

**Arkansas Association of Continuing and Adult Education (AACAE)**  
**Message from the AACAE Executive Committee**



**Dorissa Kaufman**  
President



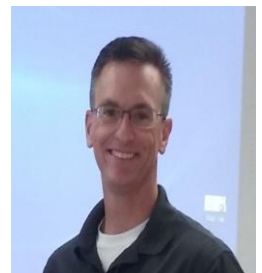
**Dr. Robbie Cornelius**  
Vice President



**Anne Bonkofsky**  
Secretary



**LaCarol Clement**  
Treasurer



**Scott Sikora**  
Parliamentarian

Welcome to Little Rock for the Arkansas Association of Continuing and Adult Education Annual Conference! The AACAE Executive Board carefully chose our location and theme, “Discover your next...” to represent our hard work and continuous growth in adult education. Adult Education has grown beyond the brick-and-mortar of getting only a high school diploma. We have expanded our horizon by offering our students WAGE I and II certificates and IETs (that include but are not limited to CNA, phlebotomy, manufacturing, CDL, paraprofessional certification and welding). We hope that this conference inspires you to spend time learning and connecting with colleagues. Adult Education is an ever-changing world, and we can all be better, together.

The Board has been working hard all year with many volunteer hours to offer top-notch professional development sessions and networking opportunities, which include instructional strategies, English language learners, workforce, transitions, resources, diversity, and literacy councils. We have lots of new surprises in store!

We are very fortunate to have AACAE as a state professional organization for adult educators. However, we still need your continued support. Your yearly dues include membership to our national counterpart, the Commission on Adult and Basic Education (COABE), which offers a variety of benefits including free regular training webinars on critical adult education topics. We ask that you attend the business meeting on Friday morning because we need your input for AACAE’s future. At this time, we would like to acknowledge some very important members of our team. Without support from Dr. Miles, Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center (AALRC) and literacy councils, we would not have the time, energy or resources to make this conference happen. The AACAE Executive Board would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge its appreciation and recognition for the following individuals who attend, participate, and assist in our board meetings:



**Dr. Trenia Miles**  
Director  
Adult Education  
Section



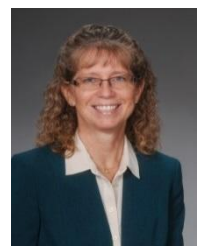
**Marsha Taylor**  
AALRC



**Rob Pollan**  
AALRC



**Klaus Neu**  
AALRC



**Nancy Leonhardt**  
Director  
ALA

## Message from the Director of Adult Education

### Dr. Trenia Miles

On behalf of the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Adult Education Section, I want to thank directors, teachers, volunteers, and staff across the state for contributing to students' success. I also want to give special acknowledgments to the Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center (AALRC), Adult Learning Alliance (ALA), and state staff for the support provided to the field. Last but certainly not least, I want to thank the members of the Arkansas Association of Continuing and Adult Education (AACAE) committee, led by Dorissa Kaufman, for organizing and planning such a great conference. The AACAE committee has worked tirelessly to ensure this conference meets your needs and has practical application for you in the classroom. This year's theme, Key Ingredients for Success, is so appropriate and includes descriptors such as critical thinking, determination, dedication, and enthusiasm, to name a few. We know that these characteristics are essential not only in the classroom but also in life. You amaze me with your passion, creativity, problem-solving skills, and advocacy on behalf of your students. Without your commitment and hard work, we would not be as successful as a state and recognized nationally in meeting federal benchmarks. A favorite quote, "Legacy is not leaving something for people. It's leaving something in people," is the essence of the role of teachers in educating learners. Under your leadership and guidance, adult learners have earned their Arkansas High School Diploma, attained credentials and certifications, increased earnings, and, more importantly, have seen their confidence and self-esteem soar with such accomplishments. Continue instilling critical ingredients for success in our learners. Please enjoy the conference and have fun. Thank you for all that you do on behalf of our students.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Trenia Miles".

Trenia Miles, Ed.D.  
Director

## Message from the Executive Director of Adult Learning Alliance of Arkansas

### Nancy Leonhardt

What do you hope to discover as your next? As we join together to celebrate adult education and literacy in Arkansas, we have the opportunity to discover and remind ourselves why we do what we do.

Welcome to each of you to the 2023 AACAE Conference. I love the energy during this conference each year as administrators, teachers, and volunteers from adult education programs and literacy councils come together to learn and share their knowledge, best practices, skills, and creativity. We learn so much from each other. In addition, we have the opportunity to connect and find new ways to collaborate and best serve our students.

On behalf of the Adult Learning Alliance, I want to thank each of you across the state for all that you do on behalf of our students. Together, we can ensure the success of our programs and our adult learners. Please enjoy the conference and this wonderful city I call home.

Sincerely,



*Nancy Leonhardt*

Nancy Leonhardt, Executive Director

## **2023 AACAE Directory of Committees**





## **Committees:**

### **Audio Visual**

Klaus Neu, Little Rock, Chair  
Rob Pollan, Ft. Smith

### **Awards**

Anne Bonkofsky, Russellville, Chair

### **Bylaws**

TBD

### **Facilitators**

Scott Sikora, ASU Three Rivers, Chair

### **Legislative**

Dr. Debbie Faubus-Kendrick, Chair  
TBD, Northwest  
Dorissa Kaufman, Southeast  
Barbara Hamilton, Southwest  
Tammie Lemmons, Northeast  
TBD, Central  
Marsha Taylor, AALRC  
Dr. Trenia Miles, Adult Education Director  
Nancy Leonhardt, ALA Director

### **Luther H. Black Scholarship**

Lloyd Black, Chair  
Janie Carter, Crossett, Secretary  
Karolyn Farrell, Assist. Secretary  
Paulette Martin, LR, Treasurer  
Bobbie Sanders, LR, Asst. Treasurer  
Marsha Taylor\*, AALRC, AACAE Rep.

### **Nominating**

Northwest: Kerri Cisneros-Smith  
Southeast: Stephanie Bierbaum  
Northeast: Kendall Morrison  
Central: Debra Baker  
Southwest: Brandi Woods



### **Presenters**

Dr. Robbie Cornelius, Fayetteville, Chair

### **Publicity**

TBD

### **Registration**

LaCarol Clement, Lonoke, Chair  
Toccara Pearson, AALRC  
Marsha Taylor, AALRC

### **Vendors**

Marsha Taylor, AALRC, Chair

**Note:** Additional committee members may be appointed or recruited by chairs as appropriate.

## **Schedule**

# Wednesday, October 25th, 2023

## Pre-Conference

### Salon D-DoubleTree

Facilitators: Eddy Lemm, LaJuana Delph, & Marsha Taylor

9:00-9:15	Welcome & Introduction	
9:15-10:30	Crisis to Career Model	Paul Chapman, Executive Director Restore Hope Arkansas
10:30-10:45	Break	
10:45 – 12:00	WAGE™	LaJuana Delph, Workforce Development Coord. Adult Education Section
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch	
1:00-2:00	Group Activity: Education, Incarceration, and Reentry	
	★ <i>What's working</i>	
	★ <i>Identify new approaches</i>	
	★ <i>Issues of concern</i>	
	★ <i>Opportunities for innovation and collaboration</i>	
2:00-3:00	Round Table/Panel Discussion	Courtney Cooper, Assistant Area Manager Division of Community Corrections AR Department of Corrections Billy Inman, Reentry Specialist 100 Families/Restore Hope Arkansas
3:00	Wrap Up	

# Schedule

## Thursday, October 26th, 2023

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Registration

Vendors Open

9:00 am – 10:30 am

General Session - Robinson Center Still Ballroom

Opening Ceremony  
Invocation & Pledge

Scott Sikora, AACAE Parliamentarian, ASUTR

Welcome

Dorissa Kaufman, AACAE President, Director of Adult Education at UAM-McGehee

Welcome from COABE

Introduction of Speaker

Dr. Robbie Cornelius, AACAE Vice President,  
Director, Fayetteville Adult & Career Training

Keynote Speaker

Abtin Mehdizadegan, Attorney at Law, Hall Booth Smith PC

10:45 am – 11:45 am

**Breakout #1** – DoubleTree

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

Buffet Lunch is served - Robinson Center, Still Ballroom

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Vendor Presentation

Awards Presentation

Dr. Luther H. Black Scholarship Award  
Outstanding Paraprofessional  
Outstanding Adult Education Teacher  
Outstanding Education Administrator  
Outstanding Adult Education Supporter  
Outstanding Literacy Council Director

1:45 pm – 2:45 pm

**Breakout #2** – DoubleTree

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Break - Visit our Vendors & grab a complimentary snack
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Breakout #3 – DoubleTree</b>
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	<b>Adult Education Mixer – All AACAE participants &amp; vendors are invited! Please join us for an exciting night of networking and light hors d'oeuvres.</b>

## Schedule Friday, October 27, 2023

8:30 am – 9:15 am	<b>AACAE Business Meeting - Salon D</b> Presentation of New Officers Nominating Committee 2023
9:30 am – 10:30 am	<b>Breakout #4 –DoubleTree</b>
10:45 am – 11:45 am	<b>Breakout #5 – DoubleTree</b>



**We appreciate all these retirees and their service!**  
**Mary Catherine Carey , Northwest Arkansas Community College**  
**Alan Nolan, Russellville Adult Education**  
**Nancy Wood, North Arkansas College Adult Education**



## Keynote Speaker: Abtin Mehdizadegan

Abtin Mehdizadegan is a Partner in Hall Booth Smith, P.C.'s Little Rock, Arkansas office and represents employers in traditional labor and employment law matters. He has extensive experience defending businesses in high-stakes class and collective action lawsuits, employment and wage and hour lawsuits, labor grievance and arbitration proceedings, individual and systemic proceedings before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), unfair labor practice charges before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), federal wage and hour audits involving the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (DOL/WHd), unemployment appeals, business disputes, products liability defense, and constitutional law litigation. He has successfully handled appeals before the Supreme Court of Arkansas and the Fifth and Eighth Circuit Courts of Appeal; dozens of lawsuits at the district court level; and he serves as an Adjunct Professor teaching Employment Law at the University of Arkansas Little Rock Bowen School of Law.



Clients routinely engage Abtin to conduct comprehensive employment law counseling and training to their workforces; to develop policies and handbooks; and to assist businesses with matters pertaining to affirmative action and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Abtin's clients are leaders in a range of industries across the private, public, and non-profit sectors, including healthcare, surface and air transportation, cybersecurity, banking and FINRA-regulated industries, agriculture, retail, higher education, and insurance. He is particularly capable in handling matters involving sophisticated technologies given his prior experience for a leading computer and software manufacturer.

In addition to his trial and appellate work, Abtin's daily practice revolves significantly around providing advice and counsel to Boards of Directors, C-Suite Executives, HR Leaders, and In-House Counsel on a broad range of employment issues providing practical problem-solving solutions. Additionally, he is an experienced and effective workplace investigator, and he regularly conducts outside investigations into allegations of employee misconduct, harassment, discrimination, retaliation, or other sensitive issues. He similarly provides advice and counsel regarding compliance with the Family and Medical Leave Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VII and Title IX, the Equal Pay Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' (OFCCP) regulations pertaining to government contractors and subcontractors.

Given his commitment to excellence in the practice of law, Abtin was honored to receive the *Friend of SBS Award* (2023) for his successful handling of high-stakes litigation; the *Spirit of Maine Achievement Award* (2019) from the University of Maine, his alma mater, for his professional accomplishments; and the *Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award* (2017) from the Center for Arkansas Legal Services for his successful Supreme Court litigation that established important constitutional protections in child guardianship proceedings for domestic violence survivors. Abtin's accomplishments have also been recognized for several years by the *Mid-South Super Lawyers* for his dedication to employment law; *Arkansas Business* magazine as a member of its class of *20 in their 20s, the New Influentials*; by *HR Professionals* magazine as a Rising Star in Employment Law; and by *Arkansas Life* magazine in its Top Attorneys feature.

## **EDUCATION**

J.D., with honors, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Bowen School of Law  
B.A., *cum laude*, Political Science, University of Maine

## **Publications**

"Is Your Website ADA-Accessible?" *HR Professionals*, February 2017

"The Future of ADA Litigation," *Arkansas Law Notes*, 2016

"No Good Deed Goes Unpunished: the Do's and Don'ts of Employee Wellness Plans," *HR Professionals*, October 2014

"Bringing Home the BACON: What the Davis-Bacon Act Means for your Business," *HR Professionals*, June 2014

"An Overview of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2013," *HR Professionals*, November 2013

Case Note, Proactive Cell Phone Security Policies in the Workplace: Avoid Liability as Hi-Tech Devices Hack Confidentiality. 35 *University of Arkansas Little Rock Law Review* 1 (2013)

Case Survey, Voters Have the Right to Cast Open or Secret Ballots: Hamaker v. Pulaski County Election Commission. 2011 *Arkansas* 390 (2011), *Arkansas Bar Newsletter* (December 2012)

# Thank You to our Vendors & Sponsors, we appreciate your partnership!

**Aztec Software, Booth 1**  
Chip Gillikin & Alan Dale



**New Readers Press, Booth 7**  
Rebecca Eller-Molitas



**\$5 Jewelry Junkies by Paparazzi, Booth 2**  
Joyce Jackson & Durell Jackson



**Red Comet, Booth 8**  
Sridhar Narayan



**Essential Education, Booth 3**  
Russell Johnson, & Charlie Weeks



**Burlington English, Booth 9**  
Miranda LaBatt



**GED® Testing Service, Booths 4**  
Debbie Faucette



**Townsend Press, Booth 10**  
George Henry



**Data Recognition Corp (DRC), Booth 5**  
Chasity Wright



**AdvanceNet Labs, Booth 11**  
Nathaniel Cheshier & Keith Thode



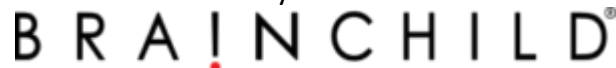
**Arkansas Reads, Booth 6**  
Belinda Sanders



**TRIO, Booth 12**  
Leah Irvin & Howard Jackson



**Brainchild, Booth 13**  
Joey Gamble



**AACAE & ALA CONFERENCE****Thursday, October 26, 2023**

<i>Location</i>	<i>General Session 9 am – 10:30 am</i>	<i>Breakout 1 10:45 am – 11:45 am</i>	<i>Lunch &amp; Awards 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm</i>	<i>Breakout 2 1:45 pm – 2:45 pm</i>	<i>Breakout 3 3:00pm – 4:00pm</i>
<b>Robinson Center Ballroom A-C</b>	<i>General Session</i>		<i>Lunch &amp; Awards</i>		
<b>Salon A</b>		Debbie Feagin: Discover Your Next “Creativity with Canva”		Kathryn Rasure: Aztec GED Flash to Increase Student Testing Confidence	Amanda Moore: Mastering Social Media for Adult Education Success: A Step-by- Step Guide
<b>Salon B</b>		Abtin Mehdizadegan: Is That Discrimination? Implicit Bias, Microaggressions, and Managing in a Contemporary Workplace		Dianne Doyle: All About Accommodations	Tad Meyer: A Teacher’s Dozen: Activities to Engage Your Learners
<b>Salon C</b>		Daniel Lee: Using LACES and YouTube to Achieve Student Success		Christina Miller: Engaging and Motivating Learners to Improve Outcomes	Janice Ellis: ELL Conversation Class
<b>Riverside East</b>		Kenda Grover: Your Next Step: Obtaining Your Adult Education License		Chasity Wright: TABE Testing Updates and Overview of the New TABE Workforce Readiness Portal	Debi Faucette: “Discover Your Next” with GED Testing Service
<b>Riverside West Literacy Councils</b>		Alejandra Garza: Diverse Recruiting and Multilingual Resources		Jenny Walker: Culture Begins with Leadership	Nancy Leonhardt: Literacy Council Best Practices and Ideas Panel

**Please visit our vendors and show your appreciation for their support of AACAE!****\*Conference Map located on the back page.**

**AACAE & ALA CONFERENCE****Friday, October 27, 2023**

<i>Location</i>	<i>Membership Business Meeting, 8:30 am - 9:15 am</i>	<i>Breakout 4 9:30 am – 10:30 am</i>	<i>Breakout 5 10:45 am – 11:45 am</i>
<b>Salon D</b>	Membership Business Meeting	Amanda Kuttenkuler: Why Mental Health Matters	
<b>Salon A</b>		Christina Miller: Reading to Learn - Strategies for the Struggling Reader	Anne Bonkofsky: Teaching Skills That Matter
<b>Salon B</b>		Ashley Hammond: Pharmacy Tech...Discover Your Next IET!	Charlie Weeks: Best Practices for Increasing Engagement and Outcomes with Online Curriculum
<b>Salon C</b>		Anthia Ratna: Teaching Literacy to Young Learners in Non-NES Country	LaJuana Delph: Discovering Your Next: The Building Blocks of Workplace Competencies
<b>Riverside East</b>		Brandy Chronister: Draw Arkansas	Sulideisi Camacho: Empowering Futures: Build Rapport to Guide Students in Discovering Their Next Steps
<b>Riverside West Literacy Councils</b>	Dixie Evans: Leveraging Your Local Imagination Library Program for Family Literacy & Parent Engagement Programs	Literacy Council Roundtable	Literacy Council Roundtable

**\*Conference Map located on the back page.**

## **Breakout 1: Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:45 am to 11:45 am**

### **Discover Your Next “Creativity With Canva”**

Debbie Feagin, Director, EACC Adult Education & Literacy, [dfeagin@eacc.edu](mailto:dfeagin@eacc.edu)

Chantil Newmon, Instructor

Briley Padilla, Instructor

Canva is a free popular graphic design platform that allows users to create various content like social media graphics, posters, presentations, and more. Canva offers many additional features, like animations, which allows you to share your design directly on social media or download it for other purposes. This session will show you how to create a Canva account, choose a design type, customize the design, and save and export your creation.

### **Is That Discrimination? Implicit Bias, Microaggressions, and Managing in a Contemporary Workplace**

Abtin Mehdizadegan, Attorney at Law, Hall Booth Smith, P.C., [abtin@hallboothsmith.com](mailto:abtin@hallboothsmith.com)

This breakout session will provide a litigator's perspective into contemporary management issues in the workplace - establishing a strategy of both fostering a thriving workplace culture while also limiting potential liability; and provide a roadmap to follow in any challenging employment dispute.

### **Using LACES and YouTube to Achieve Student Success**

Daniel Lee, Adult Education Instructor, ASU-Newport, [daniel\\_lee@asun.edu](mailto:daniel_lee@asun.edu)

Explore useful tools and resources to unlock each student's learning potential and to achieve high retention and pass rates.

### **Your Next Step: Obtaining Your Adult Education License**

Kenda Grover, Associate Professor, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, [kgrover@uark.edu](mailto:kgrover@uark.edu)

Marsha Taylor, Director, AALRC, [marsha@aalrc.org](mailto:marsha@aalrc.org)

This session will provide instructors and administrators with information about the online Master of Education degree in Adult and Lifelong Learning offered at the University of Arkansas and details about completing the coursework necessary for licensure in adult education. Content will focus on the admission process, the nature of required coursework, and procedure for applying for licensure. Information will also be provided about the Doctor of Education degree in ADLL.

### **Diverse Recruiting and Multilingual Resources**

Alejandra Garza, Co-Director River Valley Adult Learning Alliance/GED Spanish, Russellville Adult Education Center, [areyes149@gmail.com](mailto:areyes149@gmail.com)

Emely Rincon, GED Student

This presentation will describe best practices in multicultural and multilingual awareness-raising strategies used to recruit students. Materials will also be provided in Spanish, one of the most demanding languages used in the state.



## Breakout 2: Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:45 pm to 2:45 pm

### **Aztec GED Flash to Increase Student Testing Confidence**

Kathryn Rasure, Instructor/WAGE Coordinator, Lonoke/Prairie County Adult Education Center,  
[kathryn.rasure@lonokeschools.org](mailto:kathryn.rasure@lonokeschools.org)

Tracy Donahoe, Instructor, Lonoke Adult Education

Are you using Aztec Flashcards as your final step to prep your students for the Ready Test or to increase GED test scores? If you aren't, you are missing an opportunity to build testing confidence with your students that are right on the 435 passing line. We will share our student success statistics and how we use the flashcards to build testing confidence with our students.

### **All About Accommodations**

Dianne Doyle, HSE Coordinator, Adult Education Section, Division of Workforce Services, [dianne.doyle@arkansas.gov](mailto:dianne.doyle@arkansas.gov)

Wendy Bryant, ADA Coordinator, Adult Education Section, Division of Workforce Services

This session will discuss the accommodations process for high school equivalency testing, including new changes and how to be an effective advocate for the test taker.

### **Discovering Your Next: The Building Blocks of Workplace Competencies**

LaJuana Delph, Adult Education Workforce Development Coordinator, Adult Education Section, Division of Workforce Services, [lajuana.delph@arkansas.gov](mailto:lajuana.delph@arkansas.gov)

LaTasha Dale-Warren, Adult Education Section, Division of Workforce Services

Phyllis Fitzpatrick, Adult Education Section, Division of Workforce Services

The Arkansas Adult Education's Workforce Preparation and Training Program (WAGE) utilizes the Workforce Industry Competencies; the Competency Model Clearinghouse to develop contextualized instruction, IETs, and workplace classes. This training session will focus on knowledge, skills, and abilities such as interpersonal skills, integrity, professionalism, initiative, and adaptability in the classroom. Incorporates the Building Blocks Model in Adult Education that reflects the foundational knowledge and skills needed by today's workforce or assists in the development of curriculum that connects with everyday job positions available across the state.

### **Engaging and Motivating Learners to Improve Outcomes**

Christina Miller, National Consultant, Aztec, [chmillerconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:chmillerconsulting@gmail.com)

Engaging learners through interactive classroom activities will increase motivation, improve critical thinking skills, and lead to higher learner achievements and outcomes. Research shows a direct correlation between the power of motivating learners through active learning strategies and the impact that motivation has on learning characteristics such as attention and memory. The focus of this session will be to provide the fundamentals of how learning happens, what impacts learning, and building a learning climate in the classroom that yields results.

### **TABE Testing Updates and Overview of the New TABE Workforce Readiness Portal - Aligning TABE Scores to Career Skills from O\*Net**

Chasity Wright, Assessment Solutions Consultant, Data Recognition Corporation, [chwright@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto:chwright@datarecognitioncorp.com)

This session will review updates and best practices for TABE testing, including Off-Line Testing, plans for TABE 13/14 and discuss the use of TABE CLAS-E Online that can support ESL programs. We will review new alignments to Grade Ranges and the Concordance of TABE 11/12 to available High School Equivalency tests. We will also explore the new TABE Workforce Portal that aligns TABE Scores to over 900 of the Bright Outlook careers posted in the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Network (O\*Net).

### **Culture Begins with Leadership**

Jenny Walker, Executive Director, Literacy Council of Bowie and Miller Counties, [jenny@literacytxk.org](mailto:jenny@literacytxk.org)

A positive culture improves recruitment, retention, and completion among program participants and volunteers, but creating that culture does not happen by accident. Learn about intentional strategies Literacy Council leaders can implement to develop a culture that makes everyone feel safe, welcome, and loved.

## **Breakout 3: Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

### **Mastering Social Media for Adult Education Success: A Step-by-Step Guide**

Amanda Moore, Instructional Specialist and WAGE Coordinator, SAU Tech Adult Education, [amoore@sautech.edu](mailto:amoore@sautech.edu)

Get ready to roll up your sleeves and dive into a practical, hands-on tutorial that equips you with the skills to harness the true potential of social media in adult education. In this interactive session, we will unveil the secrets to leveraging your digital imprint for marketing and retention, providing you with actionable steps to implement immediately..

### **A Teacher's Dozen: Activities to Engage Your Learners**

Tad Meyer, Customer Manager, BurlingtonEnglish, [tad.m@burlingtonenglish.com](mailto:tad.m@burlingtonenglish.com)

Rebekah Van Lare, BurlingtonEnglish

Join our session to learn about multilevel classroom practices to differentiate instruction and adapt activities to keep all students engaged and appropriately challenged. We will share ideas and strategies to meet the diverse learning needs of each of your English Language Learners and enrich your multilevel classroom. Participants will leave full of new strategies to support their English language learners. Join our conference classroom and sweeten your day with the BurlingtonEnglish team!

### **ELL Conversation Class**

Janice Ellis, Faculty, NorthWest Arkansas Community College, [jwhite39@nwacc.edu](mailto:jwhite39@nwacc.edu)

NWACC ELL Team: Janice Ellis, Vickie Johnson, Dornely Perez, and Ed Rogers

Ideas to use when facilitating an ELL Conversation Class.

### **“Discover Your Next” with GED Testing Service**

Debi Faucette, Senior Director, GED Testing Service, [debi.faucette@ged.com](mailto:debi.faucette@ged.com)

GED Testing Service welcomes the partnership with educators and learners to “Discover Your Next!” We constantly strive for “the next” innovations or enhancements to existing resources and services for learners and educators. Join us to discover the exciting new innovations: the GED Mobile App coming soon, new partnerships to open additional doors for our learners, and ways to address IET requirements. Refresh your knowledge regarding all things GED with updates in the tools and resources you use every day. From research outcomes to instructional strategies, the focus is always on the learner, and we at GED Testing service understand that focusing on dedicated educators is our path to maintain the focus on the learner.

### **Literacy Council Best Practices and Ideas**

Nancy Leonhardt, Executive Director, Adult Learning Alliance, [nancyleonhardt@arkansasliteracy.org](mailto:nancyleonhardt@arkansasliteracy.org)

Debbie Feagin, Mary Kay Martin, Jessica Blasingame, Diedra Gunnels, and Sarah Richardson

Hear some new best practices and ideas from the Directors of literacy councils in Eastern Arkansas, Mississippi County, Crawford County, Columbia County and Garland County.

## Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am – 9:15 am

### **AACAE Membership Business Meeting**

AACAE and ALA Members

The primary objective of the AACAE business meeting is to provide AACAE members with an opportunity to communicate and discuss ideas, plans, and decisions relevant to the organization.

### **Leveraging Your Local Imagination Library Program for Family Literacy & Parent Engagement Programs**

Dixie Evans, Executive Director (Former), Literacy Council of White County, [dixie.evansconcretellc@gmail.com](mailto:dixie.evansconcretellc@gmail.com)

Learn how to leverage the free books through the statewide Arkansas Imagination Library Program to develop comprehensive Family Literacy and Parent Engagement programs. Additional tools, resources, and program information will be shared on how Literacy Council of White County used Imagination Library to enhance adult learning and parent participation.

## Breakout 4: Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – 10:30 am

### **Why Mental Health Matters**

Amanda Kuttenkuler, Vice President of Programs, Arkansas Rural Health Partnership, [amanda@arruralhealth.org](mailto:amanda@arruralhealth.org)

This session will look at mental health numbers, myths and facts, de-escalation techniques, and how suicide rates affect us all.

### **Reading to Learn - Strategies for the Struggling Reader**

Christina Miller, National Consultant, Aztec, [chmillercounseling@gmail.com](mailto:chmillercounseling@gmail.com)

Adult education teachers come from diverse educational backgrounds. Not all teachers are trained to help struggling readers navigate reading across the different subject areas. We will preview several strategies of teaching academic reading that will help teachers provide learners with a better understanding of how to approach science, social studies, and other academic subjects and will give learners a more organized way to approach learning course content. Active learning strategies presented in this session will help participants understand the transition from “learning to read to reading to learn.”

### **Pharmacy Tech...Discover Your Next IET!**

Ashley Hammond, Lead Teacher/ADA Coordinator/Distance Learning Coordinator, UAM McGehee, [hammond@uamont.edu](mailto:hammond@uamont.edu)

Come discover an IET to increase overall enrollment, improve your distance learning clientele, and grow your retention rates. The Pharmacy Technician program from Aztec is what you are looking for in your next IET. This session will explain the procedures, structure, and resources we provide in our LEA to make Pharmacy Technician Training a successful IET.

### **Teaching Literacy to Young Learners in Non-NES Country**

Anthia Ratna, EFL Teacher, Khon Kaen University Demonstration School International Division, Thailand, [ratnaanthia@gmail.com](mailto:ratnaanthia@gmail.com)

The session will talk about stages of literacy development, how to plan the game-based lesson, planning the curriculum, and how literacy activities should be introduced.

### **Draw Arkansas**

Brandy Chronister, Russellville Adult Education Center, ESL Instructor, [brandy.cunningham@rsdk12.net](mailto:brandy.cunningham@rsdk12.net)  
Amanda Moore, Brandi Ricks, and Browder Swetnam

Discover digital resiliency skills through the DRAW program.

## **Breakout 5: Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:45 am – 11:45 am**

### **Teaching Skills That Matter**

Anne Bonkofsky, WAGE Coordinator, Russellville Adult Education Center, [anne.bonkofsky@rsdk12.net](mailto:anne.bonkofsky@rsdk12.net)  
Jane Baldwin, Deanna Bruce, Dana Rockwell

The Teaching Skills That Matter in Adult Education project (TSTM) trains teachers to integrate the skills that matter to adult students using approaches that work across critical topics. Using the project's tools and training, adult education teachers can teach the transferable skills students need in these critical contexts.

### **Best Practices for Increasing Engagement and Outcomes with Online Curriculum**

Charlie Weeks, Director of Client Success, Essential Education, [charlie@essentialed.com](mailto:charlie@essentialed.com)

Do you need to get your students up and running with Essential Education or expand your current usage of online curricula in general? If so, this session is for you. This session will go over best practices that educators can implement in their classrooms immediately. If you do not use Essential Education software, there will still be great takeaways and ideas to implement into any classroom. This list of best practices has been compiled through research and feedback from teachers and programs across the country. Topics to be discussed include: student orientation, feedback, monitoring progress, practical strategies and activities to use Essential Education in your classroom, teachers' presence, persistence and engagement, and more. Come learn ways to better utilize this awesome learning tool in and out of the classroom. You will leave with a more focused approach when blending online curriculum in your classroom.

### **Discovering Your Next: The Building Blocks of Workplace Competencies**

LaJuana Delph, Adult Education Workforce Development Coordinator, Adult Education Section, Division of Workforce Services, [lajuana.delph@arkansas.gov](mailto:lajuana.delph@arkansas.gov)

LaTasha Dale-Warren, Adult Education Section, Division of Workforce Services  
Phyllis Fitzpatrick, Adult Education Section, Division of Workforce Services

The Arkansas Adult Education's Workforce Preparation and Training Program (WAGE) utilizes the Workforce Industry Competencies; the Competency Model Clearinghouse to develop contextualized instruction, IETs, and workplace classes. This training session will focus on knowledge, skills, and abilities such as interpersonal skills, integrity, professionalism, initiative, and adaptability in the classroom. Incorporates the Building Blocks Model in Adult Education that reflects the foundational knowledge and skills needed by today's workforce or assists in the development of curriculum that connects with everyday job positions available across the state.

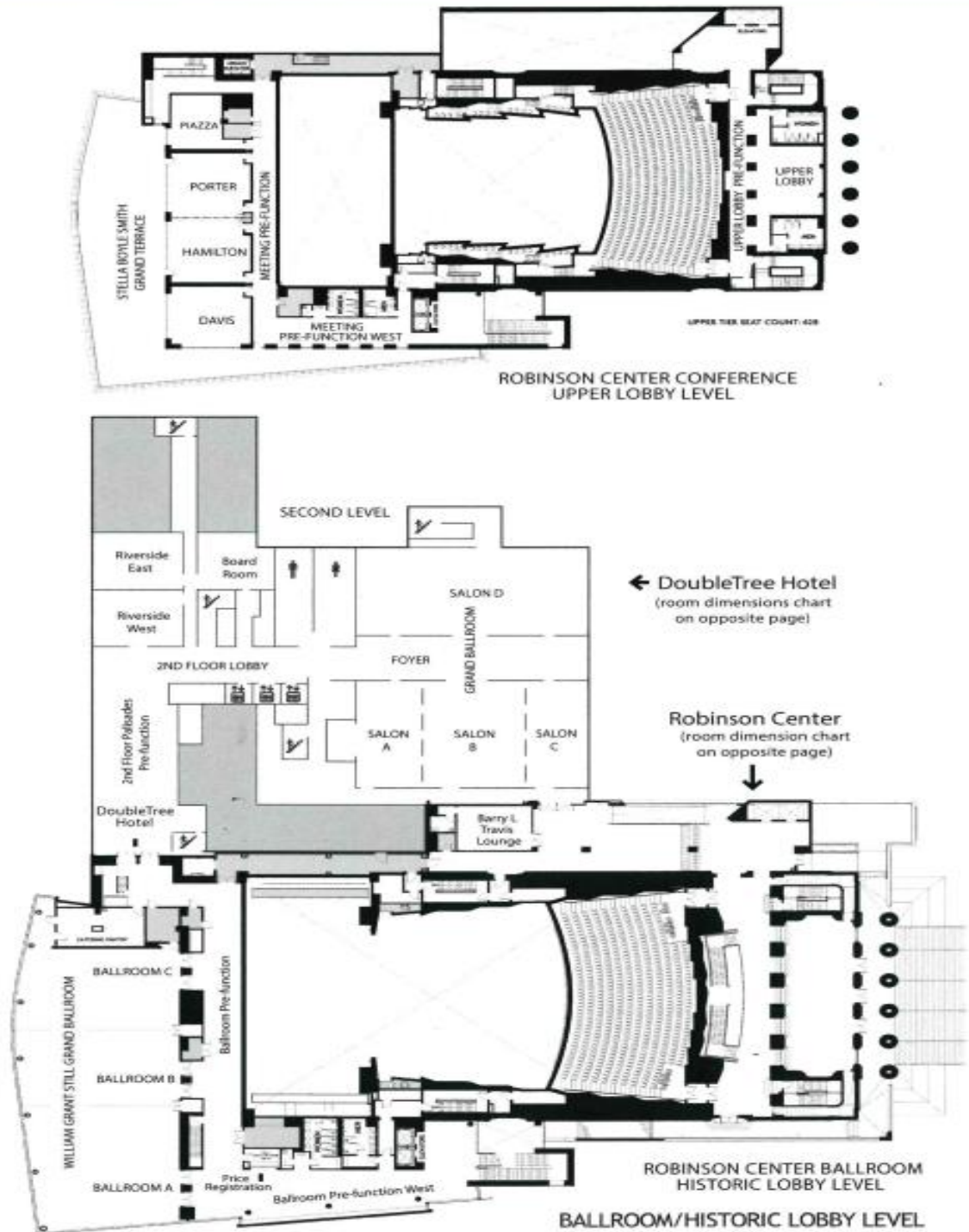
### **Empowering Futures: Build Rapport to Guide Students in Discovering Their Next Steps**

Sulideisi Camacho, Adult Education Section, [sulideisi.camacho@arkansas.gov](mailto:sulideisi.camacho@arkansas.gov)  
Eduardo Lemm, Program Advisor, Division of Workforce Service Adult Education Section

This workshop will focus on building rapport to create a positive and nurturing environment where students feel empowered to explore their interests, skills, and passions. Furthermore, this workshop will explore career exploration methodologies to assist students in identifying and aligning their skills with potential job and career opportunities.

WIFI PASSWORDS: ROBINSON CENTER: username:  
DoubleTree Hotel: Network: hhonors\_meeting PW: dtlr2023

## Floor Plans



WIFI PASSWORDS: ROBINSON CENTER: username:

