



**27th Annual
On the Road to Literacy
Tutor & Adult Learner Conference**

Saturday, April 21, 2018

University of Illinois at Chicago
College of Education, Theater, Music & Social Work Building
1040 W. Harrison Street
Chicago, IL 60607

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Round One

Shaping Reading Behavior for Comprehension

How can tutors/instructors put readers in an active role to develop crucial reading comprehension skills? In this interactive session, participants will explore strategies that will enable students to take charge of their reading, think more deeply about text, and support their reading comprehension.

Presenters: Debbie Kaputka, ABE Teacher and Charles Johnson, Lead GED Teacher, Centro Romero

Using Technology for Language Learning

Are you interested in learning how you can use technology to help your learners gain new language skills? We currently live a digital world with an app for just about everything! In this workshop you will have the opportunity to learn about phone and tablet applications, websites, and technology resources to help you and your English Language Learners gain valuable listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Come and learn all about technology and how we can use it to support language learning goals and skills.

Presenters: Shana Barrera and Jeannie Peterson, UIC Center for Literacy

Writing Your Way to Math Fluency

Math isn't just numbers and symbols--it's also language, and quite a lot of it! In this workshop, we will discuss ways to help students strengthen their math vocabulary and become more confident talking about math ideas. We will also practice a shared problem-solving activity that you can use and reuse with your student. With student writing and drawings as a tool, we will get students reflecting and talking about their own thinking... and help them move to the next level in their math learning!

Presenter: Becky DeForest, Literacy Works

GRIT –The Power of Passion and Perseverance

What drives success in our students? Studies show that it is not talent nor IQ but a combination of beliefs and characteristics that Angela Duckworth calls GRIT. Join us in discussing these ideas based on the New York Times Best Selling Book.

Presenter: Susan Levels, Tutor, McHenry County College, Adult Education Program

Effective Teaching Dos And Don'ts: A Student Perspective

This workshop will be a panel discussion where current and former students from UIC's FAmily STart ESL/GED programs share their experiences and offer advice to tutors and teachers.

Presenters: Sophia Kortchmar, Instructor; Nereyda Santos, Instructor and GED Graduate; and, Laura Luna, Instructor and AmeriCorps Member, UIC FAST Southwest

Community Connection – Connecting Students to Healthcare

This session will provide an overview of the seven health literacy modules that are available on the Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition's (CCLC) web. The modules include: Heart Disease, Diabetes, Obesity, Mental Wellness, Personal Care, Talking to Your Doctor and a Tour of the Federally Qualified Healthcare Center (FQHC). We will discuss the low health literacy rates for the populations we serve and how this project aims to address that. Attendees will go through one or two activities that are popular for students. We will discuss the important role of the FQHC lays in connecting students to healthcare.

Presenter: Dena Giacometti, Program Manager, Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition

The Psychology of Teaching and Learning for Literacy

This workshop will follow The Top 20 Principles from psychology to enhance teaching and learning. They are categorized into five areas of psychological functioning: Thinking and learning: How do students think and learn? / Motivation: What motivates students? / Social-Emotional: Why are social context, interpersonal relations and emotional well-being important to student learning? / Classroom management: How can classroom behavior best be managed? / Assessment: How can teachers effectively assess student progress? The overview of these psychological principles of thinking and learning shows the effectiveness of language used, environment, behavior/emotion, evaluating, and many other psychological/social aspects of learning. Throughout the workshop, there will be open dialogue on the examples/ topics of the Top 20 principles as well as activities which help promote the Top 20 principles from psychology to enhance teaching and learning.

Presenter: Timothy White, Program Associate, Literacy Volunteers of Illinois

10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Round Two

Vowels and Consonants

Does it make you crazy trying to figure out why vowels can have many sounds and most consonants have only one sound? In this workshop we'll learn about the six syllable types and how syllables can determine the sounds vowels make. Interactive and some hands-on activities.

Presenter: Carol Morris, College of Lake County and Literacy Volunteers of Illinois, Board Member

A Whole Person Approach to Teaching Adult ELLs: Using Health Literacy to Create Meaningful Context

Successful English language learners are able to express themselves adequately in social and academic settings. However, doing so naturally and appropriately in health contexts can still be a major challenge. This session focuses on creating meaningful context for language learning through health literacy. Participants will gain practical strategies to use in their English classes in order to enhance linguistic skills, cultural awareness, and ways to positively impact learners' health and provide self-advocacy tools. After all, successful English language teaching has to embrace the person as a whole.

Presenter: Jeanine Ntahirageza, PhD, Associate Professor, TESOL, Department Chair of Anthropology, English Language Program, Philosophy, and TESOL, Northeastern Illinois University

Using Fiction with Low-Level Learners: Writing Activities and Strategies for Increasing Comprehension

Low-level readers can have deep comprehension and complex discussions about what they read, and tutors and teachers can help! In this session you'll be introduced to some great resources for accessible texts and activities that you can pair to facilitate understanding and discussion.

Presenter: Bria Dolnick, ESL Teacher, Chinese Mutual Aid Association.

Why Do I Keep Coming to Literacy Classes?

This interactive session will have students from Literacy Chicago along with their tutor share information on how and why they came to the program and will provide and seek insight from those attending on what motivates adult learners to keep coming back.

Presenters: Sally Maybrook, Tutor; and Harold Barnes & George Wright, Adult Learners

Know Your Rights

During this presentation participants will learn what *to do* and *not to do* in case of an immigration raid, what their basic rights with immigration are - regardless of legal status - and how to share the information learned to others. Know Your Rights 'Train the Trainer' Manuals will be provided to community organizations whose leaders are interested in holding their own trainings.

Presenter: Dagmara, Avelar, State Programs Manager, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

Broadening Transitions – A Scope of How All Transitions Impact Learners

While we traditionally think of transitions as moving learners from adult education programs into employment or postsecondary education, this session expands on that. We will discuss the transitions between both English levels and grade levels, and how those smaller upward movements impact the learner. Celebrating each smaller transition deepens engagement and aids in retention. We will also discuss the knowledge learners bring with them to determine the career pathway students might think about as they are finishing their time at the adult education provider. Attendees will leave the presentation with ways to celebrate minor achievements in an effort to get learners to the employment and postsecondary transitions the field is looking for.

Presenter: Dena Giacometti, Program Manager, Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition

Yoga for Learning

Learning new things can be stressful. At the same time, it's nearly impossible to learn when stressed. Based on scientific breathing techniques and yogic laughter, this session will teach you how to relax.

Presenter: Vandana Dalal, Executive Director, Midwest Asian American Center

12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

Round Three

What is an App ?

App is a shortened form of the word "application." An application is a software program that's designed to perform a specific function directly for the user. It is often downloaded to mobile phones or tablets. In this workshop we'll learn about some great educational apps for both learner and tutor.

Presenter: Carol Morris, College of Lake County and Literacy Volunteers of Illinois, Board Member

Empowering Immigrants Through Learning

How many international students or immigrants do you know in your class, at work, or in the community?? What do you think is the most important things for them to learn? In addition to literacy, they need to learn life skills, how to survive in this country, cultural differences, and human rights! This workshop will address the immigrants, especially women's needs of learning human rights, and how learning can be empowering and encouraging to become more independent.

Presenter: Sara Heidbreder M.A, LPC, R-DMT, Counselor at Apna Ghar

Writing Towards a Diploma: "Finding effective ways to use the voice that we have claimed while we have it" – Patricia Hill Collins

This session will have workshop participants engaging in creative ways to enter into writing. Workshop activities will introduce strategies for overcoming the fear of writing, to establish writerly habits, and to develop and strengthen skills needed to write for a particular audience and purpose.

Presenter: Rachel Gruen, PhD Candidate, UIC and Adult Education Instructor

Soft Skills In the Workplace

The purpose of this workshop is to help adult learners obtain and or recognize the skills needed to pursue or develop future and existing abilities in the workplace. This particular workshop focuses on the different types of soft skills needed. Soft Skills are a wide variety of character traits and skills that help our clients succeed in the workplace. Soft Skills usually fall into 3 categories: How to interact with other people; How to carry yourself & your work ethic; and, Problem solving in the workplace. Soft Skills are very important because they can be used in ANY job settings that employers look for to determine people who will fit the role needed.

Presenter: Rebeca Herrera, AmeriCorps Member, UIC Parent Outreach

“Mirror, Mirror” – Creating and Utilizing a Vision-Board

This workshop is geared toward understanding the importance of self-discovery through goals and visions. Attendees will receive information about the importance of goal-setting while creating a mini vision board. The vision board will help bring clarity for long and short term goals and open possibilities for the future.

Presenter: Fantazia Berry, AmeriCorps Member, Project MORE, UIC Center for Literacy

Workforce Readiness

In response to the growing emphasis on preparing adult learners for employment, New Readers Press offers a series of products to help integrate work-readiness into any existing adult education programs aiming for WIOA compliance. The wide variety of materials which can be used in classroom and tutoring sessions help students explore career pathways, apply for jobs, and among other topics, create effective resumes and cover letters. Also provided are contextualized lessons that focus on the skills needed for Reading, Writing and Computing at Work. Free samples of the materials will be provided.

Presenter: Carol Larsen, Independent Sales Consultant, Representing New Readers Press

Building Financial Literacy Awareness

This workshop is based on the fundamentals of the National Endowment for Financial Education’s High School Financial Planning Program, which can be adapted for use in adult tutoring sessions. The topics covered include - Money Management, Borrowing, Earning Power, Investing, Financial Services, and Insurance. Throughout the workshop there will be activities such as - What if you had a million dollars ? Wants Vs. Needs, Long Term VS. Short Term, What Is Wealth ? and others. This workshop will develop an awareness of the importance of financial literacy and how to navigate it to become more successful in life. Copies of the 6-modules series will be available to all attending.

Presenter: Timothy White, Program Associate, Literacy Volunteers of Illinois