



CAERC COMMUNITY

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A Publication for the Capital Adult Education Regional Consortium Community

Director's Message

The focus of the 2022–25 planning period was to rebuild and restore adult education programs and services across the region. As we continue to face pandemic-related challenges, the consortium has adopted flexible instructional options to help students persist and meet their educational and career goals. Demand for online instruction has not waned with the easing of restrictions and the return to in-person learning. Across the CAERC region, adult education agencies support and offer classes in person, online, or in a hybrid – hyflex format. With students and teachers becoming familiar and comfortable with digital tools for learning and instruction, remote and blended classrooms have become a permanent learning environment in the adult education landscape.

In 2021–22, CAERC members articulated goals to address basic skills instruction, career education needs, and expanding support services and outreach. Regional adult education enrollments were stagnant at the start of the program year. However, by the spring of 2022, an increased interest in adult education programs resulted in a 30% jump in enrollees compared to the previous year. Furthermore, in a surprise reversal of the downward trend of adult English Language Learner (ELL) enrollments in 2020–21, ELL student enrollment increased by 36% as of May 2022. In addition, the number of adults served in ABE/ASE and CTE continues to surpass the previous year's numbers.

The demand for literacy-level ESL classes has significantly increased with the influx of Afghan refugees to Sacramento regions like Arden, Elk Grove, and Rancho Cordova, which prompted schools in those areas to support ESL classes and align curricula for students at this level. In June, CAERC members and partners collaborated with the California Department of Education and participated in the FEMA-sponsored Welcome Center for Afghan Evacuees. The event provided resources to a wide range of supportive and social services, including adult education and career development opportunities.

Career and Workforce Preparation programs supported by CAERC members this year have grown to include over a dozen industry sectors. Career pathway offerings include Careers with Children/ Instructional Assistant (see page 4), Culinary Arts, Medical Office Careers, Nursing Assistant, Vocational Nursing, and Pharmacy Technician. Recently implemented pathways include Business and Finance, Future Fire Academy (see page 5), and School Bus Training (see page 4).

Patricia Oliva

Patricia Oliva, CAERC Director

CCAE NORTHERN REGION

Recognizing 2021–22 Accomplishments

Contribution by Grace Sauser, CCAE Northern Section President 2022 and Principal, Davis Adult & Community Education

As we come up to the end of a very interesting year in Adult Education, it's a great time to look back at what we've accomplished.



- A return to in-person learning across the section with the addition of innovative ways to reach more students through hyflex, online, and blended learning options. The lessons learned from the pandemic have forever transformed the way we deliver high-quality, just-in-time instruction for our students.
- Expansion of CTE and IET courses throughout the region to meet the workforce needs of our communities, especially in high-demand fields.
- A commitment to use our funds responsibly and in a timely manner (AB 1491) to ensure the continuation of that funding and justify the need for increased funding in the future.
- An amazing legislative advocacy event in April in which a combination of administrators, teachers, staff, and students met with every Assembly member and State Senator in our section to talk up the good work of adult education.
- The first in-person, statewide conference in two years complete with a plethora of informative workshops, great networking events, and a celebration of our incredible adult ed colleagues from across the state.

With all the great things happening in adult education, this is a great opportunity to become a bigger part of the CCAE family by joining the Northern Section board!

Now that things are opening up again, we have great plans for next year to help our members grow their professional network, participate in inspiring professional development, and continue our advocacy work on behalf of the cause. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the board, email Patricia Oliva (poliva@scoe.net) and we'll be in touch soon!

2021–22 CCAE Northern Section Recognitions

- **Excellence in Support Services**
 - Ann Forlenza – Davis Adult & Community Education
 - Leonela Perez – Elk Grove Adult & Community Education
 - Therese Schultz – Elk Grove Adult & Community Education
- **Excellence in Teaching**
 - Jennifer Vongthongkham – Washington Adult School
 - Linda Laymon – San Juan Adult Education
 - Trung Bui – Elk Grove Adult & Community Education



Theresa Schultz is recognized for Excellence in Support Services 2022 CCAE Northern Section. With her is Grace Sauser, former CCAE Northern Section President (2021–22).

FROM THE THREE-YEAR PLAN

2022–25 CAEP Objectives and CAERC Regional Strategies

After several months of collaboration, data analysis, and self-assessment, CAERC members officially approved the consortium's three-year plan for 2022–25 on May 4, 2022. The plan includes three CAEP-identified state objectives: (1) addressing educational needs, (2) improving the integration of services and transitions, and (3) improving the effectiveness of services.

- **To address educational needs**, CAERC and its members will continue to sustain, expand, refine, and offer high-quality courses and services that provide the region's adult learners with the academic and vocational programs to meet their personal, educational, and career goals.
- **To improve the integration of services and transitions**, CAERC and its members will develop and support alignment efforts and career pathways in addition to increasing student support services.
- **To improve the effectiveness of services**, CAERC and its members will participate in professional development to support the consortium's regional priorities and strategies, enhance data and accountability systems, and leverage resources.

CAEP Objectives and Regional Strategies	CAERC Members and Active Partners, 2022–23
<p>CAEP Objective: Address Educational Needs</p> <p>Regional Strategy 1: Sustain, expand, and refine adult education course offerings and services in the seven program areas in the region.</p> <p>Regional Strategy 2: Coordinate and expand marketing and outreach efforts.</p> <p>Regional Strategy 3: Host, support, expand the use, and promote the regional asset map.</p>	<p>Alta California Regional</p> <p>Amador County USD</p> <p>American River College</p> <p>California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation</p> <p>Cosumnes River College</p> <p>Davis Joint USD</p> <p>El Dorado County Office of Education</p> <p>Elk Grove USD</p> <p>Folsom-Cordova USD</p> <p>Galt Joint UHSD</p> <p>Natomas USD</p> <p>Sacramento City College</p> <p>Sacramento City USD</p> <p>Sacramento Employment & Training Agency</p> <p>Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services</p> <p>Sacramento Public Library</p> <p>San Juan USD</p> <p>Twin Rivers USD</p> <p>Valley Vision</p> <p>Washington USD</p>
<p>CAEP Objective: Integration of Services & Transitions</p> <p>Regional Strategy 4: Align and strengthen the development of courses to support transitions from ESL/ABE to secondary and post-secondary.</p> <p>Regional Strategy 5: Strengthen the development of transitional activities and services that support ESL/ABE to secondary transitions and ASE/CTE transitions to post-secondary or the workforce.</p> <p>Regional Strategy 6: Expand career pathway courses to align with high-demand markets in the region.</p>	
<p>CAEP Objective: Effectiveness of Services</p> <p>Regional Strategy 7: Offer professional development to support regional strategies.</p> <p>Regional Strategy 8: Strengthen regional partnerships to increase funding and leverage existing structures and expertise to benefit adult learners in the region.</p> <p>Regional Strategy 9: Strengthen and support data collection and reporting efforts.</p>	

ADULT EDUCATION WORKS

Amador Adult Education

*Contribution by
Sarah Spinetta
for the Ledger
Dispatch*



Adult Education and Workforce Prep

Located at the Independence High School Campus and under the guidance of Principal Kelly Hunkins, Amador Adult Education has been offering future life and job opportunities to all adults, of all ages and backgrounds, through developing skill and career sets. "Adult education programs are so important and needed; it's never too late to further your education or learn a new skill set for your future career, and we want people to know that we offer several courses for free, right in Sutter Creek," Principal Kelly Hunkins explained.

The school's mission is to create new paths for families through providing education, career, and skill training; and the results have been an influx of driven clients/students who are supported by a group of dedicated staff who operate together with their four core values of respect, honesty, kindness, and responsibility. "Classes run on the same calendar as the Amador County Unified School District, but we start and end two weeks after the school year calendar does," [Ms. Hunkins] added. "We partner with you to meet individual unique needs and help you achieve your goals. Amador Adult Ed offers a range of education and career preparation courses, like the School Bus Driver program, which includes paid training, in addition to paraeducator and computer/digital skill courses."

Funding for these various workforce readiness programs is made possible through the ACUSD-Amador Adult Education partnership, along with

the ACUSD being in the Capital Adult Educational Regional Consortium, or CAERC. "The exciting part of this is we are interconnected with 14 other schools that offer adult ed in the Sacramento area, so any of the programming that they offer, like Sac City has Manufacturing, we can send our students to that," Ms. Hunkins smiled. "If there's another career path you're interested in that is not offered in Sutter Creek, Amador Adult Education can refer you to one of the many other Sacramento-area adult education schools that are also a part of the CAERC Sacramento Region Adult Ed Career and Workforce Readiness Program. You can take courses in so many fields, like culinary arts, vocational nursing, manufacturing/welding, phlebotomy, construction, or business and finance. Many of these courses are free or low-cost, and all are found at schools in the Sacramento Region. There are so many options, and classes are available for both in-person training and online courses."

To find more information on Sacramento regional adult education programs and classes, please visit [Capital Adult Education](https://www.capitaladulteducation.org).



Sign Up Now!

Bus Driver Classroom Education	2 Weeks: June 6-17 Mon-Fri Class ★★★★★	Instructional Assistant Course	4 Weeks: July 12-Aug 4 Tues-Thurs Class ★★★★★
CLICK OR CALL!		Fill out the IA Course Interest Form on our Website today!	
		AmadorAdultEd.org ☎ (209) 257-5110 525 Independence Dr., Ste A Sutter Creek, CA	
#MoveAheadwithAdultEd		ALL COURSES ARE FREE Spots Limited!	

El Dorado County Office of Education



*Contribution by Carey Buchanan, Principal,
EDCOE Charter Adult Education*

Charter Adult Education Future Fire Academy

El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE) has partnered with the Future Fire Academy!

The Future Fire Academy is passionate about helping community members and formerly incarcerated individuals start/continue their firefighting careers! While FFA was originally founded with the formerly incarcerated in mind, they are open to all individuals. Our first academy was a mix of backgrounds, some with and without convictions.

El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE) partnered with FFA to provide a campus for in-class instruction, and behind-the-scenes support. The Future Fire Academy has secured partners in municipal fire departments and private fire companies that have committed to hiring options with our graduates. All graduates from the first class who applied for positions in the fire service have received offers of employment! The cadets become part of the fire family, and it is important that they succeed. As part of the training, they are also provided support and assistance with resumes, applications, and interviews.

To find more information on Sacramento regional adult education programs and classes, please visit [Capital Adult Education](#).



Future Fire Academy Mission

Future Fire Academy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating opportunities for veterans, young adults, and formerly incarcerated men and women who desire a career in the fire service. This will be accomplished through job specific training, education, community service, and character development.



Folsom Cordova Adult Education



*Contribution by Avi Jones, Teacher,
Folsom Cordova Adult Education*

Folsom Cordova Adult Education Paraeducator Training

Please join us in congratulating our latest ESL completer—Ana Silvia Pimentel! Silvia has promoted from advanced ESL and joined the workforce in the Folsom Cordova School District.

When Silvia joined us from Michoacán, México, six years ago, it was to be with her husband and children. Silvia's husband had found a great job in Folsom and the family of course wanted to follow him there. But when Silvia arrived in California, full of people rapidly speaking a language she wasn't fully familiar with, she found that her shy nature held her back.

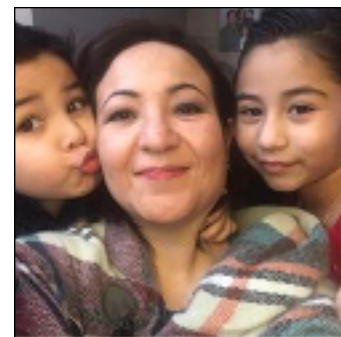
Fortunately, someone told her about the ESL program at Folsom Cordova Adult School in Rancho Cordova. Though it was mid-2020, the school had begun offering distance learning courses. Silvia registered for intermediate-high ESL and began attending regularly. Gradually, she began speaking more and more, at first in breakout rooms and then at whole-class level. Through contact with her classmates and teacher, Silvia began building confidence in speaking English in front of others and enrolled in FCAS' online paraeducator training course in the hopes of working with children in schools.

Building up her language skills, improving her CASAS scores, and empowered to start her

employment search, Silvia went from an anonymous black box on the Zoom screen to a camera-on mainstay of classroom conversations. She said that "[I] feel safe here," referring to her distance learning classroom. But she didn't stop there. Silvia soon found employment with our district as a yard supervisor, then paraeducator, finally adding a service position as secretary of the District English Learner Advisory Committee. In this capacity Silvia speaks in Spanish and English in front of crowds of people—something she never would have done two years ago!

We at FCAS could not be more proud of Silvia and want to extend an invitation to anyone who wants or needs to improve their English skills to contact their local adult school today and ask about registering for ESL courses.

To find more information on Sacramento regional adult education programs and classes, please visit [Capital Adult Education](#).



MEET THE CAERC TEAM

Kiu Chuong – Fiscal Manager. I've been with CAERC for over six years providing fiscal advisory and compliance support to our members. I come from K–12 finance, reviewing LCAPs, and overseeing federal, state, and local grants. In addition to CAERC, I also provide fiscal support to two other SCOE Adult Education Leadership projects—OTAN and CAEP TAP. When I'm not working, I love to spend my free time traveling the world with my family, hiking, playing tennis, and taking walks anywhere and everywhere. I look forward to supporting you and your program.



CAERC Team Members, from left to right: Kiu Chuong, Patricia Oliva, Patricia Black, and Carla Slowiczek.

Patricia Oliva – Director at CAERC since July 2021.

I have been in adult education for over 20 years. Within that time, I have served as an administrator, academic advisor/transition specialist, resource teacher, and classroom teacher of ESL, Adult Basic Education, HSD, and Spanish GED. I have a Master of Arts in Educational Management from the University of La Verne and a clear administrative services credential. I'm currently working on my Doctorate in Educational Leadership at UC Davis. I am committed to the development of programs that promote learning, equity, and achievement for all students and look forward to working with programs to support adult learners in the Capital Region.

Patricia Black – CAERC Administrative Assistant. I've been with SCOE for eight years. I started out as the OTAN (Outreach and Technical Assistance Network) Staff Secretary and was in that position for almost four years before taking the position with CAERC. It was helpful to be able to go from one adult education department to another. In my spare time I enjoy travel planning which is also beneficial in my position.

Carla Slowiczek - Coordinator at CAERC since September 2021. Before joining CAERC, I spent eight years in adult education teaching ESL, VESL/IET, U.S. Citizenship, and analyzing program data to assess student needs and outcomes and program effectiveness. As the team's newest addition, I collaborated on the consortium's three-year plan, facilitated the data and accountability workgroup meetings, and acquainted myself with our consortium members, partners, and SCOE colleagues. Looking forward, I will continue to provide ongoing support and coordination aligned with CAERC's strategies and objectives. It is a privilege to be working at CAERC with people dedicated to supporting adult education students and programs.



Please visit the [CAERC website](#) for more information.

