to U.S. arrival. The presentation clarifies the legal definition of who is eligible to have refugee status, describes the Refugee Admissions System, the role of resettlement agencies, the community and the State of Minnesota. Refugees are vetted more intensively than any other group seeking to enter the US. In fact, the hardest way to come to this country is as a refugee. Facts about who is currently in Minnesota with refugee status and how the recent residential executive orders affect refugees, in general and the state of Minnesota specifically, will give clarity to the current changes in refugee Federal policy.
Patricia Fenrick Workforce Development and Outreach Specialist, Department of Human Services

Blended Learning and IET with Career Wordlists from Burlington English
ESL DL Whitney (Civic Center Floor 2)
We will explore how to utilize a blended curriculum to assist students’ career advancements. Participants will be introduced to methods for applying IET principles to their individual educational frameworks. Using the Career Extensions and Wordlists, we will review tools that allow students to choose and assess their future career plans. This introduction is the first step to fully implementing IET using BurlingtonEnglish courses in your program.
Margo Hernandez Rainwater Customer Manager, Burlington English

Copyrights and Copy Wrongs
G Schilplin (Civic Center Floor 2)
Copyright, Fair Use, Public Domain, Creative Commons, OER… the terms may sound familiar, but do you know how they affect your work in ABE? How do you know if you have a legal right to copy, share, or put something online? What if you want to share your own materials? What rights do you have as the author? I’m not a lawyer, just a well-read educator like you, but together we can come to a clearer understanding and avoid committing any major Copy Wrongs.
Susan Wetenkamp-Brandt Educational Technology Manager, Minnesota Literacy Council
Building Curriculum Aligned to the ELA CCRS Standards for Levels C - E

University A (Kelly Inn)

In this session, we will examine the CCRS ELA standards and how to build a text set aligned to the standards around a common line of inquiry. I will share all of the materials used to build the text set in a format easy for practitioner use in the classroom. We will investigate 21st century literacy theory and the best reading strategies for implementing the standards in your classroom. This workshop is intended for Adult Diploma and GED* teachers at the C - E levels.

Tammy Twiggs Adult Diploma/GED Instructor, Hubbs Center, St. Paul ABE

Numeracy Film Festival: The Sequel

University B (Kelly Inn)

Let's go to the (Math) movies! Many excellent videos about numeracy instruction are available online. We'll spend most of this session watching a sampling of them - most will be 5-10 minutes long. These resources for our individual professional development may also be of interest to those planning professional development for others. Popcorn provided!

Lindsey Cermak GED* Instructor/Coordinator, Minnesota Literacy Council

The Power of YET: How to Foster a Growth Mindset in Adult Learners

Congress/Senate (Kelly Inn)

Is intelligence ability or is it something that can be developed? To anyone who is into personal growth and self-improvement, this may seem obvious. But clearly, it is not obvious to everybody. In this session we will explore the difference between fixed and growth mindsets. You will identify the mindset characteristics in yourself and in your students. Tools and resources for applying to TIF integration into growth mindset will be provided during this active, hands-on, session of discovering the “mindset” research of Carol Dweck.

Theresa Luther-Dolan Transition to Post-secondary & Career Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Corrections

Stephanie Sommers ACES Coordinator and ABE Instructor, Minneapolis Public Schools

Reducing Compassion Fatigue in Adult Basic Education

Sunwood (Kelly Inn)

In ABE settings, but especially in our current political climate, our jobs can be just as stressful as they are rewarding. In this session, participants will use a tool to gauge their own levels of Compassion Satisfaction and identify factors that are depleting it. The facilitator will give examples of how they improved their own levels of compassion satisfaction and participants will make a plan for themselves as well.

Kristin Klas ELL Instructor, HAP English School

Managing Mayhem – an Open Discussion for Program Managers!

State (Kelly Inn)

Are you a manager of an ABE program? Do you have questions or concerns that you would like to discuss with other managers in an open format? Come join us for a manager’s discussion and bring your questions!

Jill Rivard Manager, Hiawatha Valley Adult Education
Take notes and identify ideas that you want to put into action when you return to your program.

What specific ideas do I want to implement?    What are the benefits and challenges?    Who should I share this info with?
Who can I collaborate with?                    What do I want to learn more about?

Session 6 Title: ________________________________

Presenter/s: ________________________________

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Session 7

Systems Alignment for Stronger Adult Career Pathways

Bell (Civic Center Floor 1)

For the past ten years, Adult Basic Education has been working with the Department of Employment and Economic Development in building Adult Career Pathways to better serve our common clients. This session will provide an overview of that history highlighting the changes and lessons learned and provide an insight into the current work around career pathways. If you are new to career pathways or an expert please come and provide your insight into this conversation!

Dana Dumbacher Adult Career Pathways Coordinator, MN Dept. of Employment & Economic Development
Nola Speiser Director of the Office of Adult Career Pathways, Dept. of Employment and Economic Development
Julie Dincau Adult Basic Education Transitions Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education

The U.S. Naturalization Test: Teaching Objectives

Alexander (Civic Center Floor 1)

This session reviews the specific listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills needed to complete all sections of the new naturalization test developed by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Office of Citizenship. This presentation is also offered in Session 4.

Dr. Michael Jones, Ph.D Division Chief, Citizenship Education and Training, Office of Citizenship

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Navigating and Advising Support Services Grants: An Overview of the Projects

Weidner (Civic Center Floor 1)
In 2016 Navigating and Advising Support Services grants were approved for several ABE programs. This session will give participants an overview of each of the grants and inside look at how they are being implemented. Plenty of time will be allowed for questions and answers to see how these innovative practices can be applied to your local program.

Jodi Versaw Adult Basic Education Program Quality Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education
Pat Weisler ABE Program Specialist/Navigator, Southeast ABE
Angie Blackstad Diploma Program Supervisor, Mankato Area Adult Basic Education
Cathy Grady Literacy Services Director, Minnesota Literacy Council
Pat Thomas ABE Director, Marshall ABE

From GED® to High School Equivalency Assessment(s): What Does the 2017 Minnesota Legislation Mean for My Students and Me?

First American (Civic Center Floor 2)
This year, the Minnesota Legislature replaced the term “GED®” with commissioner-approved high school equivalency assessment(s). Walk through the law and help spread the answers to the questions raised: Is GED® going away? Will multiple tests be approved? When will this law be implemented and how? How do programs and staff get involved or stay informed along the way?

Brad Hasskamp Adult Secondary Credential and Education Policy Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education

LAN’s Volunteer Engagement Committee: Volunteer Advocacy Toolkit

Thielman (Civic Center Floor 2)
Learn and share your ideas about volunteer advocacy. This year, the LAN Volunteer Engagement Committee has created a Volunteer Advocacy Toolkit, a new resource to support volunteers as they advocate for their learners and for literacy. Learn what tools you can use to engage volunteers in advocacy and how volunteers can use the tools. We also want to hear your ideas as to how volunteers have advocated. You will walk away with a copy of the Volunteer Advocacy Toolkit.

Michelle Short AM Volunteer Coordinator, English Learning Center
Ellie Purdy Operations Coordinator, Minnesota Literacy Council

An Overview of the Guide on Adult Citizenship Education Content Standards

Swisshelm (Civic Center Floor 2)
This session provides an overview of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Office of Citizenship publication, Guide to the Adult Citizenship Education Content Standards and Foundation Skills. Participants will learn how they can implement adult citizenship content standards into their curriculum and classroom. This presentation is also offered in Session 4.

Domminick McParland Education Program Specialist, USCIS Office of Citizenship

Sensible Security in the Classroom

Mitchell (Civic Center Floor 2)
Come find out why security in the classroom is important. Whether you are in a correctional setting or a community program your safety and the safety of your students should be a top priority. Learn how to be better prepared for the unexpected and how to diffuse escalating situations. Bring your questions and experiences to this interactive session leaving more confident in your ability to keep the classroom a safe and secure learning environment.

Randy Feldsien Teacher, MCF-Shakopee
Harmony Wilson Teacher, MCF-Moose Lake

What’s New in Google Tools

Whitney (Civic Center Floor 2)
Google is ever expanding its toolset for its users. This session will do a quick review well known tools such as Google Maps, Docs, and Drive and then explore some of its newest offerings such as Google Speech, Translate and Expedition. In addition we will discuss valuable browser extensions and review the steps for becoming Google Certified.

Jason Brazier Technology Administrator, Minnesota Literacy Council
Expanding Literacy with Mobile Technology

University A (Kelly Inn)

Designed for both native English speaking and ESL adult student, a new breed of no-cost, cross-platform literacy applications developed are starting to become available thanks to the XPrize for Adult Literacy. Join us for an interactive session for you to try one or more applications, discuss how they may supplement your instruction and share your thoughts on which features and content would be helpful and attractive for your students. Device not required.

Ned Zimmerman-Bence CEO, GogyUp

Creating Career Pathways for Adult Learners: Preview of This Year’s Professional Development Opportunities

University B (Kelly Inn)

Interested in doing more effective career pathways work, but need some support? This session is for you! Presenters briefly share the state’s vision for adult career pathways for ABE learners, then outline professional development opportunities available. Come learn about new adult career pathways curriculum writing resources and training, this year’s career-focused contextualized instruction (CCI) cohort, and a new career pathway cohort for administrators. Much is happening around career pathways; don’t be left behind!

Patsy Egan Director, ATLAS
Astrid Liden ABE Professional Development Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education
Liz Andress Adult Career Pathways Consultant, ATLAS

Incorporating Music in the Adult ESL Classroom

Congress/Senate (Kelly Inn)

It’s often said, “Music is a universal language.” As English language educators, why then are we not using music more often in our classrooms? Is it because we don’t know how? Is it too childish for adults? Are we afraid to be uncomfortable? Maybe you’ve always wanted to but you don’t know where to start. Join Alyssa, an ESL instructor and musician, as she offers ways to implement music with your students.

Alyssa Hedenstrom Adult ESL Instructor & Volunteer, Vietnamese Social Services

Theatre for Change

Sunwood (Kelly Inn)

The Theatre for Change project was designed and implemented at St. Louis County Jail by teaching artist and ABE teacher, Angie Frank to teach and practice cognitive skill development. This demonstration will familiarize participants with the key components and benefits of this project. Additionally, using applied theatre concepts beyond the scope of this project to meet ACES and within additional teaching environments and subjects will be discussed.

Angie Frank Teacher, ISD 709 Duluth School District

Four iPad Apps to Use with Beginning Literacy Learners

State (Kelly Inn)

This session will briefly outline reasons to use alphabet, phonics and digital book-creating iPad apps with beginning literacy adult learners. Participants will see a demonstration and practice using the following apps: Starfall ABCs, ABC PocketPhonics, ABC Spelling Magic 1 and Story Creator. This presentation is also offered in Session 4.

Meghan Boyle ESL Teacher, Minnesota Literacy Council
Take notes and identify ideas that you want to put into action when you return to your program.

What specific ideas do I want to implement?  
What are the benefits and challenges?  
Who should I share this info with?

Who can I collaborate with?  
What do I want to learn more about?

Session 7 Title:  

Presenter/s:  

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Presenter Biographies

Ahmed Adam has 14+ years experience as a licensed teacher at MCF-Stillwater. His experience includes TPSC, ACES, MNI, contextual design and utilizing technology within the classroom.

Jim Afdaal is the State Relationship Manager for GEDTS. He is responsible for coordinating all GED* matters for ABE within Minnesota. Jim has been with GEDTS since 2011.

Andy Albee is a GED*/Adult Diploma teacher at AAP and a member of the MNI-Ateam.

Elizabeth Andress is currently Adult Career Pathways Consultant with ATLAS, and formerly an ACES-TIF leader. She has an MA in Education and 15+ years teaching and writing curriculum for ESL and career pathway courses in ABE programs.

Brenda Anfinson teaches ESL and beginning numeracy at Hmong American Partnership. She has been teaching ESL since 2004 and numeracy since 2013.

Allie Beatz Riley is an ABE manager, holds a Masters of Higher Education, and leads PD on equity and embedding content standards in curriculum. Allie supports the academic needs of students while helping students, instructors, and administrators advocate for racial justice in their communities.

Arlene Birnbaum conducts intake and assessments for incoming learners at the Adult Education Center-Columbia Heights/Fridley (Metro North ABE).

Kelsey Bjorkman is a teacher at ThinkSelf, the statewide Deaf ABE program.

Angie Blackstad is the Diploma Program Supervisor for Mankato ABE. She has 3.5 years experience coordinating FastTRAC, Adult Diploma, GED*, and College Prep programming.

Jane Bledsoe manages product marketing and enhancements for GED* Ready and GED* Analytics. Jane also manages publisher relationships, is GED* Testing Service market manager for Corrections, and works with adult educators around the country to understand needs and create solutions. Jane has worked for GED* Testing Service since 2013.

Sherill Borgstahl has been a teacher at the correctional facility in Faribault since 2001. In that time she has taught GED*, ESL, English, and now Career and Employability for the ADP.

Meghan Boyle is a beginning literacy ESL teacher in the Open Door program of the Minnesota Literacy Council. Since 2008, she has been teaching ESL in a variety of settings and levels.

Jason Brazier is the Technology Administrator for the Minnesota Literacy Council. He has presented at the local, state and national levels. Jason is also the current LAN Board Chair.

Penny Brown has been an ABE instructor for 19 years. She currently teaches Academic Reading (STAR) and GED* Lab lasses in Shakopee and Chaska. She is also a former Minnesota STAR Trainer and participant in the 2017 MNI cohort.

Shari Bruness is the site manager for Hutchinson ABE, and serves as the Regional Transitions Coordinator for the Southwest Region.

Dan Bruski, MAESL, Adult Options in Education, has worked in ABE for almost 20 years. He participated in the 2016-2017 CCRS Implementation cohort.

Lindsey Cermak joined the Literacy Council as an AmeriCorps VISTA in 2010, and is now a GED* Instructor/Coordinator at Open Door Learning Center. She was a member of the MNI 2013 cohort.

Sacha Chandavong is an adult ELL teacher at Vietnamese Social Services. She has worked as a volunteer at multiple community-based organizations in the Twin Cities area. She is currently studying English as a Second Language in the M.A. program at Hamline University.

Tracy Chase is the Manager and Regional Transitions Coordinator for AEOAs Adult Education Pro-gram. Before becoming the manager/RTC, she was an instructor/lead for 25 years.

Steven Crump has been an ABE instructor with the Department of Corrections for 16 years. Currently, he teaches all levels at a minimum security boot camp in the idyllic northwoods.

Amy Cyr has taught science and math for fourteen years. She began with the DOC in October 2016 where she has taught science and social studies.

Tom Cytron-Hysom is an ABE consultant, with an emphasis on distance learning and digital literacy. He works with the statewide Distance Learning Supplemental Services grant, and coordinates the Northstar project.

Pamela Dane has been an ESL teacher for 10 years. She enjoys the challenges and rewards of teaching motivated adults in one-room schoolhouse settings in Monticello, Big Lake, and St. Michael-Albertville.

Amber Delliger is the ATLAS Numeracy Coordinator and has worked at Metro North ABE for the past decade as an instructor and diploma advisor. She specializes in standards-based numeracy instruction, methods and practices.

Julie Dincau is the Adult Basic Education Transitions Specialist at the Minnesota Department of Education where she provides support for adult career pathways (ACP) and regional transitions work.

Dana Dumbacher is a program coordinator in the Office of Adult Career Pathways, DEED. She graduated from the Humphrey School of Public Policy in 2016 with a master’s in Public Policy. Prior to her work at DEED, she was a community and union organizer with SEIU Healthcare Wisconsin.

Andrea Echelberger is the ESL Training Coordinator with the MN Literacy Council. She has worked in the field of adult ESL education for 14 years and has her MAESL from Hamline University.

Patsy Egan, PhD, is the Director of ATLAS. Her work focuses on designing, delivering, and evaluating effective professional development for adult educators across Minnesota.

Shawn Emslander transferred to Faribault in October of 2015. In that time, he has taught Math, Science, Social Studies, and English. He also uploads all ADP portfolios for Faribault.
Cadie Engelking is a Career Navigator at the Hawthorne Education Center in Rochester.

Jessica Espinosa is the Director of College Transitions at the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system office where she provides support for Post-secondary Enrollment Options, concurrent enrollment, developmental education, and FastTRAC.

Jessica Ess is an ABE teacher and the Distance Learning team coordinator at the Hubs Center (St. Paul ABE).

Denise Felder (@DeniseMpls) is Minnesota Career & Technical Education’s Professional Development Director, a Certified Poverty Awareness Coach, Offender Job Retention Specialist, and President of the Minnesota Career Development Association (2017-2018).

Randy Feldsien has worked in corrections for over 23 years. He was a corrections officer for 7 years and has taught ABE at MCF-Shakopee for the last 16 years.

Patricia Fenrick has worked with diverse communities for over 17 years, including as the Executive Director for World Relief Minnesota. She currently works for the Department of Human Services Refugee Programs Office in Outreach and Refugee workforce development. Patricia teaches for several local universities on justice and social change.

Terrisa Fisher teaches in an open-lab so like other teachers in similar settings, she addresses the varied needs of the students: reading, basic skills, English, citizenship, driver’s license, and the GED® content areas. Teaching reading is her passion, and she is a reading specialist and certified STAR trainer.

Patty Fleege has been an educator for 31 years teaching 8th grade English Language Arts and Adult Basic Education. She is currently the manager of Duluth Adult Education.

Ronald (Ron) Fleischmann has been a K-12 teacher, special education teacher, and a supervisor over 25 years. Ron is a certified machinist with 4 NIMS machining credentials, certified CMAE instructor, and teaches at South Central College.

James Flores has been an educator since 2008. He currently provides special education services at MCF-Faribault for offenders with IEP’s and also teaches the introductory ESL course.

Angie Frank, M.S. Education, works as an ABE teacher at the St. Louis County Jail and as a teaching artist throughout the Duluth community. Her passion is applying creativity to meet educational and organizational goals.

Marn Frank is the Literacy & STAR coordinator for ATLAS, facilitates EBRI study circles, and curates the combined STAR/EBRI online resource library. Her professional time and energy is focused on effective reading instruction for Beginning>Intermediate>Advanced level ABE/ESL teachers and students.

Kirsten Fuglseth is the ABE Coordinator for the Northwest Service Cooperative ABE consortium, based in Thief River Falls, MN. She has worked in the field of ABE since 1996, as an instructor, manager, and regional professional development coordinator, and has served on numerous statewide committees.

Adriana Galvan is ABE Coordinator at Guadalupe Alternative Programs in St. Paul, where she has worked for 24 years as an ABE, ELL and Digital Literacy Instructor. She is originally from Monterrey, Mexico.

Karen Gerdin is the Outreach and Workforce Education Assistant Supervisor with St. Paul Public Schools Adult Basic Education program. Karen has been with the program for 20 years.

Jake Gilbert, Member of the National Association of Certified Credit Counselors, teaches financial literacy in the classroom and one-on-one with immigrants and refugees in the International Institute’s Nursing Assistant Training Program.

Suzanne Gilchrist McCurdy has 17 years experience in the ESL field. She presently works as an educational consultant and as an instructor at Hamline University.

Cathy Grady has worked in ABE for more than 20 years and has been with the Minnesota Literacy Council for the past 17 years. She has an ABE teaching license and a master's degree in education from the University of Minnesota.

Vicki Greene is VP Operations for GEDTS. She is responsible for all operational aspects of delivering the GED® tests to adults across the U.S. Vicki has been with GEDTS since 2012.

Ilse Griffin currently works as a learning center coordinator for the Open Door Learning Center in NE Minneapolis. A recent grad from Hamline in MA TESOL, she previously taught abroad in Laos and Uganda.

Krista Grosland graduated in May 2016 with a B.A. in ASL/English Interpreting and is currently working toward her M.Ed in Adult Education with a License in ABE. She is a Literacy VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) at ThinkSelf, an organization providing education and advocacy to Deaf adults.

Aaron Gutzke, MPA, has worked in ABE for 4 years as the Executive Director of ThinkSelf, and has taught ABE as far back as 1998.

Lauren Hagen is a College Readiness Navigator at the International Institute. She supports students in the transition from ABE into college through intrusive advising for Tier 1 students.

Karlin Hanson has Bachelor’s degrees in Life Science Education and Biology from MSU-Moorhead and her Master of Science in Education at Bemidji State University. She is currently teaching ABE in Bemidji.
Brad Hasskamp works with the Minnesota Department of Education as the Adult Secondary Credential and Education Policy Specialist.

Dave Haugen works for Minneapolis ABE as an Assessment Coordinator. He previously has taught in ABE and has provided trainings at many state adult education conferences around disabilities/accommodations.

Alyssa Hedenstrom has received degrees in both Music Composition and Spanish along with an MA in ESL. She currently volunteers and substitutes at ESL programs in St. Paul, MN.

Scott Helland is Manager of Harmony Learning Center and Fiscal host of Metro East ABE Consortium.

Margo Hernandez, M.Ed., has been an educator and professional trainer in her field for 25+ years. As a Burlington English Customer Manager, she manages the sales and implementation of educational software to adult education programs throughout the Midwest.

Kristen Herndon teaches and coordinates adult ELL classes for Neighborhood House in St. Paul. Kristen is passionate about providing resources and support to individuals as they navigate U.S. systems. She has a Bachelor's degree in education, and graduate certificates in Teaching English as a Foreign Language and Financial Literacy Education.

Emily Hipps is an English Instructor at the International Institute of Minnesota’s English for Work program. Previously, she worked in a communications role at the Institute.

Stephanie Hogenson is the research and policy director at Children’s Defense Fund.

Sarah Hoggard, M.A., M.Ed., has worked in ABE for seven years. She is currently the Education Coordinator for ThinkSelf’s statewide Deaf ABE program, and also serves as Co-Chair of Summer Institute.

Kellie Hoyt is a site coordinator for Minneapolis ABE and a state-certified CASAS trainer. She has worked with Minneapolis ABE since 2006, after starting with the program as a volunteer.

Sarah Huhnerkoch is an ABE teacher in the Stillwater Public Schools, where her program is a one-room school house located in the Early Childhood Family Center. She is the lead teacher and has 2 assistants and about 10 volunteers.

Meagan Hymes teaches pre-GED*, GED* prep, post-GED*, and Academic Writing (with embedded digital literacy). Her setting is a one-room schoolhouse in corrections.

Jayesun Israel Sherman lived in Asia for ten years and has spent time in various countries. He has taught ESL students from various backgrounds to speak with an American accent using IPA.

Rachel Johnson is a former ABE/ESL teacher (Metro North ABE) and Education Program Manager (MORE) who now studies brain mechanisms affected by trauma that impede language acquisition in adults.

Steve Johnson has a BAS in Elementary education and an AA in Business.

Steve has taught early childhood through college as well as GED* and ESL. Steve volunteers his time in the community through various boards and organizations.

Dr. Michael R. Jones is the Division Chief of Citizenship Education and Training within the Office of Citizenship for USCIS. He began his career at USCIS in 2003, and assumed his current position as Division Chief in 2011.

Joan Joswiak has been an educator for over 25 years. Her students have ranged in age from 3-73. Joan is the back up Support for ADP.

Dmitry Katkov taught Physics and Computer Science for two years in Tajikistan. He recently started working as a teaching assistant in corrections. He is the MCF-STW ADP portfolio specialist.

Linda Keller is the ABE Accountability Coordinator for Metro North ABE and manages SiD for the consortia. She is a state-certified CASAS and TABE trainer.

Kristine Kelly is the ATLAS Literacy & English Language Arts Coordinator and CCRS ELA lead for Minnesota ABE. In addition, she is a reading/writing teacher in the Robbinsdale ABE Program.

Adam Kieffer is an ABE teacher at the Hubbs Center (St. Paul ABE) and works in the distance learning program. He is on the Distance Learning and Technology Supplemental Services Grant team, the DL Virtual Task Force, and has facilitated DL 101 and DL 102 courses.

Anne Kilzer (MPA) is Director of the Minnesota Workforce Council Association, representing local workforce boards and employment and training program providers. Previous work includes federal policy analysis and grant administration.

Kristin Klas, Pre-Beginning ELL Instructor, received her MA Ed. from the University of Minnesota. She has almost 10 years of experience teaching English, six specifically with Low Educated Second Language learners.

Kristin Knudson, M.Ed., has been an ABE teacher for six years. She teaches preGED*, GED* and ESL in a one-room schoolhouse classroom at the Hennepin County Adult Correctional Facility.

Lori Koenig has taught adult learners for many years within the correctional setting. Throughout that time she has provided instruction in multiple subject areas.

Jamie Kreil, Pre-Beginning ELL instructor, M.Ed, and PhD candidate has 10 years of multi-level teaching experience. She is also adjunct faculty in the ABE licensure program at the University of Minnesota.

Adam Kuehnel is a literacy instructor with the Minnesota Department of Corrections. He works with students from all walks of life and encourages them to become critical thinkers and writers.

Vicki Lambert returned to the teaching profession in 2000. She has always taught in alternative education environments. Most recently, she teaches ABE at MCF-Stillwater and is the ADP coordinator.

Holly Larsen teaches ESL and Computer Literacy at Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota. She’s taught pre-literacy to advanced ELLs both oversees and in the United States.
**Presenters Biographies**

Charles LaRue, an ESL instructor, has supervised DL at Metro North ABE for many years. He currently supervises 60 Core Skills Mastery students, who spend at least 3 hours per week on DL.

Molly (Stewart) Liberto has been working in ABE since 2006. She is currently an ABE Program Supervisor with Metro North ABE and is part of the Minnesota ABE Math Advisory Team.

Astrid Liden is the ABE Professional Development Specialist at the Minnesota Department of Education. She has worked as an ESL instructor, teacher trainer, and ABE program manager.

Heather Lindstrom has 20+ years working with beyond-risk students, currently works in special education at MCF-Stillwater, Oak Park Heights and Lino Lakes. Heather is a licensed Social Studies, EBD teacher and administrator.

Melissa Longoria is working on her Adult Diploma. She is an amazing student, consistently reaching beyond what is required of her. Melissa is using MCIS in the classroom and on her own time for career research, resume development, and more.

Theresa Luther-Dolan has a M. Adult Ed and MN Administrative License. She leads transitions education efforts, professional development, and the state standard adult diploma program for Minnesota Department of Corrections. She has over 25 years’ experience in ABE and Community Education, and is currently a Regional ABE Transitions Coordinator.

Christian McCleary is an AmeriCorps VISTA with the St. Paul ABE consortium, focusing on outreach and equity for African Americans. He is a GED* graduate with mentoring, leadership and public speaking experience.

Dominick McParland serves as an Education Program Specialist for the Office of Citizenship. He works to promote and further the field of Adult Citizenship Education by leading training seminars, developing instructional materials, and consulting citizenship programs.

Andrea Morgan is a College Readiness Navigator at the International Institute. She supports students as they transition from ABE into college through individual academic plans and addressing personal barriers.

Kathleen Moriarty is the ABE Supervisor for the southern cluster sites of Metro North ABE in Columbia Heights and Brooklyn Center.

Caroline Nerhus is the coordinator for Central MN-East Adult Basic Education, and a Regional Transitions Coordinator for Central MN-East.

Eric Nesheim is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Literacy Council, a registered lobbyist, and former Literacy Action Network president. Actively involved in both state and national advocacy efforts.

Lee Obermiller began teaching in 1980 as an Industrial Technology instructor and later became a high school principal. He has worked in educational settings including metro suburbs, rural Central Minnesota and Northern Minnesota.

Nicki Olalde has worked as an ESL teacher for the past ten years. She has experience teaching in an IEP and currently works for a non-profit organization where she teaches literacy-level English.

Brent Olinger is Manager of Mounds View Adult Programs and Manager of Metro East IEL Civics IT Career Pathways grant.

Marty Olsen is the ABE Coordinator for Southwest ABE – South region. She is a nationally-certified CASAS trainer and a state TABE assessment trainer.

Barb Osvold has been an Adult Basic Education Instructor for 2 years. She teaches in a one room school setting in Detroit Lakes.

Sarita Parikh focuses on student engagement at GEDTS. Her background is technology; Sarita now spends her time finding more ways to help GED* students fulfill their dreams, with and without technology.

Julie Pleski, M.Ed, has worked as an educator in the education field for 6 years (4 years in K-12 setting and 3 years in ABE) after a career change from a research scientist. Currently, Julie is currently the Lead Adult Educator for ThinkSelf’s statewide Deaf ABE program.

Ellie Purdy is the Operations Coordinator at the Minnesota Literacy Council. She serves as the co-chair on the LAN Volunteer Engagement Committee, and has six years of experience in ABE as an ESL teacher and learning center coordinator.

Paula Reed has been the Manager of Workforce Development for 2 years in Duluth Minnesota. She previously worked for United Way of Greater Duluth for 14 years.

Patti Refsland teaches GED *prep and Adult Diploma CCR aligned curricula to ABE and Youthbuild students plus digital literacy, career pathway and employability skills in one-room schoolhouse and managed enrolled classroom.

Jill Rivard has been manager of Hiawatha Valley Adult Education for 2½ years. Past jobs included the district assessment coordinator, webmaster and technology integrationist for Red Wing Public Schools.

Thomas Ross is a State Relationship Manager for GED® Testing Service, with 15 years of experience working with educators and adult learners, including professional development and test content for adult education and K12. Thomas joined GED® Testing Service in 2014.

Tonya Roth is a Licenced Social Worker who has worked as an Adult Education Navigator for just over one year. She has worked the past 15 years in nonprofits that focused on community building.

Abby Roza teaches multiple subjects to students preparing to earn their HS credential. Her setting is on the one-room schoolhouse spectrum. She loves attending professional development.

Renada Rutmanis is an Assistant Supervisor at Hubbs Center. She has a love/hate relationship with standards.
Jenny Schlukebier works at Urban Planet on SiD development and support. She brings many years of experience in ABE having worked for both Hubbs Center and the MLC on accountability.

George Schooley (MA in TESOL) has been working in ABE for twenty years. He has taught ELL and GED* at the Hubbs Center in Saint Paul for nine years. He is currently collaborating on a construction training course with Goodwill-Easter Seals.

Michelle Short is the morning Volunteer Coordinator at the English Learning Center, providing recruitment, support and position development for volunteers. She serves as the co-chair on the LAN Volunteer Engagement Committee.

Theresa Sladek has a master’s degree in counseling along with many years of paid project management and counseling experience. She has been a volunteer teacher at the Open Door Learning Center and was recently hired to develop the volunteer navigation project with SPCLC.

Stephanie Sommers is an instructor with Minneapolis ABE. She has been working in the field of ABE since 1998. She has a M.Ed. from the University of MN. In addition to teaching, she is an ATLAS consultant.

Nola Speiser is the director of the Office of Adult Career Pathways at the Dept. of Employment and Economic Development. She oversees all Career Pathways programming funded by the State of MN.

Beth Staats is one of two Reference Outreach & Instruction Librarians with Minitex. She holds a BA in History from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and a Master’s Degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Mark Stoltenburg has worked at MCF-Stillwater for 17+ years His experience includes being the Assessment coordinator (GED*, TABE, CASAS, Accuplacer, etc.) and Higher Education coordinator.

Rebecca Strom has been teaching math at Mankato ABE since 2007. She is the MNI project lead, a member of the CCRS Implementation team and the Adult Diploma Working Group.

Dr. Katherine (Kati) Sump is the site lead in New Ulm, MN and an instructor for the FastTRAC to Healthcare program offered by ABE, DEED, and SCC.

Sara Sundberg has been in the field of education for several decades and has served in many different roles before finding her home in ABE.

Wendy Sweeney, MA, is a Licensed Psychologist and Disability Specialist for PANDA-Minnesota ABE Disability Specialists, a Supplemental Service provider for MDE. She has been involved in ABE since 2009 and specializes in mental health and specific learning disabilities.

Pat Thomas has been an ABE Manager for 18 years in southwestern Minnesota. She began the FastTRAC journey with its inception and continues working to make it a more effective tool for ABE learners.

Manee Thao has served 2 years as the AmeriCorps CTEP member at Hubbs Center teaching the Computer Basics class. The classes are taught based on the Northstar standards and modules.

Randy Trask, President of GED* Testing Service, is responsible for all strategic and operational aspects of the GED* program. Randy has been with GEDTS since 2011 and continues to tutor math in North Minneapolis.

Heather Turngren has worked in Adult Education since 2000, when she earned her M.Ed. in Education and Adult Basic Education licensure from the University of Minnesota. She has been a teacher with Minneapolis Adult Education since 2000.

Tammy Twiggs has taught ABE for over 20 years at the Hubbs Center and is currently working with Adult Diploma and GED* learners. She began a Master's degree in Literacy Education this year and has a particular interest in building text sets and aligning them to the CCRS standards.

Jodi Versaw is the ABE Program Quality Specialist at the Minnesota Department of Education. She has worked in the field of ABE for more than 15 years.

Pat Weisler is the ABE Program Specialist/Navigator for the SE ABE, Owatonna program. She has been involved in ABE for 41 years.

Jon Weiss has 9+ years experience as a licensed teacher at MCF-Stillwater. His experience includes, GED*: Adult Diploma, ELL, EBD, SLD in Special Education and utilizing technology within the classroom.

Susan Wetenkamp-Brandt has been working with technology and online learning in ABE for 15 years. She provides training, technical support, and consultation to ABE practitioners on best practices in technology integration, digital literacy, and distance learning.

Harmony Wilson is an ABE teacher at MCF-Moose Lake and teaches Literacy 1 level students. She has been working for the Department of Corrections for 10 years.

Dorothy Wolf provides leadership for the Minnesota Career Information System (MCIS) team and has 30+ years in training experience. She conducts approximately 40 workshops a year on the use of various Career Information System products.

Karen Wolters is the program manager for Mankato Area Adult Basic Education. She has 23 years experience in the ABE field.

Burgen Young is the Instructional Manager for the Minnesota Literacy Council and has been an ABE professional for over 11 years. She has a dual MA in TESOL and Linguistics.

Ned Zimmerman-Bence is CEO and Co-Founder of GogyUp, where he collaborates with educators to create “always available” applications for adult students to increase their skills and qualify for living-wage work.
PANDA

Minnesota Adult Basic Education Disability Specialists

PANDA provides ABE programs with disability support, knowledge and resources to increase academic opportunities for students.

Check out PANDA’s disability website at http://mn.abedisabilities.org

Contact PANDA with any disability questions or concerns.
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- **ESL** – under construction, with everything from teaching language to classroom practices and assessment
- **Numeracy** – featuring MN ABE Content Standards information plus both content and instructional resources

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Working collaboratively, learn to design career-focused units/lessons and to integrate MN ABE Content Standards in career-focused contextualized instruction. Applications due Nov. 17, 2017.

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**MORE INFORMATION:** Visit the ATLAS website – [www.atlasABE.org](http://www.atlasABE.org) and click on Calendar of Events – and also stay tuned for additional announcements in **MN ABE Connect!**

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