



TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
EDUCATION INSTITUTE  
2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

# CURRENT ISSUES IN ADULT EDUCATION

## OCTOBER 30, 2021



### *Program at a Glance*

9:00 - 9:30 AM	<b>Welcome &amp; Keynote</b>
9:35 - 10:30 AM	<i>Morning Concurrent Sessions</i>
10:35 - 11:35 AM	<i>Morning Concurrent Sessions</i>
11:40 - 12:30 PM	<b>Lunch Time</b>
12:30 - 1:00 PM	<i>Networking time</i>
1:05 - 2:00 PM	<i>Afternoon Concurrent Sessions</i>
2:05 - 3:00 PM	<i>Afternoon Concurrent Sessions</i>
3:05 - 3:30 PM	<b>Closing Remarks</b>

### **WELCOME & KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**



#### **WELCOME TO THE CONFERENCE: CURRENT ISSUES IN ADULT EDUCATION**

Dr. Michael O'Malley, Dean, College of Education - Texas State University  
Professor, Educational and Community Leadership Graduate Programs



#### **LEARNING DURING PANDEMIC TIMES: UTILIZING VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTS TO BRING US TOGETHER**

Dr. Clarena Larrotta, Professor, Adult, Professional and Community Education  
Director, Education Institute, College of Education - Texas State University

**MORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS**  
**9:35 - 10:30 AM**

**Managing Technology and Kids: Raising Balanced Kids in a Hyper-Connected World**

**Dr. Jon Lasser, Professor, School Psychology -Texas State University**

Through active participation, conference attendees will learn about advantages and risks of screen-time for children and adolescents. A model for preventing harms of screen-time and addressing the worries of parents and caregivers will empower families and those who support them to harness the benefits of technology while minimizing deleterious effects.

**Literacy Development for Incarcerated Fathers**

**Norma Mercado, Family and Social Service Coordinator - Bastrop ISD, TX**

This session will provide an increased understanding of incarcerated fathers and their efforts to increase their literacy skills. The presenter will discuss the curriculum she implemented as well as recommendations for practice. Conference attendees can expect narratives, examples of lessons, resources, and interaction.

**Strategies for Supporting Library Patrons into the Workforce**

**Lauren Chaney, Ph.D. Student, Adult, Professional, and Community Education -Texas State University**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment is at an all-time high. Public libraries provide free essential workforce development tools and resources to support library patrons' participation into the job market. Presenter explores barriers that adults face when entering the workforce as well as useful strategies for assisting older job hunters.

**Designing and Managing Literacy Programs: Basic Nuts and Bolts**

**Dr. Emily Miller Payne, Associate Professor, Retired**  
**Doctoral Program in Developmental Education, Texas State University**

Are you developing or managing a literacy program? Presenter discusses a framework for (1) conducting needs assessment, (2) building relevant goals and objectives, (3) securing funding, (4) promoting services, and (5) creating ongoing evaluation to ensure success. Expect resources and recommendations for practice. Conference attendees will engage in active learning.

**Mastering Academic Literacy: The New Frontier for Black Nontraditional Freshmen Students**

**Esther Pippins, Ph.D. Student, Adult, Professional, and Community Education -Texas State University**

All college students should develop academic literacy and ability to gather, process, and produce new information. Presenter discusses findings from a qualitative study through four major themes: Linguistic practice, relevancy, student support, and sound relationships. Participants will learn strategies to support the unique needs of Black nontraditional college freshmen students.

**MORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS**  
**10:35 – 11:30 AM**

**Diversity in Postsecondary Education: Challenges and Opportunities**

**Dr. Audwin L. Anderson, Professor, Diversity and Gender Studies -Texas State University**

There is an ongoing need to prepare faculty, administrators, and policy makers to provide an educational experience that equips learners to thrive in an increasingly diverse society. Through dialogue, this presentation explores challenges we face and opportunities we have for learning together toward supporting diversity and inclusion in postsecondary education.

**The Constructive Feedback Process with Adult Learners**

**Dr. Carlton Fong, Assistant Professor, Developmental Education -Texas State University**

Feedback can be a powerful influence on learning. However, many find it difficult to both deliver and receive feedback given the emotional and motivational dynamics involved. Drawing from research on adult learners, the presenter discusses grounded theory and recent research on the constructive feedback process with implications for educational practice.

**ESL for Professionals: A Model for Teaching Internationally Trained Professionals**

**Angi Mudd, Adult Ed. Coordinator & Instructional Coach, Kyle Learning Center -Community Action, Inc.**

Presenter discusses the structure and components of the ESL for Professionals online class: the curriculum, syllabi, and a career counseling model to prepare adult learners with the tools necessary to enter or advance in the workforce. Expect to be engaged in conversation and obtain resources and ideas for implementation.

**Female Body Image, Cultural Identity, and COVID-19**

**Dr. Natalie Hendrix, Social Services Program Manager, Travis County -TX**  
**Adjunct Professor of Adult Education, Texas State University**

This presentation describes findings of a phenomenological study with a group of participants who self-identified as fluffy women of color. The presenter will examine experiences of women related to body image, cultural identity, and COVID-19. Expect to engage in an interactive discussion about challenges faced by women in 2021.

**GED to College: Transitioning Adult Learners to Postsecondary Education**

**Dr. Mary Helen Martinez, College & Career Readiness Director -Alamo Colleges District, San Antonio -TX**  
**Adjunct Professor of Adult Education, Texas State University**

College bridge models for adult learners include academic and lifestyle support systems. Drawing on existent research and the presenter's expertise, this session examines critical elements to designing college bridge models based on best practices. Participants will engage in discussion to identify opportunities for transitioning adult learners to postsecondary education.

**LUNCH TIME**  
**11:40 – 12:30 PM**

**NETWORKING EVENT WITH AFFINITY GROUPS**  
**12:30 -1:00 PM**

AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS  
1:05 – 2:00 PM

**Weaving ESL and Civic Education Together for the Adult Learner**

**Dr. Jan Adversario, ESL Instructor, Austin Community College -TX**

Civic literacy and language education are both critical to adult immigrants' integration to their new host society. In this session, the presenter offers a framework in integrating civic literacy to the adult English as Second Language (ESL) classroom. Participants can expect dialogue, strategies, resources, and best practices for implementation.

**Higher Education and Equitable Life-Long Learning in the Digital Era**

**Dr. Khalid Arar, Professor, Educational Leadership & Policy -Texas State University  
Associate Editor, *The International Journal of Leadership in Education***

Major technologies can improve equity and efficacy through the recognition of diversity in higher education. In this sense, UNESCO calls to rethink and reshape higher education for an increasingly world complexity, life-long learning needs, and eco-system understanding. Participants will engage in reflection and conversation to imagine applicable solutions.

**Family Learning Through Family Memory Books: Life Stories of a Black American Family**

**Kimberly Thornton, Director, Graduate Admission, St. Mary's University -TX  
Doctoral Candidate, Adult, Professional, and Community Education -Texas State University**

A tool for learning family history, cultivating values and relationships, and creating legacy; family memory books include photos, documents, newspaper clippings, and more. Presenter shares findings of an ethnographic study documenting the life stories of several generations in a Black American family. Expect dialogue, resources, and recommendations for practice.

**The Current Landscape of Developmental Education Policies and Reforms**

**Dr. Russ Hodges, Associate Professor, Graduate Programs in Developmental Education, Texas State  
Jonathan Lollar, Ph.D. Student, Developmental Education, Texas State University  
Denise Guckert, Ph.D. Candidate, Developmental Education, Texas State University**

The presenters will cover recent state and systemwide developmental education policy and reforms occurring throughout the United States. The focus is on how states are reforming the assessment, placement, instruction, and advisement of students deemed noncollege ready. Participants will discuss implications for students entering postsecondary education.

**Realizing the Culturally Relevant Classroom for Adult Learning**

**Patricia Hernandez, Alamo Colleges District  
Director of Adult Education -Economic & Workforce Development**

Adult classrooms are increasingly diverse requiring faculty and programs to create curriculum and environments where all students can learn and feel welcome. Presenter elaborates on how to navigate the relationship between culture and education to promote equitable and inclusive learning. Expect resources and practical applications for the adult learning classroom.

**AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS**  
**2:05 – 3:00 PM**

**Critically Self-reflective Leadership in Practice**

**Dr. Robert F. Reardon, Associate Professor, Retired**  
**Adult, Professional, and Community Education -Texas State University**

Different models of leadership (e.g., authoritarian, charismatic, transactional, servant) describe unique modes of communication and interaction between the leader and members of an organization. Modifying our interactions to fit the needs of the situation is crucial. Participants will engage in critical self-reflection to learn from experience and improve leadership practices.

**Adult and Nontraditional College Students: The New Majority**

**Dr. Jovita M. Ross-Gordon, Distinguished Professor Emerita, Texas State University**  
**Co-Editor-in-Chief, *New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education Journal***

Adult and nontraditional learners constitute a large proportion of college students, especially in community colleges. These learners face challenges juggling multiple roles and navigating learning environments designed for traditional students; they also bring many strengths. Presenter shares research on these learners as well as suggestions for teaching and advising them.

**Nine Ways Practitioners Can Use Their Public Library**

**Deborah Carter, Public Services Librarian -San Marcos Public Library, TX**

Enrich your curriculum and your professional network by partnering with a public library. Libraries are a unique third space for fostering creative community connections, establishing collaborations, enhancing information literacy, promoting civic engagement, and fostering workforce development. Presenter shares innovative ways for educators to utilize library resources and enhance their practice.

**Parents as Learners: Supporting Parents to Accomplish their Academic and Professional Goals**

**Dr. Perla Delgado, CEO/Executive Director, I Have a Dream Foundation -Boulder County, Colorado**

Parents have personal goals and dreams! Intersecting parent's passion for school engagement and their academic/professional goals is critical in designing an effective 2Gen model. Conference attendees will learn how a nonprofit utilized the strengths and resiliency of the parent community to support them in accomplishing their academic and professional goals.

**High School to College Transition for Latinx Youth: Reflection and Guiding Principles**

**Dr. David Schwarzer, Professor -Teaching and Learning Program**  
**College of Education and Human Services, Montclair State University -NJ**

Presenters review the literature on high school-to-college transition for Latinx youth. They describe guiding principles for implementation and reflect on their own program. Recommendations for researchers and practitioners will be provided. Conference attendees will engage in active learning. Expect resources and examples.

**CLOSING REMARKS**  
**3:05 – 3:30 PM**

**Invitation to Re-member, Re-frame, and Re-imagine: A Collective Vision for the Common Good**

**Dr. Miguel A. Guajardo, Professor, Educational and Community Leadership -Texas State University**