



# VAACE 2024

Sharing Our Strengths

**2024 VAACE Conference**

**October 21-23, 2024**

**Charlottesville, VA**





**Our Mission:**

Provide advocacy, leadership, and professional development for the field of adult education in Virginia

**Vision:**

Every adult education practitioner in Virginia will support lifelong learners to achieve their goals.

**Conference Schedule-at-a-Glance**

**Monday, October 21, 2024**

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Conference Check-in  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Evening Social

**Tuesday, October 22, 2024**

8:00 am - 10:00 am Conference Check-in, continental breakfast, Vendor Connection  
9:15 am - 10:15 am Opening Session  
10:30 am - 11:45 am Breakout Session #1  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch/Awards Luncheon  
1:45 pm - 3:00 pm Breakout Session #2  
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Networking and Vendor Connection  
3:30 pm - 4:45 pm Breakout Session #3  
Dinner on your own

**Wednesday, October 23, 2024**

8:00 am - 10:00 am Conference Check-in, continental breakfast, Vendor Connection  
8:30 am - 9:15 am VAACE Business Meeting  
9:30 am - 10:45am Breakout Session #4  
10:45 am - 11:15 am Networking and Vendor Connection  
11:15 am - 12:30 pm Breakout Session #5

**Grab your box lunches on your way back home!**

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Program Manager Meeting

## VAACE Board

**Executive Director** Lisa Parrish

### Executive Committee

<b>President</b>	Rachel Ambrose	Regional Adult Ed PD21
<b>President- Elect</b>	Nichole Bennett	Regional Adult Ed PD16
<b>Treasurer</b>	Besty Mathias	
<b>Secretary</b>	<i>open</i>	

### Standing Committees

<b>Advocacy</b>	Rebecca Scott	Regional Adult Ed PD1
<b>Communications</b>	Tracy Elliott	Regional Adult Ed PD18

### Special Interest Groups

<b>ELA</b>		
<b>Instructors</b>	Marilyn Macdonald	Regional Adult Ed PD21
	Elizabeth Herlong	Regional Adult Ed PD20
	Katherine Hansen	VA Adult Learning Resource Center
<b>Program Manager</b>	Carol Coffey	Regional Adult Ed PD10
<b>Workforce &amp; Continuing Education</b>	Sharon Hetland	Regional Adult Ed PD7
<b>Corrections</b>	Rashida Butcher	Virginia Department of Corrections

### Special Committees

<b>COABE LIAISON</b>	Shaketta Thomas	COABE President
<b>Membership Committee</b>	Shannon Mutter	Regional Adult Ed PD3
<b>Awards</b>	Alice Graham	Regional Adult Ed PD20
<b>Development Fund</b>	Katy Parrish	Regional Adult Ed PD6
<b>By-Laws</b>	Jason Thornton	Literacy for Life
<b>Historian/Newsletter</b>	Elizabeth Herlong	Regional Adult Ed PD20



## Opening Session:

### Jeff Goumas



Jeff Goumas is a product developer/manager and teacher educator who focuses on the intersections of open education, strategic edtech integration, and digital skills development.

As a Senior Technical Advisor at World Education, he leads a range of teacher professional development initiatives focused on supporting adult educators in building evidence-based edtech strategies into their instructional routines, as well as leveraging open educational resource (OER) practices through the CrowdED Learning initiative to foster educator collaboration around the co--development of resources to help increase the availability of high-quality, free, engaging instructional resources for adult learners.

With over 25 years' experience in teaching, teacher professional development, and curriculum development, he is excited to be able to live out his passion for finding ways to continuously enhance the art of teaching and supporting this process by creating, promoting, and delivering resources and tools that are relevant and useful to both learners and instructors.

Jeff has a B.S. in Elementary Education from Keene State College and an M.Ed. in Technology in Education from Lesley University. He lives in Chicago, IL, where he has adopted the cardinal rule that you should never, ever put ketchup on a hot dog.

**DAY 1- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024**

**8:30-9:00 am Continental Breakfast/Check-In/Vendor Exhibits (Foyer)**

**9:15-10:15 am Opening Session (Rotunda): Stronger Together - Lessons of Collaboration through Service Learning**  
*Jeff Goumas, Sr. Technical Advisor, WORLD EDUCATION (Rotunda ABC)*

**10:30-11:45 am Workshop Breakout Sessions:**

<b>ABE/HSE</b> <i>(Promenade)</i>	<b>Instruction</b> <i>(Rotunda D)</i>	<b>Instruction</b> <i>(Gallery)</i>	<b>ELA</b> <i>(Giorgios)</i>	<b>IET</b> <i>(Board Room)</i>	<b>Workforce/</b> <b>Corrections</b> <i>(Montdomaine)</i>	<b>Administration/</b> <b>Vendor</b> <i>(Albemarle)</i>	<b>Virtual</b> <i>(Suite 302)</i>
<b>Universal Design for Learning &amp; Adult Education: It Starts with Creating Access</b>  <i>Amanda Bastoni, Kelli Suding</i>	<b>Disability Accommodations: A Guide for Students in Virginia Adult Education</b>  <i>Micayla Burrows, Martha Caraballo</i>	<b>An Overview of the New CASAS Assessments</b>  <i>Janita McNemar</i>	<b>Play! Activity Kits to Support Family Literacy</b>  <i>Debbie Tuler, Elizabeth Severson-Irby</i>	<b>Virtual Virginia's Adult Education Courses: A Crash Course and Refresher</b>  <i>Morgan Occhuizzo</i>	<b>Perfect Partners: Advancing Fluency and Comprehension for Adult Learners</b>  <i>Trista Mason, Dr. Marija Privitera</i>	<b>Preparing Students for Success with Burlington English</b>  <i>Lori Wedner, Mark Williams</i>	<b>Immigration 101</b>  <i>Stacy Jones</i>

**12:00-1:30 pm Awards Luncheon (Rotunda ABC)**

**1:45-3:00 pm Workshop Breakout Sessions:**

<b>ABE/HSE</b> <i>(Rotunda D)</i>	<b>Instruction</b> <i>(Promenade)</i>	<b>Instruction</b> <i>(Albemarle)</i>	<b>ELA</b> <i>(Gallery A/B)</i>	<b>IET</b> <i>(Giorgios)</i>	<b>Workforce/</b> <b>Corrections</b> <i>(Board Rm)</i>	<b>Administration/</b> <b>Vendor</b> <i>(Montdomaine)</i>	<b>Virtual</b> <i>(Suite 302)</i>
<b>Integrating Digital Skills (and More!) with SkillBlox</b>  <i>Jeff Goumas</i>	<b>Reading to Learn - Strategies for the Struggling Learner</b>  <i>Christina Miller</i>	<b>Connecting the Dots for GED® Success</b>  <i>Adora Beard</i>	<b>Differentiated Instruction for Multilingual Learners</b>  <i>Hali Massey, Elizabeth, Severson-Irby</i>	<b>Increasing your IET offerings - Creating and managing new IETs.</b>  <i>Hillary Parr</i>	<b>The Future of Adult Education is Career Mobility</b>  <i>Barbara Endel</i>	<b>Accelerating Measurable Skills Gains Utilizing the Power of Connection &amp; Data</b>  <i>Brittney Napolitano, Jason Guard</i>	<b>Empowering Students: One Center's Journey towards Increasing Voice, Autonomy and Efficacy</b>  <i>Elizabeth Herlong</i>

3:00-3:30 pm

**Vendor Networking (Foyer)**

3:30-4:45 pm

**Workshop Breakout Sessions:**

<b>ABE/HSE</b> <i>(Promenade)</i>	<b>Instruction</b> <i>(Montdomaine)</i>	<b>Instruction</b> <i>(Gallery A/B)</i>	<b>ELA</b> <i>(Albemarle)</i>	<b>IET</b> <i>(Giorgios)</i>	<b>Workforce/</b> <b>Corrections</b> <i>(Board Rm)</i>	<b>Administration/</b> <b>Vendor</b> <i>(Rotunda D)</i>	<b>Virtual</b> <i>(Suite 302)</i>
<b>Imagination Library - Supporting Literacy for Parents and Caregivers</b>  <i>Christa Donohue, Kimberly Fehrs</i>	<b>Hurry Up and Wait! Meaningful beginning-of-class activities</b>  <i>Maryann Peterson, Julie Rutherford, Rebecca Thomas, Suzannah Hermann Tobin</i>	<b>Introducing the all-new and NRS approved TABE 13/14 and TABE CLAS-E (ESL) Forms C &amp; D!</b>  <i>Shellene Swamy</i>	<b>Dare to Be Digitally Resilient</b>  <i>Melinda Dart, Rebecca Thomas, CK Tong</i>	<b>Partnering to Integrate Services (Career Exploration and Virtual Reality)</b>  <i>Tracy Elliott, Jackie Davis, Giles Scott</i>	<b>SkillBuilder: A reentry workforce program</b>  <i>Vici Garber</i>	<b>Monitoring for Program Managers</b>  <i>Katie Irby, Sharon Hetland, Carol Coffey, Luke Saechao, Majorie Lampkin</i>	<b>Connecting the Dots for GED® Success</b>  <i>Adora Beard</i>

**DAY 2- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024**

8:00-10:00 am

**Continental Breakfast/Check-In/Vendor Exhibits (Foyer)**

8:30-9:15 am

**VAACE Annual Meeting (Rotunda AB)**

9:30-10:45 am

**Workshop Breakout Sessions:**

<b>ABE/HSE</b> <i>(Montdomaine)</i>	<b>Instruction</b> <i>(Promenade)</i>	<b>Instruction</b> <i>(Giorgios)</i>	<b>ELA</b> <i>(Albemarle)</i>	<b>IET</b> <i>(Gallery C)</i>	<b>Workforce/</b> <b>Corrections</b> <i>(Gallery A/B)</i>	<b>Administration/</b> <b>Vendor</b> <i>(Rotunda D)</i>	<b>Virtual</b> <i>(Suite 302)</i>
<b>Reengaging Learners Who are 1 Test Away from Earning their GED® Credential</b>  <i>Dr. Beverly Godwin, Buffy Allgood, Amy Gaidmore, Dr. Alice Graham</i>	<b>Reading Reimagined: How the Science of Reading Transforms Adult Education</b>  <i>Chloe Madigan</i>	<b>Financial Literacy for All Adult Learners: A Panel on Needs and Promising Practices</b>  <i>Ahoo Salem, Eugene Mensah, James Johnson</i>	<b>Helping Students Build Vocabulary Skills</b>  <i>Steven Reid</i>	<b>Earning Certifications using iCEV</b>  <i>Amy Lamb</i>	<b>Building community with growth mindset and cultural awareness</b>  <i>Katarzyna Helbin-Travis</i>	<b>Strategic Programming for IETs Utilizing the New MSGs and Flexibilities for Program and Student Success</b>  <i>Dr. Heidi Silver-Pacuilla, Jenna Kelly, Prog. Managers</i>	<b>The Big Payback (IRS)</b>  <i>Jessica Jenkins, Chris Anderson</i>  <hr/> <b>Science of Reading</b>  <i>Susan Grochowski</i>

10:45-11:15 am Vendor Networking (Foyer)

11:15 am-12:30 pm Workshop Breakout Sessions:

<b>ABE/HSE</b> <i>(Gallery C)</i>	<b>Instruction</b> <i>(Gallery A/B)</i>	<b>Instruction</b> <i>(Promenade)</i>	<b>ELA</b> <i>(Montdomaine)</i>	<b>IET</b> <i>(Albemarle)</i>	<b>Workforce/ Corrections</b> <i>(Giorgios)</i>	<b>Administration/ Vendor</b> <i>(Rotunda D)</i>	<b>Virtual</b> <i>(Suite 302)</i>
<b>NEDP for Newbies</b>  <i>Janita McNemar</i>	<b>Advancing Alphabetics: Systematic Phonics Instruction with EBRI Tools and AI Insights</b>  <i>Mora da Silva</i>	<b>Transforming Lives of Adults with Justice Involvement Through Integrated Education and Training</b>  <i>Jenna Kelly &amp; panel</i>	<b>Certified Guest Service Professional: A Versatile IET for English Language Learners</b>  <i>Xavier Muñoz</i>	<b>IET Support Teachers - Dos and Don'ts for effective IET support</b>  <i>Ashley Sexton</i>	<b>Behavioral Health Interpreter Training (BHIT): A Collaborative IET Program for Immigrant &amp; Refugee personal &amp; professional development</b>  Dilshad Charania, Joyce Jackson, Melinda Dart, Bo Nguyen	<b>Generating Reports in LACES</b>  <i>Bryan Smith,            Michelle Wassam,            Janet Jaufmann,            Amy Gaidmore,            Tom Suh</i>	<b>A Pathway To Partnership</b>  <i>Debbie Hamrick            Lisa Swain</i>

12:30 pm Dismissal/Box Lunch pick-up (Giorgios)

1:00-5:00 pm \*\*Program Manager Meeting (Promenade)

## Workshop Descriptions:

### Day 1:

***Disability Accommodations: A Guide for Students in Virginia Adult Education*** : This workshop will provide an example approach to empower English as a Second language (ESL) adult learners about disabilities and accommodations using an adapted model.

***Universal Design for Learning & Adult Education: It Starts with Creating Access***: This interactive session will start with a general overview of the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework, including information on some of the updates made with the release of UDL Guidelines 3.0 that pertain specifically to adult education classrooms. Participants will work together to identify UDL considerations they are already making and celebrate these examples by sharing them with others. The remainder of the session will center on specific UDL-based strategies adult educators can use to increase accessibility and improve access - improving learning outcomes for all adult education students in their classrooms. Participants will leave the session with tangible strategies they can use immediately. In addition, participants will have access to follow up resources, activities and materials they use to further investigate topics, improve their own practice, and/or share with others.

***An Overview of the New CASAS Assessments***: In this session, we will introduce participants to CASAS' new Reading STEPS, Listening STEPS, and Math GOALS 2 assessments. We will look at sample test items, explore their alignment to the College and Career Readiness and English Language Proficiency Standards, and discuss ways in which the new TOPSpro reports can be used to help inform instruction.

***Play! Activity Kits to Support Family Literacy***: Attendees will gain an understanding of the National Center for Families Learning's (NCFL) comprehensive four component model of family literacy in the context of a program in Charlottesville and engage with activity kits for parent/child together time. This session will provide those interested in family literacy with helpful information for developing and implementing a program in their area.

***Virtual Virginia's Adult Education Courses: A Crash Course and Refresher***: In this session, the Virtual Virginia team will provide a refresher course on the Virtual Virginia Adult Education courses, which include leveled online modules, made specifically for adult learners, targeted toward three subject areas: English language acquisition, English language arts, and mathematics. The session will review processes for accessing the courses from Canvas Commons, how to add modules and learners, and how to track participation. We'll also review the structure of the courses and answer questions about how to customize this free resource to expand distance education offerings in all adult education programs.

***Perfect Partners: Advancing Fluency and Comprehension for Adult Learners***: This session will cover the essential components of the science of reading and focus on concrete instructional strategies and resources to provide differentiation in the four components of reading instruction. The session will also touch on data keeping, cross-curricular applications of reading instruction, and strategies on how to create groups.



**Preparing Students for Success with BurlingtonEnglish:** Times and tests are changing! With the new CASAS STEPS test, teachers must prepare their students with academic skills and higher-level thinking. BurlingtonEnglish is here to help! Our new Prepare for CASAS STEPS Practice, along with our Burlington Core curriculum, provides teachers with valuable resources and students with meaningful practice. Join us to learn how you can use these courses to ensure students master the academic and critical thinking skills they need to succeed! In this session we will highlight both courses and demonstrate best practices for using them.

**Immigration 101:** An introduction to the basics of immigration law, presented by an immigration lawyer for a non-legal audience. Topics will include obtaining lawful permanent residence ("green card") through family members, asylum and refugees, humanitarian protections (U and T visas, Violence Against Women Act [VAWA], Special Immigrant Juvenile Status [SIJS]), naturalization/citizenship, and the latest updates on hot topics such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS), etc.

**Integrating Digital Skills (and More!) with SkillBlox:** Adult learners must develop skills that can be applied in a range of critical contexts including the workplace, healthcare settings, financial management, etc. SkillBlox is a free edtech tool that has been designed to support adult educators in finding free resources to teach the "skills that matter" across multiple contexts. During this session, you will learn how easy it is to use SkillBlox to find and use ready-to-go lessons developed by other educators, or build your own "Blox" from a library of over 8,000 free and open educational resources. Come build with us! (Note: Having a laptop is recommended, but not required, for this session.)

**Reading to Learn - Strategies for the Struggling Learner:** Not all teachers are equipped with the specialized training needed to effectively support struggling readers across various subject areas. We will explore several proven methods designed to empower teachers in guiding learners through the complexities of subjects like science, social studies, and beyond. By the session's end, participants will possess a deeper understanding of effective strategies to support struggling readers and foster a more cohesive and enriching learning experience. Handouts available as resource.

**Connecting the Dots for GED® Success:** The investment we make in our educators builds confidence that translates to student readiness to take the GED® test. This session will focus on instructional strategies and diverse platforms of resources across the content areas available to educators to prepare students for success on the GED® test.

**Differentiated Instruction for Multilingual Learners:** This session will focus on ways to provide differentiated instruction to multilingual learners, with a focus on incorporating alphabets, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. During the session, participants will engage in hands-on activities from the perspective of a learner. Activities will include: examples of and materials for differentiating learning content, process, and product. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of differentiated reading instruction for multilevel classrooms.

**Increasing your IET offerings - Creating and managing new IETs.:** Do you get push back from instructors when you try to start IETs? We will discuss how to get staff excited about the benefits of their course becoming an IET and having a support teacher. We will also discuss how to determine MSGs for courses without adding extra work for the content instructors and the role of the support teacher vs the content teacher.

**The Future of Adult Education is Career Mobility:** Adult education in Virginia is being transformed – equipping students to meet the demands of a global, digital, knowledge economy. Career mobility is an increasingly prominent focus to help students avoid underemployment or limited advancement jobs. What are some of the best approaches to coach and support students toward greater career mobility? This session is designed toward career coaching effectiveness and the development of skills to enhance student-centered pathways and career mobility. To make the session actionable, a concluding segment enabling attendees to adapt career coaching and promising practices to their own schools, students, and/or programs, will occur with the goal of enhancing student career mobility.

**Accelerating Measurable Skills Gains Utilizing the Power of Connection & Data :** 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. This fun, interactive session will demonstrate a handful of ways educators can implement Essential Education 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.

**Empowering Students: One Center's Journey towards Increasing Voice, Autonomy and Efficacy:** Discover how VBCPS's Adult Learning Center (ALC) transformed its approach to supporting staff in responding to the strengths and needs of adult learners while enhancing teacher voice and autonomy. Explore three pathways available to staff: designing engaging, student-center learning, integrating SEL into instruction, and using data to improve students' learning. Gain authentic insights and actionable takeaways as we share our journey from planning, implementation and hosting an Exhibition of Learning.

**Imagination Library - Supporting Literacy for Parents and Caregivers:** This session will focus on informing adult education programs about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program in the Commonwealth of VA and ways in which they can support parents and caregivers with literacy resources for children in their homes. We will discuss the potential of this project for adult learning since getting books into the homes of children means they are in the home of the parents and caregivers too.

***Hurry Up and Wait! Meaningful beginning-of-class activities:*** Because student arrival times often vary, the beginning of classes can be difficult to plan. This panel-presentation and workshop is comprised of educators at all ESOL levels will discuss and demonstrate a variety of ways to meaningfully engage students in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Participants will also have time to brainstorm and identify activities they can use in their classes.

***Introducing the all-new and NRS approved TABE 13/14 and TABE CLAS-E (ESL) Forms C & D:*** Teachers and Test Administrators will learn about the innovative and anticipated updates of TABE 13/14 and TABE CLAS-E (ESL) assessment that are designed to enhance adult education with accuracy and effectiveness. TABE 13/14 comprehensively evaluates reading, mathematics, language skills, along with a Workforce Portal aligned to the O\*Net database to ensure success in careers. TABE CLAS-E assesses adult learners' English language proficiency in Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking. Both assessments can be automatically scored and provide an Individual Profile Report with convenient next steps for teachers. We are excited to share these updates with our customers and those looking for flexible online, offline, or paper options.

***Dare to Be Digitally Resilient:*** This interactive session will define digital resilience and focus on its importance for both instructors and students. Participants will gain insight and discover practical ways to begin implementing edtech routines in the classroom.

***Partnering to Integrate Services (Career Exploration and Virtual Reality):*** Participants will see how the partnership between the Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board and MP R.A.C.E. works to give Adult Education students the opportunity to utilize VR equipment for Career Exploration. Participants will learn about the options offered in Transfer VR and will also learn which LWDB(s) have access to this equipment. Participants will have the opportunity to test and use the equipment.

***SkillBuilder: A reentry workforce program:*** Information share on successful multi-partner reentry workplace program. Partners included Shenandoah Valley WDB, MTC, Friendship Industries, Harrisonburg Drug Court, and SHINE. A "how-to" on creating an in-house employer-based program that satisfied court requirements. Explore how to navigate the extensive roadblocks, expansion plans, complete shutdown of the program, and the exciting new possibilities. This program is a perfect example of you don't know unless you ask... and never assume that you are asking too much!

***Monitoring for Program Managers:*** The Virginia Adult Education Team (state office staff and regional program managers) will engage in a panel discussion surrounding the experience as a peer reviewer of the monitoring team, a manager of a program that was recently monitored, or a combination of both. Hear from program managers on how to prepare for an on-site monitoring visit, lessons learned from the visit, the impact on processes and procedures, how to monitor locally, and advice for program managers who have yet to experience a monitoring visit.

## **Day 2:**

***Reengaging Learners Who are 1 Test Away from Earning their GED® Credential:*** Through the ongoing Just 1 GED® to Go campaign, adult education programs are continuing their efforts to reengage students who are only one test subject from earning their credential. This session will highlight the work and successes local programs have experienced with their campaigns. Learn effective methods of outreach and ways to provide targeted supports, such as tutoring and boot camps, to help students make that final push toward GED® success.

***Reading Reimagined: How the Science of Reading Transforms Adult Education:*** The science of reading offers transformative, evidence-based insights into literacy education, traditionally focused on K-12 students but increasingly relevant to adult learners. This presentation explores applying these principles to adult education, aiming to enhance literacy by understanding cognitive processes, implementing effective reading strategies, and showcasing successful case studies. Key objectives include introducing the science of reading, examining its impact on adult learners, and providing practical strategies for adult literacy programs.

***Financial Literacy for All Adult Learners: A Panel on Needs and Promising Practices:*** This session explores the many needs for integrating financial literacy into instruction for all learners. Our panelists work with learners across the adult education spectrum: pre-literacy English learners, English learners with higher levels of education, and ABE and ASE learners. They discuss takeaways from the Financial Literacy Institute offered through COABE, the various needs for financial literacy within their adult learner populations, and classroom applications and resources to support learners' financial literacy goals.

***Helping Students Build Vocabulary Skills:*** The foundation of learning a new language is vocabulary acquisition. Whether a beginner or an advanced student, getting vocabulary to stick can be a challenge for English language learners. It is important for learners to develop a variety of strategies to lock in the vocabulary they are hearing and experiencing, whether in class or in their daily lives. Join Steven as he works through a variety of techniques and activities to help students learn new vocabulary.

***Earning Certifications using iCEV:*** This presentation will focus on the iCEV-hosted certifications that learners can earn. Our industry-recognized certifications validate student knowledge and enhance their resumes. The professional certifications hosted on the iCEV Testing Platform are developed by industry-leading businesses and organizations. iCEV is a comprehensive digital platform where your learners can utilize the aligned curriculum to prepare and test for the certification all on one site.

***Certified Guest Service Professional: A Versatile IET for English Language Learners:*** Learn about our Guest Service Gold® - Making Connections curriculum and its adaptability for all English language learners at an intermediate or advanced level. Engage in an interactive preview of activities focused on one of the seven key guest service elements, demonstrating how language and employability skills are seamlessly integrated. The session will also share effective practices for implementing this curriculum to prepare learners to obtain the Certified Guest Service Professional credential.

**Strategic Programming for IETs Utilizing the New MSGs and Flexibilities for Program and Student Success:** The Virginia Adult Education Team (state office and regional program managers) will discuss and show planning tools and strategic considerations used to design integrated education and training (IET) programs that take full advantage of the new measurable skill gains (MSGs) and flexibilities to accelerate student goal achievement and ensure program success. We will also share how we communicate IET opportunities to students and partners through the IETBlueprint.com map and infographics.

**The Big Payback:** The “Big Payback” from the IRS happens for most taxpayers each tax season when they file to receive their refund. The complexity of the American tax system is intimidating and drives most, even with the simplest of tax returns, to use paid tax preparer services. The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides free tax education towards a volunteer tax preparer industry certification. Successful certification candidates are placed in free tax preparation clinics to apply their new tax skills in the real world, give back to their community and gain valuable experience in the tax industry. In this workshop, the IRS will introduce its VITA program. IRS employees will provide a guided tour of the free online learning resources and explain the certification exams.

**The Science of Reading:** Join us for a webinar on the Science of Reading, focusing on how it applies to adult learners. Discover effective teaching and assessment strategies to support your students' success.

**NEDP for Newbies:** Keep hearing about the National External Diploma Program (NEDP), but are not sure what it is? Know that your agency offers this thing called NEDP, but everyone's too busy to sit you down and explain it to you? Flirting with the idea of adopting NEDP in your agency, but need more information? If you answered "girl, yes!" to any of these questions, this workshop is for you! Find out 15% more than everything you ever wanted to know about NEDP and get answers to all of your NEDP questions in this workshop.

**Advancing Alphabetics: Systematic Phonics Instruction with EBRI Tools and AI Insights:** This session explores how systematic phonics instruction supports an effective reading program, using the EBRI Observation Tool for educator growth. Participants will gain insights into building alphabetics-based instruction and learn how AI can offer truly exciting enhancements to these processes. Practical strategies for improving literacy outcomes and implementing evidence-based reading practices will be shared.

**Transforming Lives of Adults with Justice Involvement Through Integrated Education and Training:** Discover the transformative power of Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs in this workshop. Dive into a world where adults with justice involvement achieve their employment goals through academic and workplace skills while attending training and earning an industry recognized credential. This session will feature an experienced panel of program leaders and discuss successful partnerships, program design, outcomes, and lessons learned for justice impacted adults. Join us as we explore the art of creating IETs.

***Building community with growth mindset and cultural awareness:*** Using growth mindset theory and knowledge of intercultural differences, educators can develop learners' trust and better address their needs. In this session, participants will examine language commonly used in the classroom and come up with alternative, growth mindset ideas that better facilitate learning. We will identify underlying cultural differences through interactive activities predicting how people from different cultures might respond. We will conclude with effective practices for developing and sustaining a stronger ESOL classroom community.

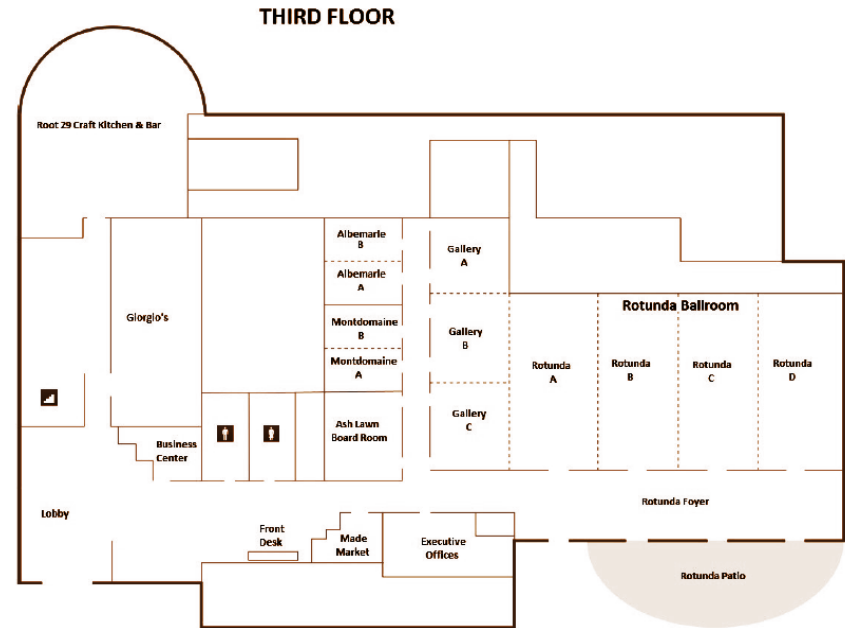
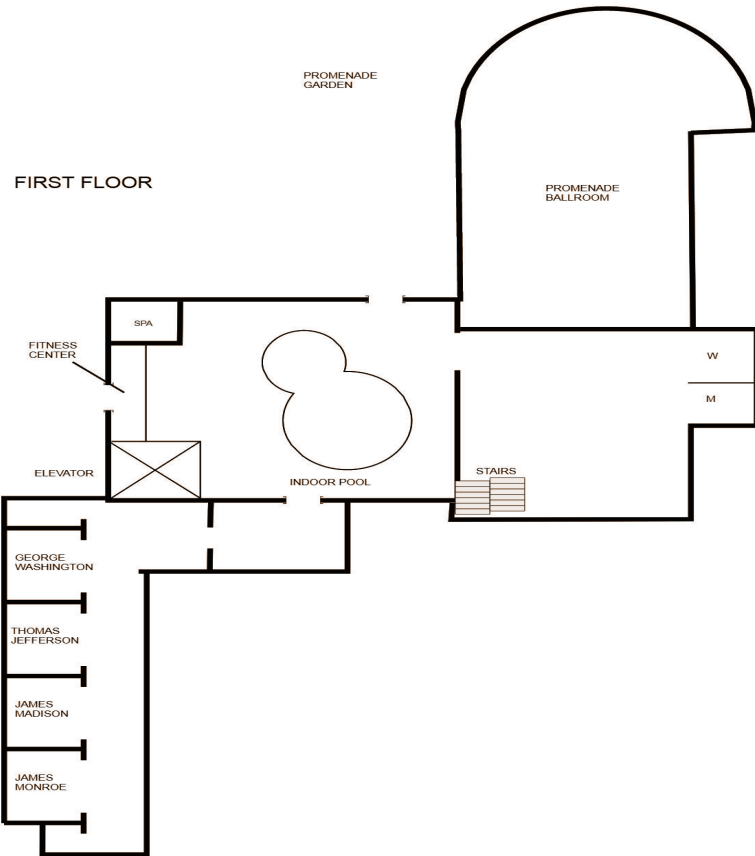
***IET Support Teachers - Dos and Don'ts for effective IET support:*** We will show techniques to help monitor IET support staff activities and documentation, identifying students that need extra support, building rapport with students so they accept support, and creating effective co-planning activities with content instructors. This session will help you maximize your IET support staff to improve student success with reduced staff hours.

***Behavioral Health Interpreter Training (BHIT): A Collaborative IET Program for Immigrant and Refugee personal and professional development:*** This workshop will introduce the Behavioral Health Interpreter Training IET program and explore how it was developed as a public/private partnership between a regional non-profit and the Chesterfield County Adult Learning Center. We will explore how this 48-hour program was scaffolded for English Language Learners through learning support from certified ESL instructors at CCPS and how the program led to specific career outcomes for individuals who graduated. Participants will gain an understanding of how to leverage community programs to enrich adult learning options in their region. They will also gain an understanding of some of the specific challenges facing newcomer adult learners and how to design programs that meet these challenges. They will gain insight from individuals who have completed the program on how this program positively impacted their career development and personal growth.

***Generating Reports in LACES:*** Are you a data analyst, program manager, or someone who regularly uses LACES to track student data? If so, this session is for you! During this session a panel of practitioners, along with VDOE and VALRC staff, will address reporting questions and demonstrate building reports to use for program improvement. Attendees should come prepared to have hands-on experience building reports within the LACES training database.

***A Pathway To Partnership:*** Setting up a partnership and the process of making it work. What are the steps involved? How to get all the parties to talk? Who wants what? How do you make adult education fit in the business timeline? Just what are these milestone things? How do you deal with class within the pace of a factory? What if no one shows for class? Too many? What comes next?

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