

2026 MAACCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026

OPENING SESSION 1:00 – 2:45 pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – Brooks Harper – “Passionately Preparing the Next Generation”

Session 1: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Everyone Benefits: Multisensory Instruction for Students with and Without Disabilities

Extended Session – Sessions #1 & #2

Come to this session to gain information about hidden disabilities, multiple intelligences, and different learning styles. Find out how teaching and learning styles can impact students' education. Learn about multisensory instruction, what it is and how it can benefit students. Discover concrete examples of how to use multisensory instruction that can be implemented immediately in your classroom.

Presenter: Andrea Echelberger – Adult EL Teacher & Trainer, Common Ground Literacy

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL

Beyond the Worksheet

Since English language learners want to practice speaking, why not turn those terrific worksheets into activities to spur more speaking? In this workshop, we will explore how to turn worksheets into partner, group, and whole class interactive opportunities to build their speaking skills.

Presenter: Mary Silwance – AEL English Language Learners Lead Instructor, Kansas City Public Schools

Categories: Adult Education – ESL

Catch the GED Testing Fever!

Test-takers need choices. Becoming a GED Testing Site is easier now! Do not have much room? Cannot keep the computers set up permanently for testing? No problem! Learn how to remove the roadblocks and establish a flexible GED Testing Site that can work just about anywhere.

Presenter: Liz Lanphear – State Relationship Manager, GED TS
Stephanie Scheulen – Director, DESE High School Equivalency Program

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers; Community Education

Integrated Education and Training (IET) Tracking in LACES

Learn from DESE AEL staff how to accurately track Integrated Education and Training (IET) classes and students in LACES. This session will offer step-by-step guidance on setting up IET classes, enrolling students, tracking performance, and analyzing reports within the LACES data system.

Presenters: Kathy Bommel – Assistant Director of AEL Performance, DESE Adult Education & Literacy
Lindsay Thomas – Assistant Director of AEL Programming, DESE Adult Education & Literacy

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL

Stop the Eye Rolls: Getting Your Team on Board with New Tech

Tired of rolling out new tech that no one uses? This session shares practical strategies to get staff on board, simplify communication, and use the phones everyone already has to improve learner engagement - without adding more work.

Presenter: Brittany Lawson – Mobile Solutions Consultant, Engage by Cell

Categories: Adult Education – Directors

Teach Smarter, Not Harder: Interactive Tools That Boost Learning and Simplify Teaching

Explore how Nearpod, Kahoot, and Google Slides can increase student engagement while reducing teacher workload. Learn how to streamline lesson delivery, track student understanding, and support independent study at home while reducing your overall workload. Bring your laptop or tablet!

Presenter: Heather Mecham – Adult Education Instructor & Data Specialist, Literacy KC

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL

Turning Assessment Results into Instructional Action

Learn how to read and interpret CASAS reports to better understand students and class performance. Discover practical strategies to use assessment data for instructional planning, goal setting, and targeted support to improve student outcomes.

Presenter: Daisy Shah – CASAS National Trainer, CASAS

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL

Why Should We Hire Your Students?

(Repeated Session – Session 2)

This breakout informs educators how to encourage students to discover, develop and market their knowledge, skills and abilities that bring tangible value to the marketplace. Brooks uses heart-felt, hilarious stories to provide relevant content that can be used in the classroom immediately. There is an emphasis on soft skills development, personal branding, networking and self-marketing. We TURN LEARNING INTO EARNING!

Presenter: Brooks Harper – Brooks Harper Enterprises

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

Session 2: 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm

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Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL

Burlington Resources for Workforce Readiness - What's New and What's Ahead for Missouri

There are many new resources focused on bridging adult education and workforce training and development. Join us for a presentation on the tools that are available with our platform that will allow you to reach even more learners.

Presenters: Todd Burlingham – Customer Manager, Burlington English
Rebekah Van Lare – Customer Representative, Burlington English

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL

Small Group Success

Learn how to seamlessly integrate small group learning into your daily classroom routine. Attendees will discover how to facilitate genuine learning experiences using human connections.

Presenter: Maggie Davidson – AEL Instructor/Advocate, Moberly Area Community College

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL; AfterSchool

Turn the Beat Around: Refreshing Your ELL Toolkit

Ready to remix your lesson planning? You will learn about free online tools (including AI) that can make ELL lesson planning easier and your lessons more engaging. Bring your laptop or tablet to get the most out of this session!

Presenter: Lorraine Gardner – ELL Instructor, Ozarks Tech Adult Education & Literacy

Categories: Adult Education – ESL

Reading First: Teaching the Struggling Adult Learner

Many adult learners enter ABE and GED® programs reading below grade level, struggling with vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. This session shares practical, classroom-ready strategies for strengthening foundational skills while teaching reading through meaningful, contextualized content that mirrors real-world and academic demands. Participants will explore how to build the higher-level reading needed for test success, IET programs, and everyday application, leaving with adaptable routines and scaffolds designed specifically for struggling adult readers.

Presenter: Chris Miller – National Consultant, Aztec

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers

DESE Download—MAACCE Edition

Join DESE AEL and HSE staff for an informative discussion on current developments in Adult Education across Missouri. This session is open to anyone interested in statewide strategic initiatives and ongoing program work from the DESE AEL office. Topics will include High School Equivalency, educator professional development, program monitoring, data and performance, Integrated Education and Training, and student assessment.

Presenters: Megan Wadley – Coordinator of AEL and HSE, DESE Adult Education & Literacy
DESE AEL and HSE Team

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL

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Workforce & IET Success Through Strategic Partnerships

This session explores practical strategies for building and sustaining strong employer partnerships within workforce and IET programs. Participants will learn how to align enrollment, instruction, and credential attainment with industry needs through real-world examples and interactive activities. Attendees will leave with actionable tools and ideas to strengthen partnerships and improve measurable outcomes.

Presenter: Denise Esslinger – Professional Development Consultant, DKE Professional Development/New Readers Press

Categories: Adult Education – Directors

WELCOME RECEPTION 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Tater Tot Bar – Drinks – Visit with Exhibitors – Networking – PRIZES!