

Adult Education and Literacy Institute

**Iowa Adult Education & Literacy:
It's Our Time to**



July 16 – July 18, 2014

Iowa State Scheman Center

Iowa State University

Scheman Building #102

Ames, Iowa

Wednesday, July 16, 2014
Pre-Conference

Registration 11:30 – 12:30

Standards-in-Action: Institute 4

12:30-4:30 PM

This half-day workshop provides administrators with an understanding of the Standards-in-Action initiative.

Audience: administrators of Iowa Adult Education and Literacy programs.

Presenter: LINCS national trainer, Michelle Carson

Outcomes: By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Describe the Standards-in-Action initiative in Iowa and its implications for standards-based instruction in their individual programs.
- Implement the SIA Observation System in their program.
- Conduct teacher observations as part of the SIA observation system.
- Develop a program-specific plan for sustaining the SIA initiative innovations.

Finding Everyday Opportunities to Think Algebraically

12:30-4:30 PM

When studying algebra, students often ask, “When are we going to use this?” In this interactive workshop, algebraic thinking will be used to analyze common situations, giving rise to a variety of instructional strategies that make algebra accessible from many entry points.

Presenter: LINCS national trainer, Heidi Schuler

Outcomes: By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Integrate elements of algebra into all levels of arithmetic instruction
- Emphasize modeling in formal algebra instruction
- Incorporate the elements of algebraic thinking into math instruction

***Instructors: Please take the brief Instructor Needs Survey at the registration table sometime during the conference.**

**** Sign-in required each day at the Registration Table**

Thursday, July 17, 2014
Conference Day One

8:00 AM	Registration Begins * Sign-in required each day at the Registration Table					
9:00 – 10:00 AM Break-Out Sessions	Room 250	Room 252	Room 275	Room 254	Room 260	Room 262
	Heidi Schuler, LINCS/National Institute for Literacy <i>The Components of Numeracy: Tools for Engaging Learners in Meaningful Math Part 1</i>	Jonna McDonough <i>HiSET Now and into the Future for Instructors</i>	Craig Boykin National Presenter <i>How to Motivate the Unmotivated</i>	Barb Oakland Iowa ESL Regional Specialist <i>All Over the Map</i>	Kathy Olesen- Tracy i-Pathways <i>Prepare, Believe, and Achieve Success with i- Pathways</i>	Mary Avila STAR trainer- in-training <i>STAR Reading Follow Up participants are invited to a networking session</i>
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Networking/Vendor Time					
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Keynote Address Rooms 220-240 Craig Boykin - <i>Make Life Count</i>					
11:30 – 12:30 PM	Luncheon					
12:30 – 1:30 PM Break-Out Sessions	Room 250	Room 252	Room 275	Room 254	Room 260	Room 262
	Heidi Schuler, LINCS/National Institute for Literacy <i>The Components of Numeracy: Tools for Engaging Learners in Meaningful Math Part 2</i>	Barb Scholtens <i>Hiway to Hi Set</i>	Lisa Gard <i>Completing the TE Forms for Corrections Staff</i>	<i>Sarah Thao</i> <i>Creating a Communicative Classroom Environment</i>	Brandi Parsons <i>Face-to-Face Meetings in a Virtual World: An Exploration of Venues</i> Optional: Bring your own laptop	Marcel Kielkucki <i>Learning to Achieve— Reading Disabilities and Strategies Part 1</i>
1:30 – 1:45 PM	Networking/Vendor Time					

<p>1:45 – 2:45 PM</p> <p>Break-Out Sessions</p>	<p>Room 250</p> <p>Heidi Schuler, LINCS/National Institute for Literacy</p> <p><i>The Components of Numeracy: Tools for Engaging Learners in Meaningful Math Part 1</i></p>	<p>Room 252</p> <p>DeAnn Nixt , Colleen Schmitt, & Phyllis Hinton</p> <p><i>Planting College and Career Readiness: CCR Implementation and Reading Standards</i></p>	<p>Room 275</p> <p>Craig Boykin National Presenter</p> <p>Ask the Keynote</p>	<p>Room 254</p> <p>Jonna McDonough</p> <p><i>HiSET for Administration</i></p>	<p>Room 260</p> <p>Gloria DeBower</p> <p>Integrating Career Awareness in the ABE/ESL Classroom</p>	<p>Room 262</p> <p>Marcel Kielkucki</p> <p><i>Learning to Achieve— Reading Disabilities and Strategies Part 2</i></p>
<p>2:45 – 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Networking/Vendor Time</p>					
<p>3:00 – 4:00</p>	<p>Room 250</p> <p>Heidi Schuler, LINCS/National Institute for Literacy</p> <p><i>The Components of Numeracy: Tools for Engaging Learners in Meaningful Math Part 2</i></p>	<p>Room 252</p> <p>Michelle Carson</p> <p><i>SIA Lesson Planning</i></p> <p>Bring your own laptop, materials, lessons to refine, etc.</p>	<p>Room 275</p> <p>Craig Boykin National Presenter</p> <p><i>Book Signing of My Life, Your Inspiration</i></p>	<p>Room 254</p> <p>Amanda Klinkenberg</p> <p>Integrating Technology in the Adult ELL Classroom</p> <p>Bring your own laptop!</p>	<p>Room 260</p> <p>Brandi Parsons</p> <p><i>Zoom In: An in-depth look at student success in distance learning courses with a F2F component</i></p> <p>Optional: Bring your own laptop</p>	<p>Room 262</p> <p>DeAnn Nixt , Colleen Schmitt, & Phyllis Hinton</p> <p><i>Planting College and Career Readiness: CCR Implementation and Math Standards</i></p>
<p>4:30 – 6:00 PM</p>	<p>Vendor Social in the Lobby near the Vendors</p>					

Friday, July 18, 2014
Conference Day Two

8:00 AM	Registration * Sign-in required each day at the Registration Table					
8:30 – 9:30 AM Break-Out Sessions	Room 250	Room 252	Room 275	Room 254	Room 260	Room 262
	Heidi Schuler, LINCS/National Institute for Literacy <i>The Components of Numeracy: Tools for Engaging Learners in Meaningful Math Part 1</i>	Phyllis Hinton <i>Kernels of the CCR: an Overview</i>	Brenda Cox <i>Vocabulary Scaffolding Strategies</i>	Karen Murray <i>Feeding Fun and Caring for ESL Students</i>	Dan Bubon <i>E-Portfolios as a Graduation Requirement</i>	Marcel Kielkucki <i>Learning to Achieve- Defining Learning Disabilities</i>
9:30 – 10:00 AM	Networking/Vendor Time					
10:00 – 11:00 AM Break-Out Sessions	Room 250	Room 252	Room 275	Room 254	Room 260	Room 262
	Heidi Schuler, LINCS/National Institute for Literacy <i>The Components of Numeracy: Tools for Engaging Learners in Meaningful Math Part 2</i>	Barb Scholtens <i>Hiway to Hi Set</i>	Mary Avila STAR trainer- in-training <i>Star Reading Initiative- getting to know the program</i>	Michelle Carson <i>General Lesson Planning</i> Bring your own laptop, materials, lessons to refine, etc.	De Heaton <i>Grow Computer Skills</i> Optional: Bring your own laptop	Jonathan Blitt John F. Reeves AZTEC
11:00 – 11:15 AM	Networking/Vendor Time					
11:15 AM – Noon	Capstone: Craig Boykin – Rise Above					

Break-Out Sessions

Thursday, July 17, 2014

The Components of Numeracy: Tools for Engaging Learners in Meaningful Math

Presenter: Heidi Schuler

This hands-on workshop explores ways to add context to the math content already being taught and to help learners develop reasoning and problem-solving skills. Teachers learn to enhance instructional activities to meet learners' needs and explore strategies to increase their ability to apply the math content in a variety of real-life contexts. This is a two part training. **Participants must attend Part 1 in order to attend Part 2.**

HiSet Now and Into the Future for Instructors

Presenter: Jonna McDonough

Focus of this session is on test content, preparation and accommodations for a teaching audience.

Ask the Keynote

Presenter: Craig Boykin

Craig will be available for questions and answers following his keynote address on *Make Life Count*.

All Over the Map

Presenter: Barb Oakland

Because students learn differently, any adult English Literacy class is apt to be multi-level. Experiment with large and small group activities that will help your students interact and learn at their levels. Using new ideas as presented in Jill Sinclair Bell's book, Teaching Multilevel Classes in ESL, this session will give participants a chance to try out video clips, map-reading, problem solving, and gaming activities to take home and use.

Prepare, Believe, and Achieve Success with i-Pathways

Presenter: Kathi Olesen-Tracey

What academic skills to students need in order to be successful on the HiSet and how will i-Pathways help you prepare your students for this high stakes test. Join this interactive session and explore the i-Pathway curriculum. Discover how to use i-Pathways in your classroom. Learn how to create a customized learning plan for students. Discuss retention strategies. This session is packed with strategies, ideas, and information.

STAR Reading Follow UP

Presenter: Mary Avila

This is STAR reading follow up for past participants- An opportunity to share progress from all programs across the state, and time to share materials and successes.

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Hiway to HiSet

Presenter: Barb Scholtens

What are some approaches for assisting students to achieve their High School Equivalent Diploma? The presenter will share effective practices and practical strategies for teaching students to successfully complete the Hi Set test. Participants will be provided with ideas and activities that work with students that promote retention and contribute to learner gains.

Completing the TE Forms for Corrections Staff

Presenter: Lisa Gard

This session will provide the guidance and forms necessary for correction programs to track students in TE. As part of the data management system, students will be part of the cohort for following up core measures and demonstrating learning gains through educational functioning level advancement. The enrollment, attendance and update forms are easy to use and available in a digital format.

Creating a Communicative Classroom Environment

Presenter: Sara Thao

The goal for ESL teachers is to get their students to talk, use English, and have communicative competence. In this session we'll discuss what it means to teach communicatively using task-based, problem-based, and project-based activities. Examples that teachers can take back and use in their classroom will be provided.

Face-to-Face Meetings in a Virtual World: An Exploration of Venues

Presenter: Brandi Parson

Take an in-depth look at the different virtual face-to-face programs. We'll explore Google Hangouts, Skype, Wiggio, Zoom, and FaceTime. Form an opinion of what may work well with students in your programs.

Learning to Achieve-Reading Disabilities and Strategies, Part 1

Presenter: Marcel Kielkucki

This session covers the considerations and strategies for working with adults with learning disabilities who struggle with reading. Topics include identifying skills needed to be a successful reader, identifying characteristics of reading disabilities, and discussing the four common types of reading disabilities. The session will also investigate assessment practices and instructional strategies that can develop reading skills. Information for this session is taken from Learning to Achieve.

The Components of Numeracy: Tools for Engaging Learners in Meaningful Math

Presenter: Heidi Schuler

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Planting College and Career Readiness CCR Implementation and Reading Standards

Presenter: DeAnn Nixt, Colleen Schmitt, & Phyllis Hinton

Iowa is adopting the College & Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) for adult education, and it's time to get to know them! After a brief overview of the CCRS, participants will develop familiarity with the English / Language Arts anchor standards and identify 3 key advances that set them apart from the status quo. Instructors will be asked to participate in small group activities that help them get to know the standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking/Listening and Language. These standards apply to our adult ELL learners as well, so all ABE instructors are encouraged to attend. If this is your first introduction to the CCRS, you may also want to attend the Friday session offered by Phyllis Hinton for a more in-depth overview.

How to Motivate the Unmotivated

Presenter: Craig Boykin

Craig feels he has a personal mission in life to offer hope to distressed persons who believe that their present circumstances are hopeless and shares his strategies in working with them.

Integrating Career Awareness in the ABE/ESL Classroom

Presenter: Gloria DeBower

This session will provide an overview of the training provided by LINCS through an online facilitated discussion of the Integrating Career Awareness curriculum. The aim is to encourage career awareness as an essential life skills that allows people to become more self-reliant and able to cope with rapidly changing labor markets. By developing career awareness at every level of instruction, students can play an active role in planning their future careers.

Learning to Achieve- Reading Disabilities and Strategies, Part 2

Presenter: Marcel Kielkucki

This session covers the considerations and strategies for working with adults with learning disabilities who struggle with reading. Topics include identifying skills needed to be a successful reader, identifying characteristics of reading disabilities, and discussing the four common types of reading disabilities. The session will also investigate assessment practices and instructional strategies that can develop reading skills. Information for this session is taken from Learning to Achieve.

The Components of Numeracy: Tools for Engaging Learners in Meaningful Math

Presenter: Heidi Schuler

This hands-on workshop explores ways to add context to the math content already being taught and to help learners develop reasoning and problem-solving skills. Teachers learn to enhance instructional activities to meet learners' needs and explore strategies to increase their ability to apply the math content in a variety of real-life contexts. This is a two part training. Participants must attend Part 1 in order to attend Part 2.

SIA Lesson Planning

Presenter: Michelle Carson

Were you a participant in the SIA initiative training this last year? Would you and other teachers at your program like to learn more about lesson planning and have time to practice? This session will provide you with the opportunity to apply what you have learned with guided practice in planning for instruction. Make sure to bring your SIA resources and tablet, laptop, or iPad for this working session.

Book Signing

Presenter: Craig Boykin

My Life, Your Inspiration

Integrating Technology in the Adult ELL Classroom

Presenter: Amanda Klinkenberg

Learn how to integrate more technology into your ELL classroom! The presentation will include tips and resources about what technology to use and how to use it, including using productivity software and Web resources, as well as ideas for lesson plans that integrate language objectives and technology objectives.

Zoom In

Presenter: Brandi Parsons

An in-depth look at student success in distance learning courses with a F 2 F component. Find out how adding a virtual face-to-face component in a foreign language distance learning course has led to greater completion rates amongst students.

Planting College and Career Readiness CCR Implementation and Math Standards

Presenter: DeAnn Nixt, Colleen Schmitt, & Phyllis Hinton

Learn about the College and Career Readiness standards with a focus on concepts and skills in each level of learning to link key math topics. Participants will be introduced to practices and content standards that can be integrated into new types of performance assessments that require students to demonstrate abstract and quantitative reasoning, precision, perseverance, and the strategic use of tools.

Break-Out Sessions **Friday, July 18, 2014**

The Components of Numeracy: Tools for Engaging Learners in Meaningful Math

Presenter: Heidi Schuler

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Kernels of the CCR: an Overview

Presenter: Phyllis Hinton

This session gives an informative overview of the College and Career Readiness State Standards for Adult Education and Literacy instruction.

Vocabulary Scaffolding Strategies

Presenter: Brenda Cox

Adult learners benefit greatly from instruction which provides scaffolding tools to support and enhance their learning. This session will explore the use of several different graphic organizers and learning strategies which can be used to assist students with vocabulary development. These ideas come from Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) strategies for English as Second Language (ESL) students; however these are some good tools to use with other adult learners as well.

Feeding Fun and Caring for ESL Students

Presenter: Karen Murray

We all really care about our ESL students. Let me share with you how I show them I care. I will also share how I make learning fun with simple multi-leveled games.

E-Portfolios as a Graduation Requirement

Presenter: Dan Bubon

Via an electronic portfolio, our Kirkwood Community College Adult High School Diploma candidates will be required to accumulate a collection of skills. These skills would promote enhanced communication and organizational skills as well as competencies in technology. The requirements for the portfolio center around the recognition of the importance of 21st Portfolio requirement we will begin to implement in the 2014-2015 school year is an attempt to add some useful skills to the graduating students repertoire. Through this requirement we hope to provide the student with a collection of lifelong skills that students can utilize if they continue their education or at a job.

Learning To Achieve: Defining Learning Disabilities

Presenter: Marcel Kielkucki

What is the difference among learning preferences, learning difficulties, and learning disabilities? In this session, discover information on the consensus definition of learning disabilities. Information for this session is taken from Learning to Achieve, a research-based training for adult educators on learning disabilities.

The Components of Numeracy: Tools for Engaging Learners in Meaningful Math

Presenter: Heidi Schuler

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Hiway to Hi Set

Presenter: Barb Scholtens

What are some approaches for assisting students to achieve their High School Equivalent Diploma? The presenter will share effective practices and practical strategies for teaching students to successfully complete the Hi Set test. Participants will be provided with ideas and activities that work with students that promote retention and contribute to learner gains.

Star Reading Initiative- getting to know the program

Presenter: Mary Avila

A power point presentation by State trainer Mary Avila on what is the Star Initiative, what it entails, and a question and answer time.

General Lesson Planning

Presenter: Michelle Carson

Bring your own devices for this hands-on workshop. During the workshop, the facilitator will provide teachers with a template for an individual instruction planning binder and provide guidance in developing standards-based lessons. Don't forget to bring your tablet, laptop, or iPad!

Grow Computer Skills

Presenter: De Heaton

About 100 beginning to Intermediate computer lessons to develop computer proficient adult learners, using WORD, EXCEL, Power point, Email and Internet.

AZTEC

Presenter: Jonathan Blitt/John F. Reeves

To help HiSET® candidates better prepare for their high school equivalency exams, Educational Testing Service (ETS) and Aztec Software Inc. provide an official cloud-based practice test along with accompanying test preparation software. Come see a detailed overview of the online HiSET practice test options and preparation curriculum available from Aztec Software.

Presenter Information

Avila, Mary

Mary is an adjunct instructor at DMACC Southridge. She teaches ABE classes, and is a Star Instructor in training with the Iowa Department of Education.

Blitt, Jonathan

Jonathan is the Chief Executive Officer for Aztec Software - a 35 year old educational software company. He directs all business activities, partnerships, acquisitions, strategic direction, and financial performance of the company's global operations. He is responsible for assessing and overseeing the company's entrance into new markets, including meetings in both China and Western Africa, where the company has been asked by executives to assist in educational reforms.

In addition to running Aztec, Jonathan is the co-founder of atext, Inc., a technology company whose mission it is to create the technologies that will aid Aztec in reinventing the relationship between student and instructor.

Currently, Jonathan sits on numerous boards of directors and has spoken at large industry tradeshows such as SUPERnet. He has spoken as a keynote speaker at events ranging from the United Nations IT Conference to educational and technology trade shows. Co-founder of the Need2Read Foundation that facilitates the application of technology to literacy organizations, he takes his love of philanthropy seriously.

Boykin, Craig

Craig is a renowned speaker, author, at-risk behavioral specialist, and mentor. He has devoted his life to creating lasting change for those who desire it. Craig has risen to the national stage by delivering his inspirational message which tells people how to shake off mediocrity and live up to their greatness. It is a message Craig has learned from his own life and one he is helping others apply to their lives. Craig is one of the nation's leading authorities in understanding and stimulating human potential, utilizing a powerful delivery and newly emerging insights to teach, inspire and channel people to new levels of achievement. Craig's personal mission in life is to provide hope to individuals who feel that their current situation is hopeless. Craig travels the country presenting his seminar, "Make Life Count." Craig published his first book in 2013 entitled, "My Life, Your Inspiration" and has been featured on TBN, won various awards, and his story has been shared in many inspirational and motivational magazines. Craig is one of the most sought after speakers in America speaking at programs, events, graduations and conferences across America. Craig truly has a very inspiring story and his journey from GED to PhD is one that will have you motivated to go out and achieve greatness.

Bubon, Dan

Dan is an instructor in the Adult High School Completion Program at Kirkwood Community College. He currently teaches two classes in HiSET preparation for students. Dan worked in the College Community School District as a special education teacher for 22 years and the last 12 as Prairie High School's Associate Principal. He earned his BA and MA degrees from the University of Iowa.

Carson, Michelle

Michelle enjoys her work as a LINCS National Trainer and Managing Partner of Carson Consulting & Training. She specializes in assisting states, organizations, and programs with adult education and workforce development needs. Her twenty plus years career includes extensive experience in higher education, adult education, and career and technical education administration. She is accomplished in project management, professional development, strengths-based performance program development, grant and proposal writing, data analysis and research, training and presentations, online and face-to-face course development, and conference and event planning. Specifically, she not only led the Standards-in-Action (SIA) initiative in Kansas for three years while the Associate Director of Adult Education in Kansas, but also continues to support several states and programs with their efforts in using and implementing the SIA standards-based education innovations.

Cox, Brenda

Brenda serves as education coordinator/instructor at the Clarinda Correctional Facility through Iowa Western Community College. She has worked in correctional education for 17½ years and taught in public school for 5 years before that. Brenda earned her BS in Education from Northwest Missouri State University and is nearing completion of a Master's in Education from Morningside College with a specialization in ESL. Brenda believes that adult educators must recognize the stores of knowledge that each adult learner brings to the classroom and look for ways to link new knowledge to this rich background.

DeBower, Gloria

Gloria graduated Iowa State University in 2004 with a B.A. in English Secondary Education and Teaching English as a Second Language, minor in Spanish. She has worked as Family Literacy Coordinator since 2005 for Iowa Valley CCD and has taught advanced adult ESL classes at the Education & Training Center since 2011. She enjoys family time (3 grand kids, plus one due in August), quilting, and reading in my spare time.

Gard, Lisa

Lisa has extensive experience with the use of technology in facilitating program management and has worked with the Iowa Department for the Blind for over fifteen years. In that time, she helped to initiate, to develop, and to maintain an accessible web-based case management system for the agency and developed various reports to respond to federal and state data reporting requirements.

Heaton, De

De has a Bachelor's of Music Education from Morningside College and a Master's of Education from Viterbo.

Hinton, Phyllis

Phyllis is a graduate of Mankato State University (BS, English) and Drake University (MSE). She has taught 5th grade through adult levels in English, Reading, Special Education, and Adult Education and Literacy. The last 20 years Phyllis has focused on adult learners, and she has served as a consultant at the Iowa Department of Education for seven years.

Kielkucki, Marcel

Marcel has served as Director of High School Completion Programs at Kirkwood Community College since July of 2010. Prior to that, he was an instructor for Kirkwood for four years, splitting time between the high school completion program and the high school distance learning program. Marcel graduated from Mount Mercy University with a BA in Social Science and Secondary Education in 2002 and is currently enrolled in a Master's program at the University of South Dakota.

Klinkenberg, Amanda

Amanda is the ELL Technology Instructor at Hawkeye Community College's Metro Center. She also teaches Spanish credit courses on main campus. Amanda has taught many levels of Spanish and ELL at various public schools and community colleges in Iowa including elementary, high school, and adult ELL, bilingual kindergarten, and early childhood, elementary, and high school Spanish. Amanda and her husband Dan, a Fareway assistant manager, have two young children and live in Waverly.

McDonough, Jonna

Jonna is the HiSET Regional Director, joining the HiSET team in January 2014. She is Iowa's liaison to the HiSET program, working to promote access and opportunity for HiSET candidates throughout the state. Prior to joining ETS in 2012, Ms. McDonough taught at-risk youth in grades 6-8, English and Reading.

Murray, Karen

Karen graduated from Loras College in Dubuque with a math major and education and English minor. She taught part time at Storm Lake St Mary's High School and Middle School for 15 years. Since fall of 2008, she has been teaching middle level adult ESL students through Iowa Central Community College in Storm Lake. Karen also works at Buena Vista University as a Math Specialist in their Academic Help Center. She loves both her jobs! Karen and her farmer husband Terry have 4 grown children and 9 wonderful grandchildren.

Nixt, DeAnn

DeAnn is an eight year experienced teacher. She is a graduate of Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture Education and is currently attending Upper Iowa University to obtain her Masters of Higher Education Administration. Her first four years of teaching were in secondary education. The last four years she has been serving Hawkeye Community College as a computer literacy instructor, hybrid HSC instructor, and team teaches the Connect2 Health Careers Academy. She is passionate about adult education and continually seeks to better her classroom to best serve the students.

Oakland, Barbara

Barb enjoys teaching a literacy level English class at Kirkwood Community College. She has taught various levels of adult language learners at four different community colleges across the state. As an ESL specialist, she regularly incorporates new techniques in her classroom to help her students become comfortable with their new language, feeling free to experiment with it in the classroom and in the community.

Olesen-Tracey, Kathy

Kathy has been in adult education as an instructor, program manager, and is now the i-Pathways Curriculum Director. With close to 18 years experience in adult education, Ms. Tracey holds an MS.Ed with an emphasis in adult education and an Ed.S. with an emphasis in Educational Administration. Her areas of expertise include retention in online learning and curriculum development.

Parsons, Brandi

Brandi is in her third year of working as a High School Distance Learning Instructor at Kirkwood Community College. She has a master's in Educational Technology from MidAmerica Nazarene University, an ESL endorsement from William Penn, and a Bachelor's of Arts in Elementary Education with a Spanish endorsement from Central College.

Reeves, John F.

John has worked in adult education, workforce development and corporate training since the late 1970's. From GED Test Proctor to consultant for 50 of the Fortune 500. For the past 20 years he has worked with publishers of assessment and training software programs including the Vocational Research Institute, SkillTRAN and most recently Aztec Software, exclusive distributors of online practice tests for the HiSET and developers of the HiSET-specific preparation curriculum.

Schmitt, Colleen

Colleen is an instructor/coordinator for Kirkwood Community College's non-credit adult ELL programs. She is a licensed English/Language Arts, Spanish and ELL teacher with eight years of K-12 and adult education experience. In 2012, she became familiar with the adult College & Career Readiness standards while developing and implementing a Common Core-aligned ELA curriculum at the secondary level. She holds a graduate certificate in Adult TESOL from Hamline University.

Scholtens, Barb

Barb began teaching in corrections in March 2004 at the North Central Correctional Facility. She currently teaches writing, social studies, science, and reading in the Hi Set program. Barb is currently working toward her Masters in Adult Education from Ashford University.

Schuler, Heidi

Heidi is the Lead Adult Education Instructor at Chattahoochee Technical College's Cherokee Learning Center in north Georgia. She has over 20 years of experience in the development and promotion of hands-on math instruction tools for students and teachers alike with the last six years focused on adult learners. She has led staff development workshops in public and private K-12 schools throughout the U.S. as well as at state adult education conferences. In 2010 she participated in the Adult Numeracy Institute Professional Development (ANI-PD) Field Test in Georgia, and now serves as a national trainer for this program.

Thao, Sarah

Sarah is an ESL Regional Specialist who provides trainings and webinars for the Iowa Dept. of Education. She has close to 20 years of experience in ESL in everything from teaching English in China, to mentoring a refugee family, to teaching preliteracy through transitions level at a community college. She holds an MA in TESOL from Central Missouri State University and has studied Spanish and Chinese. She is currently teaching ESL for Central Iowa Works and the Iowa International Center. Her free time is dominated by her 3-year old twin boys, but she also enjoys reading and travel.

