

2025 MAACCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025

Session 3: 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Advocate Roundtable Discussion: Helping Students Overcome Barriers

This round table discussion will be led by Caitlyn Kroboth and Karlie Noll. Learn what others in this position are doing in their programs and share your stories and experiences. Our main discussion will center around the importance of connecting with students in order to help them overcome barriers and successfully transition to postsecondary institutions or their preferred career fields. Other topics included in this discussion will be partnering with Job Centers and establishing relationships with community partners to provide necessary resources for our students.

Presenters: Caitlyn Kroboth – AEL IET Coordinator/Advocate, Moberly Area Community College
Karlie Noll – AEL Coordinator, Moberly Area Community College

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL

Beyond the Lesson Plan: Teaching for Deeper Learning

Explore strategies to transform lesson plans into tools for deeper learning. Participants will learn how to implement active learning techniques, facilitate critical thinking, and create real-world connections to make content meaningful. Through these approaches, teachers can transform their lesson plans into impactful tools for engaging, empowering, and inspiring learners.

Presenter: Christina Miller – National Consultant, Aztec

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL

Carrots instead of Sticks: Improving Learner Motivation, Retention, MSG, & Graduation Rate

Learn how to use positive motivation to improve your learners' experience and outcomes. You will leave with handouts, classroom practices, and an individualized learning plan template to encourage your learners with minimal investment of time and expense on your part.

Presenter: Heather Mecham – Lead ABE/ASE Instructor & Data Analyst, Literacy KC

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL

Create a Cohesive Classroom

Learn how to build a cohesive, student-centered classroom. This interactive session introduces four key strategies—routines, belonging, grouping, and communication—to help adult learners thrive. Gain practical tips and tools to enhance engagement, foster community, and support student success.

Presenters: Samuel Hicks – Customer Manager, Burlington English
Elsa Valarezo – Customer Representative, Burlington English

Categories: Adult Education – ESL

Making Sense of Text Complexity for Adult Learners

(Extended Session – Sessions 3 & 4)

Helping adult learners engage with complex texts builds the skills they need for real-world reading challenges. In this interactive workshop, participants will analyze text complexity, explore effective scaffolding strategies, and determine the right balance of pre-teaching. Discussions will also highlight the importance of productive struggle in developing stronger, more independent readers.

Presenter: Kristine Kelly – MN Adult Education Language & Literacy Coordinator, ATLAS

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL

Rewriting the Future: Paraprofessional and Substitute Teacher IET Programs

DESE AEL will briefly review the basics and benefits of Integrated Education and Training (IET) program design in this session. Local AEL staff who participated in the ADVANCE IET State Coaching experience (Crowder, East Central, St. Charles) will share the details of an exciting new statewide IET opportunity that focuses on preparing adult students for a career pathway in K-12 education. Staff developing or implementing IET programs should attend to learn how to start an educator IET in their area.

Presenters: Lindsay Thomas – Assistant Director of AEL Programming, Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

IET Advanced Coaching Team – Crowder College AEL, East Central College AEL, & St Charles Community College AEL

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL; Community Education

Shaping the Future with Data Insights: LACES Data Analysis for AEL Directors

LACES has assisted adult literacy providers since 1996 and provides the data management system for Missouri's local AEL programs. Beyond essential data management, features in LACES can help unlock opportunities for adult student success. Join Shannon Stangis to re-visit priority data analysis topics, learn about undiscovered features, and ask questions about the power of LACES.

Presenter: Shannon Stangis – Vice President of Client Services, LACES

Categories: Adult Education – Directors

Success is a Mindset! *

"Success" means different things to different people but is generally thought of as the accomplishment of a task or goal. With this in mind, let's explore how you can develop a mindset that will allow you to attain "success", not by lowering your expectations or dreams, but by empowering you with some simple strategies that if put to use will give you perspective and insight in understanding yourself and others and getting the best out of both!

Presenter: Clint Darr – Missouri Afterschool Resource Center Coordinator, Missouri Afterschool Network

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL; Afterschool; Community Education

Targeted Teaching: Intentional Instruction to Meet Adult Learning Needs, Make Gains, and Improve Student Retention

We are better together! Join us as we unpack the findings of the Essential Education Adult Learning Needs Professional Learning Community. This COABE-sponsored initiative invited adult educators worldwide to explore and create targeted solutions to meet the unique challenges of adult learners over the course of 6 months. All participants will receive a free Adult Learning Needs guide designed by and for adult educators.

Presenters: Rich Palmer – Midwest Sales Rep, Essential Education
Charlie Weeks – Sr. Implementation Specialist, Essential Education

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers

Session 4: 10:45 am – 11:45 am

AEL Category Round Table

AEL category roundtable session for adult education and literacy teachers to discuss relevant topics and questions with fellow teachers. This is hopefully a time to encourage one another on this ever-changing journey of adult education.

Presenter: Jenny Phipps – AEL Teacher's Category Chair & Lead Instructor, Ozarks Technical College

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers

Afterschool Rockstars - be the GOAT! *

Do you want your afterschool program to be the GOAT (Greatest Of All Time)? In this informative, interactive session you will learn tips and strategies from a Missouri Afterschool Network coach and trainer that will take your program to “ROCKSTAR” level! Topics will include creating a fun environment, youth engagement, building relationships, and providing youth voice, choice, and leadership opportunities. Let’s ROCK!

Presenter: Clint Darr – Missouri Afterschool Resource Center Coordinator, Missouri Afterschool Network

Categories: Afterschool

Community Impact: Develop Employer Partnerships to Maximize Student Achievement

This presentation will provide a detailed examination of the steps we took to develop key relationships with employers and community partners to leverage new funding and create strong pathways for our adult students. Student stories and in-depth examples of several employer partnerships and community contributions will be shared.

Presenter: Laura Elsbrock – Adult Education Coordinator, Area 30 Adult Education

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers

DESE Download—MAACCE Edition

Join DESE AEL staff to discuss current events in Adult Education statewide. This session is open to anyone interested in current strategic initiatives and program development from the DESE AEL office. Topics will include High School Equivalency, educator professional development, program monitoring, data, performance, Integrated Education and Training, and student assessment.

Presenters: Megan Wadley – Coordinator of AEL & HSE, Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

DESE AEL Team – Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL

DOC Open Forum

This will be an open forum for DOC Instructors. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss relevant topics and will be able to ask questions.

Presenter: Penny Carmon – DOC Category Chair & Education Program Manager, Ozark Correctional Center

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers

From Yesterday to Tomorrow: LACES Demystified for AEL Data Managers

LACES has assisted adult literacy providers since 1996 and provides the data management system for Missouri’s local AEL programs. Data managers play an essential role in AEL student success. Join Shannon Stangis to have your questions answered and to hear about the benefits of multiple customized reports and communicating with students using the system.

Presenter: Shannon Stangis – Vice President of Client Services, LACES

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL

Human Trafficking and Online Safety (Repeated Session – Session 7)

Join us for an eye-opening session to gain solid basic knowledge of various forms of human trafficking, the methods used by traffickers, and the impact on victims and society. We will also examine common tactics used online by traffickers to recruit and manipulate teenagers and adults. This online training includes an interactive presentation followed by a Q&A session that is perfect for anyone in the community that is just learning about this important issue.

Presenter: Eryn Borders – CATE Coordinator, Coalition Against Trafficking & Exploitation

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL; Afterschool; Community Education

Making Sense of Text Complexity for Adult Learners

(Extended Session – Sessions 3 & 4)

Helping adult learners engage with complex texts builds the skills they need for real-world reading challenges. In this interactive workshop, participants will analyze text complexity, explore effective scaffolding strategies, and determine the right balance of pre-teaching. Discussions will also highlight the importance of productive struggle in developing stronger, more independent readers.

Presenter: Kristine Kelly – MN Adult Education Language & Literacy Coordinator, ATLAS

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL

What's Wrong with this Picture?

Boost literacy in your classroom using stock images full of oddities. Quirky images provide English language learners an opportunity to discuss what they see, learn new words, as well as explore what's appropriate in a cultural context.

Presenter: Mary Silwance – Adult Educator, Kansas City Public Schools

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL

AWARDS LUNCH 12:00 – 1:15 pm

Awards – Membership Meeting – PRIZES!

MID-WEEK SPEAKER 1:15 – 2:15 pm – Dr. Jerol Enoch – “AI for Education”

In his current role as instructional designer, he helps faculty with thoughtful, purposeful, and deliberate course design that makes the most of current trends in educational technology. Much of that current interest has been in the ethical implementation of AI for education, while maintaining a focus on achieving measurable learning outcomes and meeting the needs of today's student population.

Session 5: 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Back to the Future with Free GED Resources

Take a journey through the free tools and resources to send your learners into a bright future! Share with GED Testing Service what tools and resources you need in the future.

Presenter: Liz Lanphear – State Relationship Manager, GED TS

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers

Building the Future: Workforce-Ready English Skills for Adult Learners

This session explores how the Ventures Adult Learner ESL program supports language skill development and workforce readiness through research-based instruction. Participants will learn strategies to build students' communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and digital literacy skills while preparing them for workforce and IET programs. Practical lesson ideas and ready-to-use classroom resources will be shared.

Presenter: Anne Damiecka – ESOL Specialist/Territory Manager, Cambridge University Press & Assessment

Categories: Adult Education – ESL

ELL Roundtable

Join us in a discussion about ideas that have been helpful for you in your adult ELL classroom. Be prepared to share your ideas and ask questions!

Please note that there is a separate session specifically for CASAS how-tos for the more technical side of administering the test. However, this Roundtable session would be great for discussing CASAS STEPS test prep ideas to use in the classroom!

Presenter: Lorraine Gardner – ELL Instructor, Ozarks Technical Community College
Vicki DeToy – ELL Instructor, Ozarks Technical Community College

Categories: Adult Education – ESL

Going Beyond the Page

Have you heard the phrase, “Instead of doing 10 different things, do one thing in 10 different ways”? Living by this mantra requires going deeper with a resource or activity and engaging with the material in more ways than the author of the activity provides. But how do we go deeper? Let's find out!

Presenter: Melinda Brown-Mason – ELL Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Literacy KC

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL

MAACCE/MAELAA Board Collaboration

This session is for the MAACCE & MAELAA Board members.

Presenters:

Categories: AEL Directors & MAACCE Board members

Survivor Identification: The Basics

(Repeated Session – Session 2)

Recent studies indicate that human trafficking incidents are under reported in many jurisdictions. Sectors which intersect with this population may not adequately screen for human trafficking incidents which create lack of reporting and a delay in survivor access to necessary services. Survivor ID is designed to establish a basic level knowledge of survivor characteristics through discussion of most common survivor demographics, vulnerable populations, and key factors that heighten the risk of trafficking and exploitation to exist.

Presenter: Eryn Borders – CATE Coordinator, Coalition Against Trafficking & Exploitation

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL; Afterschool; Community Education

The Power of LACES: Data System Features for AEL Teachers

LACES has assisted adult literacy providers since 1996 and provides the data management system for Missouri's local AEL programs. Teachers can utilize reports and searches in LACES to monitor student progress and to help get the most out of their time in the classroom with each adult student. Join Shannon Stangis to streamline data entry procedures, obtain mastery of LACES searches, and use the system to communicate with students.

Presenter: Shannon Stangis – Vice President of Client Services, LACES

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL

Using AI in the Classroom – Supporting Students

Explore practical ways of incorporating AI into your teaching practice with this hands-on workshop focused on positive applications of AI in the learning process. Please bring a laptop or tablet to participate fully.

Presenter: Dr. Jerol Enoch – Instructional Designer, St Charles Community College

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL; Afterschool; Community Education

Writing to Read: Strengthening Comprehension Through Writing

Explore how writing can serve as a powerful tool for strengthening reading comprehension. In this hands-on session, participants will practice using student writing as a way to assess understanding of texts, examine effective writing prompts that promote comprehension, and discuss strategies for supporting learners at various levels. Walk away with practical tools to integrate writing into reading instruction.

Presenter: Kristine Kelly – MN Adult Education Language & Literacy Coordinator, ATLAS

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL

CATEGORY MEETINGS 3:45 – 4:30 pm