

2010 COABE/ProLiteracy Conference Pre-Conference Session Descriptions

Full Day Sessions 8:30 – 3:30 Cost \$125 (Includes Lunch)

1. **Title:** BEST Plus Test Administrator Training Workshop
Organization: Center for Applied Linguistics

Abstract:

This six-hour pre-conference session will instruct new test administrators in the use and scoring of BEST Plus, a computer-adaptive and print-based individually administered, face-to-face oral interview. BEST Plus is designed to assess adults' communicative use of English by measuring the oral proficiency of adult English language learners.

Objectives:

- Prepare participants to administer BEST Plus, an individually administered, face-to-face oral English proficiency interview;
- Instruct participants in scoring BEST Plus based on the rubric sections of listening comprehension, language complexity, and communication;
- Allow participants opportunities to practice scoring and administering BEST Plus to prepare them for testing.

Presenter: Sarah Young

2. **Title:** Current Issues and Approaches in Professional Development
Organization: Association of Adult Literacy Professional Developers (AALPD)

Abstract:

Join us to learn about some of the latest and best in professional development for adult education and literacy practitioners. Participate in round-table discussions focused on innovative PD practices from around the country. Strengthen your network of colleagues who can help you implement new ideas when you get home. Learn about new PD resources, AALPD's recent activities, and how you can get involved!

Objectives:

Participants will participate in roundtable discussions focused on innovative practices in professional development at the state and local levels. Roundtable discussions may focus on PD evaluation, online PD, developing communities of practice, and assessing practitioner needs. Participants will discuss tools and approaches used successfully by their colleagues and gain ideas about implementing the approach in their own setting.

Participants will learn about current developments in federal policies related to adult education and literacy and the implications of these policies for professional development. They will understand the basic policy issues being considered and what actions are being taken related to these policies.

Participants will learn about resources available through AALPD that support communities of practice, professional development research, and sharing of best practices. They will plan how they can use these resources in their programs and offer guidance to AALPD for further development.

3. **Title:** ProLiteracy Trainer Tune-Up for new or experienced ProLiteracy trainers.
Organization: ProLiteracy

Abstract:

Sharpen your skills at this pre-conference workshop for new or experienced ProLiteracy trainers. Topics include: Manage the Group Process, Get More from Your Ice-Breaker, Training Evaluations: Design, Discuss and Apply.

Objectives:

Participants will:

1. Tune up or enhance their volunteer training skills
2. Explore ways in which they can manage the group process
3. Improve their skills in presenting ice breakers
4. Enhance the ways in which they evaluate training

Presenter: Roberta Reiss

4. **Title:** Transition Success! Building Learners Who Will Succeed in Postsecondary and Employment

Organization: NAASLN

Abstract: Transition/Bridge programs are being piloted and implemented across the U.S. Participants in these programs have high incidences of special learning needs that, if ignored, will greatly diminish persistence, learning gains, and eventual completion of postsecondary goals or maintaining employment.

What can states and programs do to design programs that build on research-based best practices, develop students who persist, and aid students in demonstrating academic success while simultaneously training self-advocacy and meta-cognitive skills?

Join this highly interactive session to hear from experts in the field and share information with programs already initiating transition courses.

Objectives:

1. Present research on the incidence of students with special learning needs in transition programs.
2. Share practical strategies that transition programs are implementing as they move to build students that persist, demonstrate learning gains, and can self-advocate for accommodations and adaptations to address their special learning needs.

3. Model Participatory Learning techniques can provide transition students with the experiences they need to learn and practice the noncognitive skills needed to successfully transition to postsecondary or employment.

Presenters: Dr. Laura Weisel, Joan Hudson-Miller CA; Meryl Becker-Prezosi, KY, Robyn Rennick, FL; Richard Cooper, PA

5. **Title:** National Institute for Literacy's LINCS Research to Practice: Transitioning Adults to Postsecondary Opportunities and Work

Organization: Center for Literacy Studies at The University of Tennessee

NIFL LINCS

Abstract: Learn strategies from experts and explore online resources to help you improve adult learners' transition to postsecondary opportunities and work. A winning combination: panel of experts with successful strategies and free resources from the LINCS Resource Collections. Leave with a plan for incorporating research into practice to improve adult transitions.

Objectives:

1. Learn about initiatives that successfully transition adults from basic education programs to postsecondary education and training, or to work.
2. Explore online resources on adult transitions available through LINCS Resource Collections.
3. Develop a plan for integrating one or more ideas gained into current classroom or program practices.

Presenters: Donna JG Brian, Ed. D., Miriam Burt, Rochelle Kenyon, Wendy McDowell

6. **Title:** The Shock of Cultures: Yours and Theirs in the Classroom

Organization: Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)

Abstract:

Practitioners view the influence of their home culture and values on their own classroom. Using video, discussion, and cooperative readings, practitioners examine learner cultures and values. Practitioners receive tools to process unexpected culture clashes, integrate culture into lesson planning, and identify instructor and learner needs for adjustment and adaptation.

Objectives:

Practitioners gain tools to identify:

- a. their own cultural influences on their lessons
- b. the influence learner-cultures generate in the classroom
- c. the cultural adaptations learners need to be successful
- d. ways to integrate culture into their current curriculum

e. ways to enhance learning from a culture conflict

Presenter: Sharon McKay

7. **Title:** Remediation of Dyslexia (Based on the Orton-Gillingham Approach)

Organization: Dyslexia Training Institute

Abstract:

This interactive workshop will give participants an overview of the research-based Orton-Gillingham Approach to teaching adults and children with dyslexia. Participants will learn about multisensory teaching/learning, terminology, phonemic awareness, phonological awareness, be given an overview of the phonics rules, seven syllable types, syllable division, and word patterns.

Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. be able to correctly define dyslexia and its symptoms
2. state the reason for using the Orton-Gillingham Approach for individuals with dyslexia
3. identify the different components of the Orton-Gillingham Approach
4. manipulate the phonemes of words for reading and spelling

Presenters: Kelli Sandman-Hurley, Tracy Block-Zaretsky

8. **Title:** Learner-Centered Approaches that Build Metacognition and Thinking Skills

Organization: Payne & Associates

Abstract:

Developing higher order thinking or metacognitive skills is essential for learner success in education, training and work, especially for those with special needs. Join Nancie for a highly interactive session using learner-centered strategies of inquiry and critical thinking to expand and generalize fifteen skill sets including problem solving, memory, organization, association, self-evaluation and flexibility of thinking. Explore real-life application in meaningful, fun, hands-on ways and significantly improve higher order thinking skills with learners at all levels.

Objectives:

Participants will:

- Learn how to introduce 15 metacognitive skill sets through activity-based, hands-on exercises
- Understand how to develop curriculum and tools that develop each of the 15 skills

- Gain knowledge of method to integrate into existing curriculum models with students in whole group, small group and one-to-one instruction

Presenter: Nancie Payne

9. **Title:** Emerging Technologies in the Adult Education Classroom

Organization: Ohio Literacy Resource Center (NIFL LINCS)

Abstract:

This pre-conference will provide a hands-on opportunity to explore the availability and use of emerging technologies (WEB 2.0, assistive technology, etc.) in the adult education classroom. The session will highlight several resources related to these technologies and how they can be used by the participants in their instruction.

Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to locate resources on emerging technologies in the LINCS Resource Collections.
2. Participants will better understand the uses of these technologies through a focus on instructional applications.
3. Participants will take away a lesson plan and/or plan for next steps.

Presenters: Tim Ponder, Nell Eckersley, Steve Quann

10. **Title:** State-Level Decision Points for Building Career Pathways

Organization: National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium (NAEPDC)

Abstract:

This timely and interactive session, sponsored by the State Staff Workgroup of the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium (NAEPDC), is designed for adult education state staff or program coordinators who are interested in initiating career pathways in high growth job clusters. The session will examine key considerations in developing an infrastructure for a coordinated adult learning system that builds upon the expertise and resources of multiple partners and helps adult learners transition to further training and family-sustaining employment. You will explore options for state-level partnerships, policy alignment, funding mechanisms, pathway frameworks, stackable certificates, student support services, and integrated curricula critical to your success. You will have the opportunity to learn from your colleagues who are pioneering this important effort in their states and will receive a wealth of resources to help you get started.

Objectives:

Upon completion of this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify the key decision points for initiating an effective career pathways system
- Adapt resources, models, and policies from other states to fit their state's needs
- Design a “getting started” framework for launching the development or refinement of a coordinated adult learning system that helps adult learners transition to further training and family-sustaining employment.

Presenter: Dr. Lennox McLendon

11. **Title:** Fractions, Decimals, and Percents: Coming Together for Understanding

Organization: Adult Numeracy Network (ANN)

Abstract:

Most of us learned fractions, decimals, and percents separately. Why? Are they separate or are they connected? For a fresh perspective, join the Adult Numeracy Network for an engaging day of sharing research, resources, and classroom activities to bring fractions, decimals, and percents together for you and your students.

Objectives:

1. Identify the concepts that unite and separate fractions, decimals, and percents.
2. Articulate the many interpretations-meanings and representations-held by rational numbers.
3. Implement at least three classroom-ready activities related to fractions, decimals and percents.

Presenter: Tricia Donovan, Ed.D.

Morning Half Day Pre Conference Sessions 8:30 – 11:30 Cost \$60 (does not include lunch)

1. **Title:** Federal Legislative Update

Organization: National Coalition for Literacy

Abstract:

National adult education advocates will update you on federal legislative developments in adult education and related areas and will interact with you on the issues. Join roundtable discussions led by panelists, examine how policy affects practice, and target policy change. Leave with a plan; bring it home.

Objectives:

Participants will:

- Understand what is happening in Washington that affects you locally
- Inform national adult education advocates about local concerns
- Identify what you can do to advance the field through public policy advocacy

Moderator: Marsha L.Tait

Panelists:

Art Ellison, State Directors, Public Policy Committee Chair

David Harvey, President, ProLiteracy

Jackie Taylor, National Coalition for Literacy Public Policy Committee Co-Chair

Andy Tyskiewicz, President, COABE

Other National Adult Education Advocates (TBD)

2. **Title:** Free, On-Line Adult Reading Assessment and Instruction Resources from the National Institute for Literacy

Organization: Ohio Literacy Resource Center (NIFL LINCS)

Abstract:

The National Institute for Literacy has free, on-line resources for assessing student reading ability and for providing research-based reading instruction. During this session, participants will learn how to use the Assessment Strategies and Reading Profiles and the resources in the Basic Skills Collection to help their students improve their reading.

Objectives:

Participants will learn to:

1. locate and access resources on the NIFL website
2. use reading assessments to create profiles for their students
3. use research-based resources to provide reading instruction

Presenters: Dianna Baycich, Daphne Greenberg, Marie Therese Cora

3. **Title:** Understanding and Applying the Research and Science on Adults with Learning Disabilities

Organization: Adolescent Literacy and Learning Disabilities (NIFL LINCS)

Abstract:

The National Institute for Literacy will present the findings and implications of an extensive review of the current research literature on adults with learning disabilities (LD). This literature

review is the foundation of *Learning to Achieve*, the Institute's new training program for practitioners providing services to adults with LD.

Objectives:

By the end of this presentation, participants will be knowledgeable about how current research supports practices aimed at: LD diagnosis, identifying reading and writing disabilities, interventions and accommodations. Participants will also examine how this information has been translated into the *Learning to Achieve* training modules and professional development.

Presenters: Debi C. Basu, Dr. Juliana Taymans

4.. **Title:** Effective Strategies and Tools for Successful Transition Program Planning

Organization: National College Transition Network, World Education

Abstract:

Participants will learn about barriers to postsecondary education that adult learners face and program models and practices to address them. We will take a look at the research on adult transitions, and explore tools and resources developed by the National College Transition Network.

Objectives:

In this workshop, you will:

- Take a fun and user-friendly trip through the research on adult transitions
- Identify important elements of transition programming and assess your current program and design next steps to fill in gaps
- Articulate talking points for a needs statement for a college transition program

Presenters: Priyanka Sharma, Ellen Hewett

5.. **Title:** Implications for Transitioning English Language Learners (TELL): Important Preliminary Findings from the 2008-2010 TELL study.

Organization: American Institutes for Research

Cost-Sharing Agreement: no

Abstract:

This workshop provides an opportunity for ELL practitioners and program directors to examine preliminary findings from the 2008-2010 Transitioning English Language Learners (TELL) Study, and discuss implications for instruction and practice with transitioning ELLs. Participants

will also examine programmatic and instructional practices that lead to ELLs attainment of ABE/GED/ASE credentials.

Objectives:

By the end of the workshop:

1. Participants will have a fuller understanding of the study's significance in developing a greater corpus of knowledge about TELL.
2. Participants will be able to examine implications for programming and instruction in TELL programs.
3. Participants will be able to prompt discussions among peers about the critical issues emerging from the 2008-2010 TELL Study.

Presenters: Anestine Hector-Mason, PhD, Renee Sherman

Half Day Afternoon Pre Conference Sessions Cost \$60 (does not include lunch)

1. **Title:** Pathways and Advocacy: Building the Grassroots Base

Organization: National Coalition for Literacy

Abstract:

The session will feature practical, hands-on strategies for planning and implementing a successful grassroots advocacy program developed by the National Coalition for Literacy with generous support from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Participants will discuss strategies and tactics and create action plans that integrate advocacy with community and business partnerships.

Objectives:

Participants will:

- Identify grassroots advocacy priority areas
- Design a local advocacy action plan to take back home
- Access strategies, tactics, resources, and tools needed to implement the plan

Presenters: Marsha L. Tait and Jackie Taylor

2. **Title:** Harnessing the Community's Power

Organization: Literacy Powerline

Abstract:

For emerging coalitions and those with less than 3 years experience, this session provides resources and tools for communities building collaborations and partnerships. If your community wants to elevate awareness about literacy and build service capacity this is the session for you!

Objectives:

1. Increase knowledge and provide useful tools to build a community literacy coalition.
2. Provide practical ways to add literacy service capacity in the community.
3. Share methods to unite and amplify the message about literacy services for learners, need for volunteers and need for resources.

Presenters: Margery Freeman, Raymond C. Hart, Ph.D

3. **Title:** State and Regional Collaborations

Organization: Literacy Powerline

Abstract:

Come explore the roles of multi-partner organizations; the latest thinking on regional planning; models for state/regional initiatives; strategies for galvanizing voices for advocacy and awareness; and overcoming the challenges of coordinated system change and much more.

Objectives:

1. Communicate new modes of regional planning.
2. Share templates of innovative state and regional literacy initiatives.
3. Learn new strategies to affect change at the regional, state and national level.

Presenter: Margaret Doughty

4. **Title:** Maintaining Excellence: Sustaining Outstanding Coalitions

Organization: Literacy Powerline

Abstract:

For experienced coalitions, join your incredible colleagues in a high-powered session to: increase impactful leadership; leverage cross silo opportunities; maximize national and state funding; leave with innovative templates for cross silo collaboration and examples of state-wide literacy legislation.

Objectives:

1. Learn from experienced colleagues what works, what doesn't and why.
2. Come away with templates of innovative new models of practice.
3. Gain new resources for leadership growth, resource development and legislative change.

Presenters: Kim Scott, Vicki Clark

5. **Title:** Use Your Data Wisely: From Analysis to Practice

Organization: ProLiteracy

Abstract:

The presenter will demonstrate various tools and processes used by programs involved in a 3-year project focused on using data for program improvement. Participants will conduct activities using materials focused on collecting and managing data, data analysis, and using data to communicate success that they can apply to their program.

Objectives:

1. Participants will learn what the key elements are in the areas of data collection management, data analysis for program decision-making, and using data to communicate success to stakeholders.
2. Participants will conduct activities with materials that can be applied to their program.
3. Participants will learn how to access free online courses associated with this initiative.

Presenter: Marie Cora

6. **Title:** Research-Based Health Literacy Materials for Beginning ABE and ESL

Organization: Western/Pacific LINCS (NIFL)

Abstract:

This presentation will:

- Provide an overview of the dramatic connection between low literacy and poor health status.
- Report on the development of groundbreaking, research-based instructional materials designed to simultaneously improve both literacy and health literacy outcomes in low literate populations.
- Introduce the field to these exciting, free materials and instruction guide.

Objectives:

Participants will:

- Understand the correlation between low literacy and poor health status.
- Learn of a five-year NICHD-VAE-NIFL-funded research project which developed and tested a multi-level health literacy curriculum.
- Experience samples from the new web-based version of these materials illustrating their breadth of content, and learn how to obtain this free resource and instructor training.

Presenter: Meg Schofield