

The Adult Education and Literacy Services Office of the Maryland Department of Labor is thrilled to welcome you to our 8th Virtual Training Institute with AEFL week celebrations! Throughout this exciting week, we are bringing you a series of AEFL week messages, captivating recorded videos, and a plethora of engaging presentations to commemorate this special occasion with MD VTI participants. Let's make this week unforgettable together!

We are so fortunate to be able to deliver to you these professional learning opportunities taught by experts in the field of Adult Education at no charge. ***You must register separately for each session you wish to attend. Click the "Register Here" link at the end of each session description to complete the Zoom webinar registration. You will then receive a confirmation via email directly from Zoom for that session.***

If you have not received your registration confirmation email in your inbox, please take a moment to check your SPAM folder as well.

Proof of Participation emails will be sent via Zoom for each webinar a participant has attended a day after each webinar ends. Questions may be directed to Ahu Moser, Adult Education Program Specialist at ahu.moser@maryland.gov

In the event that you do not receive Proof of Participation emails from Zoom, you may complete this form to request Proof of Participation: <https://form.jotform.com/231924173560151>

All session slide decks and recordings will be added to the MD VTI Padlet by the end of October 2023. The Padlet can be accessed here [MD VTI Padlet](#) anytime for the archived session slides and recordings from the previous VTIs.

[Monday, September 18, 2023 \(All times Eastern Time \(US and Canada\)\)](#)

Time	Session
8:30 - 9:00 AM	<p>VTI 8.0 & AEFL Week 2023 Kick-Off!</p> <p>Presenters: Laura Ostrowski and Ahu Moser, MD Labor</p> <p>Join us to kick off VTI 8.0 & AEFL Week to hear special messages from Maryland Labor Secretary Wu and Deputy Director of Adult Education and Literacy Services Douglas Weimer!</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>
11:00 - 11:30 AM	<p>Beyond Traditional Adult Learning Theory</p> <p>Presenter: RAMONA KUNKEL, MD Labor</p> <p>Target audience: ALL INSTRUCTORS</p> <p>Keywords: INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES</p> <p>Instructors may have an understanding of Malcolm Knowles Adult Learning Theory. This presentation will expand adult learning theory to include experiential learning theory, transformative learning theory, and project-based learning. Hear how you can implement these learning strategies in your classroom to engage your learners and have them become active participants in the learning process.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>
1:00 - 2:00 PM	<p>Your Vibe: Creating a Harmonious Frequency in Your Classroom</p> <p>Presenter: Morgan Williams</p> <p>Target audience: ALL INSTRUCTORS</p> <p>Keywords: INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES</p> <p>"Your Vibe: Creating a Harmonious Frequency in Your Classroom" is a comprehensive exploration of how educators can cultivate a positive and conducive learning environment by understanding and harnessing the power of classroom dynamics. Drawing on research, real-world examples, and practical insights, this workshop offers a roadmap for educators seeking to create an atmosphere where each student's potential can flourish amidst a tapestry of diverse energies.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>

<p>2:00 - 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Strategies to Improve Student Retention</p> <p>Presenters: Racquel Francis & Eileen Moulin, Montgomery College</p> <p>Target Audience: ALL INSTRUCTORS</p> <p>Keywords: RETENTION</p> <p>How can you motivate adult learners to keep attending their classes despite the challenges they face? In this workshop, you will learn about various instructional and community building strategies that can enhance your learners' motivation to stay in class.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>
<p>3:00 - 4:00 PM</p>	<p>Supporting SLIFE Students in Adult Education: Challenges and Strategies</p> <p>Presenters: JAYE ARP & BETSY LJUBIC, Frederick Community College</p> <p>Target audience: ALL INSTRUCTORS</p> <p>Keywords: INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES</p> <p>This presentation delves into the unique educational journey of Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE) in the context of adult education. SLIFE students face distinct challenges stemming from gaps in their prior education, language barriers, and acculturation processes. This presentation explores the multifaceted obstacles that SLIFE students encounter and offers practical strategies for educators to effectively support their learning and integration.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>
<p>4:00 - 5:00 PM</p>	<p>Implementing Various Techniques on Engaging students in Zoom online classes via Digital Literacy Framework (Math and English Focus)</p> <p>Presenter: AYESHA WAHEED, Community College of Baltimore County</p> <p>Target audience: ALL INSTRUCTORS</p> <p>Keywords:</p> <p>A digital literacy framework can help teachers and learners to use technology effectively. Seek to minimize barriers that students may face in order to participate in the activities you plan for your online class session.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>

**** END OF MONDAY SESSIONS****

[Tuesday, September 19, 2023 \(All times Eastern Time \(US and Canada\)\)](#)

Time	Session
10:00 - 11:00 AM	<p>The How and Why of Hyflex</p> <p>Presenters: LAMA MASRI & BETSY LJUBIC, Frederick Community College</p> <p>Target audience: ALL INSTRUCTORS</p> <p>Keywords: DISTANCE LEARNING / DIGITAL LITERACY</p> <p>The How and Why of Hyflex</p> <p>An ESOL Program Manager and an ESOL adjunct instructor will share their experiences designing and delivering Hyflex ESOL classes at Frederick Community College. Frederick Community College has used the Hyflex model for several types of English for careers classes as well as pre-Academic ESOL courses.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>
12:00 - 2:00 PM	<p>Sentence Combining: A Strategy to Improve Student Writing</p> <p>Presenters: KRISTINE KELLY, ATLAS at Hamline University</p> <p>Target audience: ALL INSTRUCTORS</p> <p>Keywords: ESL</p> <p>THIS IS A 2-HOUR WORKSHOP FOR INSTRUCTORS OF INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED LEVEL LEARNERS</p> <p>Sentence combining is a writing strategy identified as being effective for adult learners and one that this presenter has relied on for over 20 years. This strategy pushes students to play with and experiment with language and removes some of the cognitive load, helping to place focus on how grammar and syntax work in real language. Prepare to try out several types of sentence combining activities and discuss how to incorporate this strategy into instruction!</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>

<p>3:00 - 4:00 PM</p>	<p>NEDP® in the Digital Landscape: Charting the Signposts of Generative AI</p> <p>Presenter: LAURA OSTROWSKI, MD Labor Target audience: NEDP ADVISORS/ASSESSORS Keywords: NEDP</p> <p>The National External Diploma Program® (NEDP) is a recognized alternative education program that offers adults an opportunity to earn a high school diploma outside the traditional classroom setting. NEDP assesses and validates adult learners' skills in real-world contexts. In recent years, advancements in technology, particularly in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI), have opened up new possibilities for enhancing educational programs. This presentation aims to explore the utilization of generative AI alongside NEDP to improve the experience and outcomes for adult learners.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>
<p>4:00 - 5:00 PM</p>	<p>Differentiation in ABE/ASE Classroom</p> <p>Presenters: JUANITA FISHER & KELLY WASHINGTON, Community College of Baltimore County Target audience: ABE/ASE INSTRUCTORS Keywords: INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES</p> <p>This presentation will focus on differentiation of instruction in the ABE/ASE classroom. Adult learners in these classes present with a variety of backgrounds, skill levels, and interests. The instructional lens of instruction should include access. This interactive workshop introduces educators to ChatGPT and Nearpod and their applications in the classroom. Learn how to create personalized learning experiences, generate engaging content, provide instant feedback, and foster critical thinking. Elevate your teaching with AI-assisted differentiation and innovative educational approaches. This presentation will introduce both hands-on and technological instructional strategies for differentiation as a way to engage in blended learning.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>

**** END OF TUESDAY SESSIONS****

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 (All times Eastern Time (US and Canada))

Time	Session
10:00 - 11:00 AM	<p>Maryland's Skilled Immigrant Task Force: Supporting Skilled Immigrants in their Workforce Integration</p> <p>Presenters: JOANA WINNINGHAM, MD Labor MARGARET SHRAGER, Prince George's Community College CHRISTIE CUGLOVICI ABRAO, Asylum Works BEN HAMILTON , Howard County Library System NICOLE GUIMARAES, Luminous</p> <p>Target audience: ESL/ESOL</p> <p>Keywords: SKILLED IMMIGRANTS</p> <p>According to the Migration Policy Institute, it's estimated that 2 million immigrants and refugees with a college degree are either unemployed or underemployed in the U.S. This internationally-trained workforce faces unique challenges to entering the U.S. workforce and moving from entry-level to middle- or high-skilled jobs that make use of their education and work experience. This session will provide an overview of these unique challenges and the ways the Maryland Skilled Immigrant Task Force collaborates to support the integration of internationally-trained professionals into Maryland's workforce.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>
11:00 - 11:30 AM	<p>Teaching Idioms With Music</p> <p>Presenter: JESSIE THOMPSON, Harford Community College</p> <p>Target Audience: ALL INSTRUCTORS</p> <p>Keywords: Instructional Strategies</p> <p>The presenter saw an opportunity to fill a need to help our Adult Basic Education and rising English as a Second Language students who were struggling with figurative, non-literal meaning of phrases, particularly idioms. These students would pause to figure out the meaning of idioms and this would stall or delay the comprehension of a reading passage. Using context clues to analyze song lyrics with music helps students identify the meanings of the idioms in an engaging way.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>

<p>12:00 - 1:00 PM</p>	<p>How Mental Health Impacts Student Learning</p> <p>Presenter: Kalie Borries, Howard Community College</p> <p>Target Audience: ALL INSTRUCTORS</p> <p>Keywords:Instructional Strategies</p> <p>This presentation is all about instructors helping other instructors learn and grow in our ability to care for our students who struggle with trauma or mental health challenges. In this session, we will learn about the most common mental health conditions, look at how stress and trauma impact our ability to learn, discover some ways to be a trauma-informed instructor, and analyze whether or not our current classrooms and systems holistically support our students.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>
<p>01:00 - 02:00 PM</p>	<p>Test-taking Strategies for GED®Math</p> <p>Presenter:Kellie Hardt, Prince George’s Community College</p> <p>Target Audience: ALL INSTRUCTORS</p> <p>Keywords: ABE/ASE</p> <p>This workshop is a must-attend for instructors who teach GED math and anyone eager to boost GED students' success on the math exam. Discover and unravel the most common stumbling blocks through an engaging overview and hands-on problem-solving practice. Together, we'll delve into the concepts that challenge students the most and equip you with effective strategies to guide them to success. **Note:** Participants are highly encouraged to have access to a TI-30xs Multiview calculator during this workshop.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>

<p>02:00 - 03:00 PM</p>	<p>Destination: Motivation</p> <p>Presenter: Tricia Berry, Purdue Global</p> <p>Target Audience: ALL INSTRUCTORS</p> <p>Keywords: MOTIVATION</p> <p>The journey through life is full of obstacles and challenges. We encounter them daily, and we each respond to them differently. What motivates some people to stop when they reach an obstacle and others to go around it? This interactive session will focus on theories and techniques related to motivation. You will leave the session with some vehicles to help others through their journey.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>
<p>05:00 - 06:00 PM</p>	<p>Neurodiversity 101</p> <p>Presenter: Katie York, Community College of Baltimore County</p> <p>Target audience: ALL INSTRUCTORS</p> <p>Keywords: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>“Neurodiversity” is the idea that neurological differences (such as autism, dyslexia, and ADHD) are a normal variation of the human brain. This session will provide an overview of some of the most common neurodivergent identities. Participants will also learn practical neurodivergent-affirming and inclusive strategies to empower neurodivergent individuals to succeed.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>

06:00 - 06:30 PM

Math Can Be a Fun Subject: Engaging Activities for Adult Math Students

Presenter: Jeanie Moon, [Montgomery College](#)

Target Audience: ABE/ASE

Keywords:GED

After a short activity, this presentation questions why some math students may lose joy in mathematics and what we as instructors can do to help them (re)find interest in solving math problems. Data on math scores and surveys conducted by students about how they feel in math classes are shared to support the discussion points. Participants are then invited to share their experience as math instructors as well as learners. The differences between formative and summative assessments are briefly discussed, mostly to emphasize the importance of providing performance assessments in multiple forms throughout the course rather than giving exams only. Finally, learner engaging activities instructors can use in both online and in-person math courses are discussed. Participants talk about how they can use those activities for formative assessments and why they think the activities can promote learner interest.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**** END OF WEDNESDAY SESSIONS****

Thursday, September 21, 2023 (All times Eastern Time (US and Canada))

Time	Session
10:00 - 11:00 AM	<p>Kicking Off 🏈... The NEDP® Roadshow: A Very Special Celebration of 45 Years in Maryland</p> <p>FACILITATOR: LAURA OSTROWSKI, MD Labor Target Audience: NEDP Practitioners & Providers Keyword: NEDP</p> <p>Since its inception in Maryland in 1978, NEDP has proven to be an essential pathway for adults to earn a High School Diploma. In partnership and collaboration with CASAS, the Maryland Department of Labor, and the NEDP sites in Maryland, learners take their personal and professional development to new heights at the nexus community support, program services, and strategic guidance.</p> <p>Celebrating its forty-fifth anniversary as a high school diploma option for adults, Maryland Labor applauds the extensive work and support for adult learners from community to program, county to county. From October 2023 until June 2024, the Maryland Department of Labor will be taking its appreciation on the road. Traveling to each of its 10 sites for NEDP, we will explore promising practices and traits of success within our programs, showcasing individuals and communities on a pathway to elevating goals and ambitions for all adult learners in Maryland!</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>
11:30 - 12:00 PM	<p>Empowering Parents to Learn: Building Strong Family Literacy Partnerships in Adult Education</p> <p>FACILITATOR: LYNDA GEOFFROY, Hagerstown Community College Target Audience: All Instructors Keywords: FAMILY LITERACY</p> <p>The heart of family literacy is empowering parents to learn English or obtain their GED which allows their children to also increase their literacy. Lynda Geoffroy, Instructional Specialist from Hagerstown Community College , will share her experience in Family Literacy through a unique partnership with Washington County Family Center, Maryland.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>

<p>12:30 - 1:00 PM</p>	<p>How a Multigenerational Approach to English Learning Can Remove Barriers to Connecting Newcomers With Our Community</p> <p>FACILITATOR: MERRITT GROESCHEL, Solutions in Hometown Connections</p> <p>Target Audience: All Instructors</p> <p>Keywords: Family Literacy</p> <p>Join us in this short presentation to learn about how family literacy is a multigenerational approach, and how it is an important part of a puzzle to remove barriers for our newly-arrived neighbors .</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>
<p>1:30 - 1:45 PM</p>	<p>VTI 8.0 & AEFL Week Closing Session</p> <p>Presenters: Laura Ostrowski and Ahu Moser, MD Labor</p> <p>Join us as we celebrate the closing of our week of sharing and learning with a recap of VTI 8.0 and a special closing message from the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning Assistant Secretary Erin Roth.</p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>

**** END OF THURSDAY SESSIONS****