

MAEA Conference 2024

October 24 and 25

Sunday River, Newry, ME



OCTOBER 24, 2024

8:00 Registration
8:30 Welcome - Dr. Kayla Sikora, MAEA President, Main Ballroom
8:45 Keynote - Michelle Schutten, Main Ballroom
9:45 Break and Visit Vendors
10:00 Session One
11:00 Break and Visit Vendors
11:15 Session Two
12:15 Lunch
1:30 Session Three
2:30 Break and Visit Vendors
2:45 Session Four
3:45 Break and Visit Vendors
4:00 Vendor Presentations
5:00 Awards Gathering - Main Ballroom

APPETIZERS WILL BE SERVED.*

OCTOBER 25, 2024

8:00 Registration
8:30 Opening - Dr. Kayla Sikora, MAEA President, Main Ballroom
8:45 Keynote TBA Soon
9:45 Break and Visit Vendors
10:00 Session Five
11:00 Break and Visit Vendors
11:15 Session Six
12:15 Lunch
1:30 Session Seven
2:30 Closing and Drawings - Main Ballroom

Thursday, October 24, 2024

Keynote and Opening 8:30 a.m.

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Session One

Adult Education Budget Management - Simonds Room

Facilitators: Dr. Josh McNaughton, PVAEC Adult Education and Kelley Heath, Maine Department of Adult Education

The presentation will assist adult education directors in developing a thorough understanding of the following topics; defining budget lines, cost centers, and their intended uses. Presenters will give a brief overview of Maine's current subsidy formula (and an update based on subsidy committee work at the time of the conference). The group will also work to understand matching grant funds and revenue sources including state subsidy, local contributions, grants, and anticipated revenue. The presentations will conclude with methods of expense management and budget monitoring. Bring a copy of your budget to follow along!

Learning About Canva(TM)- Grafton Room

Facilitators: Catherine Scanlon and Jose Rodriguez, Merrymeeting Adult Education

There are many ways you can use the free or paid version of Canva to enhance your enrichment program and take your graphics (and your program) to the next level! In this workshop Catherine and Jose will share many of the tips and tricks they use to create assets to use with CourseStorm, WordPress, the print catalog, posters and other unique and interesting designs. Learn the difference between the types of Canva accounts, hear a basic introduction to the menus and locating/searching for topics you are interested in. See various designs Merrymeeting Community and Adult Education has created within the Canva atmosphere and had professionally printed and used to enhance their overall program.

Level Up Your Teaching from Good to Great - Main Ballroom

Facilitator: Michelle Schutten, Purely Persistent

Stuck in "good enough" teaching? Michelle's engaging presentation will transform your classroom! Discover practical tools to reignite your passion and empower students. Unleash a trove of techniques for boosting engagement, deepening knowledge retention, and achieving fantastic outcomes. Leave feeling motivated and equipped to create a thriving hub of adult learning - it's time to take your teaching from good to GREAT!

Using Dialogue Journals in Learner-Centered ESOL Instruction - Whittier Room

This workshop has been cancelled by the presenter.

Facilitator: Jane Kennery, Scarborough Schools

Although extensive research has been conducted on the language acquisition benefits of dialogue journals in ESOL contexts, insufficient attention has been given to exploring how and why multilingual learners communicate when given an open-ended opportunity and platform. Drawing from practitioner research conducted at a community college in Southern Maine, the speaker will discuss her experience introducing dialogue journals in an ESOL pre-college composition class. The presenter will first discuss the attributes of dialogue journaling as identity construction and interactive, tailored learning opportunities for students. Then, using examples and materials, the presenter will offer dialogue journal formatting and prompt suggestions for different English proficiency levels, class sizes, and course structures.

Improving Adult Learners' Attitudes and Odds for Workplace Success - Whittier Room

Facilitator: Greg Stultz, New Readers Press

Participate in thought-provoking discussions and activities that introduce habits, skills, and strategies your higher-level MLL and ABE students need to get a job and succeed. Discover how you can incorporate activities like these in your MLL and ABE classroom to equip your students for the workplace. In this workshop, participants will identify and discuss essential employability skills (aka soft skills), engaging in numerous activities taken from WorkWise - a three-workbook series published by New Readers Press. From the first workbook, *Choosing a Job*, they will explore exercises that build self-confidence, such as having a positive attitude, setting SMART goals, identifying strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes, etc. Using lesson excerpts from the second book, *Getting a Job*, they will take a close look at preparing for the interview and what to do afterwards. Then, taking several activities from book 3, *Starting a Job*, they'll discuss topics like comparing pay and benefits, honesty/integrity, social media suggestions, making a schedule, and problem-solving.

The tone of this workshop is disarming, conversational, and, dare I say it? Fun!

Creating Pre-Apprenticeship Programs Leading to Credentials and Meaningful Employment - Ketchum Room

Facilitators: Kristine McCallister, Maine Department of Labor, Razell Ward, Lewiston Adult Education and Monique Roy, Director of Learning and Development, Central Maine Healthcare

This interactive session will provide an overview of how Lewiston Adult Education created a certified pre-apprenticeship to apprenticeship program pathway, leading to employment at one of four local healthcare providers for their students. The Maine Department of Labor will provide a brief overview of registered apprenticeship and certified pre-apprenticeship programming. Lewiston Adult Education will describe their involvement in the creation of their Healthcare Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship program and one of their partnering employers will speak to how this program has helped prepare individuals for employment in their CNA apprenticeship program. Attendees will learn how this program is creating credentialed professionals for the workplace through registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship pathways. Session participants will learn how they can establish programs at their institutions and there will be an opportunity to ask questions in a facilitated Q and A after the presentations.

Empowering Adult Educators: Strategies for Self-Development, River Room

Facilitators: Amy Poland, Maine Department of Adult Education and Kayla Sikora, Augusta Adult Education

Join us at the MAEA Conference for an enriching Round Table Discussion led by Dr. Kayla Sikora, MAEA President-Elect and Director of Augusta Adult and Community Education, and Amy Poland, the Professional Development Coordinator for the Adult Education State Team. This session will delve into the critical topic of self-development in adult education. Gain valuable insights and practical strategies to enhance your personal and professional growth. Seize this chance to connect with leaders in the field and enhance your influence as an adult educator.

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Session Two

Turning Perceived Weaknesses into Strengths: The Advantage of Being a Small, Rural Adult Education Program - Grafton Room

Facilitator: Adam Goad, Massabesic Adult and Community Education

Much is made of the difficulty of being a rural adult education program. While we do face many challenges, there are many benefits that come with being a program based outside of an urban setting. We will discuss how to maximize resources, grow your program, and take advantage of all the possibilities that being a small, rural program has to offer.

Fill Your Classrooms: Essential Marketing Tips for Adult Educators - Ketchum Room

Facilitators: Courtney Michaud, Spruce Mountain Adult Education and Ersula Steward, Expenet Technologies

Tired of empty seats? Learn to fill your adult education programs with proven marketing tactics! We'll explore digital and print channels, create a compelling catalog, and maximize outreach to ignite student interest. Secure a brighter future for your adult education programs.

Fuel Student Drive: Keys to Motivating Your Class - Main Ballroom

Facilitator: Michelle Schutten, Purely Persistent

Are your Adult Ed students dragging their feet? Watch them leap into action with Michelle's motivational magic! This session ignites student drive by fostering a supportive classroom and making learning more fun. Discover how to connect the GED/HiSET to real-world goals, empower students, and celebrate their achievements. Leave with a toolbox of practical tips, resources, and a chance to connect with fellow educators - you won't want to miss this!

How Does Language Work Under the Hood? - Simonds Room

Facilitator: Gabrielle Farias- Augusta Adult Education

Translation has allowed us to find quick answers for our MLL students and in today's society quick answers seem to be the way to go. The question is raised though, does that also mean learning a new

language should have quick answers? Does it have the same effect? This is a neurological view on translation's role when it comes to learning another language. We will look at how the brain works with language and translation's effect on it.

Adult Transitions, Learning, and Success (ATLaS) Congressionally Directed Spending Project at UMS - Whittier Room

Facilitators: Sara Flowers and Sherrie Brann, University of Maine at Augusta

The University of Maine System wants to serve Maine's adults and this means partnering with MAEA! The System has a \$945,000 Congressionally Directed Spending project to help first and entry-year adults experience success. Services take multiple forms and may be appropriate for your adult learners who are college curious. Our goal is to attract Maine's adults to try higher education in a low-risk and high-touch format. In this presentation, we will share about the free, online, credit-bearing course we teach and how this course may transfer to any of our 7 UMS institutions. Additionally, workshops, success coaching, and development activities shape the many ways we support our adults in choosing a path and starting with their best foot forward. Our objective is to help them make an informed choice about higher education and to receive direct instruction in how to be their best scholarly selves.

Adult Education Budgeting Follow-Up, River Room

Facilitators: Josh McNaughton, PVAEC and Kelley 'Heath, MDOE

This round table discussion will provide a platform for participants to discuss the challenges related to budget management in adult education. The session will begin with a brief review of the budget management session, followed by a facilitated discussion where participants can share their questions. Attendees can expect to gain valuable insights into effective budget management strategies specific to adult education. The session aims to foster a collaborative environment where participants can learn from each other, gain new perspectives, and take away actionable approaches to enhance budget management follow-up in their respective adult education programs.

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Session Three

The Leadership Challenge - Main Ballroom

Facilitator: Monique Roy, Director of Learning and Development, Central Maine Healthcare

Join trained Leadership Challenge facilitator, Monique Roy, in this fun and interactive session where participants will explore the five practices leaders display when they are at their personal best. Authors Kouzes and Posner have spent over 3 decades researching what effective leaders do and they discovered leadership is not about personality; it's about behavior-an observable set of skills and abilities. This session is meant for leaders of all levels from aspiring to seasoned. Are you up for the challenge?

Wearing Many Hats - A Day in the Life of a Program Manager - Whittier Room

Facilitators: Bonnie Merrill, Central Lincoln County Adult Education and Elyse Socker, Five Town CSD Adult Education

Both facilitators began working in Adult Education in 2007. They are each working with a third director, have little to no staff, and manage multiple aspects of their adult education programs. Their years of experience include working with very different director styles, dealing with a constantly changing adult ed world, learning new software every few years, and managing programs that have grown tremendously since they began. Come learn how they manage the task of constantly changing hats and bring your own tips and tricks to share!

ADHD, Anxiety, and EBSA: Tools for Teachers - Ketchum Room

Facilitators: Heather Orr and Lisa Robertson, York Adult Education

This insightful and practical workshop is tailored for educators, counselors, and administrators who work with adult learners navigating ADHD, anxiety, and Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA). This session aims to deepen your understanding of these challenges and equip you with actionable strategies to foster a supportive and effective learning environment. In this workshop, participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of ADHD, anxiety disorders, and Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) among adult learners, explore effective strategies for identifying and supporting learners experiencing these challenges, learn practical techniques to enhance engagement and reduce barriers to learning, discuss case studies and real-life scenarios to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations and collaborate with peers to develop personalized strategies for their educational settings. Join us as we strive to create inclusive and supportive educational environments for all learners.

An Introduction to News and Information Literacy - Grafton Room

Facilitator: George Whitbread, Retired from Hyde Park (NY) Central Schools; currently a volunteer adult ed teacher in York, Maine

This presentation is designed for those who want to explore the critically important field of news and information literacy. In this workshop, participants will be introduced to an adult education course that is currently being developed and taught by a retired (but still passionate) teacher /curriculum director, a course which is designed to help adult learners better navigate the complex and confusing world of news and information. Attendees will examine some of the programs and instructional activities that have been developed by the nationally recognized, nonpartisan, and non-profit News Literacy Project for students of all ages and grade levels. It is the hope of the presenter that participants will come to a deeper understanding of the vital role that news and information literacy education can play in a world that is increasingly challenged by mis- and disinformation, and where there is an essential need to support and promote standards-based news and journalism at the local and national level.

Using Data to Improve Your Program's Data Outcomes - Simonds Room

Facilitator: Eleanor Chow, Massabesic Adult and Community Education

Data informed decision making is important to enhance student success at every level of adult education. By analyzing the vast amount of data that we already have, we can identify and mitigate barriers, target instruction, and improve graduation rates. This presentation will cover what data we have access to, what trends to look out for in your data, and how you can use this data to improve your program's retention levels and outcomes.

HiSET Best Practices Roundtable, River Room

Facilitator: Theresa Boynton, Gray - New Gloucester Adult Education and Kelley Heath, MDOE

Join Theresa Boynton and Kelley Heath to review and discuss HiSET administration best practices. Topics to be discussed are Session Self-Serve, general overview of the TCA and GPS portals, resources available on hiset.org and many more. Bring your questions and we will do our best to provide an answer/guidance or point you in the right direction.

2:45 to 3:45 p.m.

Session Four

Why is Community Education so Important? - Simonds Room

Facilitators: Allen Lampert, Dawn Wheeler and Jose Rodriguez, Merrymeeting Adult Education

How can adult education programs continue to grow and flourish as enrollment changes or shifts? Enrichment classes have the potential to help supplement programming and enhance adult education's reputation in many locations and programs. How can we make that happen?

Introduction to Enhancing Program Visibility: Social Media Fundamentals for Networking and Promotion - Main Ballroom

Facilitators: Samantha Jamison and Tekia Cox, Mid Maine Regional Adult and Community Education

Dive into the foundational principles of program visibility. Geared towards administrative assistants and marketing professionals, this session serves as a comprehensive primer on cohesive branding essentials and platform-specific strategies across major social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Through interactive engagement and expert guidance, participants will gain an understanding of the core concepts and practical tips to kickstart their journey towards enhancing program visibility online. Join us for an informative session packed with insights, resources, and a Q&A session, empowering attendees to navigate the social media landscape with confidence.

Applying the Use of ILPs in HISET Learning Labs - Whittier Room

Facilitators: Nancy L. Hebert & Rebecca Nolon, Mid Maine Regional Adult and Community Education

The more we know about the needs of our individual students, the better prepared we are to help each of them. ILPs provide the direct areas of weakness of each student as an individual in each of the

subject areas. This presentation will provide information on the process of using the ILP plan as well as discussing the benefits and drawbacks of implementing the ILP into your HiSET labs.

Assessment Isn't a Bad Word - Ketchum Room

Facilitator: Amy Poland, Maine Department of Adult Education

CASAS, HiSET OPTs, end of unit tests and quizzes, WOWI, digital literacy assessments... We assess our adult learners with many different formal and informal assessments every day. Some may say we over assess in adult education-- but how are you using the results of those assessments? In this session, we will look at how to be more intentional and systematic in using assessments to support learning through feedback, goal setting, and determining our learners' next steps.

CLASS - Collaborative Learning and Social Skills - Grafton Room

Facilitator: Lynn Sheehan, York Adult Education

In York, we started a class for our adult education program called Collaborative Learning and Social Skills (CLASS). CLASS is designed for members of our community who have completed the Life Skills Program at our local high school, adults on the autism spectrum, developmentally delayed adults, or any adults who want to make a positive impact. This evening class offers a wonderful opportunity for adults to get out of the house, socialize, and have fun while learning valuable skills. I am passionate about bringing CLASS to every adult education program in Maine. Come and discover how you can start CLASS in your local program and make a meaningful difference in your community.

Building Community Through Adult Education Programming - River Room

Facilitator: Eleanor Chow, Massabesic Adult and Community Education

Adult Education at its core is community focused, and we should align our goals with the community that we are serving. Join the discussion and share ideas on how to make your program more community oriented. Topics will include best practices for marketing to build your community presence, tailoring enrichment and workforce classes to community needs, and how to partner with community organizations for enrichment, workforce, and academic classes.

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Vendor Roundtable

First STEPS Taken! Assessment and Instructional Insights from Early Adopters of the CASAS ESL Exam - Main Ballroom

Facilitator: Robert Breitbard, Burlington English

Many programs now have almost one year's experience honing their delivery and data interpretation of the STEPS test series. This includes time using the series to guide instruction that boosts students' chances of achievement. Come hear how learners, teachers, and administrators are getting the most with this great new test series, including matching instruction with Burlington English.

Exploring the HiSET in 2024 - Ketchum Room

Facilitator: Stephanie Bauer, PSI, HiSET

This session will use a structured approach to guide the session, ensuring that educators gain a comprehensive understanding of the HiSET exam, the accommodations process, and utilizing the resources available to support students effectively. The session will also take a look at how to navigate the website to access exam guides, practice tests, and study materials. There will be time allotted for Q and A.

Using EnGen to Support Rapid ESL Transitions to In-Demand Credential Programs and Provide Services for Internationally Trained Professionals - Grafton Room

Facilitator: Tadd Wamester, EnGen

Adult educators across the country leverage EnGen in models including: bridge, bootcamps, IETs, workplace literacy and pre-apprenticeship programs. EnGen has specialized content for Internationally Trained Professionals including English for NCLEX, Engineers, Accounting & Finance, TOEFL Prep and more. Learn more about how you can access EnGen licenses through the State of ME partnership to reach more learners and assist them in building workplace readiness skills and earning credentials that lead to family-sustaining wages.

WordPress and Elementor - Whittier Room

Facilitator: Robert Hohman, National Digital Equity Center

Learn with the National Digital Equity Center about WordPress and Elementor. We will look at the platform, touch upon some of the skills needed and let you know about the classes offered by the NDEC.

Improving Adult Student Retention - Strategies for Program Growth and Success - Simonds Room

Facilitators: Peggy Bernard and Jennifer Denton, Essential Education

Adult students need foundational skills to reach their goals. Many adults in basic education programs have never learned how to study, take notes, or develop personal learning strategies. The ability to think critically, set goals, and manage time empowers students to take on new challenges and build confidence in their capabilities. Equipping students with tools to fill these basic skill gaps is crucial to adult learner success. Join the discussion as we unpack educator insights from a six-month professional learning community designed to target the foundational skill gaps of adult students. Participants will learn from the collective experiences of adult teachers and administrators dedicated to addressing adult learning needs. Attendees will receive a free Adult Learning Needs guide designed to help educators better meet all adult students' academic and job-ready needs. Adult instructors and administrators will glean a robust understanding of the basic skill needs of adult learners. Participants will explore current challenges and learn from adult educators seeking to equip students with the valuable skills needed to make academic gains and succeed in study, work and life. Shared insights will be based on real-world classroom experiences and research. Resources provided will intentionally target how student progress and program retention are improved when basic skill gaps are addressed.

Literacy Program Leadership – River Room

Facilitator: Lauren Osowski, Pro Literacy

From budgeting and finances to legal obligations, or managing staff and board members to marketing your program, the responsibilities of an executive director can seem daunting. Come learn about strategies and resources that exist to help new directors of literacy programs such as ProLiteracy's Adult Literacy Management and Leadership and Training.

*Awards Event is at 5:00 p.m. All are invited to attend. Appetizers will be served.
Main Ballroom*

Friday, October 25, 2024

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Session Five

What's Next? – Making a Lasting Impact – Whittier Room

Facilitators: Monique Roy, Director of Learning and Development, Central Maine Healthcare and Razell Ward, Lewiston Adult Education

Join our interactive workshop designed for seasoned leaders in adult education who are eager to make a lasting impact. Discuss strategies to innovate and refresh your programs, ensuring they remain relevant and engaging for learners. Reflect on the legacy you want to leave behind, shaping a future where education continuously evolves. Collaborate with like-minded professionals to reignite your passion and drive change in the field.

New Features and Best Practice with Coursestorm – Ketchum Room

Facilitator: John Elliott, CourseStorm

Description: Join CourseStorm's staff for a session highlighting new features and best practices. We'll touch on tips and tricks for common hot topics during catalog season and beyond.

Part OneL APPLYING THE PILLARS OF SUCCESS IN ADULT EDUCATION Serving Lower-Level Learners in a Career Pathways Environment Sponsored by Pro Literacy – Main Ballroom

Facilitator: Jeffrey Fantine, National Trainer

****This is a three-part workshop. Participants must attend all three sessions to receive 3 Ohio State University CEU's.**

As the field of adult education continues to emphasize high school equivalency testing, career pathways and integrated education and training programs, there is a real danger in creating a system that leaves behind the students who are most in need and who need us the most. Therefore, it is imperative when implementing career pathways services to include accessibility for our lower level, struggling learners. This three-part conference session will apply the four pillars of success to providing effective adult education services and professionalizing the field (research, relationships, relevance, and rigor) in the context of serving lower-level learners in a career pathways environment.

Participants of this 3-part session will...

- Receive part of the Career Power series from New Readers Press, PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS
- Be awarded 3 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from The Ohio State University (must attend all three parts) that can be used for your recertification;
- Be part of a learning community that will have access to a repository of career pathways lessons that will continue to develop and grow.

This session will be interactive; active participation is required. Participants should bring a laptop and be able to access the internet. Space is limited to 30 participants.

Part 1: Build a Foundation of Practice Around the Pillars of Success in Adult Education. Ignite your classroom by creating an active teaching/learning environment using participatory learning methodologies to engage learners, brain-based learning interventions and practices that help students increase their social-emotional skills for success in the classroom and in life. We will discuss how to implement career pathways services that support lower-level, struggling learners.

Canva with Courtney: Basics for Educators - Grafton Room

Facilitator: Courtney Michaud, Spruce Mountain Adult Education

Join Courtney to professionalize your work using Canva and unlock its incredible potential in education! We'll learn how to create an account, get your school verified for free Canva Pro, and design personalized lesson plans, posters, and worksheets. Discover how this versatile tool can enhance both your classroom and marketing efforts. Let's make learning fun and creative, contributing to a brighter future in education! Please bring a laptop or device for applied learning!

Revisoning Workforce Programs to Generate Student Success - Simonds Room

Facilitators: Barbara Mascarenas and Michelle Davenport, Portland Adult Education

Portland Adult Education has revised the way they offer Workforce training programs. They will share how they were able to revamp their Healthcare Office and Patient Service Representative Certificate using a model that involves employer partners in the development and delivery of training and embraces participation from multilingual learners. This workshop will also be a discussion about how to shift thinking around program planning through the incorporation of the Interactive Model of Program Planning, allowing for changes in programs that meet ongoing demands.

Digital Literacy Thrives by Collaboration with Community-Based Partners, River Room

Facilitators: Mary Redmond-Luce and Mike Burd, Franklin County Adult Education, Tyler Provencher, Digital Literacy Instructor and Charlie Woodworth, Executive Director, Greater Franklin County Economic Development

Franklin County has embarked on a collaborative digital literacy journey and by including many partners, they have been able to leverage more targeted funding for this necessary work. In this workshop, they

will share their partnership strategies and help others brainstorm about who needs to be at the table for adult education programs to deliver high quality digital literacy in community settings and classes.

“Believe you can and you’re halfway there.” ---Theodore Roosevelt

11:15 - 12:15 a.m.

Session Six

VA Certification for Workforce Training - Grafton Room

Facilitators: Eileen Miazga, Maine Bureau of Veteran's Affairs and Daryl Reed, Maine State Approving Agency

VA approval and the GI Bill™ can help mitigate barriers to the cost of workforce training. Adult Education students who are veterans, or veteran beneficiaries, may qualify for tuition assistance, receive money for books and supplies and qualify for a monthly housing allowance while enrolled in training. The GI Bill™ will pay for certificate programs including truck driving, cosmetology, HVAC repair, medical and many more. Learn how to get adult education programs certified by the VA.

Ask CourseStorm - Follow-up Q and A with Coursestorm - Ketchum Room

Facilitator: John Elliott and Alan Spencer, CourseStorm

Have more questions about using CourseStorm? Join CourseStorm's staff for a Q&A session where you'll have an opportunity to raise questions and learn more about best practices with CourseStorm's registration system.

Part Two: APPLYING THE PILLARS OF SUCCESS IN ADULT EDUCATION Serving Lower-Level Learners in a Career Pathways Environment Sponsored by Pro Literacy - Main Ballroom

Facilitator: Jeffrey Fantine, National Trainer

**This is a three-part workshop. Participants must attend all three sessions to receive credit.

Part 2: Become familiar with a research-based process on how to use materials to support instruction. Participants will be introduced to Career Power, a new four-book series published by New Readers Press that prepares learners for success in the workplace using contextualized lessons, integrates employability skills, and includes realistic workplace scenarios across a variety of in-demand industries.
Workshop Four - ELL Teachers

Utilizing ChatGPT in Adult Education - Simonds Room

Facilitator: Heather Rogers

Bring your laptop and explore the power of generative AI through ChatGPT. We'll explore how Large Language Models work, uncover key benefits, identify important flaws, evaluate output quality, and practice basic prompts. Empower yourself and your learners with innovative and effective practices using ChatGPT. Designed for beginner AI users.

Multilingual Learners in Healthcare: Workforce Program Development with MLL Educators - Whittier Room

Roxanne Heuschkel and Melissa Meserve, OOB/Saco Adult Education

Explore HUB 9's Strengthening Maine Workforce's (SMW) Introduction to Healthcare program in this session. We will delve into its curriculum framework, administration, and approaches to hybrid learning. We will highlight the pivotal role of advising sessions for student achievement and learn how to use resources like Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan (MJRP) Career & College Navigators for effective resume building and career planning. Gain valuable insights into collaborative community support from community colleges and partnerships with healthcare organizations, and leave equipped with actionable strategies to empower Maine's newcomers in their future healthcare careers.

How Do Professional Learning Communities Benefit Adult Education? ~Insights from Hub 8's

Advising PLC - River Room

Facilitators: Maureen Mitchell, Gray - New Gloucester Adult Education with Shila Cook, Michelle Davenport, Cathy Giuffre-Renaud, Stephanie Haskins and Jessica Trimmer

Join the Hub 8 Advising Professional Learning Community to hear about the funding, formation, and growth of their PLC. Community members will share best practices and discuss how their group identified Hub Advising needs, created professional learning opportunities, and supported one another to better serve our adult education students in a culturally and geographically diverse Hub.

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Session Seven

Keep Your Student Data Tidy with Google Sheets - Ketchum Room

Facilitators: Rebecca Spitz, RSU 13 Adult Education and Kelley Heath, Maine Department of Education
Strengthen your team's ability to track student information, test scores, and attendance with easy-to-use Google Sheets designed with team collaboration and clean data in mind. Learn how to organize attendance from instructors and other incoming student data in a format consistent with MaineSTARS data entry. Attendees of this workshop will gain access to Google Sheets templates they can adapt to their own program's needs.

Colorful Conversations - Grafton Room

Facilitator: Lynn Sheehan, York Adult Education

Do you have a great idea to save time in your office but don't have enough to fill an entire seminar? Join Lynn for a unique and refreshing gathering designed exclusively for administrative staff. In this session, we will combine the therapeutic activity of coloring with collaborative discussions aimed at improving our office environments. This event offers a perfect opportunity to unwind, express creativity, and engage in meaningful conversations about making our daily work lives easier and more efficient.

Part Three: APPLYING THE PILLARS OF SUCCESS IN ADULT EDUCATION Serving Lower-Level Learners in a Career Pathways Environment Sponsored by Pro Literacy - Main Ballroom

Facilitator: Jeffrey Fantine, National Trainer

****This is a three-part workshop. Participants must attend all three sessions to receive credit.**

Part 3: Putting it all together to create dynamic standards-based, student-centered contextualized lessons that adhere to the pillars of success and effective research-based practice. Participants will see examples of complete lessons and have guided practice creating their own lessons that they will be able to access and further develop after the conference and readily use in their classroom.

Improving my Prompt Engineering - Simonds Room

Facilitator: Heather Rogers

Designed for experienced adult education instructors/tutors with some AI experience, this workshop will focus on effective prompt engineering for adult education instructors, as well as their learners. Wondering how to incorporate AI into your courses? Bring your laptop and be prepared to work collaboratively. Learn how to take advantage of this emerging technology (and when to do it your way instead).

Anchoring: Encouraging Student Retention and Persistence - Whittier Room

Facilitator: Cherie Goranites, Bonny Eagle Adult Education

From 2023-2024, Cherie Goranites participated in a nation-wide Professional Learning Community (PLC) hosted by Essential Education to research and study ways of retaining students. This presentation will review results and insights gained from the PLC. Participants will be given the opportunity to try a couple of activities the PLC employed as well as directions for accessing Essential Education's FREE "6 Anchors of Student Retention" 182-page guide.

Using AI to Promote Empathy with Challenging Learners - River Room

Facilitators: Jen Brown, Lewiston Adult Education and Hannah Bard, Mid Maine Regional Adult and Community Education

Some learners are harder to engage in learning and teachers can struggle between being nice and providing true empathy. This workshop will focus on how empathy shows up in adult education and how it makes a lasting impression. We will also lead participants to reframe their teaching by working with AI to build student interest in lesson development and in the contextualization of CCRS and TSTM standards into career interests.

Closing 2:30 p.m., Main Ballroom

***Life is not so much about beginnings and endings as it is about going on and on and on.
It is about muddling through the middle. ~ Anna Quindlen***



Maine Adult Education

EDUCATE • EMPOWER • ENRICH