TALAE

ON A MISSION TO TRANSFORM ADULT EDUCATION

TALAE 2024 STATE CONFERENCE

PRE-CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 14, 2024
CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 15-17, 2024
SAN ANTONIO

TALAE 2024

February 14 - February 17, 2024

Conference Schedule At-A-Glance

Pre-Conference Schedule		
Wednesday, February 14, 2024		
7:30 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	Pre-Conference Registration
9:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Sessions (Times vary per pre-conference session)
3:30 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	TALAE Conference Check-In
Conference Schedule		
Thursday, February 15, 2024		
7:30 a.m.	5:00 p.m	Conference Check-In
8:30 a.m.	10:00 a.m	**Keynote Opening Session Welcome:** *Hector Martinez*
10:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	**Vendor Grand Opening**
10:30 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	Breakout Sessions 1
12:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	**Lunch on Your Own / Visit Vendors**
1:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	Breakout Sessions 2
3:00 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	**Networking Break**
3:15 p.m.	4:45 p.m.	Breakout Sessions 3
5:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	**Past President's Reception-Everyone is invited!**
Conference Schedule		
Friday, February 16, 2024		
8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	Conference Check-In
8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	Visit Vendors and Exhibitors
8:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	**Networking Break**
9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Breakout Sessions 4
10:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	**Networking Break**
11:00 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	**TALAE Awards Luncheon** (Ticketed event, additional tickets may be purchased)
12:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m.	**Networking Break**
1:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	Breakout Sessions 5
2:30 p.m.	2:45 p.m.	**Networking Break**
2:45 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	Breakout Sessions 6
Conference Schedule		
Saturday, February 17, 2024		
7:30 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	Conference Check-In
8:00 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	Visit Vendors and Exhibitors
8:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	Breakout Sessions 7
9:30 a.m.	9:45 a.m.	**Networking Break**
9:45 a.m.	11:15 a.m.	Breakout Sessions 8
11:15 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	**Networking Break**
11:30 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	Breakout Sessions 9
1:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	**TALAE Annual Business Meeting/Lunch**
	2:30 p.m.	**Conference Adjourns**

Session Time: 10:30am - 12:00pm	Thursday February 15, 2024 Session 1			
Strand	ABE/HSE	Digital Education and Technology	ESL	General Interest
Session ID	T1-1	T1-2	T1-3	T1-4
Location	Fiesta B	Fiesta E	Crockett West	Crockett East
Title	Understanding Skills Gaps Across the GED Subject Areas	How to Slay Your Social Media Game: A Collaborative Session for Adult Educators	Implementing Standards-Based Instruction for English Learners	Make Meetings Memorable!
Description	In this session, we will discuss the skills gaps the GEDTS Assessment team identified in each of the four subject areas. We'll define what a skills gap is for the purpose of this session, and provide some additional resources to help students remediate those gaps.	Are you looking to boost your program's social media presence but don't know where to begin? Join Ashly Winkle and Rina Renteria from the DEPDC for a highly interactive and collaborative session. You'll learn new ways to enhance your program's social media presence by developing effective social media strategies.	Come join your fellow Texas colleagues to learn about and use the National Standards in Action (SIA) Institute resources for English learners! The SIA framework prepares adult educators to develop and provide instruction for English learners focused on language and content learning as an integrated process for students. To help understand this interwoven approach, you will explore the SIA framework which provides the structural outline for a lesson. Lastly, you will have the opportunity to experience instructional strategies which prepare, engage, and extend language and content learning for all adult learners during a lesson.	Are your staff meetings stuck in a powerpoint rut? Are informational PD sessions all talk and no action? They don't have to be! There are challenging and fun ways to engage participants while also delivering content. From "blind" quiz games to low ropes challenges, scavenger hunts to breakout rooms, there are a variety of methods to increase team building and decrease boredom. Come prepared to participate, have fun, and learn some new strategies!
Presenter(s)	Jonna Forsyth	Ashly Winkle and Rina Renteria	Angi Mudd and Cory Spencer	Amber Miller and Katherine Dowdy

Session Time: 10:30am - 12:00pm	Thursday February 15, 2024 Session 1			
Strand	Pathways/Workforce	General Interest	Synergy Texas	
Session ID	T1-5	T1-6	T1 - Synergy	
Location	Fiesta A	Fiesta C	Bowie	
Title	Innovative Workplace English & Career Readiness Program Models	Supporting Adult Education Students to Achieve Long Term Goals	Empowering Internationally Trained Professionals: A Two-Step Career Advising Approach	
Description	This workshop will explore sector-specific talent pipeline development programs in the areas of pre-apprenticeship, career pathway transitions, and services for special populations including Internationally Trained Professionals and refugees. Growth sector examples will be shared including healthcare, hospitality and manufacturing industry examples. English skills, digital literacy and integrated (IET) career pathway training programs offer great opportunities for innovative workforce and economic development programs. We look forward to exploring these topics within a generative and interactive session that includes small group breakout room discussions. Blended program models for working with community partners, employers, and with special populations will be highlighted.	This is a follow-up to our Keynote Session focused on the impact of Adult Education Services on Texas participants who are now in leadership work and/or community positions.	Discover the pivotal role of career advising in supporting Internationally Trained Professionals and explore a two-step approach used by Austing Community College. Understand the significance of goal setting, roadmap creation, transcript translation, and credential evaluation through interactive examples. Explore refining resumes, cover letters, sharing job search strategies, and navigating the application process too. Join us to equip yourself with practical strategies and a deeper understand of how to effectively assist ITPs in their career pursuits.	*This space intentionally left blank.*
Presenter(s)	Tadd Wamester and Sue Ambrus	Hector Martinez	Danielle Rosenblath and Rebecca Stanley	

TALAE 2024 Breakout Sessions Schedule and Information

(tentative schedule subject to minor changes)

Thursday February 15, 2024
Session 2

Session Time: 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Strand	ABE/HSE	Digital Education and Technology	ESL	General Interest
Session ID	T2-1	T2-2	T2-3	T2-4
Location	Fiesta B	Fiesta E	Crockett West	Crockett East
Title	Eight Best Practices for Teaching With Essential Ed	Extend Your Digital Classroom: Work With Students with Aztec's New, Secure LECTURE Tool	Four Ways to Address Workplace Skills in the Adult ESL Classroom	CASAS Across Programs: Using the New Test Series to Support ESL and ABE Learning Outcomes and Workforce Readiness
Description	This interactive session will tackle eight best practices adult educators can implement in their classrooms immediately, whether you're using a traditional, blended, or online approach with Essential Education or other online curricula. We've gathered input from teachers and programs across the country to give you practical ideas and takeaways that can fit a variety of classroom settings. Topics include: orientation, feedback, progress monitoring, teachers' presence, persistence and engagement, and more.	This presentation will share Aztec's newest, secure digital feature and the ways it can be used by instructors to create dynamic instructional experiences for their students. Lecture allows instructors to record and present or present live instruction to their students on the Aztec platform. This is the ideal tool for facilities who do not have enough full-time certified teachers. The Lecture tool also allows instructors to include useful activities in their on-platform presentations including a whiteboard for notes and the ability to show and write on Aztec lessons and other digital media such as ePubs, mp4 videos, PowerPoint slides, and PDFs.	Prepare students for the workplace by incorporating Academic Skills, Soft Skills, Workplace Connections, and Career Exploration with meaningful, relevant, and high interest activities.	Participants will gain an understanding of how the rigor and relevance of the new NRS-Approved assessments, STEPS and GOALS 2, help teachers and program coordinators target instruction. Participants will also discuss targeting instruction using the ELP Standards and/or College and Career Readiness Standards based on test results using a case study. Hands-on exploration of sample test items will provide participants an opportunity to step into the shoes of their students and think about how to approach test results during data chats that motivate their program participants to achieve their goals.
Presenter	AJ Crowell	Mitch Rosin	Janet Kay	Kristine Kruczek Mains and Dr. Glenda Rose

Thursday February 15, 2024
Session 2

Session Time: 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Strand	Pathways/Workforce	General Interest	Synergy Texas	
Session ID	T2-5	T2-6	T2 - Synergy	
Location	Fiesta A	Fiesta C	Bowie	
Title	Building Success: Developing Middle-Skilled Talent for the Texas Construction Industry	Avenues for Professional Development in Adult Education	ITP Programming Bootcamp	
Description	The Texas construction industry is facing a shortage of middle-skilled workers, those with a high school diploma but less than a 4-year degree. The Career Pathways Professional Development Center (CP PDC) was awarded a grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to develop a curriculum that will prepare individuals who are lacking the skills required for advancement and growth in the industry. In this session, participants will leverage industry specific examples and examine how the curriculum integrates academic and interpersonal skills. We will discuss and determine how the curriculum can be modified to meet the demands and needs of your program and regional workforce.	This session will provide an overview of current trends in professional development (PD) in the field of Adult Education. Drawing on experiences and resources at the nationally recognized Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy and Learning (TCALL) at Texas A&M, the presenter will provide an overview and facilitate a discussion on PD needs of adult educators. Topics will include leadership development, digital literacy, various qualifications, and their value add for adult educators.	Have you ever asked yourself, "I want to serve ITPs - where do I start?" This session is for you! We will review the basics of serving ITPs, inclusive of different program types. No matter the program size, geography & location, or economic focus of a region, all AEL providers can successfully start an ITP program that makes a difference for students, employers, and the community. Participants will have the opportunity to work through a planning tool that will help them start their own ITP program for their community.	*This space intentionally left blank.*
Presenter	Julio Medina	John Bogan and Elizabeth Roumell	Kerri Rhodes and Mechelle Matthey	

Session Time: 3:15pm - 4:45pm	**Thursday February 15, 2024**		
	Session 3		
Strand	ABE/HSE	Digital Education and Technology	ESL	General Interest
Session ID	T3-1	T3-2	T3-3	T3-4
Location	Fiesta B	Fiesta E	Crockett West	Crockett East
Title	Understanding the Accommodations Process with GED and Pearson VUE	Orchestrating Measurable Skill Gains for Academic and Workplace Success at Region 1 with BurlingTUNEEnglish	Foundational Reading Skills Instruction for Adult ESOL Learners	Developing Digital Literacy and Resiliency in ESL Classes
Description	So often, adult education students became frustrated in school because they couldn't learn like other students, and they just gave up and quit school. It is difficult for them to advocate for themselves to receive the services they now need to be successful in adult education, and we can all be advocates for them. This session will discuss accommodations that are available on the GED exams, but more importantly, it will give the participants tools to help their students secure the documentation they need to make accommodation requests. By sharing helpful tips, teachers and other advocates will be better equipped to help. It will also empower teachers to have discussions with their students about disabling conditions and how teachers can help and the importance of starting the process early. Teachers in classrooms with students seeking a GED credential will find the information about documentation requirements especially helpful.	This presentation offers adult educators an insightful exploration of how BurlingtonEnglish can facilitate Measurable Skill Gains (MSGs) among adult learners, enabling them to achieve success in both academic and workplace settings. Participants will discover the impactful strategies and resources provided by BurlingtonEnglish that engage and empower learners, promoting language acquisition and enhancing communication skills. Through interactive activities and sample lessons, educators will gain practical insights into the platform's effectiveness in bridging the gap between language proficiency and academic or workplace achievements. They will have the opportunity to explore the platform's features, learn how to tailor activities to meet the specific needs of adult learners, and create a supportive and engaging learning environment. The session will also focus on strategies for integrating BurlingtonEnglish into instructional practices, enabling educators to optimize its potential and create meaningful learning experiences for their students. By the conclusion of the presentation, educators will have a comprehensive understanding of how BurlingtonEnglish can empower adult learners to overcome language barriers, achieve academic success, and thrive in the workplace. They will leave equipped with practical knowledge and tools to effectively utilize the platform, supporting their students' journey towards measurable skill gains and future accomplishments.	The research is clear: explicit instruction of foundational reading skills works. This presentation provides information, resources, and skill-building in effective foundational reading instruction to allow adult educators to follow their K12 counterparts in providing effective evidenced-based reading instruction. Come to build your knowledge and learn practical techniques to use with low literacy learners in the classroom.	Digital Access and Resilience can be difficult to include in beginning English language classes, especially with students who have little or no first-language literacy. These skills, however, are critical for our students to be able to participate fully in US society. Almost every aspect of life is affected: how you apply for a job, make a doctor's appointment, renew your driver's license, and communicate with your child's school. In this session, we will look at the free DART curriculum that is designed to help teachers think of ways to integrate digital skills and resilience into existing lessons, or just use the lessons provided! This session is primarily for ESL instructors.
Presenter	Debbie Bergthholdt	Martin Loa and Melissa Salinas	Dr. Lia Conklin Olson	Jeanine Wenzel and Dr. Glenda Rose

Session Time: 3:15pm - 4:45pm	**Thursday February 15, 2024**		
	Session 3		
Strand	Pathways/Workforce	General Interest	Synergy Texas	
Session ID	T3-5	T3-6	T3 - Synergy	
Location	Fiesta A	Fiesta C	Bowie	
Title	Ensuring a Seat at the Table	Mission Possible: Reaching Low Literacy Students in the ESL Classroom	Supporting the Economic Inclusion of Immigrants and Refugees with International Education and Experience: Tools and Resources	
Description	Join Victoria College's President, Dr. Jennifer Kent, for a discussion on the role of adult education in an institution of higher education. Whether your AEL program is currently within a college setting or partnering with several different colleges, knowing where an AEL program fits into the bigger picture is critical to having a productive partnership. This session will focus on the value of adult education and the need for successful and productive programs in order to better serve adult learners in our communities.	In this session, we will re-think how we approach the challenge of "low literacy" students in the ESL classroom by creating on-ramps to literacy through their existing language strengths and skills. We will begin by re-framing how "low literacy" students are discussed, referenced, and viewed. After identifying the assets these students bring to the classroom as well as their unique instructional needs, we will then dive into specific examples on how to bridge the two: utilizing language strengths to address literacy needs. While examples from Cambridge Ventures curriculum will be given, ALL attendees– regardless of which curriculum they use -- will leave with practical, easy-to-implement strategies and scaffolds to better reach and teach this population.	Recent data indicates that over two million college-educated immigrants and refugees in the U.S. face unemployment or underemployment, constituting 17% of the total college-educated labor force. This underutilization not only represents a significant loss of human capital but also underscores the urgent need for comprehensive solutions. As representatives of World Education Services, we are committed to amplifying this issue through resources and tools that can be used to support internationally trained immigrants and refugees. Our presentation will highlight key topics, including streamlined credential recognition, an exploration of the WES Gateway Program, and resources for individuals navigating U.S. workforce inclusion. The session will also cover the Pathways Tool and Career Pathways e-Guides on our website, providing comprehensive information on academic requirements, career options, and licensing and certification. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of career pathways, tools for successful navigation, and WES as a national partner and resource.	*This space intentionally left blank.*
Presenter	Dr. Jennifer Kent and Tiffany Johnson	Katie Welch	Leticia (Lety) Farrera and Trevor Shealy	

Session Time: 9:00am - 10:30 am	**Friday February 16, 2024** **Session 4**		
Strand	**ABE/HSE**	**Digital Education and Technology**	**ESL**
Session ID	F4-1	F4-2	F4-3
Location	Fiesta B	Fiesta E	Crockett West
Title	TABE Testing Updates and Overview of the new TABE Workforce Readiness Portal - Aligning TABE Scores to Career Skills from O*Net	Keeping Up with Essential Education - Season 2024	Innovative Career Pathways: Empowering Adult Learners for Success
Description	This session will review updates and best practices for TABE testing including Off-Line Testing, plans for TABE 13/14 and discuss the use of TABE CLAS-E Online can support ESL programs. We will review new alignments to Grade Ranges and the Concordance of TABE 11/12 to available High School Equivalency tests. We will also explore the new TABE Workforce Portal that aligns TABE Scores to over 900 of the Bright Outlook careers posted in the US Department of Labor's Occupational Network (O*Net).	This session will provide a brief update on five of our exciting new announcements for 2024. 1. GED Practice Plus- 10,000 + Practice activities have been added to GED Academy. These items provide 100% coverage of all GED Assessment Targets and are available in English and Spanish. 2. Spanish GED Academy- This complete course is now available as a stand-alone for GED Spanish test-takers. 3. MindPlay for the Adult Learner- We'll demonstrate our new Ultra Reading Tutor. MindPlay ensures continual, measurable, and sustainable reading improvement for the adult learner. 4. New Performance Report- We've added a new, comprehensive Performance Report to our Learner Management System. Study Time, Skill Gains, Last log-in, Assessment Scores, and Student Learning Plans are all available from one screen. 5. New GED Workbooks- Our Essential Skills, GED Reading, Math, and Writing workbooks have been updated to align with the GED Assessment Targets. The Essential Skills Workbooks provide practice and alignment between the Essential Education GED digital software lessons and the GED Assessment Targets. 6. Participants will receive the new Essential Education Student Retention Guide. This is the latest in a series of FREE Resources written by our team to ensure student success.	You can expect to find out how you can enhance your own skills and stay updated on best practices to lead your adult education program confidently as you explore innovative approaches to personalizing adult learner career pathways, ensuring your programs are tailored to individual goals and aspirations. Explore real-world case studies of programs that have successfully adapted to meet the changing demands of the job market and the needs of adult learners. Hear powerful testimonials and learn from the success stories of adult learners who have transformed their lives through innovative career pathways, illustrating the true impact of your work. Participants will engage in hands-on activities that demonstrate cutting-edge teaching methods and curriculum design to keep adult learners motivated and on track. Discover the latest in e-learning tools, virtual labs, and AI-driven career guidance systems that can empower your adult learners for future job markets.
Presenter	Chasity Wright	Beth Williams	Dr. Irene Ramos

Session Time: 9:00am - 10:30 am	**Friday February 16, 2024** **Session 4**		
Strand	**General Interest**	**Pathways/Workforce**	**Synergy Texas**
Session ID	F4-4	F4-5	F4 - Synergy
Location	Crockett East	Fiesta A	Bowie
Title	Mastering Reporting 2.0: Empowering PD Coordinators for Seamless Insights and Impactful Strategies	Industry Recognized Certifications	Networking 101 with ITP Students
Description	Join us for a session designed exclusively for PD Coordinators who are seeking an understanding of Reporting 2.0 within the PD Portal. Our workshop delves into the intricacies of this powerful tool, offering a step-by-step guide to leverage its full potential. Explore how to harness Reporting 2.0's capabilities to customize reports, tailoring them precisely to your unique requirements. Uncover insider tips on sorting and filtering within Excel, enabling you to manipulate and refine data effortlessly. Gain practical insights on making these reports not just informative, but perfectly aligned with your PD goals. This session is your gateway to transforming raw data into reportable data. Empower yourself with the expertise to navigate Reporting 2.0 and Excel confidently, craft reports that cater to your specific needs, and unlock the true potential of data-driven decision-making in professional development.	Certiport works with industry-leading certification providers to bring their programs successfully to market. With a particular expertise in academia & Workforce, Certiport is able to create a unique "go-to-market" plan that drives global program performance. Certiport delivers certification exams through a specialized, worldwide network of Certiport Authorized Testing Centers. Certiport Centers can serve one of three key markets: Academic, Corporate, or Workforce Development. Centers are uniquely positioned to provide the highest level of reliable, performance-based testing. Established in 1997, Certiport is a pioneer in providing complete career-oriented certification solutions to academic institutions and IT Professionals. These services encompass test development, psychometrics, program management, sales and marketing for the official Microsoft® Office certification program, the Microsoft® Technology Associate certification program, the Adobe® Certified Associate certification program, the Adobe® Certified Expert program, the Autodesk® Certified User certification program, the Autodesk® Certified Professional certification program, the Intuit® QuickBooks Certified User certification program, the IC3 Digital Literacy certification, and the Entrepreneurship and Small Business certification program. Certiport currently delivers more than 3 million certification exams each year around the world.	This session focuses on how to support ITPs with building networking skills and their social capital, or the relational resources they will need as they re-enter the workforce. Programs can support ITPs with networking amongst each other as well as building professional relationships in the business community. Additionally, ITPs need the opportunity to practice. Participants will learn best practices in networking for ITPs and how to implement it in their programs. They will also leave with a networking guide for students that will help them build their own networking activities.
Presenter	Jessica Beaty and Laura Greer	Jeff Christenson	Kerri Rhodes and Rebecca Stanley

TALAE 2024 Breakout Sessions Schedule and Information

(tentative schedule subject to minor changes)

Session Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm	Friday February 16, 2024 Session 5		
Strand	**ABE/HSE**	**Digital Education and Technology**	**ESL**
Session ID	F5-1	F5-2	F5-3
Location	Fiesta B	Fiesta E	Crockett West
Title	The Best Tool in your Toolbox: a Digital Literacy Implementation Guide	How Automated Messages, Reminders, And Onboarding Can Save Your Program Time & Money	Differentiation Makes a Difference: Supporting Students at All Stages
Description	Sometimes the problem isn't an empty toolbox, it's knowing how to effectively use the tools you have available. The brand new Digital Literacy Implementation Guide from Essential Education is the instruction manual you've been looking for. This guide will walk you through the process of integrating our Computer Essentials course into your classroom with ease, whether you only have 30 minutes a week available or are building an entire course on digital literacy. Join our session to learn how to use this "add-water-and-stir" guide filled with over 100 activities, lesson plans, and templates - perfect for equipping part-time instructors with a powerful resource that can transform the lives of your students.	Discover how adult education, ESL, HSE, Workforce Development, and Career Pathways programs can improve their data management and onboarding practices. This presentation will include specific insights into how automated reminders can save staff time and program dollars that can be used elsewhere to better support learners and learner outcomes.	"Teacher, this is too easy." "Teacher, this is too hard." What do you do when you have one class (in-person and/or online), one curriculum, and many students at different English proficiency levels? In this hands-on session, we will use Burlington Core lessons to explore ways to differentiate instruction and adapt activities to keep all students engaged and appropriately challenged. Together, we will share ideas and develop strategies that you can use to meet the diverse learning needs of each of your ESL students and enrich your multilevel classroom, in any learning environment.
Presenter	AJ Crowell	Jenny Pate	Sylvia Gomez

Session Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm	Friday February 16, 2024 Session 5		
Strand	**General Interest**	**Pathways/Workforce**	**Synergy Texas**
Session ID	F5-4	F5-5	F5 - Synergy
Location	Crockett East	Fiesta A	Bowie
Title	Meet the TABE and TABE CLAS-E	IET MODELS IN ENTRY-LEVEL HEALTHCARE CAREERS	Networking 101 with Employers & ITPs
Description	How can a test be used to ensure adult learners are receiving strategic instruction and lead to more effective results? This session will share information about how standardized assessments can be used in evaluating learners' needs, interpreting results, and guiding instructional strategies to ensure effective teaching.	Integrated Education and Training (IET) models are an important program offering that meets the needs of diverse learners. This session will provide an overview of models with a focus on entry level healthcare careers, specifically pharmacy technician as one of the fastest growing career pathways in the country. Session topics include the three components of IET: adult education and literacy, workforce preparation, and workforce training, as well as an overview of how dual enrollment in a high school equivalency program along with pharmacy technician training can lead to employment in a high-demand and high-paying occupation. Aztec Software's digital course offerings will be used as a model. Aztec's Healthcare Training programs prepare learners to take the national assessments needed to become a licensed professional. Aztec's online preparation series' is ideal for dual enrollment for high school diploma/equivalency candidates and/or for IET programs focusing on healthcare career pathways.	One of the hottest topics in adult education – how do programs connect with employers? How can working with employers promote student success? This panel session brings providers together to share employer engagement and networking strategies that promote ITP awareness and support in employment. A critical part of supporting ITP students in building relationships with the business community and establishing networks that student can benefit from. Come learn from other providers about the employer networking events they successfully implemented and leave with fresh ideas on creating networking events of your own.
Presenter	Tiffany Johnson and Chasity Wright	Mitch Rosin	Kerri Rhodes, Delia Watley, Danielle Rosenblath, and Liz Moya

TALAE 2024 Breakout Sessions Schedule and Information

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Session Time: 2:45pm - 4:15pm	**Friday February 16, 2024** **Session 6**		
Strand	**ABE/HSE**	**Digital Education and Technology**	**ESL**
Session ID	F6-1	F6-2	F6-3
Location	Fiesta B	Fiesta E	Crockett West
Title	Understanding Resources, Tools and Services for Student Success with GED and TXCHSE	Building Community with Online ESL for Pros Class	Language Learning Activities for ESL Classes focused on Community and Culture
Description	This session is a co-presentation with GED Testing Service and TEA to discuss educator and student resources and tools intended to help students earn their TXCHSE. We will have time for questions before concluding this session.	Building Community with Online ESL for Pros Class. This session will provide four instructional strategies that have been developed over 4 years of teaching online to help create a community with international students from all over the world to help motivate, encourage, and succeed in the US. The participants will practice each strategy during the session to facilitate actual implementation in their own classroom.	Come join in on this session and delve into activities designed to stimulate discussion in your ESL classroom and get your students to purposefully learn about U.S. culture and interacting within the community. These activities will help students learn how to respond to difficult situations, will allow them to generate unique ideas and will allow students to share prior experiences or background knowledge.
Presenter	Jonna Forsyth and Cindee Tonnesen	Dr. Nabor Cortez	Dr. Olga Escamilla

Session Time: 2:45pm - 4:15pm	**Friday February 16, 2024** **Session 6**		
Strand	**General Interest**	**Pathways/Workforce**	**Synergy Texas**
Session ID	F6-4	F6-5	F6 - Synergy
Location	Crockett East	Fiesta A	Bowie
Title	Teaching with MSGs in Mind: Supporting Student and Program Success	Breaking the Cycle: Collaborative Strategies for Adult Educators in Drug Courts to Reduce Recidivism	Back to the Blackboard: Building Pathways to Teaching for Internationally Trained Educators
Description	A Measurable Skills Gain (MSG) is one way to assess student progress and one of the key requirements under current federal funding. Adult education staff at all levels need to understand not only what the possible MSGs are, but how to identify the best targeted MSG for students, and how to maximize the likelihood that students will accomplish their MSG goals.	This presentation aims to explore the pivotal role adult educators can play in collaboration with drug courts to address the complex issue of recidivism. By fostering a supportive learning environment, we can empower individuals in the justice system to break free from the cycle of substance abuse and criminal behavior. This session will dive into practical strategies, step-by-step collaborative processes , and effective educational interventions that promote lasting positive change.	Schools in Texas and around the country are struggling to address teacher shortages and diversify their educator workforces. At the same time, licensing barriers and other system challenges prevent many immigrant teachers from bringing their training, skills, and multicultural perspectives to U.S. classrooms. This session will review the policy and programmatic barriers these educators face and explore ways to support their pathway to teacher certification. Presenters will provide in-depth overviews of innovative programs and partnership models around the country that have created pathways toward teacher certification for internationally trained immigrants and regugees, including a local program at Austin Community College which works with their school district to help teachers trained outside the U.S. meet the needs of the region's increasingly diverse student population.
Presenter	Dr. Glenda Rose	Roberto Ruiz and Elizabeth Moya	Mechelle Matthey and Mikaela Santos

TALAE 2024 Breakout Sessions Schedule and Information

(tentative schedule subject to minor changes)

Saturday February 17, 2024
Session 7

Session Time: 8:00am - 9:30am			
Strand	**ABE/HSE**	**Digital Education and Technology**	**ESL**
Session ID	S7-1	S7-2	S7-3
Location	Fiesta B	Fiesta E	Crockett West
Title	Competency-focused HSE curriculum	Cultivating Community in the Virtual Classroom with ESL for Professionals	Transforming the Adult ESL Classroom with Translanguaging: An Assets-Based Approach to Building on Learners' Language/Culture Repertoire
Description	Blend career competencies along with GED test targets for a stronger HSE curriculum.	Join us at the Texas Association for Literacy and Adult Education Conference for an immersive session on "Building Community in an Online Class using Student Culture." In this dynamic presentation, we will explore innovative strategies to foster a sense of community and belonging in the ESL for Professionals Online Class. Our approach goes beyond traditional methods, incorporating elements such as student culture, verbal introductions, meditations, and a unique Miracle Morning Book Study. We believe that a strong community is the backbone of effective online learning, and we'll demonstrate how these elements contribute to a supportive and engaging virtual environment.	An assets-based approach to teaching means viewing adult English language learners as competent communicators and able learners. The learners' culture, current language skills, and life experiences are useful tools to facilitate learning a new language. Translanguaging is an assets-based approach to teaching and learning that is increasingly researched and discussed in adult language-learning spheres around the globe. Translanguaging empowers learners to participate with their full repertoire of cultural and linguistic skills, increases learners' comprehension, and helps them develop confidence to communicate in English as one of many equal languages. This presentation will encourage reflection and discussion on practical ways to implement translanguaging as an effective and contemporary ESL practice. Examples, resources, and recommendations for practice will be provided.
Presenter	Mieca Johnson Peralta	Dr. Nabor Cortez	Shannon Ture and Mona Askary

Saturday February 17, 2024
Session 7

Session Time: 8:00am - 9:30am			
Strand	**General Interest**	**Pathways/Workforce**	**Synergy Texas**
Session ID	S7-4	S7-5	S7 - Synergy
Location	Crockett East	Fiesta A	Bowie
Title	Teaching Adults	Innovate to Increase GED Graduations and Transitions to Career and College	It Takes a Village: A Holistic Approach to Case Management with ITPs
Description	This session will cover methods and techniques for effective instruction of adults across a variety of settings and content. Emphasis on concepts, theories, and principles relevant to the selection, use, and evaluation of instructional strategies. This interactive session will provide participants an opportunity to practice strategies that expand their teaching repertoire.	What program innovations would dramatically increase your High School Equivalency/GED graduates AND provide students with momentum and resources for their next step? We will uncover barriers and discover innovative solutions. Participants will leave with a plan to improve student outcomes.	This panel session presents best practices in supporting ITPs through wrap around services and building community partnerships. Case Management can take many forms in adult education and can be a successful way to serve the unique needs of ITP students. Additionally, building community partnerships is critical to a program's ability to meet students' needs as they complete their educational journey. Come learn from other providers who are using different forms of case management to successfully support ITP students in their career pathways and re-entry to the US workforce.
Presenter	Dr. Mary Helen Martinez	Susan Gusler	Angi Mudd, Ricardo Rivera, and Lisa Carlo

TALAE 2024 Breakout Sessions Schedule and Information

(tentative schedule subject to minor changes)

Session Time: 9:45am - 11:15am	Saturday February 17, 2024 Session 8		
Strand	**ABE/HSE**	**Digital Education and Technology**	**ESL**
Session ID	**S8-1**	**S8-2**	**S8-3**
Location	**Fiesta B**	**Fiesta E**	**Crockett West**
Title	Empowering Leaders: Cultivating Self-Awareness in Adult Education	DEPDC Roadshow	Engaging Conversation Activities and Strategies for Low-level ESL Learners
Description	This interactive session delves into the vital role of self-awareness in effective leadership within adult education settings. Participants will explore the dynamics of self-awareness, understanding how it influences communication, decision-making, and relationship-building in educational environments. The session is designed to provide practical strategies for enhancing self-awareness and applying these insights to foster a more engaging and inclusive learning atmosphere.

Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of what self-awareness is and its crucial role in leadership within adult education. They will learn techniques to assess their own level of self-awareness and identify areas for improvement. The session will highlight how increased self-awareness can lead to more effective and empathetic decision-making, particularly in educational settings. Additionally, participants will explore ways to enhance communication with learners and colleagues through a deeper understanding of oneself. Strategies will be provided to create inclusive and supportive learning environments that cater to the diverse needs of adult learners. | Do you struggle to support all of your students' and instructors' technical needs? The Distance Education Call Center is here during those times you need technical help the most. Whether it is during a remote class, while your students are studying at home, or when you are choosing a new distance learning curriculum, we are here for you. Join the DEPDC team as they discuss benefits, integration strategies, and advocacy of this amazing resource, which is now available and developed with the intent of helping you strive. | Step into the shoes of your ESL students and immerse yourself in a dynamic 90-minute session designed to explore innovative strategies and activities aimed at enhancing English speaking skills. Engage in interactive exercises, collaborative discussions, and practical demonstrations tailored to address the unique needs of low-level ESL learners. Discover how to create an inclusive and stimulating learning environment that builds confidence and fluency in English communication. Join us for an interactive and informative session that will equip you with the tools and insights needed to inspire and engage your low-level ESL learners in meaningful English conversations. |
Presenter	Dr. Derrick Love	Rina Renteria and Karen Young	Elizabeth Moya
Session Time: 9:45am - 11:15am	Saturday February 17, 2024 Session 8		
Strand	**General Interest**	**Pathways/Workforce**	**Synergy Texas**
Session ID	**S8-4**	**S8-5**	**S8 - Synergy**
Location	**Crockett East**	**Fiesta A**	**Bowie**
Title	Goal Setting: Beyond SMART	It's Tee Time	Build It and They Will Come: Curriculum Design for Emergent ITP Programs
Description	Over the course of the last several years, adult educators have been encouraged to help students set personal, educational, and career goals. SMART goals are one way of setting clear, realistic, and achievable objectives within a certain time frame. However, setting a SMART goal may not be enough to ensure success. You also need to have some strategies to help you achieve your goal. The objective of this session is to go beyond just setting a SMART goal and to look at some ways to increase the likelihood of achieving goals.	A "tee time" is a reservation at a golf course to begin a round of golf at a specific time. The purpose of tee time is to help organize golfers on the golf course in an effort to maintain a good flow. This choreography is similar to the movements we want to achieve and maintain in the Adult Education and Literary (AEL) Work Integration and Partnership strand.

Although tee time is an agreed upon time to play golf, there is an also an unofficial but expected time to meet before tee time. This time is critical and instrumental to one's success on the golf course. Jack Nicklas, also known as The Golden Bear, is considered by many as the GOAT (greatest of all times) in professional golf and as a golf course designer. He has won approximately 117 professional tournaments. In his classic instruction book "Golf My Way", he said "Don't make the mistake of turning your warm-up practice into a full-scale rebuilding session that leaves you blistered and badly demoralized. You should swing your favorite clubs before (emphasis mine) a round, not the ones you struggle with, so you go out there with rhythm and confidence". Isn't that what we want our participant to have as they transition into the workforce: Rhythm and Confidence. | This session will offer tips and explore best practices for creating curriculum and classroom community for new ITP programs. Participants will explore the instructional model developed and employed at Austin Community College within its Career Pathways Department focusing on career planning, language proficiency, and building social capital in a classroom setting. Attendees will walk away with greater insight into where to start when designing curriculum and how this model may be adopted to suit unique program needs. |
| **Presenter** | Wayne Crandall | Dr. Yvette Davis | Lisa Carlo |

TALAE 2024 Breakout Sessions Schedule and Information

(tentative schedule subject to minor changes)

Session Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm	Saturday February 17, 2024 — Session 9		
Strand	**ABE/HSE**	**Digital Education and Technology**	**ESL**
Session ID	S9-1	S9-2	S9-3
Location	Fiesta B	Fiesta E	Crockett West
Title	(PAL) Mindful Teaching: Proven Techniques to Reduce Stress and Improve Student Performance in the AE Classroom	Student Success Made Simple: "SOAR"	Teaching and Practicing ESL Listening Comprehension as an Interactive Process
Description	Have you ever taught a class while your mind was repeating a stressful discussion or event that happened before class, and you wished you could stop it? Have you ever noticed your students' attention wandering when stressful events were happening in our society? Or maybe your students have expressed their anxiety over upcoming tests or interviews and you've wanted to help them? If you have experienced any of these situations, you're not alone! This workshop is designed to equip teachers with practical mindfulness strategies that can be easily integrated into their daily lives and teaching practices. These proven strategies will create a more relaxed and focused learning environment. Through a variety of interactive, hands-on activities, participants will learn techniques to help themselves and their students manage anxiety and stress, improve attention and concentration, and enhance memory and retention.	SOAR stands for Students Overcoming Achieving Reaching. This session will provide innovative, creative, and hands-on strategies that the KC-AEL team have implemented for the whole student to promote success in reaching their goals. In addition, a collaborative conversation on how to motivate and retain students, strategies for engagement, and other in the trenches topics will be a part of the community building talking circle format that will be the highlight of this session	Listening is an essential component of language acquisition and perhaps the least understood and most overlooked skill when planning ESL instruction. It is crucial to approach listening as comprehension and create opportunities for learners to engage in extensive listening practice. Presenters discuss factors that make listening difficult as well as a variety of strategies to scaffold listening practice in and out of the classroom. Conference attendees will engage in lesson planning with a focus on ESL listening. They can also expect practical resources, examples, and recommendations for practice.
Presenter	Stacy Ramirez and Aida (Betina) Watkins	Dr. Shalonda Adams	Dr. Clarena Larrotta and Dr. Jan Adversario

Session Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm	Saturday February 17, 2024 — Session 9		
Strand	**General Interest**	**Pathways/Workforce**	**Synergy Texas**
Session ID	S9-4	S9-5	S9 - Synergy
Location	Crockett East	Fiesta A	Bowie
Title	Holistic Instruction	Bridging Futures: Integrating K-12 Education and Workforce Development through Strategic Partnerships	Internationally Trained Lawyers: Charting a Pathway for Non-U.S. Lawyers to Practice Law in Texas
Description	In the evolving landscape of adult education and workforce development, learners grapple with challenges that make their journey more intricate than ever. This session explores the nuances of adult learner experiences with consideration of the trauma within their educational journey. Tailored evidence-based strategies for adult educators and workforce development professionals emphasize fostering connection and empowerment, seamlessly incorporating the diversity of adult learners' backgrounds. Learn about innovative approaches that enhance outcomes in recruitment, retention, performance, transition, and long-term employability. Serving as a compass, these strategies can guide educators through the labyrinth of adult learner obstacles, promoting equity and authentic engagement across diverse cultural and professional backgrounds	In this insightful session, we delve into the dynamic alignment between K-12 education and workforce development, emphasizing the crucial role of joint partnerships. Our discussion will encompass effective strategies for creating seamless transitions from education to employment, the importance of aligning educational curricula with industry needs, and the role of community and industry partnerships in enhancing educational outcomes. We will showcase successful models and innovative approaches to collaboration, highlighting the mutual benefits for schools, businesses, and communities. Participants will explore the critical importance of aligning K-12 education with workforce needs to prepare students for the future. They will learn about the strategies for fostering effective collaborations between schools, industries, and communities. The session will provide insights into successful partnership models that bridge the educational and employment sectors. Attendees will discover tools for integrating real-world skills and competencies into K-12 curricula, along with methods for creating sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships. An important aspect of the session will be evaluating the impact of these partnerships on student outcomes and workforce readiness.	This presentation will highlight an information handbook titled, "Internationally Trained Lawyers: Charting a Pathway for Non-U.S. Lawyers to Practice Law in Texas". This information handbook is intended to guide non-U.S. lawyers who have a law degree from an accredited foreign law school and who want to practice law in the United States. This information handbook focuses on identifying law schools in Texas, the admission requirements for each school of law found in the state, and other essential information internationally trained professionals must know to apply.
Presenter	Sebastian Ramos	Dr. Derrick Love	Elizabeth Moya and Roberto Ruiz