



**2025 AACAE CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 29-31, 2025
Hot Springs Convention Center
Hot Springs, Arkansas**

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



Dr. Robbie Cornelius
President



Kim Darling
Vice President



Anne Bonkofsky
Secretary



LaCarol Clement
Treasurer



Scott Sikora
Parliamentarian

Adult education and workforce training are crucial for maintaining a dynamic and competitive economy while fostering individual success. In a rapidly evolving job market, continuous learning is no longer a luxury but a necessity for both employees and employers. For individuals, acquiring new skills or updating existing ones ensures job security and opens doors to career advancement and higher earning potential. It empowers those who may have missed opportunities earlier in life, providing a second chance to pursue meaningful work and achieve personal goals. Furthermore, a highly skilled workforce is essential for businesses to innovate, increase productivity, and stay competitive globally. Companies that invest in training programs see better talent retention and a more adaptable, engaged workforce. When individuals embrace lifelong learning, they not only improve their own lives but also contribute to the overall resilience and prosperity of their communities. It is an investment that pays dividends for society as a whole. **Let Your Spirit Move You – Elevate Your Potential** by actively engaging with your students in the pursuit of knowledge and skills necessary for the modern world.

The Board has been working hard all year 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 truly 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 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. Trena Miles
Director
Office of Adult
Education



Marsha Taylor
AALRC



Rob Pollan
AALRC



Nancy Leonhardt
Director
ALA



Dr. Dorissa
Kaufman
Director
Past-President

Message from the Director of Adult Education
Dr. Trenia Miles

Welcome to this year's statewide conference, where our theme, *"Let Your Spirit Move You – Elevate Your Potential,"* calls us to reflect on the passion and purpose that drive our work each day. In every classroom, every lesson, and every life we touch, we are not only teaching – we are transforming.

Adult education is more than instruction; it is inspiration. As educators and leaders, your unwavering dedication helps learners overcome barriers, reach milestones, and achieve dreams once thought out of reach. You are the spark that ignites change, and this conference is a time to reconnect with that purpose, share best practices, and continue growing as professionals and as people.

For the last two years, Arkansas has exceeded all five of its Negotiated Federal Benchmarks – a testament to the tireless commitment and high standards upheld by educators like you. This year, we look ahead with renewed energy, ready to elevate not only our potential but also that of every learner we serve.

Let this time together recharge your spirit, fuel your innovation, and remind you of the extraordinary impact you make every single day. Thank you for the work you do and for answering the call to serve.

With gratitude and admiration,



Trenia Miles, Ed.D.
Director, Arkansas Office of Adult Education

Message from the Executive Director of Adult Learning Alliance of Arkansas
Nancy Leonhardt

On behalf of the Adult Learning Alliance, welcome, Arkansas Adult Education and Literacy Council Directors, Teachers, and Volunteers!

We are so glad you're here. Each of you plays a vital role in transforming lives and strengthening our communities through the power of education. Together, we are not only teaching skills but also unlocking possibilities and elevating potential – for our students and for ourselves as educators.

This conference is a time to connect, share ideas, and celebrate the impact you make every day. As we learn and grow alongside one another, may we continue to inspire confidence, foster resilience, and create opportunities that change futures.

Thank you for your dedication, your leadership, and your heart for adult learners. Let's make this year one of growth, innovation, and success – because when we elevate potential, we elevate Arkansas.

Sincerely,



Nancy Leonhardt
Executive Director, Adult Learning Alliance



2025 AACAE Directory of Committees



Committees:

Audio Visual

Rob Pollan, Ft. Smith, Chair

Awards

Anne Bonkofsky, Russellville, Chair

Bylaws

TBD

Facilitators

Scott Sikora, ASU Three Rivers, Chair

Legislative

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

Luther H. Black Scholarship

Lloyd Black, Chair
Janie Carter, Secretary
Karolyn Farrell, Asst. Secretary
Bobbie Sanders, Treasurer
Marsha Taylor, AACAE Rep.

Nominating

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

Presenters

Kim Darling, Morrilton, Chair

Publicity

TBD

Registration

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

Vendors

Marsha Taylor, AALRC, Chair

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

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Network Name: Hot Springs Wi-Fi
Password: spacity2025

Wednesday, October 29, 2025
2025 AACAE Pre-Conference
Meeting Rooms 207-208

Facilitator: Marsha Taylor

9:00 – 9:15	Welcome & Introductions	Marsha Taylor
9:15 – 10:30	I'm Not a Trained Counselor, but My Students Need Help!	Steve Schmidt, Ed.S. Adult Education Consultant COABE Professional Development Coordinator
10:30 – 10:45	Break	
10:45 – 12:00	I'm Not a Trained Counselor Part 2	Steve Schmidt
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:30	Teaching the Anxious and Depressed Student	Steve Schmidt
2:30 – 2:45	Break	
2:45 – 4:00	We Never Get a Chance to Talk	Steve Schmidt
4:00	Wrap Up	

Thursday, October 30, 2025

2025 AACAE Conference – Day 1

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Registration
	Vendors Open
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	General Session – Meeting Rooms 207-209
Pledge of Allegiance	Scott Sikora, AACAE Parliamentarian, ASUTR
Welcome	Dr. Robbie Cornelius, AACAE President Director, Fayetteville Adult Career Training
Introduction of Speaker	Kim Darling, AACAE Vice President Director, UACC Morrilton
Keynote Speaker	Steve Schmidt, Adult Education Consultant and COABE Professional Development Coordinator
10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Breakout #1 – Meeting Rooms
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch is served – Meeting Rooms 207-209
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	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 Burlington English Student Awards
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Breakout #2 – Meeting Rooms
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break – Be sure to visit our vendors!
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Breakout #3 – Meeting Rooms
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Adult Education Mixer in the Grand Lobby of the Convention Center – All AACAE participants and vendors are invited! Please join us for an exciting night of networking and activities.

Friday, October 31, 2025
2025 AACAE Conference – Day 2

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

AACAE Business Meeting
Meeting Rooms 207-209

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Breakout #4 – Meeting Rooms

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Breakout #5 – Meeting Rooms

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Network Name: Hot Springs Wi-Fi
Password: spacity2025

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE 2025 AACAE CONFERENCE.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU NEXT YEAR!



We appreciate all the retirees for their service!

Keynote Speaker: Steven 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.

Mr. Schmidt's keynote presentation, "You Might Be an Adult Educator If...", presents a lighthearted look at what it means to be an adult educator from someone who's been in our field for over 30 years. You will have the chance to laugh, learn, and reflect. It will also include some lessons Steve has learned during his years in adult education that can help you have a more fulfilling career!

Thank you to our Vendors & Sponsors. We appreciate your partnership!

Aztec Software

Chip Gillikin, Marcus Ripp, & Alan Dale



University of Arkansas

Dr. Kenda Grover



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Essential Education

Russell Johnson



GED® Testing Service

Brian Smith & Shawn Watts



Data Recognition Corp (DRC)

Chasity Wright



TABE CLAS-E



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Jennifer Powell



AACAE & ALA CONFERENCE			Thursday, October 30, 2025		
Location	General Session 9 am – 10:30 am	Breakout 1 10:45 am – 11:45 am	Lunch & Awards 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Breakout 2 1:45 pm – 2:45 pm	Breakout 3 3:00pm – 4:00pm
Meeting Room 207-209	<i>General Session</i>		<i>Lunch & Awards</i>		
Meeting Room 102-103		Ann Beeson: Back to the Basics – Understanding and Applying Adult Learning Theory		Jerry Bayliss: Best Practices for WAGE I	Brad Coffman: Leading from Any Seat – Cultivating Leadership at Every Level
Meeting Room 201-202		Steve Schmidt: Producing Powerful Presentations		Neil Richmund: Understanding Your ConnectAble Platform	Shawn Watts: 2025 GED Overview
Meeting Room 205		Chasity Wright: Understanding Updates and Changes for TABE 13&14 and CLAS-E		Robin Graybill: Opening Doors to Workplace Readiness with Ventures 4e	Yulanda Riley: Connecting the Dots – Navigating Resources for Individuals with Barriers
Meeting Room 204		Dakota Wilson: No Tricks, Just Treats - Spooktacular Classroom Organization		Ashan Hampton: Let Your Spirit Lead – 10 Low- Tech Ways to Engage Adult Distance Learners	Lajuana Delph: Let Your Spirit Move You – Elevating Potential Through Workforce Preparation
Meeting Room 203		Kenda Grover: Elevate Your Practice – Obtaining Your Adult Education Licensure		Erin Tabor: Raising Reading Scores with WAGE 2	Katie Rasure: Elevate Your Career Potential - Using LinkedIn to Impress Employer Decision Makers
Please visit our vendors and show your appreciation for their support of AACAE!					

***Conference Map located on the last page.**

AACAE & ALA CONFERENCE			Friday, October 31, 2025	
Location	Membership Business Meeting, 8:30 am - 9:15 am	Breakout 4 9:30 am – 10:30 am	Breakout 5 10:45 am – 11:45 am	
Meeting Room 207-209	Membership Business Meeting			
Meeting Room 102-103		Charlie Weeks: Feedback that Fuels – Turning Student Data into Daily Wins	Jennifer Powell: Empowering Arkansas's Future Workforce with AR/VR and AI – Innovative Strategies for Adult Education & Workforce Development	
Meeting Room 201-202		Jenny Walker: Keep Learners Moving with Persistence, Plain Language, and Positive Culture – Part 1	Jenny Walker: Keep Learners Moving with Persistence, Plain Language, and Positive Culture – Part 2	
Meeting Room 205		Sally Price: Instructional Strategies for At-Risk Populations	Christy McCollough: WAGE 2 – A Spooktacular Path to Success	
Meeting Room 204	Literacy Councils: Q & A with Chasity Wright, DRC	Chris Miller: Learning That Leads to Earning – Designing IET Programs for Local Workforce Needs	Daniel Lee: Managed Enrollment – An Innovative Approach	
Meeting Room 203		Melissa Nestlehut: Class Organization and Class Management	Brandy Chronister: Teaching ESL with Manipulatives	

***Conference Map located on the last page.**

Breakout 1: Thursday, October 30th, 10:45 am to 11:45 am

Back to the Basics: Understanding and Applying Adult Learning Theory

Ann Beeson, Senior Sales Consultant, New Readers Press/ProLiteracy, abeeson@proliteracy.org

Understanding how adults learn is crucial for effective design and implementation of your adult education curriculum. This presentation will review the fundamentals of Adult Learning Theory and makes connections with theory through differentiated instruction. These connections can improve your instruction as well as improve student engagement and learning. This presentation is interactive and hopefully entertaining!

Producing Powerful Presentations

Steven Schmidt, Adult Education Consultant, COABE Professional Development Coordinator, schmidtconsulting4@gmail.com

Ever been in that class or workshop that was so boring you wish you were anywhere else? Find out the secrets of powerful presentations to make your classes and presentations sparkle with energy. Move away from bulleted slides to embrace visuals, engage your audience, and build a learning community.

Understanding Updates and Changes for TABE 13&14 and CLAS-E

Chasity Wright, Assessment Solutions Consultant, DRC, chwright@datarecognitioncorp.com

This session highlights for teachers and testing administrators the innovative features and updates of these assessments, designed to enhance adult education accuracy and effectiveness. Participants will gain an in-depth understanding of TABE 13 & 14, which comprehensively evaluates reading, mathematics, and language skills. Explore the connection of TABE Reading and Math to O*Net careers and look at the most frequently missed skills. Additionally, we will explore the TABE CLAS-E, focusing on assessing adult learners' English language proficiency in Reading, Listening, Writing, and Speaking.

No Tricks, Just Treats: Spooktacular Classroom Organization

Dakota Wilson, ASE Instructor, NorthWest Arkansas Community College Adult Education, dshelton@nwacc.com
Viktoria Nelson, ASE Coordinator, NWACC Adult Education

This session will provide educators with practical strategies and tools to create a well-structured and efficient classroom environment. Presenters will share best practices for developing clear attendance policies, maintaining and analyzing student data with Excel spreadsheets, and establishing classroom procedures that support consistency and student success. Participants will leave with actionable ideas and recourse to streamline daily routines, enhance organization, and improve overall classroom management.

Elevate Your Practice: Obtaining Your Adult Education Licensure

Dr. Kenda Grover, Associate Professor, University of Arkansas, kgrover@uark.edu
Marsha Taylor, Director, Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center

This session will equip instructors and administrators with information about the University of Arkansas's online Master of Education degree in Adult and Lifelong Learning, including pathways to adult education licensure. Participants will learn about admission requirements, core curriculum components, and the step-by-step licensure application process.

Breakout 2: Thursday, October 30th, 1:45 pm to 2:45 pm

Best Practices for WAGE I

Jerry Bayliss, Assistant Director, University of Arkansas at Monticello, baylissjl@uamont.edu

This workshop will be an open discussion of strategies to implement the WAGE Workforce Preparation Certificate into programs. Topics to be discussed include but are not limited to faculty and staff buy-in, integration of WAGE into curriculum, benefits to program health, and more!

Understanding Your ConnectAble Platform

Neil Richmond, Director, ConnectAble Inc., neil@getconnectable.com

Megan Linzy-Johnson, Membership Director, ConnectAble Inc.

Are you getting the most out of your ConnectAble platform? Chances are that there are tools in your system that you may not realize! Join us to uncover powerful tools hiding in plain sight – tools that simplify tracking, boost learners progress, and grow your program. We'll show you what's already at your fingertips and how to make it work harder for you. We will include a time for Q&A as well.

Opening Doors to Workplace Readiness with Ventures 4e

Robin Graybill, District Account Manager, Cambridge University Press & Assessment, robin.graybill@cambridge.org

Join us in this interactive, game-show themed session as we explore how integrating workplace skills into ESL lessons using the new Ventures 4e curriculum can open doors to success for English learners.

Let Your Spirit Lead: 10 Low-Tech Ways to Engage Adult Distance Learners

Ashan Hampton, Distance Education Coordinator, Office of Adult Education, ashan.hampton@arkansas.gov

Distance learning does not have to mean learning alone. This session explores how low-tech strategies can spark connection, foster belonging, and elevate potential among adult learners – especially in rural or low-bandwidth contexts. Drawing on real examples from Arkansas adult education programs, State Distance Education Coordinator Ashan R. Hampton shares practical approaches for building consistent communication routines, creating supportive peer networks, and using mobile-friendly tools that learners already own. Participants will learn how to strengthen behavioral, emotional, and cognitive engagement without relying on high-tech platforms or perfect internet access. With ten community-centered strategies, attendees will leave ready to help adult learners feel supported, connected, and motivated – no matter their location, device, or level of digital confidence.

Raising Reading Scores with WAGE 2

Erin Tabor, Career Coach, North Arkansas College, erin.tabor@northwark.edu

WAGE 2 is a great tool for helping ABE students transition into the workforce or find better employment, but it can also be used to help raise students' TABE scores in Reading. In this session, the benefits of the WAGE 2 curriculum as it relates to reading comprehension will be presented, as well as strategies for working with students during WAGE 2 instruction in one-on-one settings, in small groups, and as a class to raise their reading comprehension skills.

Breakout 3: Thursday, October 30th, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Leading from Any Seat: Cultivating Leadership at Every Level

Brad Coffman, Director, Russellville Adult Education, brad.coffman@rsdk12.net

Explore how leadership is more than a role – it's a mindset. Participants will learn practical strategies for taking initiative, building influence, and driving positive change from wherever they are in the organization.

2025 GED Overview

Shawn Watts, State Relationship Manager, GEDTS, shawn.watts@pearson.com

Brain Smith, GEDTS

Always Learning; Always Serving. GED Testing Service™ has had a rich and meaningful partnership with Arkansas Adult Education stakeholders for many years. We have worked in lock step to envision strategies and resources always driving to one purpose: more and better successful outcomes for students. This session will detail the new and innovative programs and resources available to students and educators as well as refresh your knowledge or resources that are new and enhanced. Join us to listen, learn, and most importantly, ask questions and share your thoughts and ideas to lead to improved student outcomes through our partnership.

Connecting the Dots: Navigating Resources for Individuals with Barriers

Yulanda Riley, SNAP E&T Program Advisor, Office of Adult Education, yulanda.s.riley@arkansas.gov

LaTasha Dale-Warren, Office of Adult Education

This one-hour workshop explores common personal, structural, and systemic barriers individuals face and provides practical strategies for connecting them to vital community resources. Through interactive activities and action planning, participants will leave with tools to strengthen their ability to navigate and bridge resource gaps.

Let Your Spirit Move You: Elevating Potential Through Workforce Preparation

LaJuana Delp, Workforce Development Coordinator, Office of Adult Education, lajuana.delp@arkansas.gov

In today's changing workforce and an era of rapid change, teachers must be more than conveyors of content – they are motivators who help learners see potential in themselves. This session, “Let Your Spirit Move You: Elevating Potential Through Workforce Preparation,” introduces a paradigm shift for WAGE™ educators: moving beyond checklists and assessment to ignite student purpose, ownership, and confidence. Grounded in the realities of the future workplace and evolving demands of industry, participants will explore how to balance structure with teacher creativity, connect instruction to workforce needs, and help learners unlock possibilities they may not yet see – in themselves and their future. In doing so, teachers will also rediscover their own passion and elevate the impact of their instruction.

Elevate Your Career Potential: Using LinkedIn to Impress Employer Decision Makers

Katie Rasure, Founder, KRDesigns Services, katie@krdesignsvaservices.com

LinkedIn is the best place for students to connect with employers to advance their careers. Students who learn and use LinkedIn correctly have a far greater chance of getting hired than people who are not trained on this platform. In this workshop, I will be teaching you how to create a professional profile that attracts recruiters and decision makers.

Friday, October 31st, 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.

Literacy Councils: Q&A with Chastity Wright, DRC

Chasity Wright, Assessment Solutions Consultant, DRC, chwright@datarecognitioncorp.com

Chasity Wright will have a question and answer session with the Arkansas Literacy Councils.

Breakout 4: Friday, October 31st, 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Feedback that Fuels: Turning Student Data into Daily Wins

Charlie Weeks, Sr. Implementation Specialist, Essential Education, charlie@essentiald.com

What if progress tracking could become your best motivational tool? In this session, educators will dive into Essential Education's dynamic reports and visual progress dashboards that bring learning to life. The session will highlight practical examples of how to use data to celebrate small wins, deliver effective feedback, and intervene when needed. Expect to leave with easy strategies you can use right away to keep students moving forward with confidence.

Keep Learners Moving with Persistence, Plain Language, and Positive Culture (Part 1)

Jenny Walker, Executive Director, Literacy Texas, jennymacwalker@gmail.com

Most adult students know what they need and why they want to learn. How can we always put them at the very center of their own learning process and make the learning experience one they actually look forward to? In this session, we will explore the 6 Drivers of Persistence developed by the New England Literacy Resource Center. We will also talk about the correlation between Adult Learner Persistence and Plain Language, and we will discuss the development of a positive, student-centered culture.

Instructional Strategies for At-Risk Populations

Sally Price, Educational Instruction Specialist, North Arkansas College, hernameis2007@gmail.com

The use of specialized, direct instruction with data monitoring in a multifaceted design often referred to as the universal design for learning (UDL) to reach students that come to ESL or ABE, with known and unknown barriers to education consistency considering socioeconomic factors that are often comorbid with existing problems to completing education. Incorporating structure, task rotations combined with teacher lead, teacher guided, student facilitation, and finally independent work to increase MSGs across all demographics. I will present in a PowerPoint or Google slide format and engage the audience for questions, setting goals and choosing action items list for group takeaways.

Learning That Leads to Earning: Designing IET Programs for Local Workforce Needs

Chris Miller, National Consultant for Adult Education and Workforce Development, Aztec, chmillerconsulting@gmail.com

Discover how to design Career Pathways to align with WIOA regulations and support IET program success. This session will highlight essential components such as employer engagement, partnership development, and using Labor Market Information (LMI) to inform program design. Participants will explore a practical framework for building comprehensive, industry-focused pathways and receive templates for local implementation. The session also includes guidance on designing Single Set of Learning Objectives (SSLOs) that integrate academic instruction with workforce preparation.

Class Organization and Class Management

Melissa Nestlehut, Instructor, Arkansas State University Beebe-Heber Springs Adult Education Center, manestlehut@asub.edu

Do you feel stressed when you walk into your classroom? We will be discussing solutions that will improve your classrooms' environment through organization and management tools you can use to create and enhanced learning space not only for your students but for yourself!

Breakout 5: Friday, October 31st, 10:45 am – 11:45 am

Empowering Arkansas's Future Workforce with AR/VR and AI: Innovative Strategies for Adult Education & Workforce Development

Jennifer Powell, Account Executive, zSpace, Inc., jpowell@zspace.com

Greg Johnson, Regional Vice President, zSpace, Inc.

Explore how adult education programs, workforce development initiatives, and GED preparation centers are leveraging augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and artificial intelligence (AI) to accelerate learning and career readiness. This session will highlight practical strategies for integrating immersive technologies into adult learning environments to improve skill attainment, boost confidence, and connect learners to in-demand careers. Leave with actionable insights to prepare adult learners for workforce entry, advancement, and industry-recognized certifications across healthcare, advanced manufacturing, transportation, agri-science, and more.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the role of AI/AR/VR in supporting adult learners, GED preparation, and workforce training.
- Explore evidence showing how immersive technology increases engagement, skill mastery, and job readiness.
- Identify funding opportunities to support technology adoption in adult education and workforce programs.

Keep Learners Moving with Persistence, Plain Language, and Positive Culture (Part 2)

Jenny Walker, Executive Director, Literacy Texas, jennymacwalker@gmail.com

Most adult students know what they need and why they want to learn. How can we always put them at the very center of their own learning process and make the learning experience one they actually look forward to? In this session, we will explore the 6 Drivers of Persistence developed by the New England Literacy Resource Center. We will also talk about the correlation between Adult Learner Persistence and Plain Language, and we will discuss the development of a positive, student-centered culture.

WAGE 2: A Spooktacular Path to Success

Christy McCollough, Instructor, Arkansas Tech University – Ozark Adult Education, cmccollough@atu.edu

Emily Morrow, ATU – Ozark Adult Education

Are you new to WAGE 2 and feeling a little spooked about where to start? Don't be afraid – this session will walk you step by step through how to implement WAGE 2 in your program. WAGE 2 is no trick – it's a treat for learners, focusing on industry-specific training that equips adults with the skills and certifications needed for high-demand jobs in healthcare, manufacturing, and IT.

Discover how earning these “spellbinding” industry-recognized certifications help participants scare away low wages, attract better opportunities, and rise from the graveyard of dead-end jobs into a future full of advancement and higher pay. Join us...if you dare... and unlock the magic of WAGE 2!

Managed Enrollment: An Innovate Approach

Daniel Lee, Adult Education Instructor, Arkansas State University – Newport, daniel_lee@asun.edu

This session will highlight ASU – Newport Adult Education and its implementation of managed enrollment cohorts. Moving managed enrollment from theory to practice is the critical step for Adult Education. Though the traditional, multi-level classroom remains valuable, integrating managed enrollment can modernize our services to better serve students. A commitment to ongoing planning, implementing, and evaluating is essential to prepare our students for successful careers.

Teaching ESL with Manipulatives

Brandy Chronister, ESL Instructor, Russellville Adult Education, veronica.jacobo@rsdk12.net

Veronica Jacobo, ESL Instructor, Russellville Adult Education

Using manipulatives in the ESL classroom. Walk away with ready to use props for any ESL class.

2025 AACAE Conference Notes

Session Title: _____

Presenter(s): _____

What I Learned: _____

Things I Want to Learn More About or Follow Up On: _____

Session Title: _____

Presenter(s): _____

What I Learned: _____

Things I Want to Learn More About or Follow Up On: _____



Session Title: _____

Presenter(s): _____

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Session Title: _____

Presenter(s): _____

What I Learned: _____

Things I Want to Learn More About or Follow Up On: _____

Session Title: _____

Presenter(s): _____

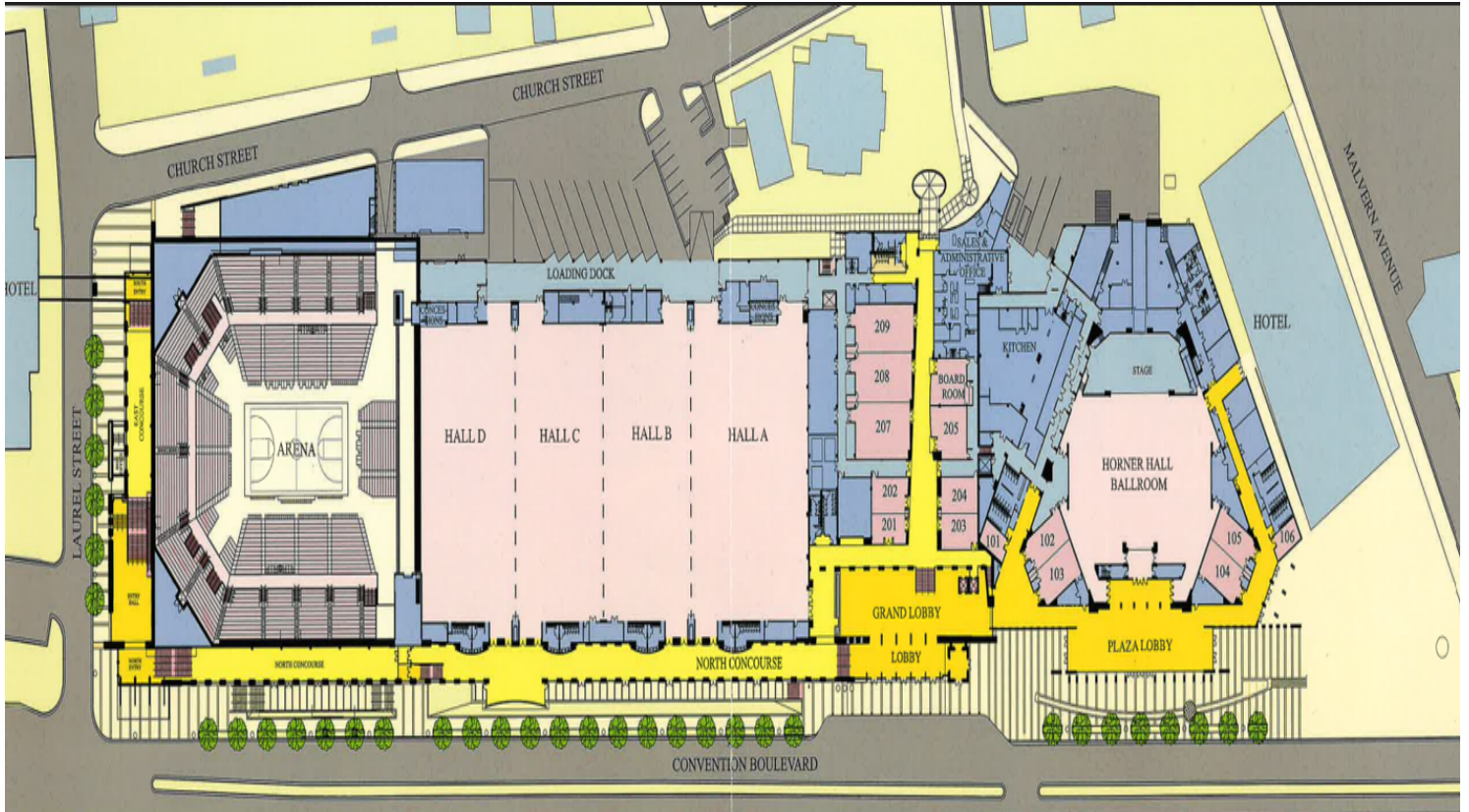
What I Learned: _____

Things I Want to Learn More About or Follow Up On: _____

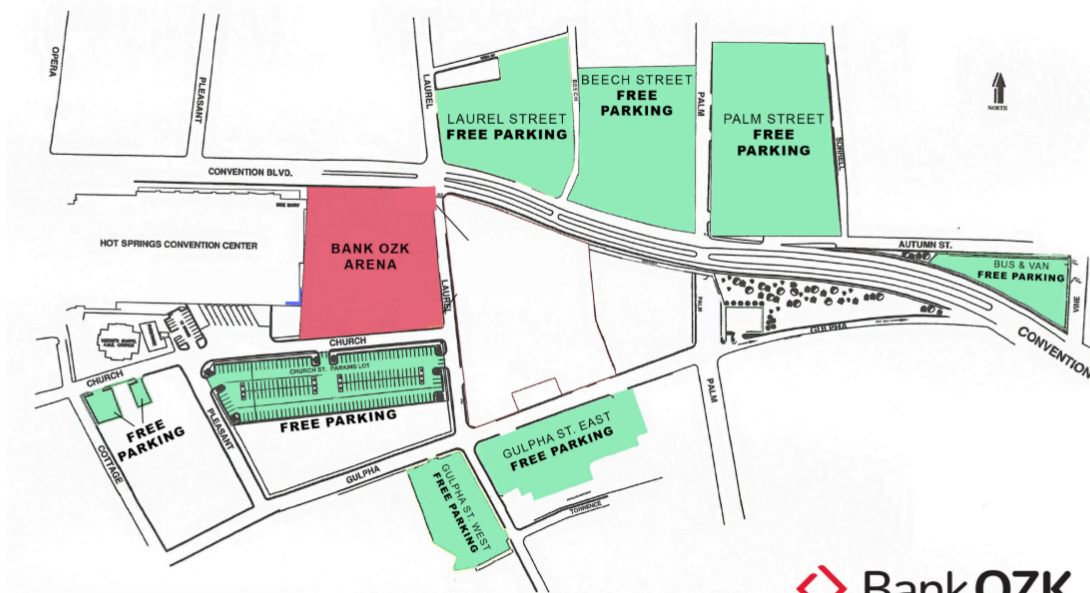


Arkansas
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