



CAERC COMMUNITY

Volume 4, Issue 1

January
2019

A Publication for the Capital Adult Education Regional Consortium Community

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Director's Message

We wish a happy and prosperous 2019 to our CAERC community! In the new year we hope to tell many more stories of achievements by the adult learners we serve. In this issue we provide an update on the past six months.

In November 2018, the English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers from our region attended a training during which they discussed tools and engaged in strategies for lesson planning around this mission statement: "Give students challenging opportunities to be successful in their language-learning experience so they develop confidence and become independent, lifelong learners." In October, our math teachers practiced techniques for higher-level cognitive demands so that learners would experience struggle and problem-solving at a level which ensures individual success. As a regional delivery system for education and workforce services to underserved adults, we have the responsibility to facilitate the success of all of the learners in all of our program areas, now and in the future.

Our expected results of having a thriving regional economy and strong communities can only be accomplished in collaboration with our partners. We have engaged in specific projects with the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency. We continue to serve the "whole adult learner" along with County Departments of Human Assistance and numerous partner-providers of education, health, civic, rehabilitation, and workforce services, as well as community-based organizations. Within the immediate sphere of their influence, our members continue to hone

their performance and operations to achieve the optimal learner experience. In order not to lose sight of our mission, we are currently engaging in a strategic planning process to articulate our actions and deliverables for the next three years. We will immerse ourselves in activities and conversations around the following topics:

- The Consortium Program Quality Self-Assessment Tool
- Community Need and Customers
- Identifying Goals and Strategies
- Progress Indicators
- Piloting and Implementation

Throughout various neighborhoods our members are starting classes and programs that create opportunities for the community members to access local jobs. Some examples are custodial, para-educator, and bus driver trainings. On the higher-paying end, there are numerous short-term and stackable certificate career technical education programs offered by the K-12 adult schools and community colleges. In this area of our work, we are having conversations about greater alignment across our education sectors.

Please stay tuned as we articulate the best course of action for the benefit of adult learners in the greater Sacramento Region. Our next three-year plan will become widely available in June 2019.

Branka Marceta, CAERC Director



IN THE WORKS

Read about CAERC's regional alignment effort!

CAERC Alignment Workgroup Presents Resources to Support Consortium-Wide ESL Alignment

English as a Second Language (ESL) instructors and administrators from CAERC member districts and county offices of education participated this fall in ESL Alignment Implementation trainings offered at adult schools across the consortium. Seventy-five adult educators from Amador County USD, Center Joint USD, Davis Joint USD, El Dorado COE, Elk Grove USD, Folsom Cordova USD, San Juan USD, Sacramento City USD, Twin Rivers USD, and Washington USD convened for trainings conducted by the ESL Writing Alignment workgroup to discuss the resources and materials developed to support the regional strategy to **align courses across the consortium and streamline pathways for adult learners**.

Goal of the Adult Education Program (AEP)

To enable adults to advance education, obtain employment, and improve wages.

AEP Learner Outcomes

1. Improved literacy skills
2. Placement into jobs
3. Improved wages
4. Completion of high school (diploma/equivalency)
5. Transition to post-secondary education
6. Completion of post-secondary education

The presenters shared a brief history of the California Adult Education Program (formerly Adult Education Block Grant), its mission and education and employment-focused outcomes. They provided an overview of CAERC and summarized the ESL Writing Alignment workgroup's activities since June 2016. They also introduced the resources and materials developed to support vertical and horizontal alignment of the region's adult school ESL programs including the following:

- CAERC ESL Exit-Level Descriptors for All Skills
- CAERC ESL Writing Scoring Rubrics (Literacy to Advanced Writers)
- EL Civics curriculum for COAAP 51.1 for Intermediate-Low to Advanced ESL

Attendees engaged in two activities to gain familiarity with the increased demands outlined in the *CAERC ESL Exit-Level Descriptors for All Skills*. First, individuals matched writing descriptors to each of the six ESL levels (Literacy through Advanced). Next, they used the descriptors to evaluate student writing in small groups and determine the correct level of each paper. This proved to be a challenging task. The tendency of many adult educators was to assign higher ESL levels to the student writing than the new level descriptors supported. Many instructors were surprised by the complexity of the content, organization, grammar and spelling of papers written by students exiting the Beginning Low and Beginning High levels as described in the *CAERC ESL Exit-Level Descriptors for All Skills*.

The Case for Increased Rigor

"Careers and educational opportunities in the United States today require an understanding of more complex language, higher reading levels, strong communication skills, and more critical thinking skills than ever before."

Parrish, B. (2016). *Meeting the Language Needs of Today's Adult English Language Learner: Issue Brief*. Retrieved from https://lincs.ed.gov/sites/default/files/ELL_Increasing_Rigor_508.pdf

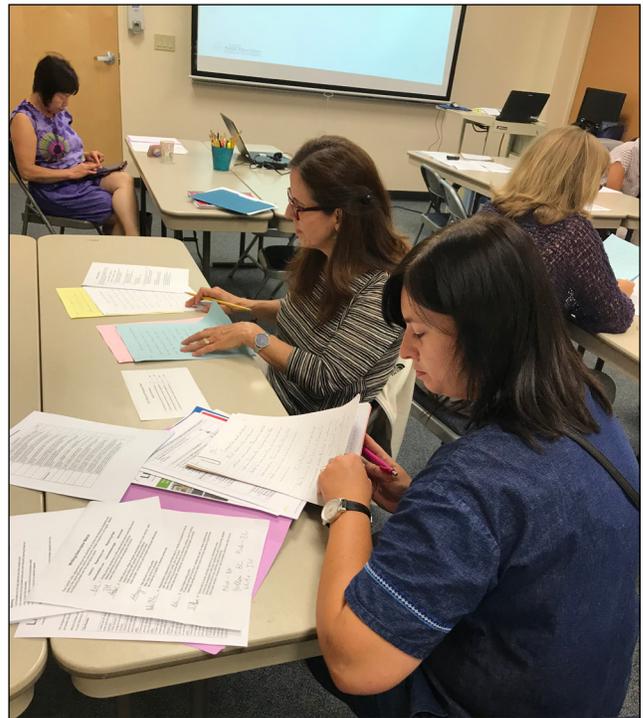
These new descriptors emphasize the need for regular practice with level-appropriate complex text and its academic language as well as reading, writing and speaking grounded in evidence from informational text.

Adult educators were encouraged to begin the alignment process at their adult school by doing the following:

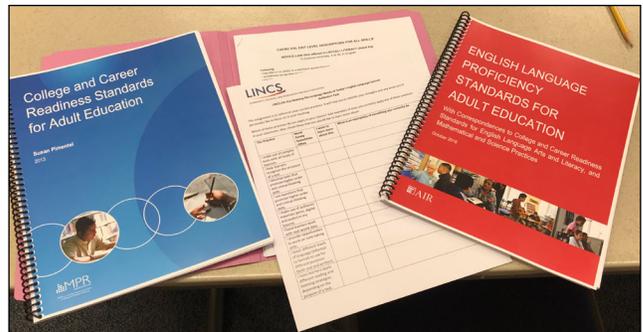
1. Become familiar with the *CAERC ESL Exit-Level Descriptors for All Skills* and *CAERC ESL Writing Scoring Rubrics* and begin discussions at your school about how these resources can be used to inform alignment both within and across levels.
2. Begin using the CAERC-developed EL Civics curriculum. If you don't have access to our shared Google Drive, please email Bethany Ely at bely@scoe.net to request access.
3. Attend the ESL Writing Network meetings on February 8 and May 3, 2019 from 1:00-4:30 at the Sacramento County Office of Education to continue the conversation.

A need for Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for each level was identified during the ESL Alignment Implementation trainings. The ESL Writing Alignment workgroup is currently developing these outcomes and will share them at an upcoming ESL Writing Network meeting.

Any questions about CAERC's regional alignment effort can be directed to CAERC Coordinator, Bethany Ely, at 916-228-2589 or bely@scoe.net.



Evaluating student writing at the ESL Alignment Implementation training at Twin Rivers USD on August 31, 2018.



ESL Alignment Implementation training materials

MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Learn more about programs and services provided by our CAERC members!



Elk Grove Adult and Community Education

<http://blogs.egusd.net/egace/>

Programs available:



Adult Basic Education



English as a Second Language



Adult Secondary Education



US Citizenship



Career Technical Education

Custodial Training Program

Elk Grove Adult and Community Education is offering an exciting new training that connects job-seeking community members to local employers. Therese Schultz, the coordinator for the Always Learning program at the adult school, meets with each candidate to provide personalized guidance and assess his/her readiness level. In this 120-hour training program, instructor Ron Wilson teaches students the basics of custodial operations. Students complete 88 hours of classroom theory, and those who meet EGUSD employment requirements are able to complete 32 hours of job shadowing with the EGUSD Custodial Department. Topics covered in the 10-week program include:

- Basic procedures in custodial and housekeeping operations
- Custodial equipment and basic repair of equipment
- Cleaning chemicals and material data safety sheets
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Floor Care and Restoration
- Carpeted Floor Care
- Preventative Methods for Soil Control

The registration fee for this course is \$950 and includes materials, fingerprinting, and the TB test. Those interested in the Custodial Training

Program must attend an orientation and assess at the tenth-grade level. Appointments can be made online at www.egusd.net/egace under the Always Learning registration link, or by calling (916) 686-7783. Those who assess at the seventh- or eighth-grade level may be eligible to attend the new Custodial Training Preparation Vocational English Program beginning January 22, 2019.

Current participants shared their goals with CAERC; they range from securing a long-term job within a school district to opening their own floor cleaning business. Great job so far, and we wish them all the best in the future!

CUSTODIAL TRAINING STUDENT

In my current job as a custodian we stick to basics like garbage, bathrooms, and only sweep and mop lobbies. In this training I am learning to use machines for buffing and auto scrubbing. This class makes me want to work.

Robert Spain

ELK GROVE ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

PARTNER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Learn more about programs and services provided by our CAERC partners!



Futures Explored, Inc.

www.futures-explored.org

Program
available:



Q & A with Lindsey Dyba, Regional Program Director



Lindsey Dyba, Regional
Program Director of Futures
Explored, Inc.

CAERC: What is the mission of Futures Explored, Inc.?

Lindsey: The mission of Futures Explored, Inc. is to provide life skills and work-related training to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We support our consumers in reaching their optimum level of individual potential by

delivering a broad range of resources and ongoing guidance.

CAERC: What population is being served?

Lindsey: We serve adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities such as Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down's Syndrome, Intellectual Disability, and similar disabilities as defined by the Regional Center. We serve a broad range of ability levels and support needs.

CAERC: What are the services provided?

Lindsey: We provide services designed to enable our participants to live full, productive lives of their choosing. We offer services in Sacramento, Yolo, Contra Costa, and Alameda Counties. Our services range in design from supporting

people who are medically fragile and need daily assistance to supporting people who need time-limited help to achieve a goal. We focus on community involvement and engagement—from employment, to volunteerism, to just having fun and making connections in each person's community. We have a person-centered approach to all of our services.

CAERC: Tell us more about your programs.

Lindsey: We have quite a few individual programs, so I am going to summarize the various types of support we provide:

- **Employment** – The path to gaining employment can have many steps or just a few. We offer a number of ways to help clients achieve competitive, integrated employment including: discovery and exploration of career goals, assistance in gaining soft and technical skills, job seeking support, group supported employment, and individual job coaching.
- **Educational Support** – We provide support in accessing local colleges by teaching and facilitating organization, understanding assignments, accessing and navigating campus resources, educational planning, safety, social skills and connections, and mobility. We provide services at American River, Cosumnes River, Sierra, Folsom Lake, Sacramento City, Los Medanos, and Diablo Valley

PARTNER IN THE SPOTLIGHT, *continued*

Community Colleges as well as UC Davis, Sacramento State, and various online colleges.

- **Day Services** – We have a variety of models for day programs. Most of our day programs are focused on accessing the community; however, we also offer some on site programming options. Our day programs focus on using real-life situations to gain skills leading to more independence in one's life, assisting clients to reach their personal goals, and teaching advocacy.
- **Film and Media Workshops** – Partnering with Inclusion Films, we have developed our Film and Media workshops to assist clients in gaining skills and abilities needed in the film industry, as well as the social skills and abilities needed in any work environment.

CAERC: Tell us how adult education programs can help you serve your clients/learners.

Lindsey: There are many ways that we can and have partnered with adult education programs. One way that is of particular value is creating adult education programs which are accessible to the community at large that our participants can also attend.

Visit the Futures Explored website for more information.

<http://www.futures-explored.org>



Film and Media workshop participants shooting a scene



An Employment Specialist teaching new tasks to a client



A Futures Explored client working at his job

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Discover how adult education is making a difference in our community!

ELL Workforce Navigator Success Stories

The English Language Learner (ELL) Workforce Navigator project is nearing the end of its 18-month pilot. Here we highlight the success stories of three local participants:

Weiquan – China

Prior to the ELL Workforce Navigator pilot project, Weiquan worked 80-hour weeks providing elder care for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS). Despite the long hours, Weiquan struggled to support himself and his spouse on his meager earnings. Before emigrating to the United States, Weiquan worked as an Electronics Design Engineer. Wanting to return to the mechanical and electrical repair industry, Weiquan chose to pursue training to become an HVAC Technician. Weiquan enrolled in the Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) training program at Charles A. Jones Career & Education Center on August 25, 2017, and successfully completed the program on May 17, 2018. Weiquan has since obtained full-time employment as an HVAC Installer with Beutler Air Conditioning & Plumbing for which he receives health benefits and a starting hourly wage of \$16.00.

Sahar – Afghanistan

A Special Immigrant VISA holder from Afghanistan, Sahar was previously employed by the United States Embassy in Kabul as an IT Information Technician. Despite her experience and skills, Sahar was unable to secure employment upon emigrating to the United States. Sahar enrolled in the A+/CISCO (CCENT) Network + Preparation (Computer Systems Networking and Telecommunications) at Charles A. Jones Career & Education Center on August 4, 2017, and successfully completed the program on May 17, 2018. Sahar has since obtained full-time employment as a Computer PC Technician for

Volt where she receives fringe and health benefits and a starting hourly wage of \$20.00.

Mohammad – Afghanistan

Mohammad, a Special Immigrant VISA holder from Afghanistan, previously worked for the U.S. Army Corps as a Quality Assurance Monitor. Unable to find work in the United States and with a family of six to support, Mohammad enrolled in the Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) training program at Charles A. Jones Career & Education Center on August 25, 2017, and successfully completed the program on May 17, 2018. Mohammad has since obtained full-time employment as an HVAC Technician with Sears for which he receives health benefits and a starting hourly wage of \$20.00.

The California Labor and Workforce Development Agency and the California Workforce Development Board awarded \$2.5 million to five local workforce boards to implement a workforce navigator pilot program to help English language learners and immigrant workers with career services and support that lead to jobs. The goal of the project was to better align job training, adult education, and support services for individuals with limited English-language proficiency.

To learn more about the ELL Workforce Navigator program in our region, please see the "Making a Difference" section of the February 2018 CAERC Community newsletter available at http://caerc.org/newsletters/CAERC_Newsletter-February_2018.pdf.



CAERC members involved with the ELL Workforce Navigator Pilot at the Convening on November 13, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

Be a part of the CAERC community by attending an upcoming event.

CAERC Monthly Meetings Wednesdays, 1:00–2:00 PM

Please join us! Public is welcome to attend!

January 9, 2019 – SCOE, Mather Room

February 13, 2019 – SCOE Conference Center, Y/Z

March 6, 2019 – SCOE Conference Center, W/Y

April 3, 2019 – SCOE, Mather Room

May 8, 2019 – SCOE, Mather Room

June 5, 2019 – SCOE, Mather Room

SCOE Mather Room: 10474 Mather Blvd., Mather, CA 95655

SCOE Conference Center: 3661 Whitehead Street,
Suite 100, Mather, CA 95655

*Monthly Business Meetings to be followed by
Working Meetings from 2:00–3:30 PM.*

Subscribe to the Adult Education Program (AEP) eNewsletter

Keep up-to-date with weekly eNewsletter updates from the AEP Office and AEP Technical Assistance Project (TAP). The “More on Adult Education” eNewsletter provides the latest information on all matters AEP including:

- Policy and budget updates
- Legislation
- Webinars and regional trainings
- State and national reports
- Conferences and events

Visit <https://goo.gl/viWFTs> to subscribe today.

2019 Annual EL Civics Conference in Sacramento

Registration is now OPEN for the 2019 Annual EL Civics Conference. ESL coordinators, ESL teachers, and administrators are encouraged to attend this event.

Date: Friday, February 1, 2019

Location: Charles A. Jones Career &
Education Center
5451 Lemon Hill Ave.
Sacramento, CA

To register, please visit <https://www.casas.org/> and select Training Registration. The \$20 registration fee includes continental breakfast and lunch.

<p>You're Invited! Coordinators, teachers, and administrators of AEFLA/WIOA funded agencies</p>  <p>2019 Annual EL Civics Conferences</p> <p>Integrated EL Civics and Citizenship Preparation</p> <p>Mark Your Calendar Now!</p>	<p>Benefits Networking Sessions/Updates from CDE, CASAS, OTAN, CALPRO, & AEBG</p>  <p>Thank you to local ESL publishers for their support</p> <p>\$20 Registration Includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch</p> <p>Registration opens Nov. 1 www.casas.org</p> <p>Registration secured upon receipt of payment</p>
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If you have questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact us:

916-228-2353 caerc@scoe.net

Sacramento County Office of Education,
P.O. Box 269003, Sacramento, CA 95826

UPCOMING EVENTS, *continued*

CAERC Network Meetings for ABE, ASE, and ESL Teachers

Join your colleagues from adult schools across the consortium at an upcoming Network Meeting. Open to all instructors from CAERC member districts and county offices of education, these meetings offer tools and strategies to support effective classroom instruction. We hope to see you at a future meeting at the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE)!

ESL Writing Network

Audience	Date and Location	Time	Registration Required
ESL Instructors	February 8, 2019 Location: SCOE, Board Room	1:00 – 4:30 PM	URL: https://goo.gl/7i6osZ Register by February 1, 2019
ESL Instructors	May 3, 2019 Location: SCOE, Room A	1:00 – 4:30 PM	URL: https://goo.gl/TPG1qG Register by April 26, 2019

ELA Writing Network

Audience	Date and Location	Time	Registration Required
ABE and ASE Instructors	March 8, 2019 Location: SCOE, Room A	1:00 – 4:30 PM	URL: https://goo.gl/3pvvrK Register by March 1, 2019

Mathematics Network

Audience	Date and Location	Time	Registration Required
ABE and ASE Instructors	January 25, 2019 Location: SCOE, Room B	1:00 – 4:30 PM	URL: https://goo.gl/rQege7 Register by January 18, 2019
ABE and ASE Instructors	April 5, 2019 Location: SCOE, Library Meeting Room	1:00 – 4:30 PM	URL: https://goo.gl/VfYh6o Register by March 29, 2019

The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) is located at 10474 Mather Boulevard, Mather, California 95655.



Teachers identify characteristics of rigorous ESL instruction at the November 2, 2018, ESL Network Meeting.