

**The Promise of Adult Education**

# **2025 SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ACE CONFERENCE**

**October 15-17, 2025**

**Marriott Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa  
Fort Myers, Florida**

## MEETING ROOMS

This detailed floor plan illustrates the layout of the Everglades Hotel, focusing on its meeting facilities and outdoor amenities. The plan is divided into several key sections:

- Palms Ballroom:** Located in the upper left, this large ballroom is divided into three main sections: Queen, Royal, and Sabal. Each section is further subdivided into smaller rooms labeled A, B, and C. Adjacent to the ballroom are restrooms (Men and Women), a registration area (Registration 3), and a small palm foyer.
- Palms/Garden Foyer:** A central area connecting the Palms Ballroom to the rest of the hotel.
- Caloosa Ballroom:** Situated in the lower left, this ballroom is divided into two main sections, A and B, with a registration area (Registration 1) and a terrace (Caloosa Terrace) nearby.
- Everglades Ballroom:** Located in the lower right, this ballroom is divided into three main sections, A, B, and C.
- Island Room:** A smaller meeting room located near the center-right of the plan.
- Orchid:** A small meeting room located near the bottom right corner.
- Outdoor Areas:** The plan includes several outdoor spaces, including a pool, a pool deck, a pool terrace, a whirlpool, a fountain, and a fishing pier. There are also several verandas, including the Palm Veranda, Garden Veranda, Island Veranda, Tarpon House Veranda, and Everglades Veranda.
- Other Features:** The plan also shows a freight elevator, a hotel elevator, a business center, an atrium, and a skybridge.

# Greetings...



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of ACE of Florida, it is my great honor to welcome you to the 2025 Southeast Regional ACE Conference, themed “From Dream to Reality: The Promise of Adult Education.”

This gathering brings together leaders, instructors, and advocates who share a profound belief in the transformative power of adult education. Each of you plays an essential role in helping individuals reach their fullest potential—whether by guiding someone to earn a diploma, develop workforce skills, learn English, or take that bold step toward higher education. These successes ripple outward, strengthening families, communities, and entire economies.

The theme of this year’s conference reminds us that the dreams of our students are not distant possibilities—they are futures within reach. Through our collective efforts, those dreams become a reality. Together, we turn challenges into opportunities, barriers into stepping stones, and aspirations into accomplishments.

Over the next few days, I encourage you to engage fully—learn from the sessions, share your expertise, and build connections with colleagues across the region. The conversations and collaborations that happen here are the sparks that drive innovation and inspire us to reach even higher.

Thank you for your dedication to adult education and for joining us in this vital work. May this conference reinvigorate your spirit, expand your vision, and affirm the promise we all hold dear: that adult education changes lives, communities, and futures.

With gratitude and warm regards,

**Dr. Brian Granstra**

President, ACE of Florida





## Welcome to the 2025 Southeast Regional ACE Conference!

Welcome,

It is an honor to welcome you to the 2025 Southeast Regional ACE Conference. Many of you know me from my time as Adult Education Bureau Chief, and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue this journey with you.

This week is about celebrating you — the teachers, leaders, and partners whose work changes lives every day. Because of your dedication, more than 189,000 Floridians are gaining the skills and confidence they need to succeed in high-demand, high-wage careers. Nearly 15,000 individuals have earned their State of Florida High School Diploma over the past year because you believed in them, encouraged them, and gave them the tools to reach their potential. Behind every number is a story of courage, perseverance, and hope — and each of those stories begins with you.

Florida has earned its reputation as the workforce state, and adult education is at the very heart of that success. You are not only preparing learners for jobs; you are strengthening families, building communities, and fueling our state's future. The work you do ripples far beyond the classroom, touching lives for generations to come.

As Chancellor, I want you to know that my commitment to you is deeply personal. I will stand with you, celebrate your successes, and work tirelessly to expand opportunities for the students and families we serve. I believe in this community, and I believe in the power of adult education to shape a better future for Florida.

Thank you for everything you do. I am so proud to walk alongside you in this work.

**Dr. Ashley Yopp Meros**, Chancellor  
Division of Career and Adult Education  
Florida Department of Education



### **Welcome to the 2025 Southeast Regional ACE Conference!**

On behalf of the Adult Education Bureau at the Florida Department of Education, it is my pleasure to welcome each of you to this year's conference. We are thrilled to gather this week with so many passionate educators, leaders and partners who share a common purpose—advancing Adult Education and strengthening Florida's workforce.

In Florida, we continue to make remarkable strides in Adult Education, thanks to the collaborative efforts of agencies like yours. Your commitment to student success has been key in providing opportunities for adults to achieve their academic and career goals.

Together, we are fostering a culture of lifelong learning and creating pathways for success that impact not only our students but also our workforce as a whole.

This conference offers a unique opportunity to expand that mission through professional learning and collaboration. With sessions focused on innovation, best practices, and workforce alignment, you will gain strategies to strengthen instruction and student support. As you participate, I encourage you to reflect on how resiliency in education can serve as the foundation for growth and how your efforts contribute directly to Florida's economic vitality.

Let this week be one of inspiration, connection and renewed commitment to empowering every adult learner. Together, we can continue to turn opportunities into achievements and ensure that Adult Education remains a driving force in upskilling Florida's workforce.

Thank you for your dedication to Adult Education. We hope you leave this conference feeling inspired and ready to apply what you've learned to support your students in achieving their goals.

**CAROL BRUNER**

***Bureau Chief, Adult Education, Division of Career and Adult Education,  
Florida Department of Education***



### **Celebrating 35 Years of Excellence in Adult Education**

Welcome to the 35th Anniversary of the ACE Conference! We're so glad you're here to celebrate this exciting milestone with us. Whether this is your first time at ACE or you've been part of the journey for years, you're in the right place—with a community that believes in the power of adult education to transform lives.

During the conference, we'll take time to celebrate our collective successes and the many milestones we've reached together over the years. From innovative programs to meaningful partnerships, your leadership, vision, and passion have made a real difference. You inspire learners, open doors, and help build stronger communities every day.

So, let's enjoy this time to reconnect, reflect, and look ahead. Share your stories, spark new ideas, learn something new, and enjoy being surrounded by people who care as much as you do. Here's to 35 years of progress—and the bright future we're building together!

Enjoy the conference!

**JULIE ROBERTS**

***Executive Director, ACE of Florida and ACE of Florida Foundation***

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### The Full Registration Fee Includes:

- Tuesday's Intensive Training Sessions
- Tuesday Evening's Welcome Reception
- Exhibit Hall Visitation
- Wednesday's Grand Opening of the Exhibits
- Wednesday's Grand Opening General Session
- Wednesday Night's Trivia & Music Bingo
- Concurrent Sessions
- Refreshment Breaks
- Thursday's Luncheon
- Thursday Evening's President's Reception, Dance and Casino Night
- Friday's ACE Awards Luncheon

### Name Badges

Name badges are required for entrance to all functions and the Exhibit Hall. Please wear your badge during scheduled conference events.

### Special Event Tickets

In your registration packet, you will receive a perforated sheet that contains your special event tickets. Special Event tickets are not transferable. You must have the ticket and your name badge to be admitted into the following events:

- Tuesday Evening's Welcome Reception
- Thursday's Luncheon
- Thursday Evening's President's Reception, Casino and Dance
- Friday's ACE Awards Luncheon

Additional tickets for the luncheons may be purchased for \$65 each at the conference registration desk.

### Lost and Found

Please report all articles, lost or found, to the ACE Conference registration desk. At the conclusion of the conference, all unclaimed items will be given to the Marriott Sanibel Harbour Resort Lost and Found Department.

### Evaluation Forms

Please complete the concurrent session and the overall conference evaluation forms. Your feedback is very important to us in planning next year's conference. At the end of each concurrent

session, fill out the evaluation form and leave it in the meeting room. You may turn in your overall conference evaluation form at the end of the ACE Awards Luncheon, or you may complete individual session and overall conference evaluations via the conference app.

### ACE Awards Luncheon

The Awards Luncheon will begin promptly at 11:30 am. The Awards Luncheon is included in the full conference registration fee; however, it is not included in the one-day registration fee. You may purchase an Awards Luncheon ticket for \$65. You must have your ticket to be admitted to the lunch. Tickets are not transferable.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION HOURS

<b>Tuesday, October 14</b> .....	8:00 am - 12:00 pm 1:00 pm - 5:30 pm Palms/Garden Foyer
<b>Wednesday, October 15</b> .....	7:00 am - 8:20 am 10:15 am - 12:30 pm 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Palms/Garden Foyer
<b>Thursday, October 16</b> .....	7:30 am - 11:20 am 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Palms/Garden Foyer
<b>Friday, October 17</b> .....	8:00 am - 11:00 am Palms/Garden Foyer

## EXHIBITOR SCHEDULE

<b>Tuesday, October 14</b>	
Exhibitor Set-up.....	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Palms/Garden Foyer
<b>Wednesday, October 15</b>	
Exhibit Hall Hours.....	7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Grand Opening of Exhibits.....	7:30 am - 8:20 am And Continental Breakfast
Exhibitor Visitation and Refreshments .....	10:15 am - 11:00 am
Lunch on Your Own .....	12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Exhibitor Visitation and Refreshments .....	3:15 pm - 3:45 pm
<b>Thursday, October 16</b>	
Exhibit Hall Hours.....	7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Continental Breakfast.....	7:30 am - 8:20 am
Exhibitor Visitation and Refreshments .....	9:45 am - 10:15 am
Luncheon.....	11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Exhibitor Visitation and Refreshments .....	2:15 pm - 2:45 pm
Exhibit Dismantle.....	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
<b>Friday, October 17</b>	
Exhibits Closed	

# SPECIAL EVENTS & AFTER HOURS ACTIVITIES

## Tuesday, October 14

### Welcome Reception (Bring your ticket)

**Sponsor:** ACE of Florida

Location: Palms Pool Deck

Time: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

## Wednesday, October 15

### Grand Opening of Exhibits and Continental Breakfast

**Sponsor:** English Discoveries

Location: Palms/ Garden Foyer

Time: 7:30 am - 8:20 am

### Grand Opening General Session

Location: Palms Ballroom

Time: 8:30 am - 10:15 am

### Trivia/Music Bingo Night

**Sponsor:** ACE of Florida

Location: Island

Time: 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

## Thursday, October 16

### Continental Breakfast

**Sponsor:** ACE of Florida

Location: Palms/Garden Foyer

Time: 7:30 am - 8:20 am

## Thursday, October 16 (continued)

### "Celebrating Success" Luncheon (Bring your ticket)

**Sponsor:** ACE of Florida

Location: Palms Ballroom

Time: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

### President's Reception, Casino and Dance (Bring your ticket)

**Sponsor:** ACE of Florida

Location: Palms Ballroom

Time: 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

## Friday, October 17

### ACE Awards Luncheon and Raffle (Bring your ticket)

**Sponsor:** ACE of Florida

Location: Palms Ballroom

Time: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

## MEETINGS

## Friday, October 17

### Individual District Debrief

Location: Various

Time: 8:00 am - 9:00 am

# 2025 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Conference Chairman.....  
Conference Coordinator.....  
Audio Visual.....  
Awards Committee.....  
.....  
Concurrent Sessions.....  
Exhibits.....  
Local Arrangements.....  
Marketing and Publicity.....  
Membership.....  
Office Arrangements.....  
On-site Coordinators.....  
Pre-conference Intensive Training Sessions.....  
Invited Speakers.....  
Keynote Speaker.....  
Conference Volunteers.....  
Presenter Check-In.....  
Program Book.....  
Raffle.....  
Registration.....  
Sponsors.....  
Special Events/After-hours.....

Dr. Brian Granstra, President, ACE of Florida  
Julie Roberts, Executive Director, ACE of Florida  
Dave Barnes, Leigh Ann Clark  
Michelle Overstreet, Jennifer Harrington, Meredith Durastanti,  
Ron Cruz, Dr. Danielle DeConcilio  
Julie Roberts, Dave Barnes  
Dave Barnes, Julie Roberts  
Dr. Brian Granstra, Kevin Krell, Julie Roberts  
Dave Barnes, Julie Roberts, Leigh Ann Clark  
Leigh Ann Clark  
Leigh Ann Clark, Julie Roberts, Dave Barnes  
Julie Roberts, Leigh Ann Clark, Dave Barnes  
Julie Roberts, Carol Bruner  
Julie Roberts, Carol Bruner  
Dr. Brian Granstra, Julie Roberts  
ACE Board Members  
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Julie Roberts, Leigh Ann Clark, Catherine Carson, Dave Barnes  
Dr. Brian Granstra, Brian Bush, Travis Thomas  
Leigh Ann Clark, Julie Roberts, Dave Barnes  
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Division of Career and  
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Florida Department of Education



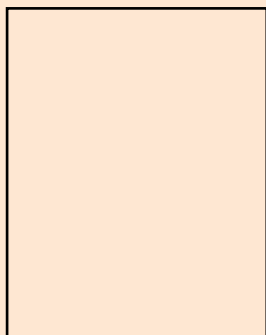
**CAROL BRUNER**  
Bureau Chief, Adult Education  
Division of Career and Adult Education  
Florida Department of Education



# ACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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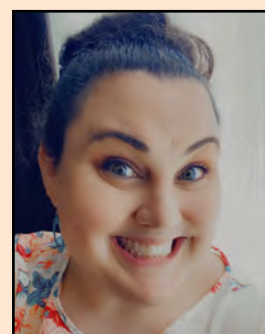
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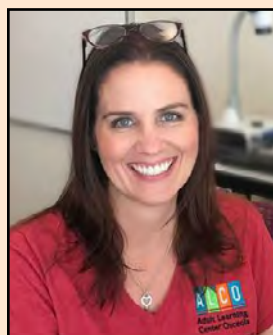
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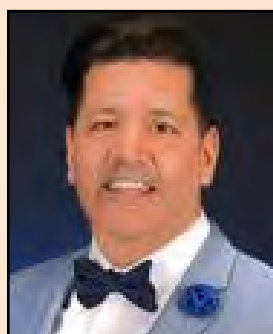
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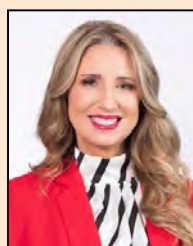
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**ARIEL PECHOKAS**  
Ex-Officio

# WEDNESDAY'S OPENING GENERAL SESSION KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## MIKE MILLER SPACE FLORIDA



**Mike Miller**, Vice President of External Affairs and Workforce Integration at Space Florida, plays a key role in promoting the organization's mission at both the state and federal levels while leading efforts to strengthen Florida's skilled labor force through strategic partnerships. With nearly 30 years in public service, he began his career on Capitol Hill with U.S. Senator Connie Mack III and later worked for various congressional members from Florida, including U.S. Senators Mel Martinez and Marco Rubio. After a stint in higher education at Rollins College, he was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2014, serving on several key committees before an unsuccessful bid for U.S. Congress in 2018. He then served as Chief of External Affairs at Florida Virtual School prior to joining Space Florida. Mike also contributes to several nonprofit boards and holds a bachelor's in American History from the University of Florida and an MBA from Rollins College's Crummer Graduate School of Business.

# THURSDAY'S SPECIAL GUEST LUNCHEON SPEAKER

## MARK HARRISON 2026 FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR



**Mark Harrison**, an American Government and Economics teacher at Union County High School in Union County, was selected to serve as the 2026 Florida Teacher of the Year from nearly 175,000 Florida public school teachers. In this role, Mr. Harrison serves as the Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education, elevating and celebrating the teaching profession by promoting the contributions of Florida educators.

Mark holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Florida and earned the Civics Seal of Excellence from the state of Florida. Mr. Harrison has served as a dedicated sponsor for both the Civics and Debate team and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. With a teaching background ranging from elementary and high school to adult education, Mark is dedicated to equipping students with the skills they need to succeed. From mock trials at the local courthouse to in-depth study of the Constitution, he is passionate about teaching students to become informed, engaged citizens.



# ACE of Florida Congratulates This Year's Student Success Award Winners



**Katee Callaway**  
Sumter County Adult Education



**Katherine Cespedes Barrio**  
Hillsborough County Public Schools

## RAFFLE BASKET TICKETS

### WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

All funds raised from the raffle baskets are used to bring Student Success Story winners to the ACE Conference, provide them with a monetary stipend for winning and to assist with the ACE Achievement Awards.

1 ticket \$5.00 • 3 tickets \$10.00  
10 tickets \$20.00

### HOW DO I GET A TICKET?

Tickets can be purchased from any ACE Board of Directors Member

### GRAND PRIZE

Purchase 10 tickets for \$20 at one time and receive a special grand prize ticket to enter a drawing to win a **\$500 Gift Card**

# SAVE THE DATE



**2026**  
**Southeast Regional**  
**ACE Conference**  
October 12-14, 2026

**Sunseeker Resort • Florida Gulf Coast**  
**Charlotte Harbor, Florida**



# INVITED SPEAKERS



## **Dr. Shannon LaPoint**

Shannon LaPoint began her career as a teacher at a residential home and school for young autistic children. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Special Education in the School of Teacher Education at Florida State University. Her research focuses on: 1) supports that school professionals provide transition-age autistic youth in preparation for adulthood, 2) the experiences of autistic adults in a variety of post-secondary contexts (employment, higher education), and 3) interventions designed for educators to provide high quality support and services to autistic people.

Friday 9:00 am – 10:10 am Caloosa A  
"Designing Learning Spaces for Autistic Adults"



## **Neil Richmond**

Neil Richmond, a native Australian who has lived in the U.S. for over 30 years, began his career as a chaplain and teacher in Christian schools. As his passion for technology grew, he transitioned to using his tech skills to support organizations, nonprofits, and schools in achieving their missions and improving performance through unique technological solutions. In 2020, alongside his wife, longtime adult educator Amy Richmond, he co-founded ConnectAble, a nonprofit organization that supports and serves the unique needs of adult education programs all over the US through the implementation of technology solutions, resources, professional development, and donations. Through ConnectAble, Neil uses his technology expertise to lead a team of tech experts to provide unique adult education solutions for student data management and engagement, from enrollment all the way to employment and all the stages in between. Neil is passionate about helping adult learners access the life-changing opportunities that adult education offers and helping adult educators to have more time to work directly with students.

Tuesday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Gardenia AB  
"AI in Adult Education: Go Beyond AI 101 for a Deep Dive into Practical AI for Adult Education"



## **Dr. John Romig**

Prior to his current role as an associate professor at Florida State University, John Romig was a high school special education teacher in South Carolina and independent living specialist for ClemsonLIFE. His areas of expertise include writing assessment, explicit instruction, and behavior support strategies. Dr. Romig has published dozens of articles and book chapters and sits on the editorial of several peer-reviewed journals.

Wednesday 11:05 am – 12:20 pm Gardenia AB  
"How to Assess Writing to Inform Instruction"

# INVITED SPEAKERS



## Dr. Jenny Root

Dr. Jenny Root is the Anne and John Daves Endowed Professor in the Anne Spencer Daves College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences at Florida State University and an affiliate faculty with the Florida Center for Reading Research. In 2025 she was awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers by President Joe Biden, the highest award given to early career researchers by the U.S. government. Her research focuses on using evidence-based practices to teach meaningful academic skills to students with autism and intellectual disability and training the next generation of education scientists and future faculty.

Thursday 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm Camellia AB  
"From Barriers to Bridges: The Science of Math for Adult Learners with Disabilities"

Thursday 2:45 pm – 4:00 pm Camellia AB  
"Scaffolding Success: Supporting Executive Functioning for Adult Learners with Disabilities"



## Steve Schmidt

Steve Schmidt is an adult education consultant and serves as the COABE Professional Development Coordinator. He has worked in adult basic education for more than 30 years as an instructor, program director, and professional developer. Steve is the author of Writing for the GED® Test Book 4 and holds an Ed.S. in Adult and Developmental Education. He also served as a coach for Teaching the Skills that Matter (TSTM) and the Digital Resilience in the American Workforce (DRAW) initiatives. He has facilitated hundreds of workshops and webinars on a variety of topics at venues across the US.

Wednesday 3:45 pm – 5:00 pm Caloosa B  
"ABE Writing Workout"

Thursday 8:30 am – 9:45 am Caloosa B  
"Can You Believe It? Media Literacy for our Adult Learners"

Thursday 2:45 pm – 4:00 pm Caloosa A  
"Social Studies Spectacular!"

Friday 9:00 am – 10:10 am Caloosa B  
"Sensational Science Instruction!"

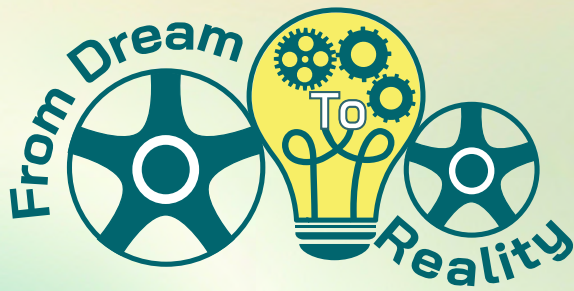


## Dr. Daisy Shah

Dr. Daisy Shah is a Specialist in the Department of Adult and Community Education with the School District of Palm Beach County, Florida. For more than a decade, she has served in diverse roles including Data Coach and ESOL Instructional Coach, supporting over 25 sites with both operational and instructional expertise. She has led professional development initiatives at both the district and state levels and delivered training workshops nationwide, sharing her expertise with educators across the country. A certified CASAS trainer in Florida, Dr. Shah also serves on the Florida Department of Education's Assessment Advisory Committee within the Division of Career and Adult Education. In addition, she is an adjunct professor at Florida Atlantic University, where she continues to pursue her passion for teaching and mentoring adult learners. Her unwavering commitment to adult education drives her mission to empower learners to reach their fullest potential.

Tuesday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Gardenia AB  
"AI in Adult Education: Go Beyond AI 101 for a Deep Dive into Practical AI for Adult Education"

# 50/50 DRAWING



The Promise of Adult Education



1 TICKET - \$5

5 TICKETS - \$20

PRIZE = 1/2 THE POT

T&C: You don't have to be present to win the drawing. Half of the ticket sales for the drawing will go directly to the ACE of Florida Foundation to support education initiatives and the other half will be awarded to the drawing winner. Ticket pricing listed is a suggested donation.

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## SAVE THE DATE



**2026 Summer Symposium  
for Adult Education Administrators**  
**JUNE 8-9, 2026**

**Embassy Suites By Hilton St. Augustine Beach Resort**  
300 AIA Beach Boulevard, St. Augustine, FL 32080



**REGISTRATION AND HOTEL INFORMATION COMING SOON**



# AT-A-GLANCE

## TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY

Time	Workshop Title	Presenters	Room
<b>Tuesday, October 14</b>			
8:00 am - 12:00 pm	Conference Registration Open		Palms/Garden Foyer
1:00 pm - 5:30 pm			
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Exhibitor Setup		Palms/Garden Foyer
<b>Pre-conference Intensive Professional Development Sessions</b>			
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Adult Education Data Reporting and Technical Assistance	Dr. Brittany C. Ross, Ashley Cooper	Everglades B
9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Plug and Play: 3 IETs You Can Use Tomorrow	Ariel Pechokas, Vanessa Alvarez, Valerie Guillaume	Caloosa B
9:00 am - 4:00 pm	AI in Adult Ed: Go Beyond AI 101 for a Deep Dive into Practical AI for Adult Education	Neil Richmund, Dr. Daisy Shah	Gardenia AB
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	CASAS Pre-con	Laura Fetter, Karla Galleguillos, Cristina Ureña, Veronica Pavon-Baker	Caloosa A
1:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Training: ACT WorkKeys for Online Testing	Jessica Duesler	Everglades C
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	New Adult Education Administrator Meeting	Tara Goodman, Carol Bruner, Dr. Brittany C. Ross, Catherine O'Neil, Ashley Olevitch, Mallory Martinez	Everglades B
<b>5:30 pm - 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Welcome Reception (Bring Your Ticket)</b> <b>Sponsored by ACE of Florida</b>		<b>Palms Pool Deck</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 15</b>			
7:00 am - 8:20 am	Conference Registration Open		Palms/Garden Foyer
10:15 am - 12:30 pm			
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm			
7:30 am - 5:00 pm	Exhibits Open		Palms/Garden Foyer
7:30 am - 8:20 am	Grand Opening of Exhibits and Continental Breakfast <b>Sponsored by English Discoveries</b>		Palms/Garden Foyer
8:30 am - 10:15 am	Grand Opening General Session		Palms Ballroom
10:15 am - 11:00 am	Refreshment Break with Vendors <b>Sponsored by ACE of Florida</b>		Palms/Garden Foyer
<b>Wednesday, October 15 - Concurrent Session I</b>			
11:05 am - 12:20 pm	Social Media 101	Samantha Dunaway	Caloosa A
11:05 am - 12:20 pm	Taming the GED Math Beast: Strategies for Non-Traditional Instructors	Rebekah Hannon	Caloosa B
11:05 am - 12:20 pm	AGE Instructional Hours: Rule 6A-10.0381 - (Part 1 of 2)	Carol Bruner, Dr. Brittany C. Ross, Ashley Olevitch, Ashley Cooper	Camellia AB
11:05 am - 12:20 pm	Increasing Success in GED Attainment and IET Credentials in a Corrections Environment	Brie Ishee	Everglades A
11:05 am - 12:20 pm	Taking the "LEAD" in the Adult ESL Classroom	Veronica Pavon-Baker	Everglades B



# AT-A-GLANCE - WEDNESDAY

Time	Workshop Title	Presenters	Room
11:05 am - 12:20 pm	Better Than Starbucks!	Chandra Kydd	Everglades C
11:05 am - 12:20 pm	How to Assess Writing to Inform Instruction	Dr. John Romig	Gardenia AB
11:05 am - 12:20 pm	Reaching the Hard-to-Reach: Adult Education Outreach That Resonates	Lori Smith, Sari Crews	Island
<b>12:30 pm - 2:00 pm Lunch on Your Own</b>			
<b>Wednesday, October 15 - Concurrent Session II</b>			
2:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Dig Into the Padlet Sandbox: Play, Create, Collaborate!	Mary Gaston	Caloosa A
2:00 pm - 3:15 pm	AI in Education: Green Lights, Red Flags, and Ethical Roads	Amy Donald, Dr. Danielle DeConcilio	Caloosa B
2:00 pm - 3:15 pm	AGE Instructional Hours: Rule 6A-10.0381 - (Part 2 of 2)	Carol Bruner, Dr. Brittany C. Ross, Ashley Olevitch, Ashley Cooper	Camellia AB
2:00 pm - 3:15 pm	District Workforce Education Funding Overview	Tara Goodman, Claudia Campagnola	Everglades A
2:00 pm - 3:15 pm	From Rigor to Results: Instructional Strategies for the FUTURE <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Ron Cruz	Everglades B
2:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Building Vocabulary and Developing Reading Skills with Stand Out <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Cindy Le	Everglades C
2:00 pm - 3:15 pm	English Discoveries Builds Student Success! - <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Jill Rosolek, Christina Piland	Gardenia AB
2:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Maximizing Student Success with TABE: Addressing Commonly Missed Skills to Inform Instruction - <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Mike Johnson	Island
<b>3:15 pm - 3:45 pm</b>	<b>Refreshment Break with Vendors</b>		<b>Palms/Garden Foyer</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 15 - Concurrent Session III</b>			
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	Integrated Education and Training	Catherine O'Neil	Caloosa A
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	ABE Writing Workout	Steve Schmidt	Caloosa B
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	Reimagining Adult Education: New Products for a Changing World <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Didier Brunot, Lauren Abraham, Raymond Germosen	Camellia AB
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	Utilizing AI as Your Co-Teacher: Building Confidence, Efficiency, and Student Success - <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Neil Richmond	Everglades A
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	From GED to CTE: Pathways that Deliver on the Promise of Adult Education	Michelle Overstreet, Sullymar Reices-Irizarry	Everglades B
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	Beyond the Basics: Unlocking the Full Potential of IPDAE	Tammy Serrano, Brenda Diaz	Everglades C

# AT-A-GLANCE

## WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY

Time	Workshop Title	Presenters	Room
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	GED Program Tools and Resources for Student Success - <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Diane Vacarri	Gardenia AB
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	Talk Data to Me	Pamela Jo Wilson	Island
<b>Dinner on Your Own</b>			
<b>8:00 pm - 10:00 pm</b>	<b>Trivia/Music Bingo Night - Sponsored by ACE of Florida</b>		<b>Island</b>
<b>Thursday, October 16</b>			
7:30 am - 11:20 am 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Conference Registration Open		Palms/Garden Foyer
7:30 am - 8:20 am	Continental Breakfast - <b>Sponsored by ACE of Florida</b>		Palms/Garden Foyer
7:30 am - 4:00 pm	Exhibits Open		Palms/Garden Foyer
<b>Thursday, October 16 - Concurrent Session IV</b>			
8:30 am - 9:45 am	Mountain or Molehill: Balancing Adult Education Classroom Dynamics	Jennifer Cloughly, Nick Hansen	Caloosa A
8:30 am - 9:45 am	Can You Believe It? Media Literacy for Our Adult Learners	Steve Schmidt	Caloosa B
8:30 am - 9:45 am	Correctional Education at ACE: Unlocking Potential Through CASAS <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Karla Galleguillos, Dr. Daisy Shah	Camellia AB
8:30 am - 9:45 am	Adult Education in Florida: An Overview of Key Components	Ashley Olevitch, Carol Bruner	Everglades A
8:30 am - 9:45 am	Preparing for the Unknown: How Districts and Colleges are Planning for Adult Education in Uncertain Times	Ariel Pechokas, Dave Barnes	Everglades B
8:30 am - 9:45 am	Workforce Success through IET: Advancing Adult Education for Career Growth	Lorri Benjamin, Eric Kohler	Everglades C
8:30 am - 9:45 am	Unique Employment Opportunities: Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs - <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Dr. Drew Andrews, Sheryl Sandvoss	Gardenia AB
8:30 am - 9:45 am	Create Your Campaign to Increase Post-Test Percentages and MSGs	Susan MacGill, Ron Cruz	Island
<b>9:45 am - 10:15 am</b>	<b>Refreshment Break with Vendors Sponsored by Pearson</b>		Palms/Garden Foyer
<b>Thursday, October 16 - Concurrent Session V</b>			
10:15 am - 11:30 am	Making English Stick: Mastering Listening and Speaking for Adult ELLs	Dr. Daisy Shah, Esther Jimenez	Caloosa A
10:15 am - 11:30 am	Fuel Your Vision for Adult Education through Partnerships	Wanda Govan	Caloosa B
10:15 am - 11:30 am	Utilizing the Power of Connection and Progress for Student Engagement <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Brittney Napolitano, Tara Keily	Camellia AB

# AT-A-GLANCE - THURSDAY

Time	Workshop Title	Presenters	Room
10:15 am - 11:30 am	Best Practices Road Trip <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Laura Fetter, Karla Galleguillos	Everglades A
10:15 am - 11:30 am	Teaching Algebraic Reasoning Like a Boss!	Ron Cruz	Everglades B
10:15 am - 11:30 am	How to Build a New Path in Health Sciences	Dr. Lorraine Matos	Everglades C
10:15 am - 11:30 am	Charting New Paths: College Success for Students with Intellectual Disabilities	Sheryl Sandvoss	Gardenia AB
10:15 am - 11:30 am	The ABE/GED/ASB Instructor's Data Corner	Liudmila Pino Ledesma, Chad Bryant	Island
<b>11:30 am - 1:00 pm</b>	<b>"Celebrating Success" Luncheon (Bring your ticket)</b> <b>Sponsored by ACE of Florida</b>		<b>Palms Ballroom</b>
<b>Thursday, October 16 - Concurrent Session VI</b>			
1:00 pm - 2:15 pm	You Have the Right to Remain Silent!	Chandra Kydd	Caloosa A
1:00 pm - 2:15 pm	Using the High Impact Indicators to Increase Critical Thinking and Analytical Reasoning Skills - <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Karen Welch	Caloosa B
1:00 pm - 2:15 pm	From Barriers to Bridges: The Science of Math for Adult Learners with Disabilities	Dr. Jenny Root	Camellia AB
1:00 pm - 2:15 pm	The Power of GED Manager™	Sharon Webb	Everglades B
1:00 pm - 2:15 pm	Job Skills Start with Reading: Teaching the Struggling Reader for Workplace Success	Chris Miller	Everglades C
1:00 pm - 2:15 pm	Putting It All Together: Aligning Learning Activities, Curriculum Frameworks and Assessment	Olivia Whiteside	Island
<b>2:15 pm - 2:45 pm</b>	<b>Refreshment Break with Vendors</b> <b>Sponsored by ACE of Florida</b>		<b>Palms/Garden Foyer</b>
<b>Thursday, October 16 - Concurrent Session VII</b>			
2:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Social Studies Spectacular!	Steve Schmidt	Caloosa A
2:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Empowering Adult Learners with AI: Practical Tools for Engagement and Success	Vicki Lopez, Hunter Sayers	Caloosa B
2:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Scaffolding Success: Supporting Executive Functioning for Adult Learners with Disabilities	Dr. Jenny Root	Camellia AB
2:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Beyond Enrollment: Building Trust, Community, and Lasting Impact in Adult Education	Lori Smith, Lorri Benjamin	Everglades A
2:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Strategic Implementation: Making the Florida Adult Education Frameworks Work for You	Maia Brown	Everglades B
2:45 pm - 4:00 pm	The Dream Job Journey	Matt Fitzpatrick, Amy Trickey, Dan Michalak	Everglades C
2:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Florida Needs CTE: iCEV for Adult Education <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Amanda Patterson, Kaitlin Plante	Gardenia AB

# AT-A-GLANCE

## THURSDAY - FRIDAY

Time	Workshop Title	Presenters	Room
2:45 pm - 4:00 pm	IET: Knocking Down Barriers!	Jude Aurele	Island
	<b>Dinner on Your Own</b>		
7:00 pm - 11:00 pm	<b>President's Reception, Dance and Casino (Bring your ticket)</b> <b>Sponsored by ACE of Florida</b>		<b>Palms Ballroom</b>
<b>Friday, October 17</b>			
8:00 am - 11:00 am	Conference Registration Open		Palms/Garden Foyer
8:00 am - 8:50 am	<b>Coffee and Bagels - Sponsored by ACE of Florida</b>		<b>Palms/Garden Foyer</b>
9:30 am - 11:15 am	<b>Administrators' Meeting</b>	Tara Goodman, Carol Bruner, Dr. Brittany C. Ross, Catherine O'Neil, Ashley Olevitch, Mallory Martinez	Everglades C
<b>Friday, October 17 - Concurrent Session VIII</b>			
9:00 am - 10:10 am	Designing Learning Spaces for Autistic Adults	Dr. Shannon LaPoint	Caloosa A
9:00 am - 10:10 am	Sensational Science Instruction!	Steve Schmidt	Caloosa B
9:00 am - 10:10 am	Spark & Skill: English for Healthcare Careers	Brenda Boston, Pamela Jo Wilson	Camellia AB
9:00 am - 10:10 am	Maximize Every Minute: Time-Smart Strategies for the Adult ESOL Classroom	Anya Kalashnikova, Sullymar Reices-Irizarry	Gardenia AB
9:00 am - 10:10 am	Empower Student Pathways: Xello for Adult Learners - (Part 1) <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Carol Lopez	Everglades A
9:00 am - 10:10 am	Building Better Trades: Powered by the 4 Cs	Dr. Daisy Shah, Linda Fermo-Garcia	Island
<b>Friday, October 17 - Concurrent Session IX</b>			
10:15 am - 11:25 am	WorkKeys in Action: Driving on Measurable Skill Gains and Workforce Readiness - <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Jessica Duesler	Caloosa A
10:15 am - 11:25 am	Supporting the Adult ESOL Learner on Their Academic Journey	Rona Barnett-Passard, Yves Saint-Hillien María Estrada	Caloosa B
10:15 am - 11:25 am	Enhancing Career Readiness for Adult Learners with Florida Ready to Work - <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Tiffany Vause, Holly McFadden	Camellia AB
10:15 am - 11:25 am	Empower Student Pathways: Xello for Adult Learners - (Part 2) <b>Vendor Presentation</b>	Carol Lopez	Everglades A
10:15 am - 11:25 am	Immersive Learning Through Technology & Literature	Dayana Exposito, Christine Briggs	Gardenia AB
10:15 am - 11:25 am	Keeping the Momentum through Practical Tools for Sustained Motivation	Alexia Navarro	Island
11:30 am - 1:00 pm	<b>ACE Awards Luncheon and Raffle (Bring your ticket)</b> <b>Sponsored by ACE of Florida</b>		<b>Palms Ballroom</b>



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***Have you noticed a bumble bee on some of the conference attendee's name badges? The "Bumble Bee" represents first time conference attendees! If you see someone with a "New Bee" on their name badge, introduce yourself and help welcome them to the ACE Conference!***



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Adult and Community Educators of Florida, Inc. (ACE), is a nonprofit association that represents the interests, concerns, and talents of thousands of full and part-time adult education professionals statewide. ACE is committed to improving and expanding adult and community education programs and services to enhance the quality of life for all Floridians.

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Cambridge ESOL Specialist Jim Goldstone invites attendees to visit the Cambridge booth to explore what's new in Ventures 4th Edition and to see a demo of Elli+Ventures.

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CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems) provides testing of basic and academic skills for youth and adults and curriculum tools for you to design instruction. Our tests are valid and reliable for native and non-native English speakers and assess reading, math, listening, speaking, and writing from the lowest literacy levels to high school exit and transition to postsecondary education, training, and the workforce.

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ACE of Florida Conference.

**Conference Registration** Palms/Garden Foyer  
8:00 am – 12:00 pm ■ 1:00 pm – 5:30 pm

**Exhibitor Set-up**  
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm ■ Palms/Garden Foyer

## PRE-CONFERENCE INTENSIVE TRAININGS

### Adult Education Data Reporting and Technical Assistance

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Brittany C. Ross, Ashley Cooper  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
**Location:** Everglades B  
**Strand:** Other

During this hands-on session, the Division of Career and Adult Education will provide an activity-based pre-conference session designed to review and address data reporting challenges experienced during the 2024-25 reporting year. Additionally, new federal accountability and reporting announcements will be shared. This session is ideal for experienced reporting staff and administrators. Please come with specific data questions and sample data you want one-on-one state feedback on.

### Plug and Play: 3 IETs You Can Use Tomorrow

**Presenter(s):** Ariel Pechokas, Vanessa Alvarez, Valerie Guillaume  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
**Location:** Caloosa B  
**Strand:** Career Pathways, IET

Take your IETs and Career Pathways to the next level by building sustainable, student-centered programs. In this interactive workshop, you'll explore the key components of effective IET programs, including curriculum design, contextualized instruction, support services, and partnerships. Participants will leave with three ready-to-implement IET models, adaptable curricula, and strategies to launch or enhance existing programs. Emphasis is placed on practical, actionable strategies to increase student success and support workforce readiness in Nursing Assistant, Manufacturing, and as a Paraprofessional Educator. Whether you are starting from scratch or strengthening existing IETs, you'll leave with everything you need to implement high-impact IETs.



### AI in Adult Ed: Go Beyond AI 101 for a Deep Dive into Practical AI for Adult Education

**Presenter(s):** Neil Richmond, Dr. Daisy Shah  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
**Location:** Gardenia AB  
**Strand:** Technology

Just dipped your toe in the AI water? Now it's time to jump in the deep end! Level up your AI skills in this fast-paced, six-hour pre-conference deep dive built for users with some AI experience in adult education. We'll move beyond basics into advanced prompting, workflows, and classroom and office automations and using a variety of AI tools. Expect hands-on labs and group activities with useful, practical AI tools, and guardrails for privacy, ethics, and policy compliance. You'll leave with proven strategies to use immediately. Attendees must bring their own laptop or tablet.

### CASAS Pre-con

**Presenter(s):** Laura Fetter, Karla Galleguillos, Cristina Ureña, Veronica Pavon-Baker  
**Time:** 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm  
**Location:** Caloosa A  
**Strand:** Assessment

Bring your laptops and your CASAS TE questions! Florida CASAS Certified Trainers and CASAS team members will be available to answer questions, provide hands-on tech support on topics from TE Navigation to Teacher Portal and beyond!

### Training: ACT WorkKeys for Online Testing

**Presenter(s):** Jessica Duesler  
**Time:** 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
**Location:** Everglades C  
**Strand:** Other

Learn about ACT WorkKeys for Online Testing test administration. This training is ideal for anyone who wants to learn about WorkKeys and how to administer the online version. We will answer questions and share information about WorkKeys Assessments. This training will cover the specific test forms and process needed to administer WorkKeys for the NRS approved tests.

### New Adult Education Administrators' Meeting

**Presenter(s):** Tara Goodman, Carol Bruner, Dr. Brittany C. Ross, Catherine O'Neil, Ashley Olevitch, Mallory Martinez  
**Time:** 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Location:** Everglades B  
**Strand:** Administration

The New Adult Education Administrators' Meeting is designed for administrators who are new to their role in Adult Education within the past three years. New administrators will join a discussion of topics and frequently asked questions with FDOE Adult Education staff. The discussion will focus specifically on information new administrators in Adult Education need to lead their programs, such as an overview of Adult Education Programs, statewide performance targets and where to find key resources. We encourage all new administrators to attend and bring their questions.

#### ABBREVIATION LEGEND

Academic Skills Building (ASB), Adult General Education (AGE), Adult High School (AHS), College and Career Readiness (CCR), English Language Learner (ELL), English Language Proficiency (ELP), English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), General Education Development (GED®), Integrated Education and Training (IET), National Reporting System (NRS), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

**Conference Registration Open**      **Palms/Garden Foyer**  
7:00 am – 8:20 am ■ 10:15 am – 12:30 pm ■ 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

## **Grand Opening of Exhibits and Continental Breakfast**

7:30 am – 8:20 am ■ Palms/Garden Foyer

**Sponsored by English Discoveries**

## **Grand Opening General Session**

8:30 am – 10:15 am ■ Palms Ballroom

**10:15 am - 11:00 am**  
**Palms/Garden Foyer**

**Refreshment Break with Vendors**  
**Sponsored by ACE of Florida**

## **CONCURRENT SESSION I 11:05 AM - 12:20 PM**

### **Social Media 101**

*Presenter(s): Samantha Dunaway*  
*Time: 11:05 am - 12:20 pm*  
*Location: Caloosa A*  
*Strand: Recruitment*

Equipping adult educators with the skills and knowledge to effectively use social media for promoting their programs, increasing enrollment and engaging with their community.

### **Taming the GED Math Beast: Strategies for Non-Traditional Instructors**

*Presenter(s): Rebekah Hannon*  
*Time: 11:05 am - 12:20 pm*  
*Location: Caloosa B*  
*Strand: AGE, GED*

Many adult educators come from different backgrounds and may not have in-depth math knowledge. This session aims to bridge that gap and empower them to teach math effectively. This session is designed specifically for the non-traditional math teacher who wants to build confidence, simplify instruction, and engage students using real-world strategies that stick. The focus will be on simplifying complex concepts, addressing common student struggles, and building confidence in both teachers and students.

### **AGE Instructional Hours: Rule 6A-10.0381 - Part 1 of 2**

*Presenter(s): Carol Bruner, Dr. Brittany C. Ross, Ashley Olevitch, Ashley Cooper*  
*Time: 11:05 am - 12:20 pm*  
*Location: Camellia AB*  
*Strand: AGE, Other*

The Florida Department of Education will provide an overview of the recent amendments to Rule 6A-10.0381, Registration of Adult Students and Enrollment Reporting for Adult General Education Students, which became effective on August 19, 2025. Participants will gain a clear understanding of how these amendments impact local program operations and reporting practices, and will have the opportunity to ask questions and clarify implementation steps.

### **Increasing Success in GED® Attainment and IET Credentials in a Corrections Environment**

*Presenter(s): Brie Ishee*  
*Time: 11:05 am - 12:20 pm*  
*Location: Everglades A*  
*Strand: Administration, AGE, Corrections, GED, IET*

Discover how Sumter Adult Education and the Sumter County Detention Center achieved an 800% increase in GED® attainment and a 100% IET credential pass rate in one year and then continued the success into the next school year. This session shares replicable strategies for assessment-driven instruction, rapid-skill “boot camps,” and integrating industry certifications like ServSafe® into GED® prep. Learn how strong partnerships, strategic scheduling, and targeted resources can transform outcomes for incarcerated learners and prepare them for workforce reentry.

### **Taking the ‘LEAD’ in the Adult ESL Classroom**

*Presenter(s): Veronica Pavon-Baker*  
*Time: 11:05 am - 12:20 pm*  
*Location: Everglades B*  
*Strand: SOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP*

This training, “Taking the ‘LEAD’ in the Adult ESL Classroom” will explore how to empower ESL instructors to meet the unique needs and motivations of adult learners. You’ll learn how to apply evidence-based instructional strategies to accelerate language acquisition and create a dynamic, engaging learning environment by incorporating 21st-century digital resources to help enhance your students’ language development.

### **Better Than Starbucks!**

*Presenter(s): Chandra Kydd*  
*Time: 11:05 am - 12:20 pm*  
*Location: Everglades C*  
*Strand: Administration, AGE, GED®, Leadership*

Join me for a live workshop that puts heart back into adult education. Through the use of my classroom coffee table, I create an atmosphere fit for a graduate! We’ll explore how simple acts of hospitality and great customer service can make a huge impact—helping learners feel welcome, supported, and motivated from day one to graduation. You’ll leave with practical tools and fresh inspiration to create a classroom where trust grows and success thrives. It’s real, it’s relevant, and it’s something you’ll carry with you long after the session ends.

### **How to Assess Writing to Inform Instruction**

*Presenter(s): Dr. John Romig*  
*Time: 11:05 am - 12:20 pm*  
*Location: Gardenia AB*  
*Strand: AGE, AHS, ASB*

This workshop will present curriculum-based measurement for writing. Participants will learn how to administer and score curriculum-based measures for writing. Participants will receive resources to support administration of the assessments and will practice scoring students’ writing. Then, participants will engage in data-based decision-making using



these data to inform writing instruction. The presentation will focus on using CBM data for screening, progress monitoring, and lesson planning. Participants will analyze errors for the purpose of establishing instructional goals and lesson plans.

## Reaching the Hard-to-Reach: Adult Education Outreach That Resonates

**Presenter(s):** Lori Smith, Sari Crews  
**Time:** 11:05 am - 12:20 pm  
**Location:** Island  
**Strand:** Administration, AGE, AHS, CCR, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP, GED®, IET, Leadership, WIOA

Reaching adult learners requires a unique approach—one that balances tight budgets, limited staff, and the challenge of connecting with an often hard-to-reach audience. In this session, you'll hear proven strategies that have increased enrollment, built community trust, and expanded program visibility. Drawing from real-world experience, the presenter will share how tools like storytelling, social media, community partnerships, and data insights can create outreach campaigns that truly resonate. Whether you're a one-person team or part of a larger organization, you'll leave with practical, actionable ideas to strengthen your marketing and elevate your outreach efforts.

**12:30 PM - 2:00 PM LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

## CONCURRENT SESSION II 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

### Dig Into the Padlet Sandbox: Play, Create, Collaborate!

**Presenter(s):** Mary Gaston  
**Time:** 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm  
**Location:** Caloosa A  
**Strand:** Technology

Step into the Padlet Sandbox and discover how this free collaborative whiteboard tool can spark creativity and engagement in any classroom! In this active, hands-on session, you will experience Sandbox as a learner—adding notes, doodles, and ideas in real time—then peek behind the scenes to learn how to create your own. Walk away with practical strategies and ready-to-use activity ideas for both face-to-face and virtual instruction. This is not a sit-and-get session—it's a dig-in-and-play session! Come with a device and be ready to explore, create, and collaborate in the Sandbox.

### AI in Education: Green Lights, Red Flags, and Ethical Roads

**Presenter(s):** Amy Donald, Dr. Danielle DeConcilio  
**Time:** 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm  
**Location:** Caloosa B  
**Strand:** Administration, Technology

Explore how AI is reshaping adult education, from classroom instruction to program accountability. This session equips educators with tools to ethically integrate AI, detect student misuse, and enhance learning outcomes. Administrators will gain insights into how AI use can impact program improvement plans, compliance, and instructional quality. Whether you're teaching or leading, this workshop offers practical strategies for navigating AI responsibly.

### AGE Instructional Hours: Rule 6A-10.0381 - Part 2 of 2

**Presenter(s):** Carol Bruner, Dr. Brittany C. Ross, Ashley Olevitch, Ashley Cooper  
**Time:** 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm  
**Location:** Camellia AB  
**Strand:** AGE

A continuation of the overview of the recent amendments to Rule 6A-10.0381, Registration of Adult Students and Enrollment Reporting for Adult General Education Students, which became effective on August 19, 2025. Participants will gain a clear understanding of how these amendments impact local program operations and reporting practices, and will have the opportunity to ask questions and clarify implementation steps.

### District Workforce Education Funding Overview

**Presenter(s):** Tara Goodman, Claudia Campagnola  
**Time:** 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm  
**Location:** Everglades A  
**Strand:** Administration

During this session, the Division of Career and Adult Education will provide a general overview of state workforce education funding policies, relevant statutes and rules. Topics will include the workload funding model and performance-based incentive funding such as the PIPELINE and Industry Certification. Participants will be provided with information about the key components of the district workforce education funding.

### From Rigor to Results: Instructional Strategies for the FUTURE - Vendor Session

**Presenter(s):** Ron Cruz  
**Time:** 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm  
**Location:** Everglades B  
**Strand:** ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP

Unlock the full potential of your ESOL classroom! This interactive session models how to integrate vocabulary, grammar, and critical thinking through scaffolded, standards-aligned lessons. Participants will engage in hands-on activities and explore how strong curriculum resources could

#### ABBREVIATION LEGEND

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support academic and workplace readiness while building a foundation for success in standardized testing. Discover key teacher resources that open opportunities for your classroom to the rigors of ELPS and CCRS, and multi-level learning, communicative practice exercises, and AI-assisted lesson planning to boost student outcomes and classroom impact.

## **Building Vocabulary and Developing Reading Skills with Stand Out - Vendor Session**

*Presenter(s):* Cindy Le  
*Time:* 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm  
*Location:* Everglades C  
*Strand:* ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP

This session will explore ways to help students build vocabulary and improve their reading skills for success on the CASAS STEPS with Stand Out.

## **Maximizing Student Success with TABE: Addressing Commonly Missed Skills to Inform Instruction Vendor Session**

*Presenter(s):* Michael Johnson  
*Time:* 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm  
*Location:* Island  
*Strand:* AGE, Corrections, WIOA

Join DRC to review the most commonly missed skill areas for the TABE Reading and Math assessments. Learn how to analyze and use TABE data to inform instruction, increase measurable skills gains, and retain students. This session will equip educators with strategies to tailor their teaching to student needs, ultimately supporting their educational and career goals through data-driven approaches and targeted instructional practices.

## **English Discoveries Builds Student Success! Vendor Session**

*Presenter(s):* Jill Rosolek, Christina Piland  
*Time:* 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm  
*Location:* Gardenia AB  
*Strand:* ASB, Career Pathways, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics ELP, IET

Discover the newest features in English Discoveries! Explore how our interactive lesson content supports multiple learning modalities across all proficiency levels. We'll highlight innovations such as AI Writing Evaluation, presenter-led online grammar lessons, and new course content. See how assignable tests, lesson plans, handouts, and workbook activities enhance student outcomes, and learn strategies for creating targeted assignments with our unique feature, Discoveries Magazine. We'll also preview contextualized IET courses designed for career pathways. Already using English Discoveries? This is your opportunity to explore what's new, and we'll give you time to ask questions.

**3:15 pm - 3:45 pm**  
**Palms/Garden Foyer**

**Refreshment Break with Vendors**  
**Sponsored by ACE of Florida**

## **CONCURRENT SESSION III 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM**

### **Integrated Education and Training**

*Presenter(s):* Catherine O'Neil  
*Time:* 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm  
*Location:* Caloosa A  
*Strand:* IET

Florida's Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs play a vital role in connecting adult education with high-demand careers. This session provides an inside look at the state's progress from 2021 to 2025, highlighting enrollment growth, program successes and lessons learned. Participants will examine Florida's workforce landscape, identify emerging industries and explore strategies to strengthen program visibility, relevance and employer engagement.

### **ABE Writing Workout**

*Presenter(s):* Steve Schmidt  
*Time:* 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm  
*Location:* Caloosa B  
*Strand:* AGE, ASB, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP

Writing is a huge challenge for our ABE and ESL learners. What does research say about writing best practices, and how can we apply these techniques in our classrooms? In this interactive workshop, we will examine several effective writing techniques including bio poems, quick writes, and writing frames. Come away from this workshop with classroom-ready tools and techniques that will make your students more confident writers!

### **Reimagining Adult Education: New Products for a Changing World - Vendor Session**

*Presenter(s):* Didier Brunot, Lauren Abraham, Raymond Germosen  
*Time:* 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm  
*Location:* Camellia AB  
*Strand:* Administration, AGE, Career Pathways, CCR, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP, IET, WIOA

Join us for an exclusive first look as we unveil a suite of new products—all designed to help streamline adult services and better support diverse adult learning needs. In this session, our team will provide live demonstrations on our newest product offerings: the Gradebook, VTest, Prepare for CASAS ICLs, and the Eshop. Whether you're an instructor or an administrator, you'll gain valuable insights into how these brand-new solutions can be integrated into your program to improve outcomes, retain students, and help achieve goals. Be among the first to see what's new in Burlington English!

### **Utilizing AI as Your Co-Teacher: Building Confidence, Efficiency, and Student Success - Vendor Session**

*Presenter(s):* Neil Richmund  
*Time:* 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm  
*Location:* Everglades A  
*Strand:* Technology

Instead of replacing educators, AI can serve as a digital co-teacher. This presentation highlights how to leverage AI

# WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15 - THURSDAY, OCT. 16

tools for adult learners to answer common student questions, provide instant feedback, create tailored learning paths, and keep learners engaged while freeing educators to focus on mentorship and higher-level guidance.

## From GED® to CTE: Pathways that Deliver on the Promise of Adult Education

**Presenter(s):** Michelle Overstreet, Sullymar Reices-Irizarry  
**Time:** 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm  
**Location:** Everglades B  
**Strand:** Administration, AGE, AHS, Career Pathways, GED®, IET

Adult education today goes beyond earning a diploma; it builds clear, workforce-aligned pathways that lead to sustainable careers. This session will showcase how Integrated Education and Training (IET) models, the GATE (Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education) program, and Ability-to-Benefit (ATB) opportunities are reshaping outcomes for Florida's adult learners. Participants will explore how GED and Adult High School students transition directly into high-demand CTE programs—including CDL, Health Science, and Construction—while earning stackable credentials and employment opportunities. Through student success stories, program data, and practical strategies, this session will highlight how partnerships, funding, and instructional design turn dreams into reality.

## Beyond the Basics: Unlocking the Full Potential of IPDAE

**Presenter(s):** Tammy Serrano, Brenda Diaz  
**Time:** 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm  
**Location:** Everglades C  
**Strand:** AGE, Corrections, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP, GED®, IET

IPDAE is not just a website—it's a game changer for Florida's adult education system. Join us as we pull back the curtain on all that IPDAE offers: cutting-edge resources, data-driven strategies, expert-led training, and statewide collaboration opportunities. Whether you want to innovate your teaching or lead change at your program, this session will show you how IPDAE is your go-to partner in success.

## GED® Program Tools and Resources for Student Success Vendor Session

**Presenter(s):** Diane Vaccari  
**Time:** 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm  
**Location:** Gardenia AB  
**Strand:** GED

Come see all the tools and resources that GED Testing Service® has created to help educators and students succeed. This session will take a comprehensive look at the GED® program and highlight new tools and best practices for adult educators.

## Talk Data to Me

**Presenter(s):** Pamela Jo Wilson  
**Time:** 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm  
**Location:** Island  
**Strand:** CCR, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP, IET, Leadership

Join this interactive workshop to see how this ESOL instructor incorporates different types of data into her classroom - from day one of class - to keep her students engaged and practicing all the language learning skills.

## DINNER ON YOUR OWN

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm      Trivia/Music Bingo      Island  
Sponsored by ACE of Florida

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

Conference Registration Open      Palms/Garden Foyer  
7:30 am - 11:20 am ▪ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Continental Breakfast  
7:30 am - 8:20 am ▪ Palms/Garden Foyer  
Sponsored by ACE of Florida

## CONCURRENT SESSION IV 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

## Mountain or Molehill: Balancing Adult Education Classroom Dynamics

**Presenter(s):** Jennifer Cloughly, Nick Hansen  
**Time:** 8:30 am - 9:45 am  
**Location:** Caloosa A  
**Strand:** AGE, AHS, GED®

What if great classroom culture didn't come from control -- but connection? Join us to explore the 4 Rs of adult education classroom dynamics -- Recognize, Respond, Redirect, and Reflect -- a simple but powerful strategy for turning challenges into growth opportunities. Together, we'll practice applying the 4 Rs through role-playing and problem-solving activities. You'll leave with a renewed confidence in your ability to build relationships and propel learners of all ages toward success.

### ABBREVIATION LEGEND

Academic Skills Building (ASB), Adult General Education (AGE), Adult High School (AHS), College and Career Readiness (CCR), English Language Learner (ELL), English Language Proficiency (ELP), English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), General Education Development (GED®), Integrated Education and Training (IET), National Reporting System (NRS), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

## Can You Believe It? Media Literacy for our Adult Learners

**Presenter(s):** Steve Schmidt  
**Time:** 8:30 am - 9:45 am  
**Location:** Caloosa B  
**Strand:** AGE, AHS, ASB, CCR, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics  
ELP, Technology

Media literacy is critical because it equips us with the critical-thinking skills needed to navigate a complex, media-saturated world. How can we help our students (and ourselves) separate truth from fake news? In this interactive workshop, we will examine ways to help students develop their critical thinking skills about media literacy.

## Correctional Education at ACE: Unlocking Potential Through CASAS - **Vendor Session**

**Presenter(s):** Karla Galleguillos, Dr. Daisy Shah  
**Time:** 8:30 am - 9:45 am  
**Location:** Camellia AB  
**Strand:** Administration, AGE, AHS, Corrections

As we celebrate the 35th ACE Anniversary—From Dream to Reality—join this dynamic session designed for correctional adult education educators and administrators. Explore how the CASAS system's core components—content standards, competencies, and task areas—provide the foundation for effective teaching and learning. Discover how to use assessment data to tailor instruction, strengthen competency skills, and create targeted strategies that turn educational goals into real outcomes for adult learners.

## Adult Education in Florida: An Overview of Key Components

**Presenter(s):** Carol Bruner, Ashley Olevitch  
**Time:** 8:30 am - 9:45 am  
**Location:** Everglades A  
**Strand:** Other

New to adult education or just need a refresher? This session is your quick tour of the essentials, including Division and federal updates, FDOE resources, programs, assessments, performance and more, all in one streamlined stop.

## Preparing for the Unknown: How Districts and Colleges are Planning for Adult Education in Uncertain Times

**Presenter(s):** Ariel Pechokas, Dave Barnes  
**Time:** 8:30 am - 9:45 am  
**Location:** Everglades B  
**Strand:** Administration, AGE, Leadership

With shifting priorities and uncertain funding on the horizon, how are Florida's Adult Education providers preparing for the year ahead? This interactive panel and audience discussion will bring together education leaders, coordinators, and planners to share practical strategies, spark new ideas, and build collective insight around planning in times of uncertainty.

We'll explore how programs are adapting through rebranding efforts, strengthening community partnerships, seeking alternative funding sources, and launching fee-based models that align with learner needs and workforce demands. Come ready to learn, share, and leave with actionable strategies to guide your planning for 2026 and beyond.

## Workforce Success through IET: Advancing Adult Education for Career Growth

**Presenter(s):** Lorri Benjamin, Eric Kohler  
**Time:** 8:30 am - 9:45 am  
**Location:** Everglades C  
**Strand:** Administration, Career Pathways, IET, WIOA

This session will explore how Brevard Adult and Community Education (BACE) advances workforce success by integrating Integrated Education and Training (IET) into its pre-apprenticeship programs, career certificate pathways, and professional learning initiatives. By equipping adult learners with both essential career and soft skills, BACE supports long-term success and employability. Featuring an interactive presentation, participants will gain insights into the successes and challenges of this collaboration through up-to-date data.

## Unique Employment Opportunities: Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs **Vendor Session**

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Drew Andrews, Sheryl Sandvoss  
**Time:** 8:30 am - 9:45 am  
**Location:** Gardenia AB  
**Strand:** Administration, Adults with Disabilities, Career Pathways, Leadership

The purpose of this presentation is to inform participants about Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs (FPCTPs) as an effective practice to increase competitive employment for and improving the quality of life for students with intellectual disability. By the end of the presentation, participants will: Gain a comprehensive understanding of FPCTPs and their impact on state colleges; Learn about the positive outcomes for students, including improved employment prospects and greater independence; Be equipped with strategies to develop, implement, and enhance FPCTPs in their institutions; and Understand the challenges and solutions in creating effective transition programs.

## Create Your Campaign to Increase Post-Test Percentages and MSGs

**Presenter(s):** Susan MacGill, Ron Cruz  
**Time:** 8:30 am - 9:45 am  
**Location:** Island  
**Strand:** Administration, AGE, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics  
ELP

See how a Post-Test Campaign is developed and launched in a large district to change the culture of post-testing. The campaign will result in students seeing post-testing as a positive task, production of a 70% post-test rate required by FDOE and an increased MSG production. Templates will be provided to map out School Goals, Site-Level Strategies, Communication Plans, Student Recognition, Motivation and Monitoring. An Organizational Chart for Core Roles and Responsibilities at your school site will get everyone involved in the campaign. Additional assessment training handouts and TE data analysis tips will be shared to make your campaign successful.

**9:45 - 10:15 am**  
**Palms/Garden Foyer**

**Refreshment Break with Vendors**  
**Sponsored by Pearson**



## CONCURRENT SESSION V 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

### Making English Stick: Mastering Listening and Speaking for Adult ELLs

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Daisy Shah, Esther Jimenez  
**Time:** 10:15 am - 11:30 am  
**Location:** Caloosa A  
**Strand:** AGE, CCR, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP, IET

In this interactive session, participants will explore proven strategies to help adult English Language Learners (ELLs) develop and retain essential listening and speaking skills. We'll examine how the adult brain processes new languages, the challenges learners face, and practical techniques to make English "stick" for the long term. Attendees will discover how to create meaningful practice opportunities inside and outside the classroom through interactive activities, visual aids, and discussion-based approaches. Join trainers from FL IPDAE to gain tools and strategies that empower your students to confidently use English in their daily lives, ensuring lasting language retention and success.

### Fuel Your Vision for Adult Education through Partnerships

**Presenter(s):** Wanda Govan  
**Time:** 10:15 am - 11:30 am  
**Location:** Caloosa B  
**Strand:** Administration, Leadership

**Partnerships Saved the Program!**  
 This dynamic workshop will empower participants with practical strategies, hands-on skills, and real-world applications to support program success. Through guided reflections, interactive activities, timeline planning, and team-building structures, attendees will learn how to foster and strengthen vital partnerships. Participants will leave with renewed confidence, motivation, and actionable approaches to engage key stakeholders. The workshop is led by a veteran educator with 30 years of experience, including 15 years dedicated to adult education, offering valuable vision and insight rooted in real-life success.

### Utilizing the Power of Connection and Progress for Student Engagement - Vendor Session

**Presenter(s):** Brittney Napolitano, Tara Keily  
**Time:** 10:15 am - 11:30 am  
**Location:** Camellia AB  
**Strand:** Administration, AGE, AHS, ASB, Career Pathways, CCR, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics, ELP, GED, Technology

The statistics don't lie! Strong student-teacher relationships significantly improve academic success. When educators know their students, they are better equipped to provide targeted instruction and valuable feedback. When students feel seen, they are more motivated, confident, and engaged in their learning. Building these connections may be easier than you think. Audience participation will be highly encouraged.

Attendees will learn how to access the key features of the Student Progress and Learning Plan Reports as well as be shown how they can make interventions when students show signs of lack of use or test readiness.

### Best Practices Road Trip - Vendor Session

**Presenter(s):** Laura Fetter, Karla Galleguillos  
**Time:** 10:15 am - 11:30 am  
**Location:** Everglades A  
**Strand:** Administration, Leadership, WIOA

Grab your favorite travel snacks and join CASAS on a Best Practices Road Trip! We visit programs from coast to coast and learn what they are doing to boost learning gains, improve communication, increase learner persistence, and enhance program performance. Attendees pick up some helpful "souvenirs" they can implement in their programs and play road trip bingo along the way.

### Teaching Algebraic Reasoning Like a Boss!

**Presenter(s):** Ron Cruz  
**Time:** 10:15 am - 11:30 am  
**Location:** Everglades B  
**Strand:** AGE, GED

Step outside your comfort zone and discover what's possible with your students. This session empowers GED math instructors with the confidence and expertise to deliver algebraic reasoning concepts with flair and impact. Explore advanced algebraic reasoning through engaging activities, real-world applications, and strategic problem-solving. Learn innovative strategies that captivate adult learners, making problem-solving both informative and enjoyable. Leave with "boss-like" confidence in your ability to teach algebraic reasoning effectively, inspiring assurance and enthusiasm in your classroom.

### How to Build a New Path in Health Sciences

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Lorraine Matos  
**Time:** 10:15 am - 11:30 am  
**Location:** Everglades C  
**Strand:** AGE

The Integrated Education and Training program at Seminole State College of Florida has launched a new Health Sciences path. Join this workshop to learn our step-by-step enrollment process, view the program materials, discover the use of AI tools within the lesson build, and explore the seamless transition into our IET Health Sciences programs. Come be a part of the conversation.

#### ABBREVIATION LEGEND

Academic Skills Building (ASB), Adult General Education (AGE), Adult High School (AHS), College and Career Readiness (CCR), English Language Learner (ELL), English Language Proficiency (ELP), English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), General Education Development (GED), Integrated Education and Training (IET), National Reporting System (NRS), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

## Charting New Paths: College Success for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

**Presenter(s):** Sheryl Sandvoss  
**Time:** 10:15 am - 11:30 am  
**Location:** Gardenia AB  
**Strand:** Adults with Disabilities, Career Pathways, CareerSource

Dreams of college and meaningful careers are becoming reality for students with intellectual disabilities across Florida. This session will showcase inspiring success stories from (FCSUA)-approved (FPCTPs) at technical colleges and workforce-focused programs within state colleges. Attendees will see how students are earning industry-recognized credentials, gaining employment, and achieving independence through hands-on training and wraparound supports. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of how FPCTPs transform potential into career success—and how these innovative programs are reshaping workforce education in Florida.

### The ABE/GED/ASB Instructor's Data Corner

**Presenter(s):** Liudmila Pino Ledesma, Chad Bryant  
**Time:** 10:15 am - 11:30 am  
**Location:** Island  
**Strand:** Administration, AGE, ASB, CCR, GED®

This session is a totally data-driven Google site within SharePoint. This space for ABE/GED/ ASB instructors powered by student results gleaned from CASAS GOALS 2. Users can access data that is not only relevant and transformational but also features State Performance Targets and the all-important CASAS NAT Report. An array of AI-produced visuals, worksheets, tools, and resources are personalized, and geared towards enhancing the learning process.

11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
 Palms Ballroom

**"Celebrating Success" Luncheon**  
 (Bring your ticket)  
 Sponsored by ACE of Florida

## CONCURRENT SESSION VI 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM

### You Have the Right to Remain Silent!

**Presenter(s):** Chandra Kydd  
**Time:** 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm  
**Location:** Caloosa A  
**Strand:** AGE, CCR, GED®

What if the best way to teach is to talk less? In this eye-opening workshop, we'll explore how stepping back allows students to step up—using real-world scenarios, research, and critical thinking to master GED Social Studies content. These strategies don't just help learners pass the test—they prepare them to engage with the world, make informed decisions, and think for themselves. Because when students take the lead in learning, they're not just studying history—they're shaping their future. Join me and discover how silence can be a powerful teaching tool.

## Using the High Impact Indicators to Increase Critical Thinking and Analytical Reasoning Skills - Vendor Session

**Presenter(s):** Karen Welch  
**Time:** 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm  
**Location:** Caloosa B  
**Strand:** AGE, AHS, CCR, Corrections, GED®

High Impact Indicators (HII) are essential skills that not only boost student performance but also build the foundation for long-term academic and career success. In this session, participants will explore practical strategies for embedding HII into instruction to strengthen learners' critical thinking and analytical reasoning. Attendees will leave with classroom-ready approaches that increase GED test readiness, improve problem-solving, and empower students to apply these skills beyond the test and into real-world contexts.

### From Barriers to Bridges: The Science of Math for Adult Learners with Disabilities

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Jenny Root  
**Time:** 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm  
**Location:** Camellia AB  
**Strand:** Adults with Disabilities

For many adults with disabilities, mathematics has long been a source of frustration and exclusion. Yet math is essential for independence, employment, and participation in community life. This session explores how the "Science of Math" can be applied in adult education. Attendees will learn practical, evidence-based strategies to reduce barriers and build bridges toward confidence, competence, and meaningful math learning. Real-world contexts such as budgeting, workplace tasks, and civic decision-making will be emphasized, alongside supports that address learning needs.

### The Power of GED Manager™

**Presenter(s):** Sharon Webb  
**Time:** 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm  
**Location:** Everglades B  
**Strand:** Administration, GED®

In this session you will learn how to make the most of GED Manager™ to support your students and grow your program. We'll explore how GEDPrep Connect™ can help build stronger connections and boost enrollment, plus walk through reporting tools that make it easy to find students who are just one test away from earning their high school equivalency certification.

### Job Skills Start with Reading: Teaching the Struggling Reader for Workplace Success

**Presenter(s):** Chris Miller  
**Time:** 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm  
**Location:** Everglades C  
**Strand:** AGE, AHS

Strong reading skills are essential for success in today's workforce - but many adult learners enter programs reading below a 6th-grade level, lacking the literacy needed for job training, advancement, or even basic workplace communication. This session focuses on practical, workplace-aligned strategies for teaching reading to low-

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

level and intermediate adult learners. Attendees will walk away with ready-to-use strategies and adaptable lesson ideas that align with workforce preparation goals while meeting the unique needs of struggling adult readers.

## Putting It All Together: Aligning Learning Activities, Curriculum Frameworks and Assessment

**Presenter(s):** Olivia Whiteside  
**Time:** 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm  
**Location:** Island  
**Strand:** AGE, ASB, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP

Let's take a look at the FDOE Curriculum Framework, the CASAS test series, and your teaching materials. Starting with these pieces, we'll identify, extend, and focus learning activities to address the content, competencies, and task areas identified in each so that your students will make targeted, measurable progress in goal areas. We'll examine sample activities that have been used by successful teachers in our district. This workshop will be centered around ESOL and ASB content, but the concepts will apply to other Adult Ed programs, as well.

**2:15 pm - 2:45 pm**      **Refreshment Break with Vendors**  
**Palms/Garden Foyer**      **Sponsored by ACE of Florida**

## CONCURRENT SESSION VII 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM

### Social Studies Spectacular!

**Presenter(s):** Steve Schmidt  
**Time:** 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Location:** Caloosa A  
**Strand:** AGE, ASB, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP, GED®

Are you looking for ways to spice up your social studies instruction? Are you tired of not having answers for tackling difficult-to-read primary source documents? Do your students draw blanks when faced with maps, charts, graphs, and tables? Fear not! In this interactive session, you will find ways to help your students succeed on high school equivalency social studies tests.

### Empowering Adult Learners with AI: Practical Tools for Engagement and Success

**Presenter(s):** Vicki Lopez, Hunter Sayers  
**Time:** 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Location:** Caloosa B  
**Strand:** AGE, GED®

This session explores how AI and emerging technologies like NotebookLM are transforming GED and Adult Basic Education classrooms. Participants will see practical examples of how AI can support instruction, from interactive reading and writing activities to personalized learning pathways and student engagement strategies. The presentation will highlight ways educators can integrate these tools to close achievement gaps, scaffold learning for student needs, build confidence,

and prepare students for academic and career success. Attendees will leave with ready-to-use ideas, resources, and insights into how AI can enhance, not replace - the teacher's role in fostering meaningful learning experiences.

### Scaffolding Success: Supporting Executive Functioning for Adult Learners with Disabilities

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Jenny Root  
**Time:** 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Location:** Camellia AB  
**Strand:** Adults with Disabilities

This interactive session will explore how executive functioning (EF), the brain's "air traffic control system," impacts adult learners with disabilities. Attendees will gain shared language for understanding EF to distinguish between what their students "can't do" and "won't do." Through hands-on activities with classroom examples, attendees will see how clarity, routines, and structure directly build EF skills. The workshop will emphasize practical strategies teachers can implement in the adult education classroom to reduce frustration, foster student confidence, and create conditions for adult learners with disabilities to take off and succeed.

### Beyond Enrollment: Building Trust, Community, and Lasting Impact in Adult Education

**Presenter(s):** Lori Smith, Lorri Benjamin  
**Time:** 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Location:** Everglades A  
**Strand:** Administration, Adults with Disabilities, AGE, AHS, ASB, Career Pathways, CCR, Corrections, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP, GED, IET, Leadership

This session highlights proven strategies that increase enrollment, build trust, and expand visibility through social media, partnerships, and data-driven outreach. Beyond recruitment, the focus is on creating meaningful connections that nurture academic, workforce, social, and life skills. With an emphasis on high expectations and engaging, creative learning, participants will see how adult education can strengthen resilience, compassion, and lifelong growth. Whether leading alone or as part of a larger team, attendees will leave with actionable strategies to enhance marketing, elevate outreach, and create lasting impact for learners and their communities.

### Strategic Implementation: Making the Florida Adult Education Frameworks Work for You

**Presenter(s):** Maia Brown  
**Time:** 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Location:** Everglades B  
**Strand:** AGE, AHS, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP, GED®

This session will provide an overview of Florida's Adult Education programs and curriculum frameworks, highlighting how they support instruction across GED®, ABE, ESOL and Adult High School pathways. Participants will explore how to use the Florida Adult Education Standards as a foundation

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# THURSDAY OCT. 16 - FRIDAY, OCT. 17

for lesson planning through a step-by-step backward design process. Together, we will practice aligning objectives, assessments and instruction to create purposeful, standards-based lessons that meet the needs of adult learners.

## The Dream Job Journey

**Presenter(s):** Matt Fitzpatrick, Amy Trickey, Dan Michalak  
**Time:** 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Location:** Everglades C  
**Strand:** AGE, AHS, Career Pathways, CCR

This session will empower teachers to effectively guide students on their journey to discovering their dream careers. Educators will explore strategies to help students identify their strengths, passions, and values, and align them with meaningful career paths. The session also focuses on cultivating a growth mindset and fostering resilience, responsibility, and curiosity—key traits for long-term success. Join us to inspire and equip the next generation to pursue fulfilling futures with clarity and purpose.

## Florida Needs CTE: iCEV for Adult Education Vendor Session

**Presenter(s):** Amanda Patterson, Kaitlin Plante  
**Time:** 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Location:** Gardenia AB  
**Strand:** Career Pathways, CCR, Corrections, IET

What sets a top-performing Adult Education program apart? Join Amanda Patterson and Kaitlin Plante to uncover the value iCEV offers today's adult education programs. In this interactive session, you'll explore the iCEV platform and its impact on adult education—versatile learning models, upskilling opportunities, pre- and post-testing, and personalized learning that prepare students to succeed in high-demand industries. You'll gain actionable strategies and proven tactics to equip learners with career-ready skills. Walk away with fresh ideas, innovative approaches, and practical methods to elevate your program and inspire the next generation of changemakers.

## IET: Knocking Down Barriers!

**Presenter(s):** Jude Aurele  
**Time:** 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Location:** Island  
**Strand:** IET

This workshop examines the strategic evolution of Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs within Broward County Public Schools and highlights their continuous refinement in response to emerging intrinsic and extrinsic challenges. Through the presentation of evidence-based practices and adaptive organizational strategies, participants will gain actionable insights into revitalizing existing IET programs and facilitating greater access to career and technical education (CTE) pathways. Emphasis will be placed on optimizing student achievement, enhancing academic support through technology integration, implementing a comprehensive SSLO to meet the needs of all students, and cultivating strong partnerships with local communities and businesses.

## DINNER ON YOUR OWN



**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16**  
**7:00 pm - 11:00 pm**  
**Palms Ballroom**

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**ACE of Florida**  
*(bring your ticket)*

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

### Conference Registration Open

8:00 am- 11:00 am ■ Palms/Garden Foyer

### Coffee and Bagels

8:00 am- 8:50 am ■ Palms/Garden Foyer  
**Sponsored by ACE of Florida**

### Administrators' Meeting

9:30 am- 11:15 am ■ Everglades C

## CONCURRENT SESSION VIII 9:00 AM - 10:10 AM

### Designing Learning Spaces for Autistic Adults

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Shannon LaPoint  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 10:10 am  
**Location:** Caloosa A  
**Strand:** College and Career Readiness

The number of autistic adults enrolling in post-secondary education is increasing. Once enrolled, autistic students often experience significant challenges and leave programs before completion. To accommodate the unique needs of this population, this workshop is designed to provide adult educators with practical tools to create a supportive learning space for autistic adults. For example, adult educators will learn research-based strategies to support the executive functioning of adults who may be unable to meet deadlines and manage schedules independently. The strategies learned in this workshop will be based on autistic adults' experiences and suggestions regarding how adult educators can support them.

### Sensational Science Instruction!

**Presenter(s):** Steve Schmidt  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 10:10 am  
**Location:** Caloosa B  
**Strand:** AGE, AHS, ASB, GED®

Are you looking to teach in ways that let your students experience science? In this session, you will participate in easy-to-do experiments that teach the scientific method, investigate how to do close readings of scientific texts, discover what vocabulary to teach, and practice strategies for tackling science visuals.



## Spark & Skill: English for Healthcare Careers

**Presenter(s):** Brenda Boston, Pamela Jo Wilson  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 10:10 am  
**Location:** Camellia AB  
**Strand:** ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP, IET

This IET session focuses on building medical vocabulary, workforce readiness, and language fluency for students entering careers in healthcare—including Phlebotomy, Home Health Aide, Medical Assisting, and Pre-med Pathways. In this space, we ignite motivation, innovate instruction, and inspire future healthcare professionals—one word and one skill at a time.

## Empower Student Pathways: Xello for Adult Learners (Part 1) - Vendor Session

**Presenter(s):** Carol Lopez  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 10:10 am  
**Location:** Everglades A  
**Strand:** College and Career Readiness

In this interactive workshop, educators will gain a deep understanding of Xello, the comprehensive college and career readiness platform now tailored for adult education. Participants will explore Xello's features through guided demonstrations, including self-assessment tools, career exploration, goal-setting, and resume building. The session will also cover educator dashboards, reporting tools, and strategies for integrating Xello into adult education programs such as GED prep, ESOL, and workforce training. Attendees will leave with hands-on practice, practical strategies to engage students, and resources for continued learning and support.

## Maximize Every Minute: Time-Smart Strategies for the Adult ESOL Classroom

**Presenter(s):** Anya Kalashnikova, Sullymar Reices-Irizarry  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 10:10 am  
**Location:** Gardenia AB  
**Strand:** ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP

In adult ESOL classrooms, every minute is a chance to make learning count. This workshop offers practical, creative strategies to help teachers make the most of instructional time. Discover how to kick off lessons with engaging bell ringers, keep early finishers meaningfully occupied, and use tools like QR codes for instant access to activities. Participants will explore examples, exchange ideas, and leave with ready-to-use techniques that boost engagement, streamline lessons, and help every moment work for student success. Whether you're new to teaching or a seasoned instructor, you'll walk away with strategies you can use right away.

## Building Better Trades: Powered by the 4 Cs

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Daisy Shah, Linda Fermo-Garcia  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 10:10 am  
**Location:** Island  
**Strand:** AGE, AHS, ASB, Career Pathways, CCR, Corrections, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP, GED®, IET, Leadership

Success in school and at work requires more than knowledge; it takes soft skills. This session explores the 4 Cs - critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity as keys to adult learner success. Participants will explore ways to help learners strengthen the communication skills needed to excel in their studies and thrive in today's workforce. Walk away with practical strategies to embed the 4 Cs to boost learner confidence, engagement, and career readiness.

## Administrators' Meeting

**Presenter(s):** Tara Goodman, Carol Bruner, Dr. Brittany Ross, Catherine O'Neil, Ashley Olevitch, Mallory Martinez  
**Time:** 9:30 am - 11:15 am  
**Location:** Everglades C  
**Strand:** Administration, Leadership

This session will provide comprehensive updates and essential information on key topics impacting our field. Join us for an in-depth discussion on the latest legislative developments, best practices for Adult Education implementation, accountability and reporting requirements, as well as grants compliance and monitoring procedures. Participants will gain valuable insights into how recent changes in legislation affect our programs, strategies for effective implementation and methods to ensure compliance with accountability standards. We will also cover critical aspects of grants management, including compliance and monitoring processes to help you navigate the complexities of funding.

This session aims to equip you with the knowledge and tools necessary to lead your programs successfully and stay compliant with all regulatory requirements. Don't miss this opportunity to stay informed and connect with your peers on these vital topics.

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## CONCURRENT SESSION IX 10:15 AM - 11:25 AM

### WorkKeys in Action: Driving Measurable Skill Gains and Workforce Readiness - **Vendor Session**

*Presenter(s):* Jessica Duesler  
*Time:* 10:15 am - 11:25 am  
*Location:* Caloosa A  
*Strand:* Administration, AGE, Career Pathways, CCR, Corrections, IET

Join us for an enlightening webinar on how ACT WorkKeys Assessments—recognized by the National Reporting System (NRS) — can play a pivotal role in helping adult learners achieve measurable skill gains (MSGs). More than just a skills assessment, WorkKeys offers industry-recognized certification that validates learners' abilities for employers. Learn how incorporating WorkKeys into your programs can open doors to workforce training, enhance post-secondary success, and strengthen Integrated Education and Training (IET) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) initiatives.

### Supporting the Adult ESOL Learner on Their Academic Journey

*Presenter(s):* Rona Barnett-Passard, Yves Saint-Hillien  
*Time:* 10:15 am - 11:25 am  
*Location:* Caloosa B  
*Strand:* ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP, Technology

Let's Talk ESOL Multi-Language Learner Hotline was created to provide orientation and answer questions learners may have during their academic journey. Join this team to learn exactly how they do so using this platform and other learner inspired resources.

### Enhancing Career Readiness for Adult Learners with Florida Ready to Work - **Vendor Session**

*Presenter(s):* Tiffany Vause, Holly McFadden  
*Time:* 10:15 am - 11:25 am  
*Location:* Camellia AB  
*Strand:* Administration, AGE, AHS, Career Pathways, CareerSource, Corrections, GED®, IET, WIOA

Florida Ready to Work is a free, state-sponsored solution that helps adult learners build career readiness through online training and assessments, offering credentials in digital literacy, soft skills, and academic employability. This session shares practical strategies for implementation and highlights success stories from Florida adult education programs. A panel of educators will discuss how they've integrated the platform into their classrooms, sharing insights, challenges, and outcomes. Attendees will explore effective integration, data-driven planning, and reporting tools to support student achievement. Whether you're new or refining your approach, this session provides valuable guidance to enhance impact and student success.

### Empower Student Pathways: Xello for Adult Learners (Part 2) - **Vendor Session**

*Presenter(s):* Carol Lopez  
*Time:* 10:15 am - 11:25 am  
*Location:* Everglades A  
*Strand:* College and Career Readiness

In this interactive workshop, educators will gain a deep understanding of Xello, the comprehensive college and career readiness platform now tailored for adult education. Participants will explore Xello's features through guided demonstrations, including self-assessment tools, career exploration, goal-setting, and resume building. The session will also cover educator dashboards, reporting tools, and strategies for integrating Xello into adult education programs such as GED prep, ESOL, and workforce training. Attendees will leave with hands-on practice, practical strategies to engage students, and resources for continued learning and support.

### Immersive Learning Through Technology & Literature

*Presenter(s):* Dayana Exposito, Christine Briggs  
*Time:* 10:15 am - 11:25 am  
*Location:* Gardenia AB  
*Strand:* ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP, GED®, Technology

Get ready to explore effective strategies for creating an engaging, student-centered classroom by integrating literature, technology, and collaborative learning. Using All Summer in a Day by Ray Bradbury, you will be guided through a hands-on, immersive project that combines reading comprehension with digital creativity. This project highlights the power of combining literary analysis with modern tools to build vocabulary, reinforce reading strategies, and enhance student engagement across multiple modalities.

### Keeping the Momentum through Practical Tools for Sustained Motivation

*Presenter(s):* Alexia Navarro  
*Time:* 10:15 am - 11:25 am  
*Location:* Island  
*Strand:* AGE, ASB, CCR, ESOL/ELL/EL-Civics/ELP, GED®

Keeping students engaged is only the first step. Helping them stay motivated is what leads to real success. This session explores practical, interactive strategies such as goal setting, progress tracking, and building self-efficacy, alongside ways to foster a classroom culture where learners feel connected and supported. Participants will walk away with tools to keep adult learners engaged in the moment and motivated for the long haul.



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When a family is hungry, they cannot learn, earn, or succeed. Feeding Florida, the statewide network of food banks, works to make sure every child and every family can reach their full potential and access the healthy, nutritious food they need to thrive. Join ACE of Florida in the fight against hunger—making sure a full pantry and stocked refrigerator is more than just a dream for our neighbors in need, but a reality.

ACE of Florida's annual conference has chosen Feeding Florida food banks as our community partner. If you can imagine it in terms of meals, your generous donation can fuel food boxes for a family of four, providing meals that include shelf stable items, healthy produce, and nutritious proteins.

**Together, we are all feeding Florida.**

## 2024 ACE Award Winners

Please join ACE of Florida in congratulating the  
following ACE Award winners from 2024  
who could not be recognized in person when the  
conference was canceled due to Hurricane Milton.

**Anderson Louis:** John E. Lawrence Administrator of the Year

**Jet Fowler:** Teacher of the Year

**Esther Jimenez:** Instructional Support Staff of the Year

**Aleida Martinez:** Non-instructional Support Staff of the Year

**Silvania De Faria:** Volunteer of the Year

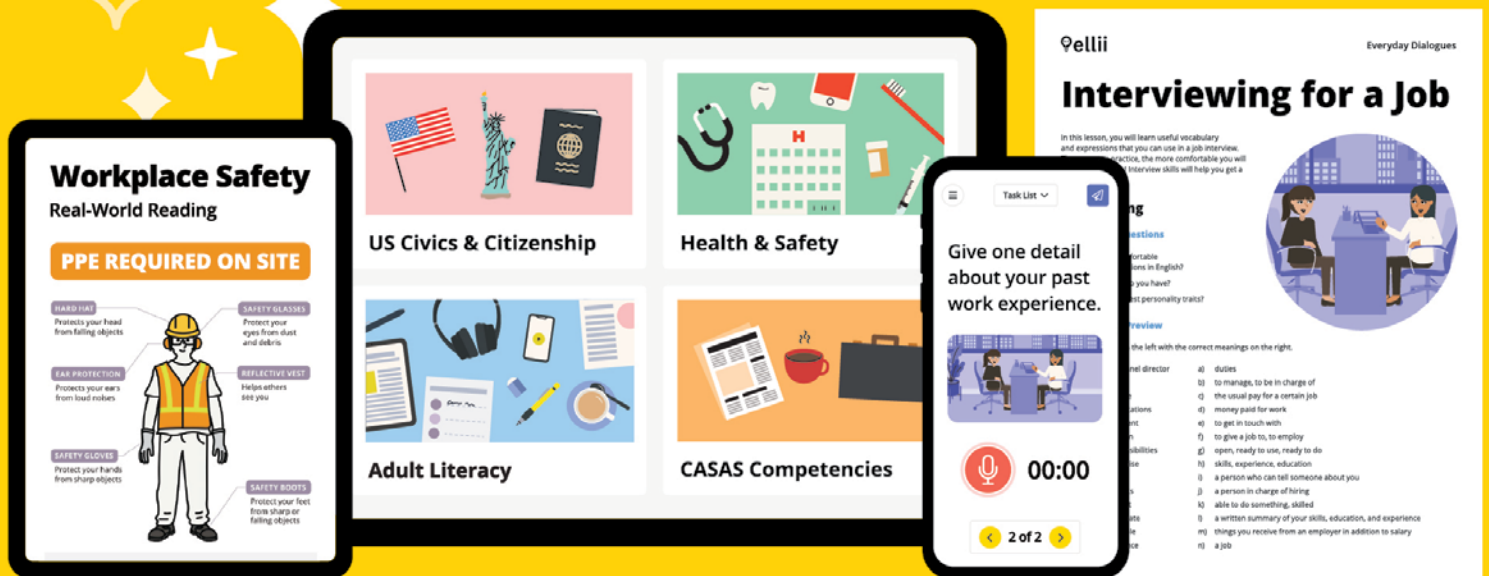
**Janey Powell:** Business Supporter of the Year



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“Everyone who remembers his own education remembers teachers, not methods and techniques. The teacher is the heart of the educational system.”

Sidney Hook  
American Philosopher  
(1902-1989)

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Funds for printing provided by Federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Statewide Leadership grant project.