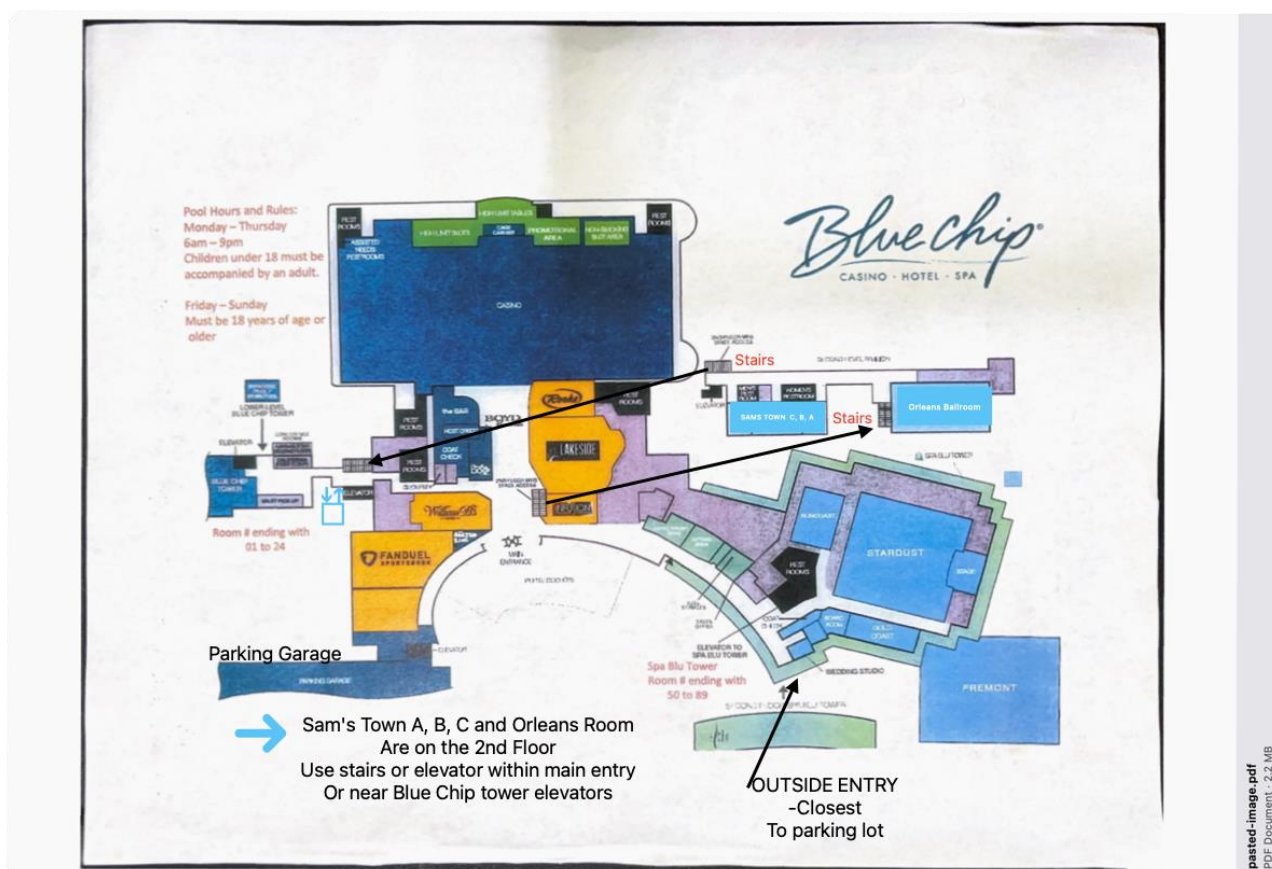




Blue Chip Resort Property Map

Michigan City is on Central Time



DOOR PRIZES



- 1 Location**
Stardust Ballroom in the back
- 2 Earn Tickets**
Earn by going to sessions, facilitator provides at the end of the session, write your name on the ticket.
- 3 Choose Prizes you'd like to Win**
Place ticket with your name in the bucket that corresponds to the prize you hope to win!

ALL Drawings are Friday 11:15 am

Must be present to Win!

GET EVEN MORE OUT OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP!



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
[GETCONNECTABLE.COM/DEMO](https://getconnectable.com/demo)
TO BOOK A TIME TO TALK!

[GETCONNECTABLE.COM/DEMO](https://getconnectable.com/demo)

SPECIAL BENEFIT FOR IAACE MEMBERS!

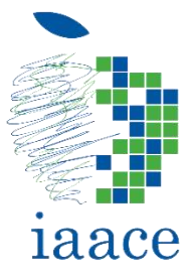


JUST SCAN THE QR CODE
TO JOIN THE CLASS LIST!



FREE
COURSE IN
JANUARY 2026
FOR IAACE
MEMBERS!





Presidents Message

Welcome to the 2025 IAACE Conference!

It is a true honor to serve as your IAACE President and to celebrate the incredible work being done in adult education across Indiana. Just like in baseball, adult education is about perseverance, teamwork, and never giving up until you cross home plate. Every day, programs help adults step up to the plate. Whether we are working toward a high school equivalency diploma, learning English, preparing for a career, or taking the next big swing in life.

This conference is our ballpark: a place to connect with your teammates, share winning strategies, and get inspired to keep moving runners forward. The sessions, speakers, and networking opportunities will help you sharpen your skills and head back to your community ready to knock it out of the park for your learners.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your IAACE President. Together, we are coaching learners to success, cheering them on around the bases, and celebrating their victories. I hope you leave this conference feeling energized and ready for the next inning in this vital work.

Play ball,

Caroline

Caroline Foster
IAACE Board of Directors President

**DOOR
PRIZES**



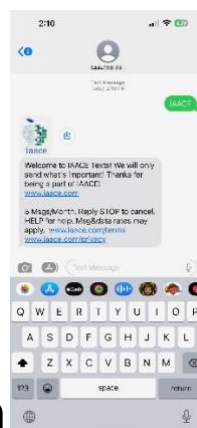
- 1 Location**
Stardust Ballroom in the back
 - 2 Earn Tickets**
Earn by going to sessions, facilitator provides at the end of the session, write your name on the ticket.
 - 3 Choose Prizes you'd like to Win**
Place ticket with your name in the bucket that corresponds to the prize you hope to win!
- ALL Drawings are Friday 11:15 am**
- Must be present to Win!*

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Get IAACE Texts/SMS/MMS

Important Updates on Conference!

1. Open Messages on your device
2. Type iaace and send to 844-469-0133



3. Receive Confirmation



Conference at a Glance

*Schedule subject to change. Changes will be posted at <https://virtual.iaace.com/>

All times are in Central Time

Tuesday, September 23

3:00 pm- Board of Directors Meeting
4:00 pm Hotel Check in- [Boyd Rewards App makes it easy!](#)

Wednesday, September 24

8:00 am **Batter Up! Conference Check In**
 **Check-In Tables – Your Home Plate**

All questions start here! Swing by the check-in tables to pick up your materials, get directions, or ask anything you need to know. Think of this as **home plate**—every play starts here, and we'll make sure you're ready to knock your conference experience out of the park!

9:00 am Opening of Exhibits – Game begins!
 **Exhibitor Game**

Step up to the plate and join the **Exhibitor Game!**

Pick up your game card at check-in, follow the instructions as you visit exhibitors, and don't forget to write your name on your card. Turn it back in at check-in to score a prize.

Complete the entire card, and you'll hit a home run with an entry to win a **FREE registration to the 2026 IAACE Conference!**

Silent Auction begins for Indiana Literacy Association by the Ivy Tech Corrections Vocational Department <https://iaace.com/literacyauction/>

50/50 Split the Loot Ticket Sales Begin- *Look for the Hotdog Cart*

Coffee & Hitting Practice in Exhibitor Hall

9:30 am-10:30 am Welcoming First-Time Attendees: Suncoast Room

9:30 am-10:30 am Certification Exams in Sams Town A (2nd Floor)
on 2nd floor

11:00 am	Lunch- Stadium Grill Style (burgers, hotdogs, chicken)
11:30 am – 11:55 am	GRAND OPENING
12:00 PM-12:45 PM	OPENING KEYNOTE – Dr. Rob Bell
1:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Breakout Session 1
2:15 pm-2:30 pm	Break with Vendors- Game Time!
2:30 pm – 3:45pm	Breakout Session 2
3:45 pm-5:00 pm	Break with Vendors- Game Time!
4:00 pm	Hotel Check in
5:00 pm	Exhibitors/Vendors Close
5:30 pm	Doors Open for Awards Night- Please have your credentials!
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Award Dinner and Cash Bar in Stardust Ballroom-
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	IAACE Awards Program Sponsored by Everwise Credit Union- Stardust Ballroom Dessert After Party after program ends

Thursday, September 25

**Schedule subject to change. Changes will be posted at <https://virtual.iaace.com/>*

7:00 am – 8:45 am Breakfast in the Stardust Ballroom

7:00 am – 6:00 pm Exhibitors/Vendors Open

7:00 am – 5:00 pm IAACE Check in Open

 [Check-In Tables – Your Home Plate](#)

All questions start here! Swing by the check-in tables to pick up your materials, get directions, or ask anything you need to know. Think of this as **home plate**—every play starts here, and we'll make sure you're ready to knock your conference experience out of the park!

8:30 am – 9:30 am Breakout Session 3

9:30 am – 9:45 am *Break with Vendors*

9:45 am- 10:45 am Breakout Session 4

10:45 am- 1:00 pm *Break with Vendors*
Lunch on your own- Try Infusion!

12:00 pm-12:45 pm ILA Lunch & Learn-Ticketed Event The Power of Reading- The Orleans Ballroom (2nd Floor)

1:00 pm- 2:00 pm Breakout Session 5

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm *Break with Vendors*

Exhibitor Game

Step up to the plate and join the **Exhibitor Game!**

Pick up your game card at check-in, follow the instructions as you visit exhibitors, and don't forget to write your name on your card. Turn it back in at check-in to score a prize.

Complete the entire card, and you'll hit a home run with an entry to win a **FREE registration to the 2026 IAACE Conference!**

2:15 pm – 3:15 pm Breakout Session 6

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

3:15 pm – 3:45 pm

*Break with Vendors- Get your Game
Finished and Turn your card in at Check In
for 2026 Conference Entry*

 Exhibitor Game

Step up to the plate and join the **Exhibitor Game!**

Pick up your game card at check-in, follow the instructions as you visit exhibitors, and don't forget to write your name on your card. Turn it back in at check-in to score a prize.

Complete the entire card, and you'll hit a home run with an entry to win a **FREE registration to the 2026 IAACE Conference!**

3:45 pm – 4:45 pm

Breakout Session 7

4:45 pm – 6:00 pm

Break with Vendors

6:00 pm

Exhibit/Vendor area closes

6:00 pm- 8:00 pm

Dinner on Your Own- choose Lakeside or Infusions within the Hotel, or visit a local restaurant. (Team Dinners!)

8:00 pm

After Party at The Rocks Bar at the Casino

Friday, September 26

**schedule subject to change Changes will be posted at <https://virtual.iaace.com/>*

7:00 am – 8:45 am Breakfast – Stardust Ballroom
Express Continental- Fruit, assorted muffins, bagels, with cream cheese, jellies and jams, butter

7:00 am – 12:00 pm Fun Friday Vendors (maybe)

9:00 am – 10:00 am Breakout Session 8

10:15 am – 11:00 am SHOWCASE SESSION



11:15 am

Door Prizes- Must be present to Win
Earn Tickets to win Door Prizes by attending sessions.
You must write your name on all tickets.

Door Prizes will be drawn after showcase session and you must be present to win.

50/50 Split the Pot Drawing will also take place.



Confidence changes *everything.*

Proud to support the IAACE Conference.



everwise
CREDIT UNION

History of IAACE



<https://iaace.com/history/>

History: The Indiana Association for Adult and Continuing Education is a state-wide association of over 400 individuals and their institutions promoting the education and training of adults for stronger Hoosier communities.

The organization evolved from a group of adult educators who first met in December 1943 to discuss the future of adult education in Indiana.

Over the following decades, many changes occurred in Indiana that affected all Hoosiers and caused a growing need for adult education. The group has changed with the times.

With the merging of two organizations concerned with the future of adult education, the current Indiana Association for Adult and Continuing Education was formed in 1983.

Our first president in 1983 was Timmie Westfall. The list of past officers, pictures and so much more is stored at the Ball State University Archives.

The Indiana Association for Adult and Continuing Education (“IAACE”) has achieved several key advocacy accomplishments over the past five years. In 2020, IAACE developed and successfully lobbied for the passage of Indiana’s High School Equivalency (“HSE”) pilot program. The pilot program allows students in certain school districts who have completed less than fifty percent of the required number of credits necessary to graduate upon entering their fourth year of high school to earn a high school equivalency. Thus, the pilot program gives these students who otherwise would not have graduated from high school an alternative path for educational and career attainment.

Further, in 2023, IAACE successfully advocated for the increase in the Adult Education Distribution biennial appropriation from \$12,985,041 for Fiscal Years 2021-2023, to \$16,985,041 and \$20,985,041 for Fiscal Years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, respectively. Further, in 2025, IAACE successfully advocated to increase the appropriation to \$20,985,041 for Fiscal Years 2025-2027 in both the Governor’s introduced budget, as well as the House and Senate passed versions of the budget. Due to a \$2.4 billion revenue shortfall that was identified in the final weeks of session, the appropriation was maintained at \$16,985,041 for Fiscal Years 2025-2027 in the final version of the budget. However, IAACE’s strong advocacy efforts throughout the 2025 legislative session helped maintain the appropriation at \$16,985,041 when many other programs in the state budget were significantly reduced or cut altogether.



<https://virtual.iaace.com/>



Jennifer Wigginton

IAACE Conference 2025

September 24, 25, 26

AT A GLANCE SCHEDULE



› Wednesday, September 24

› Thursday, September 25

› Friday- September 26

Choose Your Sessions

Visit the Community

Exhibitor Map

Add IAACE Conference To Your Home Screen

E-Program



GET INVOLVED: JOIN AN IAACE COMMITTEE!

Being a member of IAACE doesn't just mean attending conferences, it also means you have the chance to help shape the future of adult education in Indiana. One of the best ways to do that is by joining a committee.

Why Join a Committee?

Stay in the Know

- Be the first to hear about what's happening across the state.
- Get the "inside scoop" on new initiatives, events, and policies.

Have a Voice

- Share your opinions and ideas.
- Help influence decisions that impact adult education in Indiana.

Get Involved

- Perfect for people who like to be part of the action — if you're curious, want to contribute, or just don't like sitting on the sidelines, this is for you!

Build Connections

- Network with colleagues outside of your local area.
- Collaborate with others who are passionate about adult education.

Grow Professionally

- Gain leadership experience.
- Add statewide service to your resume.

What to Expect

- Committees usually meet once a month (virtually).
- Time commitment is manageable — most work happens during meetings.
- A variety of committees are available to match your interests (e.g., conference planning, membership, advocacy, professional development).

- Conference Planning
- Collaboration and Engagement
- Advocacy
- Professional Development
- COABE Task Force
- Resource



Conference & Photo Album

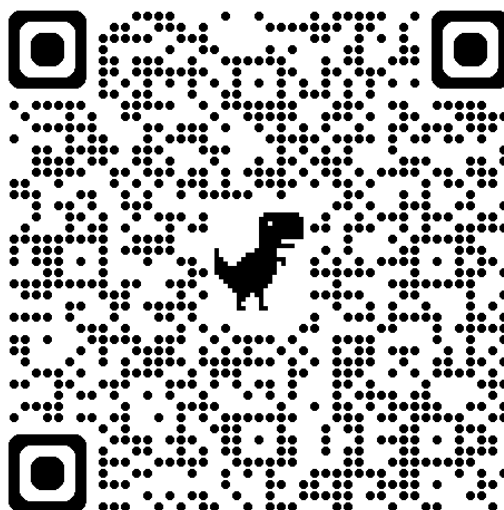


bit.ly/iaace2025

2025

UPLOAD YOUR PHOTOS

Join the Movement! /Take the pledge





Executive Directors Message



Batter Up, Friends!

I'm stepping up to the plate to welcome each and every one of you to the Indiana Association for Adult and Continuing Education (IAACE) Conference! It's an honor to be in the lineup with such an incredible team as we gear up to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our organization, our board, our members, and—most importantly—the adult learners we proudly serve.

IAACE is like a strong ballclub—committed, passionate, and ready to swing for the fences when it comes to making a difference in the lives of adult learners. We're here to advocate for adult education, deliver championship-level professional development, and support our members so they can keep hitting home runs in their communities.

I want to give a big shoutout to our Board of Directors—the coaches and managers who keep this team focused, strategic, and moving forward. And let's not forget our members—the true MVPs of IAACE. You're on the field every day, working tirelessly to deliver quality programs and services that change lives. You're the real all-stars. Meet them this year, seek them out, and check out the next page for more.

I'm also proud of our powerhouse partnerships. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) helps us field a winning conference with mentoring programs, advocacy tools, and plenty of resources. Our teammates at ConnectAble provide us with a stellar website and platform, while COABE's support is a game-changer for our advocacy efforts and beyond. These partnerships are like clutch players—they make the whole team stronger.

But the biggest cheer goes to the adult learners we serve. They're the heart of the game—the ones stepping up to the plate every day, working to improve their lives, their families, and their communities through education. They're the reason we lace up our cleats and get out on the field.

This conference is our chance to learn from one another, share strategies, and celebrate victories together. From breakout sessions to big wins at the Awards Dinner, there's plenty to keep us inspired and energized.

Thank you for being part of this year's lineup. With teamwork, dedication, and heart, I know we'll keep knocking it out of the park for adult learners across Indiana.

Let's swing for the fence,

Jenn

Jennifer Wigginton, IAACE Executive Director

IAACE Board of Directors <https://iaace.com/board-contact-us/>



Denise Esslinger
President-Elect
2025-2028



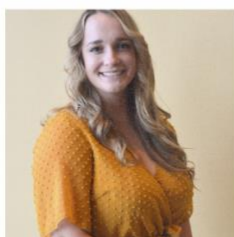
Caroline Foster
President
2024-2027



Katie Walton
Past-President
2023-2026



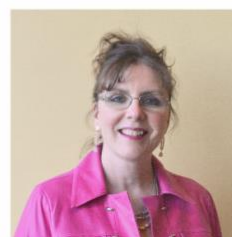
Laura Elsbrock
Treasurer
2026-2027



Maeve Warrick
Secretary
2025-2027



David Shepherd
2024-2026



Carol Bible
2024-2026



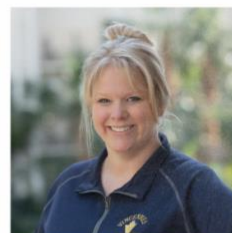
Leo Patino
2025-2027



Jane Coulter
2025-2027



Mark Fridenmaker
2025-2027



Hannah Price
2026-2027



Rob Moore
IAACE Mentor



Tom Miller
2025-2027



Melinda Haines
2025-2026

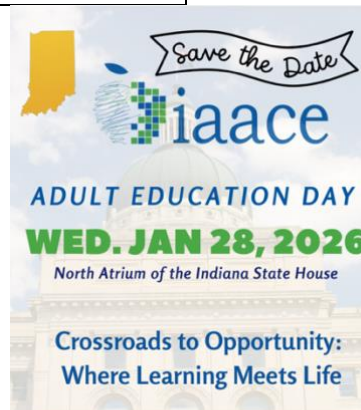


Jenn Wigginton
Executive Director



Indiana Department of Workforce Development Welcomes You to the 2025 IAACE Conference

Marilyn Pitzulo (mpitzulo@dwd.in.gov) <i>Associate Chief for Workforce Strategy and Design</i>	Lara Pastore (lpastore@dwd.in.gov) <i>Division Director</i>
Brin Sisco (BSisco@dwd.in.gov) Director of Instructional Design	Nickie Nolting (nnolting@dwd.in.gov) Director of Strategic Partnerships
Amy Ramer (aramer@dwd.in.gov) Professional Development Coordinator	Roy Melton (rmelton@dwd.in.gov) Workforce Education Initiative Coordinator
Donna Lovelady (dlovelady@dwd.in.gov) Policy & Grants Manager	Joette Mayfield (jmayfield@dwd.in.gov) Grant Coordinator
Matt Crites (mcrites@dwd.in.gov) Data and System Administrator inters@dwd.in.gov	George Jurado (gjurado@dwd.in.gov) Data and System Administrator inters@dwd.in.gov
Megan Hibbard (mhibbard@dwd.in.gov) High School Equivalency Coordinator	Bella Biesen (IBiesen@dwd.in.gov) Outreach Coordinator
Shannon Ollis (shollis@dwd.in.gov) Office of Work-Based Learning & Apprenticeship	





TABE CLAS-E

Hit it Out of the Park with TABE and TABE CLAS-E at the 2025 IAACE Conference

Join DRC at 9:45am Thursday
in Freemont 3 to learn about
new developments and best
practices for TABE 13&14
and TABE CLAS-E, Forms C&D!



Jennifer Milliner | Assessment Solutions Consultant
317-469-1107 | jmilliner@datarecognitioncorp.com

Celebrating HiSET success: Stories of resilience and transformation

***hiset.**

CLASS OF 2024



"My greatest motivation for passing my HiSET exam was my children. I left school because I became a mother very young, and I put my dream aside because I had to work. But that dream—seeing myself with the graduation cap and gown—was always there. At 33 years old, I achieved it, and my biggest drive was my children, to show them that in life anything is possible if you fight for your dreams. Never let anyone tell you that you can't, and it's never too late to study for a career. There is a future if you want it."

Claudia, HiSET Indiana Test Taker

Share your story

Join the HiSET Yearbook

Inspired by Claudia?
We want to hear from you!

Students, educators, and administrators are invited to share their HiSET success stories for a chance to be featured in the HiSET Yearbook. Also, don't forget—you can request a personalized graduation video to celebrate this milestone!





[//iaace.com/advocacy/essay-contest/](http://iaace.com/advocacy/essay-contest/)



How Has Adult Education Opened Doors in Your Life?

**YOU
HAVE A
STORY
TO TELL.**



career



**post secondary
education**



HSE Diploma



other

3-5 PARAGRAPHS 750 WORD MAX. TYPED

	IAACE 2025 Conference Committee
Caroline Foster, Co-Chair	Jenn Wigginton, Co-Chair
Katie Walton, 2024 Co-Chair	Konnie McCollum, 2023 Co-Chair
Deb Sherwood, Sponsors	Mike Thombleson, 2022 Co-Chair
Meresa Creekmore-Armor	Sheila Butler
David Shepherd	Amber Finnegan
Denise Esslinger, 2026 Co-Chair	Angela Reffo
Maeve Warrick	Lara Pastore
Laura Elsbrock	Laura Smart
Lisa Cruea	Marilyn Pitzulo
James Pavelka	Shawn Hughes
Rob Moore	Amy Richmund
Brenda Gaston	Dustin Bentz
Carol Bible	Hannah Price
Jane Coulter	Tom Miller
Amy Richmund	Rob Moore
Leo Patiño	Mark Fridenmaker
<i>Now Recruiting for 2026 Committee https://iaace.com/committee-sign-up/</i>	



EMPOWER YOUR TEACHERS TO FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS MOST: TEACHING!

Learn how **BurlingtonEnglish**
helps teachers say **goodbye**
to endless hours of lesson
planning and **hello**
to more time for
student instruction!

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REGIONAL COUNCIL OF
CARPENTERS



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INDIANA TECH



CAMBRIDGE

Roxy & Lola

Study Buddy
BRAINCHILD



ADULT EDUCATION

=

GAME TIME

STEP UP TO BAT
PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR GAME SHEET.

=====

THE WINDUP AND THE PITCH
VISIT BOOTHS, THANK EXHIBITORS, SPOT THEIR
CORRESPONDING BASEBALL MASCOTS, THEN WRITE THE
EXHIBITOR'S NAME ON THEIR MASCOT'S
CORRESPONDING BASEBALL CARD ON THE SHEET.

=====

HIT IT OUT OF THE PARK
TURN YOUR COMPLETED GAME SHEET
AT THE IAACE BOOTH FOR A PRIZE!



BATTER UP

**ALL COMPLETE ENTRIES
HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN
AN IAACE 2026
REGISTRATION**

GAME CARD

NAME: _____

PLAY BALL!

PICK UP AT CHECK IN

NAME: _____



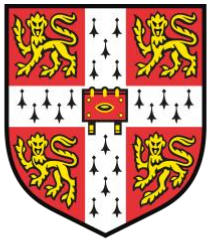
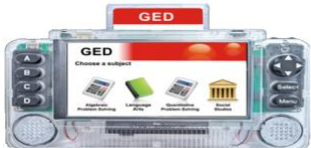
PLAY BALL!

ROWDIE EXHIBITOR: _____	STU D. BAKER EXHIBITOR: _____	SOUTH PAW EXHIBITOR: _____	CLARK THE CUB EXHIBITOR: _____	JOHNNY EXHIBITOR: _____
RUSTY EXHIBITOR: _____	EVAN EXHIBITOR: _____	WALLY THE GREEN MONSTER EXHIBITOR: _____	PHILLIE PHANATIC EXHIBITOR: _____	PAWS EXHIBITOR: _____
TC BEAR EXHIBITOR: _____	TC BEAR EXHIBITOR: _____	SLUGGER EXHIBITOR: _____	MR. RED LEGS EXHIBITOR: _____	LOU SEAL EXHIBITOR: _____
FREDBIRD EXHIBITOR: _____	BERNIE EXHIBITOR: _____	BLOOPER EXHIBITOR: _____	STOMPER EXHIBITOR: _____	2025 MVP - KEYNOTE COACH AUTHOR SPEAKER TRI-ATHLETE

2025 IAACE Conference Exhibitor List

Exhibitor	Lineup		Booth
	Jason King Hope Harp	Premier Exhibitor	Booth # 1
	Liz Lanphear Natalie Cummins	Premier Exhibitor	Booth # 2
	Laura Smart Brandi Cardwell	Premier Exhibitor	Booth # 3
	Donna Daniel Jeff Sobieralski	Premier Exhibitor	Booth # 4
	Amy & Neil Richmund Treg Hopkins	Premier Exhibitor	Booth # 5

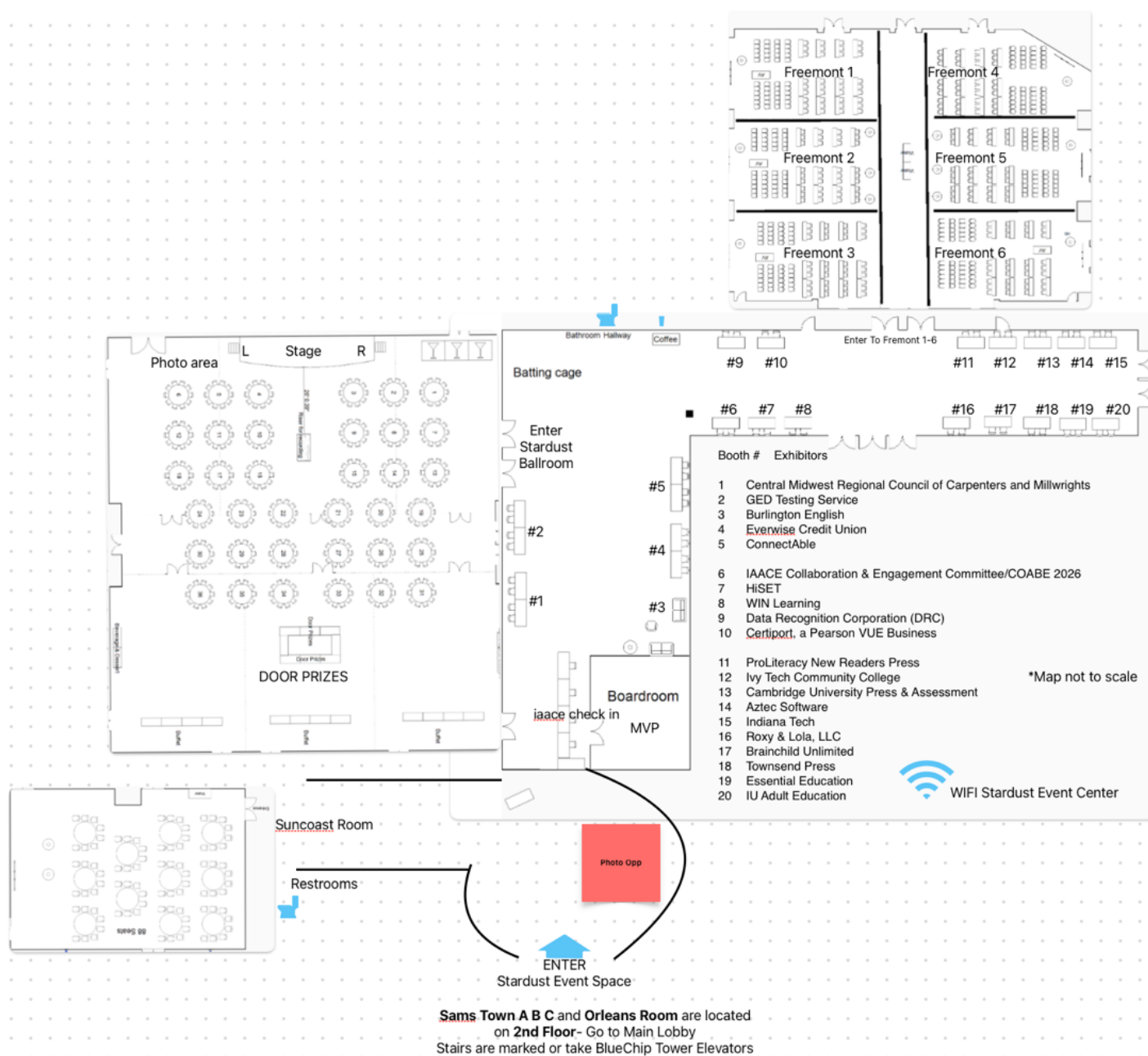
Exhibitor	Lineup		Booth
	 Collaboration & Engagement Committee	Prime	Booth #6
	Stephanie Bauer	Prime	Booth # 7
	Michelle Stieh Polly Marquette	Prime	Booth # 8
	Mike Johnson Jennifer Milliner	Prime	Booth # 9
	Wylder Smith	Prime	Booth # 10
	Elaine Pardieck	Basic Exhibitor	Booth #11

Exhibitor	Lineup		Booth
 IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION ADULT EDUCATION AND TRAINING	Lora Zoll	Basic Exhibitor	Booth #12
 CAMBRIDGE	Anne Damiecka	Basic Exhibitor	Booth #13
	Shormari Miller	Basic Exhibitor	Booth #14
INDIANA TECH	Maria Simms	Basic Exhibitor	Booth #15
<i>Roxy & Lola</i>	Wendy Campbell	Basic Exhibitor	Booth #16
Study Buddy BRAINCHILD 	Debbie Haskett	Basic Exhibitor	Booth #17

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Exhibitor	Lineup		Booth
 Townsend Press	Paul Larose	Basic Exhibitor	Booth #18
 essential education	Rich Palmer	Basic Exhibitor	Booth #19
 ADULT EDUCATION	Amy Pickard	Basic Exhibitor	Booth #20

Exhibitor Map



Professional Development Points

Certificate of Hours of Attendance

IAACE CONFERENCE 2025

Session	Name	Date	Hours	PGP	X if attended
Keynote	DR. ROB BELL	9/24	1	1	
Session 1:		9/24	1	1	
Session 2:		9/24	1	1	
Session 3:		9/25	1	1	
Session 4:		9/25	1	1	
Workshop	Power Of Reading <i>Ticketed Event</i>	9/25	1	1	
Session 5:		9/25	1	1	
Session 6:		9/25	1	1	
Session 7:		9/25	1	1	
Session 8:		9/26	1	1	
Showcase Session:		9/26	1	1	
Signature Verification	<i>Lara Pastore, DWD</i>				

Download this sheet at <https://iaace.com/pdpoints-2025/>



Indiana Literacy Association
Advancing Indiana Through Adult Literacy

Cash Only

50/50
SPLIT THE POT
\$5 per ticket
\$20 for five tickets

License # 17318

ONE DRAWING AT DOOR PRIZE TIME
BE PRESENT TO WIN
UP TO \$1250 DRAWING

🤪 ILA Silent Auction – Take Your Best Swing!

Step up to the Freemont Hall and place your bids in the **Silent Auction!** All of these unique items are made by our programs, there's something for everyone. The auction is a fun way to score big while supporting ILA Grant programs. Keep an eye on your favorites by checking out the bid sheet, make your best play(bid), and see if you come out the winner when the final inning closes on Friday at 9:00 am sharp! ⚾

Cash, check or payments to the ILA Paypal account on Friday morning after winners announced.

<https://iaace.com/literacyauction/>



All Times are in Central Standard Time.

**ARE YOU UNEMPLOYED, UNDEREMPLOYED,
REENTERING THE WORKFORCE, OR DISPLACED?**

**LOOKING FOR
A CAREER?**



**LOW-COST
TRAINING WITH
HIGH VALUE
REWARDS!**



CENTRAL MIDWEST
— REGIONAL COUNCIL OF —
CARPENTERS

FOLLOW US



@CMWCARPENTERS

Wednesday, September 24

8:00 am **Batter Up! Conference Check In**

 **Check-In Tables – Your Home Plate**

All questions start here! Swing by the check-in tables to pick up your materials, get directions, or ask anything you need to know. Think of this as **home plate**—every play starts here, and we'll make sure you're ready to knock your conference experience out of the park!

9:00 am **Opening of Exhibits – Game begins!**

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Association by the Ivy Tech Corrections
Vocational Department
<https://iaace.com/literacyauction/>

50/50 Split the Loot Ticket Sales Begin-

Coffee & Hitting Practice in Exhibitor Hall

9:30 am-10:30 am

First Timers Session

Wednesday 9:30 am-10:30 am

Suncoast

Batter Up! Newcomer Orientation

Rob Moore

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Robert Moore is an accomplished educator with more than 30 years of experience across high schools, community colleges, and adult education programs. He led adult education initiatives in two Indiana districts and served twice as president of the Indiana Association for Adult & Continuing Education. Rob has delivered statewide and national trainings on student outcomes and program improvement, earning numerous accolades, including the Meritorious Service Award (2014) and the Craddock Award for Lifetime Service (2024). His Bloomington program was nationally recognized in 2022 for its employer-engagement.

Caroline Foster

Caroline Foster is the current IAACE President, she is the Assistant Adult Education Director at Impact Institute

Step up to the plate! Join fellow first-timers to learn the conference game plan, meet new teammates, and get ready to knock your experience out of the park. This session is also good for the super curious and lifelong learner.

LIFE LONG LEARNERS

Certiport Certification Exams

Wednesday 9:30 am-10:45 am

Certification Exams

SamsTown A (2nd Floor)

 Certification Exams

Ready to level up your skills? Take advantage of the opportunity to sit for a **Certiport Certification Exam** during the conference! Exams will be offered in **Sam's Town A (2nd floor)** at scheduled times throughout the event.

Spots are limited (5 per session), so be sure to sign up in advance. Complete details and scheduling instructions were shared by email—check your inbox to reserve your spot. Confirmation of your exam time will be provided at conference check-in.

 EXAMS

WEDNESDAY 11:00 AM – WELCOME BY IAACE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JENN WIGGINTON

STADIUM STATION LUNCH- STARDUST BALLROOM

Tables will be released by hotel Staff

Wednesday Lunch – Backyard Ballpark Buffet (Stations Style)

Warm-Up (Salad Bar): Garden salad with Ranch & Balsamic Vinaigrette

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Main Attractions (From the Grill): All-American beef burgers, Vienna beef hot dogs (Chicago style fixings available!), BBQ chicken breast, *Black bean burgers (vegan option – ticket required)*

Buns & Bases: Brioche buns • Poppy seed buns • Assorted sliced cheeses • Burger fixings • Chicago dog toppings

Sidekicks (In the Dugout): Kettle chips, Zesty coleslaw, Mustard potato salad,

Fresh fruit, Sweet Victory: Assorted cookies

Beverage Dugout: Water, iced tea, coffee

11:30 am -Grand Opening Event



NATIONAL ANTHEM BY CAROL BIBLE

MEET YOUR TEAM OF IAACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND INDIANA LITERACY ASSOCIATION BOARD



OPENING PITCH

**DUGOUT HUDDLE:
TEAM INTRODUCTIONS & GAME STRATEGY**



CAROLINE FOSTER,
IAACE PRESIDENT
CO-CHAIR 2025



KATIE WALTON,
IAACE PAST PRESIDENT



DENISE ESSLINGER,
IAACE PRESIDENT-ELECT
CO-CHAIR 2026



JENN WIGGINTON
IAACE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR



MELINDA GRISMER,
ILA PRESIDENT



MICHELLE ELLIS
ILA VICE PRESIDENT



Kick off the conference like true fans in the stands! Meet the all-star team behind the event, get the inside scoop on the game plan, and gear up to cheer each inning of the conference. Short, sweet, and out in three—just like 3 up, 3 down.

BADGES ARE REQUIRED IN CONFERENCE SPACE

Keynote Dr. Rob Bell

Wednesday 12:00 pm-12:45 pm

Stardust Ballroom



NO ONE Gets There ALONE: The Hinge of Mental Toughness

Every educator and student will face a defining “hinge moment”—a decision, event, or challenge that changes everything. The question is: will they be ready?

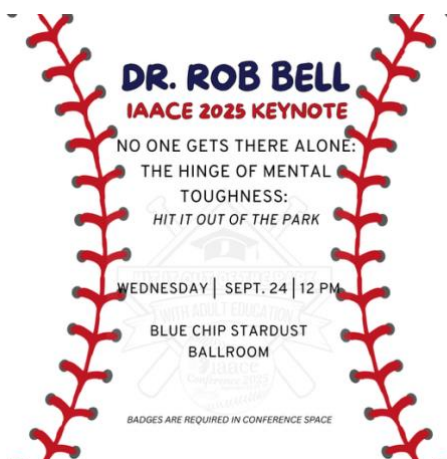
This presentation equips educators with practical strategies to build resilience and mental toughness, both for themselves and their students. Drawing from years of work with athletes, leaders, and organizations,

Dr. Rob Bell shares powerful stories and actionable tools to help transform setbacks into comebacks. Attendees will learn how to navigate stress, model perseverance, and create environments where students thrive through adversity.

The focus is not on chasing success but on developing the process that leads to significance. By reframing obstacles as opportunities, educators will leave this session empowered to guide students toward confidence, resilience, and the readiness to embrace their own hinge moments.

<https://drrobbell.com/>

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



Wednesday 1:00 pm-2:15 pm Session 1

Suncoast

Signature Storytelling for Impact: Elevating Adult Learner Voices to Drive Policy & Practice

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Freemont 1	Indiana Licensing for ABE and CORE teachers
Freemont 2	Strengthening HiSET Test Center Readiness
Freemont 3	Swinging for the Fences with AI in Adult Ed
Freemont 4	Building Career Pathways: How NCCER and COABE Are Empowering Adult Learners
Freemont 5	A League of Our Own: 15 Years at DWD
Freemont 6	Integrating Project Management into CTE for Reentry
Sams Town A (2nd Floor)	Certiport Certification Exams
Sams Town B (2nd Floor)	Preparing ELLs for IETs & Career Pathways
Sams Town C (2nd Floor)	Know your TI-30XS Multiview Calculator

Session 1 Suncoast

Signature Storytelling for Impact: Elevating Adult Learner Voices to Drive Policy and Practice

Bridgett Strickler

Bridgett Strickler is a nationally recognized, adult learner champion. Bridgett has played a key role in launching adult learner engagement campaigns across the country, partnering with state and regional leaders to stand up and support large-scale initiatives in Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Washington. Her work has helped connect tens of thousands of adults to education pathways and workforce opportunities that align with their goals. In November 2025, Bridgett will take the TEDx stage in New York City at TEDxWomen to deliver a talk on “The Moment of Decision” exploring the neuroscience, emotion, and identity shifts behind adult learners’ choice to return to school. Through her storytelling work, she is helping bring visibility and dignity to adult learners by sharing their powerful comeback stories and spotlighting the barriers and breakthroughs on the road to education and career transformation. She is currently writing her first book, which draws on her professional expertise, research, and personal experience as a “comebacker” herself, weaving together compelling narratives about reinvention, resilience, and the pursuit of purpose at any age. She currently serves as Vice President, Adult Learner Engagement and Impact at the newly launched national-nonprofit, the Center for Academic Innovation. She previously was Vice President of Coalition Strategy at the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), where she lead CAEL’s long-standing national partnerships with the energy and telecommunications sectors through the Energy Providers Coalition for Education (EPCE) and the National Alliance for Communications Technology, Education and Learning (NACTEL). In that role, she developed and advanced scalable workforce-education strategies to drive economic mobility for adult learners and incumbent workers. Prior to her role

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at CAEL, she served as Chief Strategy Officer at The Graduate! Network (TGN), where she co-created employer engagement strategies that reached nearly 4,000 businesses and over 6,000 workers nationwide. She also led research, learning, and impact efforts that helped shift the narrative around adult learners and their potential. Bridgett holds both an MBA and a Master's in the Art of Teaching. She is available for keynote speaking, storytelling workshops, and strategic advising on topics including: Adult learners and comeback stories, Employer-education partnerships, Cognitive flexibility and career reinvention, Storytelling for advocacy and stakeholder engagement

Discover the power of storytelling to drive adult learner advocacy. In this hands-on workshop, participants will learn a 5-layer signature story framework, exploring why stories inspire action and influence policy. Outcomes: craft compelling narratives, center lived experience, and connect data with emotion to create lasting impact for adult learners.
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, ADMINISTRATION, ABE

Wednesday 1:00 pm-2:15 pm

Session 1

Freemont 1

Indiana Licensing for ABE and CORE teachers

Dr. Karen Bevis

Completing bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education, a master's in administration and supervision and a doctorate in Educational Leadership-Curriculum and Instruction over a 43-year career in education, after 12 years of elementary and middle school teaching, Karen became a K-8 administrator then chose to teach and lead at the collegiate level. Teacher licensing and Workplace Specialist licensing are her current areas of expertise. Karen has become a leader in education with a knack for visualizing creative solutions. Dr. Bevis is the co-author of "Compass to the Future"

This session will provide updated information from the Indiana Dept. of Education regarding teacher licensing.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday 1:00 pm-2:15 pm

Session 1

Freemont 2

Strengthening HiSET Test Center Readiness

Stephanie Bauer

Stephanie Bauer, the HiSET Account Manager, focuses on cultivating relationships with state clients, vendors, and internal partners. She manages the implementation of the HiSET program at the state level, collaborating with adult education programs and test centers on contracts and service level agreements. With over 20

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years of experience in K-12 programs and a bachelor's degree from Rider University, Stephanie is also certified as a Scrum Master I and Six Sigma Greenbelt. Beyond her professional responsibilities, Stephanie is an avid traveler and Broadway aficionado.

This session refreshes HiSET test center staff on secure test delivery by clarifying staff roles, reinforcing test day protocols, and addressing technical issue management. It also covers portal navigation, onboarding procedures, and includes a PBT mini-session on error prevention—promoting integrity and safeguarding the testing process.

DATA MANAGEMENT/TESTING CENTER ADMINISTRATION

Wednesday 1:00 pm-2:15 pm

Session 1

Freemont 3

Swinging for the Fences with AI in Adult Ed

Sheila Butler

Sheila Butler is a veteran adult education teacher from Indiana with over 37 years teaching experience. She has presented at conferences statewide for 22 years and nationally for the past 6. Sheila specializes in using AI to enhance instruction, generate content, and support diverse learners. She co-teaches with ChatGPT to model real-world applications of AI in the classroom. A long-time leader in IAACE, she brings energy, humor, and practical strategies to every session.

Discover how AI can step up to the plate in adult ed! Join Sheila Butler and her AI co-teacher “Gabe” for a lively, hands-on session exploring tools to create worksheets, games, and writing support. Learn to save time, boost engagement, and hit instructional home runs with practical, classroom-ready ideas.

TECHNOLOGY/DIGITAL LITERACY/OUTREACH

Wednesday 1:00 pm-2:15 pm

Session 1

Freemont 4

Building Career Pathways: How NCCER and COABE Are Empowering Adult Learners

Kaylene Smith

Kaylene joined NCCER in 2022, after being a long time NCCER customer working at ABC of Indiana/Kentucky and Ivy Tech Community College managing both NCCER and Registered Apprenticeship Programs. Kaylene serves as the Workforce Development Manager for CA, NV, AZ, KS, IN, OH, PA, NJ, WV, and KY. In her role, Kaylene works with organizations to implement NCCER standardized training and assessment programs to help build a safe and sustainable construction All Times are in Central Standard Time.

workforce. Kaylene brings her experience and passion for careers in construction to form partnerships between education and industry.

Rob Moore

Robert Moore is an accomplished educator with more than 30 years of experience across high schools, community colleges, and adult education programs. He led adult education initiatives in two Indiana districts and served twice as president of the Indiana Association for Adult & Continuing Education. Rob has delivered statewide and national trainings on student outcomes and program improvement, earning numerous accolades, including the Meritorious Service Award (2014) and the Craddock Award for Lifetime Service (2024). His Bloomington program was nationally recognized in 2022 for its employer-engagement.

Discover how NCCER and COABE are partnering to build inclusive career pathways in construction for adult learners. Learn how this collaboration equips educators with tools, connects job-ready adults to employers, and supports workforce development through training, credentials, and real-world opportunities.

WORKFORCE/ WEI/IET

Wednesday 1:00 pm-2:15 pm

Session 1

Freemont 5

A League of Our Own: 15 Years at DWD

Marilyn Pitzulo

Fifteen years ago, Indiana Adult Education transitioned from the Department of Education to the Department of Workforce Development. Over this time, there have been significant changes in program direction and outcomes. This presentation will review shifts and trends that have defined this timeframe and provide perspective on how DWD leadership continues to shape the future of Indiana Adult Education.
DWD

Wednesday 1:00 pm-2:15 pm

Session 1

Freemont 6

Integrating Project Management into CTE for Reentry

Dr. John Rajanayakam

Dr. John Rajanayakam is a Regional Correctional Education Coordinator, author, and speaker with over 25 years of global experience spanning corporate leadership, correctional education, and organizational transformation. He currently oversees educational programs in 8 correctional facilities for Ivy Tech Community College. A certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt , Project Management Professional (PMP), a Certified Life Coach , Dr. John Rajanayakam brings a unique blend of strategic planning, process improvement, and workforce development expertise. His

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background includes executive leadership roles in Fortune 500 companies and in helping organizations adopt technologies like AI and RPA. Passionate about second chances and reentry success, Dr. John Rajanayakam emphasizes entrepreneurship, coaching, and practical skill-building. He is known for integrating real-world problem-solving and project-based learning into classrooms to empower justice-involved learners with tools for employment, entrepreneurship, and life transformation.

Explore how integrating project management in CTE builds workforce readiness and supports desistance. Learn core concepts—stakeholders, processes, and skills—and how they apply on the job or in entrepreneurship. Discover practical ways to teach these through case studies, team projects, and real-world problem solving.

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

Wednesday 1:00 pm-2:15 pm

Session 1

SamsTown A (2nd floor)

Certiport Certification Exams

 **Certification Exams**

Ready to level up your skills? Take advantage of the opportunity to sit for a **Certiport Certification Exam** during the conference! Exams will be offered in **Sam's Town A (2nd floor)** at scheduled times throughout the event.

Spots are limited (5 per session), so be sure to sign up in advance. Complete details and scheduling instructions were shared by email—check your inbox to reserve your spot. Confirmation of your exam time will be provided at conference check-in. 

Wednesday 1:00 pm-2:15 pm

Session 1

SamsTown B

Preparing ELLs for IETs & Career Pathways

Brenda Gaston

Brenda Gaston has been an adult ESL teacher for Warren Township for the past 13 years. She currently teaches Int/Adv ELLs, but has experience teaching all levels. Brenda designs contextualized language units to challenge students with critical thinking skills. By using a text-driven & project-based learning approach, she can provide maximum student engagement and help students persist with their HSE goals. In her role as program "coach", she has designed and led the professional learning community, providing high-quality professional development sessions & coaching to other teachers.

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**This session will provide a broad understanding of potential career pathways for upper-level ELLs utilizing the comprehensive Burlington English curriculum. Participants will be shown 4 activities to get started. Give students the chance to “hit” a home run, advance through our programs, and reach home plate (training certification and better job)!
*ELL/CIVICS***

Wednesday 1:00 pm-2:15 pm

Session 1

Sams Town C (2nd Floor)

Know your TI-30XS Multiview Calculator

Carol Bible

Carol Bible, M.Ed., is a career educator with 11 years in adult education. She has taught everything from level 1 ELL through Transitions and eventually found a home in HSE classes. Carol taught “face-to-face online” from 2020 to 2025, developing and sharing highly effective systems of engagement and strategies that yield high retention and performance. In July 2024, she joined the Essential Education team as a Customer Success Manager, continuing to teach part-time and serving on the IAACE board.

This calculator can do more than most of us realize. Developing proficiency and understanding when and how to use it to their best advantage can be a game-changer for students with math anxiety. I will demonstrate useful functions you may never have tried. I'll share tips, tricks, and my video tutorial series. Bring your calculator if you have one! I will also have some to share.

ABE CURRICULUM

Wednesday 2:15 pm-2:30 pm

Break: Exhibit Hall

Wednesday 2:30 pm-3:45 pm Session 2

Suncoast	The Re-imagined & Re-Organized PDF Network
Freemont 1	Indiana Licensing for Workplace Specialist/CTE teachers
Freemont 2	GED Program Update: Tools and Resources for Student Success
Freemont 3	Swing for the Fences: Hitting Home Runs with AI-Customized Curric
Freemont 4	Student Home Runs: Stories of Success with Employer Partnerships
Freemont 5	Forming and Developing Your All-Star Team
Freemont 6	Integrating Six Sigma Tools into CTO Student Curriculum
SamsTown A ^	Batter up for better post-testing gains!
SamsTown B ^	Building Futures Behind Bars: A Q&A for Skilled Trades Instructors Using NCCER
SamsTown C ^	Boosting Engagement: Leveraging Social Media for Adult Education Success

Session 2 Suncoast

The Re-imagined & Re-Organized PDF Network

Amy Ramer (*Virtual Presenter*)

The Indiana PDF Network will be re-imagined for PY 25-26. Hear the details about the new format, qualifications and how these changes will impact the local programs.

DWD

Wednesday 2:30 pm-3:45 pm

Session 2

Freemont 1

Indiana Licensing for Workplace Specialist/CTE teachers

Dr. Karen Bevis

This session will provide updated information from the Indiana Dept. of Education regarding teacher licensing.

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

Wednesday 2:30 pm-3:45 pm

Session 2

Freemont 2

GED Program Update: Tools and Resources for Student Success

Liz Lanpear

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Liz Lanphear works as a State Relationship Manager with GED Testing Service. In this role, she develops and implements state-specific strategies to promote the GED mission of providing career and college readiness opportunities for adult learners across the nation. With more than 20 years of experience in Adult Education, Liz has held several positions, including GED Chief Examiner, ESL Instructor, Adult Education Program Coordinator, Program Director, and State GED Administrator for Kansas. Liz holds master's degrees from Kansas State University in Adult, Continuing, and Occupational Education, and from Emporia State University in Health Education.

If you're looking for a summary of all the best of the GED program, look no further... We've been working hard to support learners and we want to share our efforts with you! GED has been busy over the last few years. You and GED have a shared interest in supporting student success. Please join us for discussion and Q&A, on the latest and greatest! (New tools, products- and our GED App!)

WORKFORCE/ WEI/IET

Wednesday 2:30 pm-3:45 pm

Session 2

Freemont 3

Swing for the Fences: Hitting Home Runs with AI-Customized Curriculum

Treg Hopkins

Dr. Treg Hopkins is a lifelong educator and leader with a deep background in adult education, workforce development, and higher ed. He's served in key roles such as Dean of Workforce and Director of Adult Education at the community college level, known for his calm, steady leadership and his talent for connecting people and systems. Treg's path to co-founding ConnectAble began through long-standing relationships. He met Amy through adult ed work and Neil through shared circles in business, ministry, and tech—well before Amy and Neil connected. Since the three came together to form ConnectAble, they have been together supporting schools across the US! As a proud Quaker, Treg lives out values of service, equity, and empowerment. His deep understanding of the challenges faced by adult learners and educators—especially in underserved communities—inspires his commitment to human-centered solutions. At ConnectAble, Treg works alongside Amy and Neil to offer adult educators tools that truly support their mission. Their shared goal: make educators' lives easier and improve outcomes for students, always with heart and clarity.

Step up to the plate and discover how AI can instantly customize curriculum for adult learners—from basic skills to career certification to English language learning. Learn how a few smart tools and prompts can adapt lessons for all levels and language proficiencies. We'll finish with a

quick sneak peek at the ConnectAble LMS and its ready-to-use customized curriculum right on the dashboard!

TECHNOLOGY/DIGITAL LITERACY/OUTREACH

Wednesday 2:30 pm-3:45 pm

Session 2

Freemont 4

Student Home Runs: Stories of Success with Employer Partnerships

Laura Elsbrock

Laura Elsbrock is the Coordinator of Area 30 Adult Education (A30AE) with over 13 years of experience at the adult program in Greencastle, Indiana. She holds a bachelor's degree in education from DePauw University and a master's degree in administration from Miami University. Laura has worn many hats in the adult education program including Teacher, Professional Development Facilitator, Career Coach, and now Coordinator/Director. A30AE has doubled their enrollment since she joined the program, and they offer an extensive list of Integrated Education and Training (IET) and Workforce Education Initiative (WEI) courses to complement their ABE and ELL classes. Laura is passionate about empowering students to believe in their own ability to work hard to achieve their goals and see what their future can become. Laura is on the Putnam County Economic Development Executive Board and helped create a Workforce Engagement Group to bring together educators, employers, and key community partners who meet monthly to discuss the workforce needs in the community.

Employer relationships are the key to long term student achievement. This presentation will highlight several students who hit it out of the park through involvement in Integrated Education and Training (IET) classes. We will share details of the home runs they achieved, and will discuss ways to develop key relationships with employers to facilitate connections for your students.

WORKFORCE/ WEI/IET

Wednesday 2:30 pm-3:45 pm

Session 2

Freemont 5

Forming and Developing Your All-Star Team

Amber Finnegan

Amber Finnegan serves as the State Correctional Education Director for Ivy Tech, where she oversees the Adult Education and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs across 15 Indiana Adult Prisons. Prior to this role, Amber dedicated 10 years as a Probation Officer in Bartholomew County before being appointed as the All Times are in Central Standard Time.

first Director of Jefferson County Community Corrections in 2010. During her 12-year tenure, she significantly expanded the program to include Pre-Trial Services, Drug Court, Community Corrections, the Jefferson County Adult Treatment Train, Prosecutor Diversion, and Probation

Learn how to build and strengthen your All-Star Team through intentional planning, communication, and team development strategies. This interactive session covers personality dynamics, shared vision, roles/responsibilities, onboarding, meetings, communication, and continuous improvement - ideal for new or growing teams.

ADMINISTRATIVE/LEADERSHIP SKILLS/PROGRAM MGT

Wednesday 2:30 pm-3:45 pm

Session 2

Freemont 6

Integrating Six Sigma Tools into CTE Student Curriculum

John Rajanayakam

Dr. John Rajanayakam is a Regional Correctional Education Coordinator, author, and speaker with over 25 years of global experience spanning corporate leadership, correctional education, and organizational transformation. He currently oversees educational programs in 8 correctional facilities for Ivy Tech Community College. A certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, Project Management Professional (PMP), a Certified Life Coach, Dr. John Rajanayakam brings a unique blend of strategic planning, process improvement, and workforce development expertise. His background includes executive leadership roles in Fortune 500 companies and in helping organizations adopt technologies like AI and RPA. Passionate about second chances and reentry success, Dr. John Rajanayakam emphasizes entrepreneurship, coaching, and practical skill-building. He is known for integrating real-world problem-solving and project-based learning into classrooms to empower justice-involved learners with tools for employment, entrepreneurship, and life transformation.

Learn how to embed Six Sigma tools like the 5 Whys and FMEA into CTE curricula to teach students structured problem-solving skills. These tools enhance workplace readiness, improve service quality, reduce defects, and empower students to think critically—essential whether employed or launching a business.

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

Wednesday 2:30 pm-3:45 pm

Session 2

SamsTown A

Batter up for better post-testing gains!

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Angela Reffo

Angie is a 2002 graduate of Indiana University-Bloomington. She has a bachelor of science degree in Human Development and Family Studies and minors in Psychology, Sociology and Public Health. Angie has been the testing and data manager for the South Bend Community School Corporation Adult Education Department for the past 14 years. Her strengths are supervising, conducting and monitoring HSE testing using both HiSET and GED and also sharing strategies/best practices to help other data managers analyze their data effectively. She enjoys being the "biggest cheerleader" for the students who take their high school equivalency test in South Bend. She has been a presenter at both IAACE and Summer Institute. In her spare time, she is the announcer for the New Prairie High School Boys Varsity Soccer Team, a 5th grade girls basketball and volleyball coach, a 3rd-5th grade Cross Country Coach and delivers the morning announcements at her church. She has been married to her husband, Daniel, for 19 years and they have 3 children: Olivia(17), Noah(16) and Breanna(11).

Are you having difficulty understanding what test form and level for TABE or TABE CLAS-E that you should give to your students to have the best chance at getting an MSG? This session is designed to help testing coordinators and InTERS data managers across the state to take a deeper look at the new TABE 13/14 and CLAS-E and how it is scored to help your students get a post-test gain on the 1st try!

DATA MANAGEMENT/TESTING CENTER ADMINISTRATION

Wednesday 2:30 pm-3:45 pm

Session 2

SamsTown B

Building Futures Behind Bars: A Q&A for Skilled Trades Instructors Using NCCER

Kaylene Smith

Kaylene joined NCCER in 2022, after being a long time NCCER customer working at ABC of Indiana/Kentucky and Ivy Tech Community College managing both NCCER and Registered Apprenticeship Programs. Kaylene serves as the Workforce Development Manager for CA, NV, AZ, KS, IN, OH, PA, NJ, WV, and KY. In her role, Kaylene works with organizations to implement NCCER standardized training and assessment programs to help build a safe and sustainable construction workforce. Kaylene brings her experience and passion for careers in construction to form partnerships between education and industry.

This session is designed specifically for skilled trades instructors who are already implementing NCCER training programs within correctional facilities. As more states and institutions turn to NCCER as a pathway to industry-recognized credentials, this interactive Q&A will serve as a

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platform for educators to collaborate, share experiences, and explore strategies for maximizing program impact.

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

Wednesday 2:30 pm-3:45 pm

Session 2

SamsTown C

Boosting Engagement: Leveraging Social Media for Adult Education Success

Bella Biesen

In today's digital world, social media is a crucial tool for adult education providers looking to increase engagement and enrollment in High School Equivalency (HSE) and career development programs. This session will focus on how providers can effectively utilize social media platforms to connect with adult learners, share valuable content, and foster ongoing interaction. Attendees will gain practical insights on platform selection, content creation, and strategies to build an online presence that drives learner engagement and supports program success.

DWD

Wednesday 3:45-5:00 pm

Break

Exhibit Hall

 [Exhibitor Game](#)

Step up to the plate and join the **Exhibitor Game!**

Pick up your game card at check-in, follow the instructions as you visit exhibitors, and don't forget to write your name on your card. Turn it back in at check-in to score a prize.

Complete the entire card, and you'll hit a home run with an entry to win a **FREE registration to the 2026 IAACE Conference!**

Wednesday 6:00 pm

Stardust Ballroom

Doors Open at 5:30 pm

IAACE Awards Dinner and Banquet

Award Banquet

Join us for the DWD Program of Excellence presentation and the 2025 IAACE Awards. The doors and cash bar will open at 5:30 pm. Black/White Cocktail attire is requested. Certain tables are reserved.

IAACE Awards Program 7:00 pm

Sponsored by Everwise Credit Union- Stardust Ballroom



everwise
CREDIT UNION

Dessert After Party after program ends

Eli's cheesecake with strawberries or chocolate fudge cake

The iaace Post

IAACE Board of Directors

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Katie Walton, Past President
Denise Esslinger, President Elect
Laura Elsbrock, Treasurer
Maeve Warrick, Secretary

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Mark Fridenmaker
Melinda Haines
Tom Miller
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David Shepherd

Executive Director

Jennifer Wigginton

Adult Education Mentor

Rob Moore

IAACE Champions

Marilyn Pitzulo
Associate Chief Talent
Development Strategy
Indiana Department
of Workforce Development

Lara Pastore
Division Director, Adult Education
Indiana Department
of Workforce Development

Lauren Box
Partner, Barnes & Thornberg
IAACE Lobbyist

Indiana Literacy Association

Melinda Grismer, President
Michelle Ellis, Vice President
Sheila Butler, Treasurer
Katie Walton, Secretary
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Konnie McCullom
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Tom Miller
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Jennifer Wigginton

2025 IAACE FALL CONFERENCE
BLUE CHIP CASINO, MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA

SEPTEMBER 24, 25, 26, 2025
SPECIAL EDITION



MVPs of the Year:

Senator Todd Young Office, Representative Michelle Davis,
Commissioner Josh Richardson, Everwise Credit Union,
Barnes & Thornburg, COABE

AWARDS BANQUET ORDER OF EVENTS

Welcome and Opening
Past Presidents Recognition
Recognition of Board Program of Excellence
Retirees Recognition
Business and Industry Partnership Award
Outstanding Essential Support Staff
Outstanding New Adult Educator
Outstanding Adult Educator
Outstanding Administrator
Everwise Meritorious Service Award
COABE Adult Education Legislative Champion Award
Outstanding Adult Learner of the Year
Dr. John Nally Award
Dr. John R. Craddock Award
Closing
Desserts Served

STUDENTS AT BAT (Enrolled)

27,396

RUNNERS ON BASE (Measurable Skill Gains)

72.84%

Home Runs (Graduates)

4,101

RBIs (Industry Certifications Earned)

3,092

Strikeouts Avoided (Workforce Enrollments)

3,792

IAACE PAST-PRESIDENTS (20 YEARS)

Steve Schenkel, Carol Rhudy, Joe Armstrong,
Gloria Hubbuch, Steve Cunningham, Sandra Hartz,
Kevin Hunter, Tom Miller, Sara Gutting, Jeff Clutter,
Rob Moore, Michelle Davis, Ted Pearson, Laura Smart,
Sheila Butler, Mike Thombleson, Konnie McCollum,
Katie Walton



Golden Glove Award

Volunteers and teachers who keep the field strong!

Thank you for joining us to celebrate adult education across Indiana!

Thursday, September 25

**Schedule subject to change. Changes will be posted at <https://virtual.iaace.com/>*

7:00 am – 8:45 am Breakfast in the Stardust Ballroom

Breakfast Double Play- Morning Medley

Sugar-cured bacon, sausage links, buttermilk pancakes, scrambled eggs, breakfast potatoes, seasonal fruit and berries Beverages: Coffee, Hot Tea, assorted juices

7:00 am –6:00 pm Exhibitors/Vendors Open

Exhibitor Game

Step up to the plate and join the **Exhibitor Game!**

Pick up your game card at check-in, follow the instructions as you visit exhibitors, and don't forget to write your name on your card. Turn it back in at check-in to score a prize.

Complete the entire card, and you'll hit a home run with an entry to win a **FREE registration to the 2026 IAACE Conference!**

7:00 am –5:00 pm IAACE Check in Open

Check-In Tables – Your Home Plate

All questions start here! Swing by the check-in tables to pick up your materials, get directions, or ask anything you need to know. Think of this as **home plate**—every play starts here, and we'll make sure you're ready to knock your conference experience out of the park!

Thursday 7:15 am- 8:15 am

Certification Exams

SamsTown A

Certiport Certification Exams

Certification Exams

Ready to level up your skills? Take advantage of the opportunity to sit for a **Certiport Certification Exam** during the conference! Exams will be offered in **Sam's Town A (2nd floor)** at scheduled times throughout the event.

Spots are limited (5 per session), so be sure to sign up in advance. Complete details and scheduling instructions were shared by email—check your inbox to reserve your spot. Confirmation of your exam time will be provided at conference check-in. 📧

Thursday 8:30 am-9:30 am Session 3

Suncoast	Maximizing InTERS' Capabilities
Freemont 1	Getting to Third Base with Your Local Legislator
Freemont 2	Accommodations Deep Dive: Policies, Scheduling, & Best Practices
Freemont 3	Teaching Beginning Reading in ABE/ EL: Needs Assessment Results
Freemont 4	The Bases Are Loaded
Freemont 5	Managing Crash-outs Safely in an Adult Education Classroom!
Freemont 6	In the Teacher's Dugout: Best Practices from the Field of Correctional Education
Sams Town A (2nd Floor) (2nd Floor)	A ConnectAble Home Run: Discovering Tools at Your Fingertips
Sams Town B (2nd Floor)	Covering All the BurlingtonEnglish Bases: Multilevel Strategies to Reach Every Learner
Sams Town C (2nd Floor)	Employer Partner Best Practices
Orleans Ballroom (2nd floor)	I'm Not a Trained Counselor, But My Students Need Help!

Session 3 Suncoast

Maximizing InTERS' Capabilities

George Juardo
Brin Sisco

The session will provide a practical walkthrough on how to effectively implement and harness the power of InTERS' Digital Registration and Digital Attendance tools. Using real-time demonstrations with laptops, tablets, and smartphones, attendees will learn how to streamline data entry, improve accuracy, and reduce reliance on paper, all while effortlessly enhancing efficiency and data integrity. You will get to experience it from the point of view of a student, teacher and administrator.

DWD

Thursday 8:30 am-9:30 am
All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Session 3
Freemont 1

Getting to Third Base with Your Local Legislator

Melinda Haines

Since January 2020, Melinda Haines has served as the CEO of The Literacy Alliance in Fort Wayne, IN. Started in 1972, The Literacy Alliance currently utilizes 30+ employees and more than 150 volunteers to deliver its five literacy programs. Over the past several years, she has enjoyed advocating for adult education throughout the state, getting to know her Region 3 legislators and developing lasting and meaningful relationships. Prior to TLA, Melinda served for eight years as the director of the Community Arts Academy at Purdue Fort Wayne, as a marketing director and as small business owner. She earned her MBA in 2019, is married with two grown daughters, one cat and one English cream golden retriever. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and knitting.

Learn how to contact and have meaningful conversations with your state legislators. Melinda will provide basic steps on how to reach out and sustain ongoing relationships with your government officials. Once you know your legislators, what's next? In this session you will learn advocacy tips and tricks to build your skills to allow you to share your program's story with confidence.

ADMINISTRATIVE/LEADERSHIP SKILLS/PROGRAM MGT

Thursday 8:30 am-9:30 am

Session 3

Freemont 2

Accommodations Deep Dive: Policies, Scheduling, & Best Practices

Stephanie Bauer

Stephanie Bauer, the HiSET Account Manager, focuses on cultivating relationships with state clients, vendors, and internal partners. She manages the implementation of the HiSET program at the state level, collaborating with adult education programs and test centers on contracts and service level agreements. With over 20 years of experience in K-12 programs and a bachelor's degree from Rider University, Stephanie is also certified as a Scrum Master I and Six Sigma Greenbelt. Beyond her professional responsibilities, Stephanie is an avid traveler and Broadway aficionado.

Learn how to navigate the HiSET accommodations process effectively.

This session covers key topics including common approval errors, differences between paper- and computer-based accommodations, the role of educator letters, and scheduling tips. Gain insights to streamline support for test takers with accommodations needs.

DATA MANAGEMENT/TESTING CENTER ADMINISTRATION

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Thursday 8:30 am-9:30 am

Session 3

Freemont 3

Teaching Beginning Reading in ABE/ EL: Needs Assessment Results

Amy Pickard

Dr. Amy Pickard is formerly an adult literacy and ABE/HSE teacher and presently an adult education researcher at IU. She is especially interested in understanding how policy affects how students are served in ABE programs. She also researches ABE reading and writing instruction, self-directed learning of ABE students, and digital engagement of ABE teachers and learners.

Lara Pastore

How should we teach beginning reading to ABE and EL learners? This interactive presentation shares the results of a needs assessment which identified the perspectives of learners, teachers, program administrators, and professional development facilitators from across Indiana about their experiences teaching and learning reading with ABE and EL learners who have low reading assessment scores.

ABE CURRICULUM

Thursday 8:30 am-9:30 am

Session 3

Freemont 4

The Bases Are Loaded

Polly Marquette

Polly Marquette calls Lexington, KY home and for the past 15+ years has worked alongside its communities to help them identify gaps, convene partners, forge solutions and implement goals around all types of college, career and life ready agendas. As part of WIN Learning's Professional Services Team, Polly takes that background and leans on it to support states, organizations and sites as they use WIN's stackable courses to help learners of all ages and stages grow employer valued skills. Helping individuals find a career path, be ready for a job, go to work or get better at work are all part of WIN's core mission. Polly is always intrigued by and happy to be part of the evolving conversations around what it truly means to be ready for life and work. Polly also represents WIN Learning at conferences, conventions, meetings and most anywhere college, career and life readiness are the key topics. WIN Learning offers a range of options via online and offline courseware designed to offer 24/7 access to anyone with an internet connection. Whether it's attitudes and behaviors at work (Soft Skills) professional skills required across all professions (Academic Skills), or, fundamental technology skills (Digital Literacy), WIN's courses are endorsed by the National Work Readiness Council (NWRC), based on employer feedback and, continually vetted by professionals.

Michelle Stien; Laura Elsbrook

Join the WIN Learning Team as we explore and pull together elements of an ideal game plan for adult jobseekers. How do we load the bases with community support, engage employers and tap into resources to create a grand slam of success?

WORKFORCE/ WEI/IET

Thursday 8:30 am-9:30 am

Session 3

Freemont 5

Managing Crash-outs Safely in an Adult Education Classroom!

Craig BOYKIN

Craig J. Boykin has garnered national attention as a consultant, celebrated for his refreshingly candid approach to systemic poverty and trauma. Craig is unapologetic about speaking the hard truth. With a multifaceted career as an author, consultant, entrepreneur, and decorated Army veteran, Craig's achievements are a testament to his unyielding determination and perseverance. Having grown up with a single mother who struggled with addiction, Craig faced considerable challenges in his youth, including the absence of his father and an uncertain future. He repeated the 3rd and 5th grades, was diagnosed with a learning disability, and was placed in special education. Consequently, Craig experienced significant difficulties in school, was frequently expelled, and eventually dropped out in the 10th grade. Craig presently oversees forty students in a 24/7 psychiatric residential treatment facility as the Direct Care Manager. These students have been diagnosed with a range of emotional and behavioral disorders. Following a decade of consulting, in 2022, Craig took a 7th-grade teaching position at one of the most challenging middle schools in Montgomery, Alabama. Unlike most professional speakers who leave education to consult full-time, Craig transitioned from consulting to a full-time educator, demonstrating the sincerity of his commitment. Despite his daily involvement in the trenches, Craig remains a captivating presenter, delivering inspiring and actionable presentations.

One thing more important than what you teach is the safety of whom you teach. If you're not up to date on the kids' lingo these days: to 'crash out' means to have a public meltdown with little regard for understanding. In this session educators will learn how to safely and effectively navigate a "crash out" in the classroom. We encourage to prioritize safety, communication, and de-escalation.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Thursday 8:30 am-9:30 am

Session 3

Freemont 6

In the Teacher's Dugout: Best Practices from the Field of Correctional Education

Amber Finnegan

Amber Finnegan serves as the State Correctional Education Director for Ivy Tech, where she oversees the Adult Education and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs across 15 Indiana Adult Prisons. Prior to this role, Amber dedicated 10 years as a Probation Officer in Bartholomew County before being appointed as the first Director of Jefferson County Community Corrections in 2010. During her 12-year tenure, she significantly expanded the program to include Pre-Trial Services, Drug Court, Community Corrections, the Jefferson County Adult Treatment Train, Prosecutor Diversion, and Probation

Step into the dugout with a panel of correctional educators as they share best practices from the field. Learn practical strategies for instruction, classroom management, and student engagement. Includes Q&A, small group discussion, and a takeaway playbook. Open to all experience levels.

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

Thursday 8:30 am-9:30 am

Session 3

SamsTown A

A ConnectAble Home Run: Discovering Tools at Your Fingertips (Will repeat in session 5)

Neil Richmund

Neil Richmund is an Australian who's lived in the U.S. for over 30 years—though he still hasn't lost the accent. For 15 years, he worked as a chaplain and minister in Christian schools, walking alongside students and families. Over time, his passion for helping people grow led him into tech, where he built a solo career as a web designer and marketing strategist, helping nonprofits, churches, and schools expand their reach and impact. During the pandemic, his wife Amy—a seasoned adult educator in Indianapolis—was facing growing challenges in her program. So Neil did what he does best: he built a solution. That first tool to support Amy and her team became the foundation for ConnectAble, a nonprofit now serving adult education programs across the country. Today, Neil, Amy, and their friend Dr. Treg Hopkins co-lead ConnectAble, offering an all-in-one platform that simplifies the work of educators and improves outcomes for students. Neil's role blends strategy, design, and a deep belief in the transformative power of adult education. He and Amy have been married for 11 years and have three grown children—two married and one finishing college at Ball State. They're embracing empty nesting and enjoying being first-time grandparents. Their journey has taken them to adult ed programs in over 20 states, where they've shared their passion and platform with educators coast to coast.

Are you getting the most out of your ConnectAble platform? Chances are that there are still tools in your system that you may not realize! Join us to uncover powerful tools hiding in plain sight—tools that simplify tracking,

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boost learner progress, and grow your program. We'll show you what's already at your fingertips and how to make it work harder for you. Stick around for Q&A to ask anything!

TECHNOLOGY/DIGITAL LITERACY/OUTREACH

Thursday 8:30 am-9:30 am

Session 3

SamsTown B

Covering All the BurlingtonEnglish Bases: Multilevel Strategies to Reach Every Learner

Laura Smart

Laura has been involved with adult education for over 10 years. She taught HSE classes at Impact Institute for four years and then accepted a teaching position at Miami Correctional Facility as a HSE instructor. Laura is now the Customer Manager for Indiana and Kentucky. She is also a volunteer at her local library tutoring ELL students. Laura lives on a farm with her husband in Roanoke, Indiana. She enjoys riding her horse, Duke; kayaking, fishing, gardening and working on the farm.

The dynamics of multilevel adult ESL classrooms demand a robust, flexible approach to accommodate learners' diverse proficiency levels, goals, and backgrounds. Participants in this session will be covering all of the BurlingtonEnglish bases to learn practical classroom activities from BurlingtonEnglish to enhance the overall student experience and support individualized learning paths.

ELL/CIVICS

Thursday 8:30 am-9:30 am

Session 3

SamsTown C

Employer Partner Best Practices

Roy Melton

During this session we will define what is a great employer partner and investigate what it takes to cultivate great employer relationships. We will discuss how to identify strong employer partnerships and give strategies on how to increase employer engagement.

DWD

Thursday 8:30 am-9:30 am

Session 3

Orleans Ballroom (2nd Floor)

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

I'm Not a Trained Counselor, But My Students Need Help!

Steven Schmidt

Though we are not trained counselors, our students look to use for advice and support. How can we help our students when they need a listening ear? In this interactive session, you will learn the basics of how to provide effective support while avoiding common pitfalls.

ABE, ELL, ADMINISTRATION

Thursday 9:30 am-9:45 am

Break

Exhibit Hall

Thursday 09:45 am- 10:45 am Session 4

Suncoast	Emergency Town Hall Meeting: Adult Education ELL Teachers in IN
Freemont 1	Elevating Student Voice: COABE's National Learner Initiatives
Freemont 2	Essential HiSET Insights for Educators and Test Centers
Freemont 3	Understanding Updates and Changes for TABE 13&14 and CLAS-E
Freemont 4	Stretch your WEI from a Double to a Triple with Progress Milestone
Freemont 5	The Future of Work: Unlocking the Power of Entrepreneurship in Indiana
Freemont 6	Bringing Calm into the Adult Learning Classroom
Sams Town A (2nd Floor) ^	Certiport Certification Exams
Sams Town B (2nd Floor) ^	Demystifying Fixed and Mobile GED Testing Centers
Sams Town C (2nd Floor) ^	Boost Digital Health Skills and Instructional Insight
Orleans Ballroom (2nd floor) ^	Building Digital Resilience

Session 4

Suncoast

Emergency Town Hall Meeting: Adult Education ELL teachers in Indiana

Dinorah Sapp

This is a facilitated session designed for participants to share, brain storm and collaborate!

Brenda Gaston

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

This is a moment of crisis for Adult Education in our country and especially for adult education ELL teachers and students. We need to come together as a professional community in Indiana to share our concerns, brainstorm alternatives, and take action. The agenda will address current issues and ways teachers have navigated the uncertainty of programming and staffing. Above all, this session will focus on supporting, collaborating, and moving forward together.

ELL/CIVICS

Thursday 09:45 am- 10:45 am

Session 4

Freemont 1

Elevating Student Voice: COABE's National Learner Initiatives

Erin Vobornik

Erin Vobornik is the Initiatives Director at the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE), where she leads national efforts to elevate adult learner voices, expand leadership opportunities, and strengthen grassroots advocacy. She brings over 12 years of experience in adult education, having served as an instructor, teacher supervisor, and professional development specialist in Illinois. These roles gave her firsthand insight into the challenges faced by both learners and educators, shaping her passion for creating meaningful, accessible programs that foster student leadership and civic engagement. At COABE, she oversees key initiatives including the Student Ambassador Program, the Students as Leaders Summit, and the LOCAL (Lifting Our Communities through Advocacy & Leadership) initiative. Her work focuses on building student-centered resources and trainings that help learners tell their stories, advocate for adult education, and lead change in their communities. She also hosts The COABE Advocast, a national podcast featuring conversations with students, educators, and advocates working to advance adult education. A frequent presenter at state and national conferences, she is committed to helping the field of adult education grow stronger, more visible, and more student-focused.

Discover how COABE's national initiatives empower adult learners to become confident leaders and advocates. This session covers key programs such as the Student Ambassador Program, Students as Leaders Summit, mini grants, and more. Gain practical tools and ideas to engage learners, amplify their voices, and strengthen adult education in your community.

ADMINISTRATIVE/LEADERSHIP SKILLS/PROGRAM MGT

Thursday 09:45 am- 10:45 am

Session 4

Freemont 2

Essential HiSET Insights for Educators and Test Centers

Stephanie Bauer

Stephanie Bauer, the HiSET Account Manager, focuses on cultivating relationships with state clients, vendors, and internal partners. She manages the implementation of the HiSET program at the state level, collaborating with adult education programs and test centers on contracts and service level agreements. With over 20 years of experience in K-12 programs and a bachelor's degree from Rider University, Stephanie is also certified as a Scrum Master I and Six Sigma Greenbelt. Beyond her professional responsibilities, Stephanie is an avid traveler and Broadway aficionado.

Join us for an interactive session tailored for adult educators and test center staff to explore the HiSET exam. Learn how to assess if HiSET fits your test takers, review the five subject areas, and get key updates for this testing year. Gain the latest info and best practices to better support learners and enhance test center effectiveness.

ABE CURRICULUM

Thursday 09:45 am- 10:45 am

Session 4

Freemont 3

Understanding Updates and Changes for TABE 13&14 and CLAS-E

Michael Johnson

Mike Johnson - National Adult Education Director

Mike has been with Data Recognition Corp - DRC for over 15 years and involved with Adult Education for over 25 years. As the Adult Education National Director, Mike is responsible for guiding the development of all Adult Assessments for DRC including TABE and TABE CLAS-E to meet the needs of Adult Learners in ESL, Basic Skills and High School Equivalency programs. Mike's responsibilities include managing day to day operation of assessments target for Adult Basic Education and providing support test and program development related to industry direction and meeting the needs of the customers.

This session highlights for teachers and testing administrators the innovative features, updates and best practices of these assessments, designed to enhance adult education accuracy and effectiveness. Participants will gain an in-depth understanding of TABE 13 & 14 and CLAS-E C & D. Explore the connection to O*Net careers, improving Measurable Skills Gains for Adult Ed and ESL students.

ABE CURRICULUM

Thursday 09:45 am- 10:45 am

Session 4

Freemont 4

Stretch your WEI from a Double to a Triple with Progress Milestone

Natalie Reuter, Ryan LaPorte

Natalie Reuter is the Director of MSD of Warren Township's Program of Adult and Continuing Education, a role she has held since 2019. She began her adult education career in 2010 with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development before joining Warren Township in 2012. Under her leadership, the program serves over 2,300 students annually, helping more than 400 earn career certifications and enrolling over 500 in workforce initiatives. A proud mother of three, Natalie loves sports, health, and fitness. She enjoys hiking, biking, and spending time outdoors, believing in the power of education.

Ryan LaPorte is the Assistant Director of Washington Township's Program.

Discover how Warren Township Adult Education built Indiana's highest-enrolling Workforce Education Initiative program with over 500 enrollments this year! Learn three proven delivery models — on-site employer classes, on-campus programs, and integrated training partnerships — to help your program knock workforce education out of the park.

WORKFORCE/ WEI/IET

Thursday 09:45 am- 10:45 am

Session 4

Freemont 5

The Future of Work: Unlocking the Power of Entrepreneurship in Indiana

Nickie Nolting

Entrepreneurship is a hot topic in Indiana as a new office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation is currently being formed. Indiana adult education is poised to be in a great position to contribute to this work as we have already started on this journey with approved IETS in entrepreneurship. Join us in this informative session on how entrepreneurship is the next wave of the innovation of work.

DWD

Thursday 09:45 am- 10:45 am

Session 4

Freemont 6

Bringing Calm into the Adult Learning Classroom

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Jane Coulter

Jane Erica Coulter is a IAACE Board Member. She is Ivy Tech's ABE Instructor for GED students at Madison Correctional Facility. During her first year as an IAACE member and new instructor, she was nominated for the New Adult Educator of the Year Award. Jane holds a Certificate of Teaching Secondary Education from Indiana Wesleyan University and a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University. Jane serves as a mentor to new teachers through Ivy Tech's new teacher mentor program. Jane received her 200-hour yoga teacher certification in 2019 so that she could share yoga practice with those in her community and taught classes for both children and adults.

Bringing Calm into the Adult Learning Classroom: Practices for Teachers and Students. This interactive session introduces practical tools to create a more peaceful classroom to promote presence and engagement. Explore techniques incorporating mindfulness, movement, and breath work.

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

Thursday 09:45 am- 10:45 am

Session 4

SamsTown A

Certiport Certification Exams

 [Certification Exams](#)

Ready to level up your skills? Take advantage of the opportunity to sit for a **Certiport Certification Exam** during the conference! Exams will be offered in **Sam's Town A (2nd floor)** at scheduled times throughout the event.

Spots are limited (5 per session), so be sure to sign up in advance. Complete details and scheduling instructions were shared by email—check your inbox to reserve your spot. Confirmation of your exam time will be provided at conference check-in. 📞

Thursday 09:45 am- 10:45 am

Session 4

SamsTown B

Demystifying Fixed and Mobile GED Testing Centers

Natalie Cummins

Natalie E. Cummins is Client Channel Operations Manager (CCOM) for the GED® Exam for Pearson VUE. In her role as CCOM, she serves as a liaison among GED testing centers, GED Testing Service, and the Pearson VUE units which support the implementation and continuing function of GED® testing centers. Her goal is to help

improve the test center process and to increase test center footprint across the country. She brings 28 years of experience in Adult Education to her role.

Would you like to offer GED testing at your program but you don't know where to start? Come to this session and learn the requirements and processes for establishing a Pearson VUE-approved GED testing center.

DATA MANAGEMENT/TESTING CENTER ADMINISTRATION

Thursday 09:45 am- 10:45 am

Session 4

SamsTown C

Boost Digital Health Skills and Instructional Insight

Angela Harris

Angela Harris is the founder of TGX Development (TGX), a publisher and curriculum partner equipping adult education and workforce programs across the U.S. and Canada. She designs easy-to-use, insight-driven workbooks and data-informed tools that equip instructors to build learners' confidence with technology—one click at a time. A Harvard MBA and Georgetown honors graduate, Angela blends expertise in digital inclusion, instructional design, and data accountability to help programs improve outcomes, secure funding, and make technology approachable for all.

Discover how a digital health literacy workbook can power confident instruction and real-time data collection—without the complexity of a learning management system. This session shares an innovative, low-lift model for building learner confidence with digital health technologies while giving educators insight into learner progress and instructional impact.

TECHNOLOGY/DIGITAL LITERACY/OUTREACH

Thursday 09:45 am- 10:45 am

Session 4

Orleans Ballroom (2nd floor)

Building Digital Resilience

Steven Schmidt

Digital resilience means that learners are able to use technology with a growth mindset. How do we help our learners develop job ready tech skills? Find out in this interactive webinar where we will discover best practices for teaching technology skills, learn about effective resources, and share effective ideas.

Thursday 11:00 am-12:45 pm

Literacy Lunchen - *Ticketed Event*

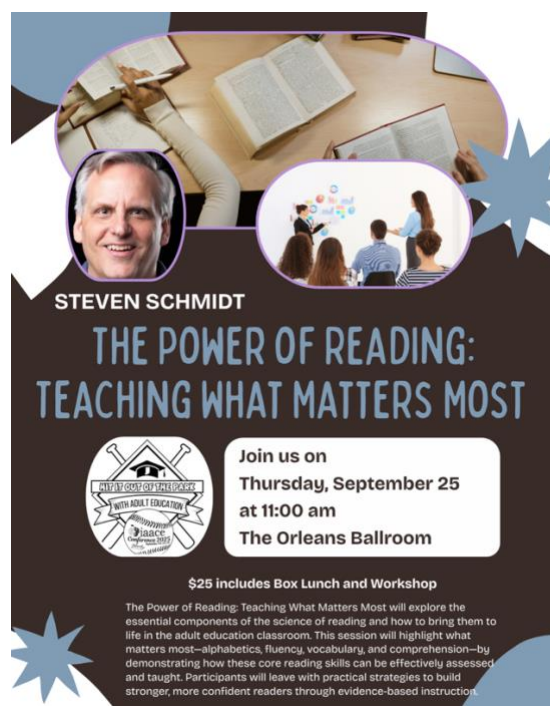
Orleans Ballroom (2nd floor)

The Power of Reading: Teaching What Matters Most

Steven Schmidt

This session will provide an overview of the science of reading and how to apply it in the classroom. It will provide an overview of alphabetics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, show how these skills can be assessed, and explain how these skills can be taught.

LUNCH AND LEARN TICKETED EVENT Check in will be at the Orleans Ballroom for this event.



Thursday 1:00 pm-2:00 pm Session 5

Suncoast	Manufacturing New Beginnings - Credentials That Change Lives
Freemont 1	Anthem IN Medicaid Employment and Education Value Added Benefits
Freemont 2	Knocking It Out of the Park: Effective Essay Instruction for HiSET & GED
Freemont 3	A ConnectAble Home Run: Discovering Tools at Your Fingertips
Freemont 4	What Ideas Do You Have??
Freemont 5	Keep Your Eye on the (Money)Ball!

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Freemont 6	Batter up for Vocational Soft Skills
Sams Town A (2nd Floor)	Certiport Certification Exams
Sams Town B (2nd Floor)	Let AI be Your New Pinch Hitter!
Sams Town C (2nd Floor)	My First Year in Corrections Education
Orleans Ballroom (2nd floor)	Managing the Multi-Level Classroom

Session 5
Suncoast

Manufacturing New Beginnings - Credentials That Change Lives

Tyler Kennedy

Tyler Kennedy serves as the Senior Manager of Strategic Initiatives at the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC), an industry-led, non-profit organization dedicated to training, assessment, and certification for core technical skills essential to the nation's front-line production and material handling workforce.

In his role, Mr. Kennedy leads the onboarding and integration of all new Assessment Centers, which include secondary and post-secondary educational institutions, correctional facilities, industry groups, and similar organizations. He ensures that each center is effectively equipped to implement MSSC's nationally recognized certification programs. MSSC has more than 2,200 Authorized Assessment & Training Centers in 49 states and has issued 245,000+ credentials

Discover how MSSC's nationally recognized certifications in Manufacturing and TDL provide justice-involved and opportunity populations a path to economic mobility. Learn from success stories in Indiana and beyond, explore scalable models, workforce trends, and hear real-world insights from practitioners.

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

Thursday 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Session 5

Freemont 1

Anthem IN Medicaid Employment and Education Value Added Benefits

Dustin Jablonski

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Dustin Jablonski is a lifelong resident of Indiana and has spent the last twenty-years in the social services field. Dustin has a Bachelor of Social Work degree obtained from Anderson University. Dustin has worked for employment search programs at Eskenazi Health, Adult and Child, Goodwill of Central and Southern IN, and the Hopewell Center. Dustin currently is a Program Coordinator with Anthem IN Medicaid helping members access education and employment resources.

This high level presentation will touch on the Employment and Education Value Added Benefits for Anthem Healthy Indiana Plan, Hoosier Health Wise and Hoosier Care Connect. Learn how to directly connect your students who have Anthem IN Medicaid with a variety of resources to increase their education and employment opportunities. Additional updates for the 2025 VABS will be shared as a resource.

ADMINISTRATIVE/LEADERSHIP SKILLS/PROGRAM MGT

Thursday 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Session 5

Freemont 2

Knocking It Out of the Park: Effective Essay Instruction for HiSET and GED

Megan Hibbard, Denise Esslinger

From Double to Homerun: Equipping Educators with the Latest Essay Success Strategies for Adult Learners

DWD

Thursday 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Session 5

Freemont 3

A ConnectAble Home Run: Discovering Tools at Your Fingertips (Repeat)

Neil Richmund

Neil Richmund is an Australian who's lived in the U.S. for over 30 years—though he still hasn't lost the accent. For 15 years, he worked as a chaplain and minister in Christian schools, walking alongside students and families. Over time, his passion for helping people grow led him into tech, where he built a solo career as a web designer and marketing strategist, helping nonprofits, churches, and schools expand their reach and impact. During the pandemic, his wife Amy—a seasoned adult educator in Indianapolis—was facing growing challenges in her program. So Neil did what he does best: he built a solution. That first tool to support Amy and her team became the foundation for ConnectAble, a nonprofit now serving adult education programs across the country. Today, Neil, Amy, and their friend Dr. Treg Hopkins co-lead ConnectAble, offering an all-in-one platform that simplifies the work of educators and improves outcomes for students. Neil's role blends strategy,

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design, and a deep belief in the transformative power of adult education. He and Amy have been married for 11 years and have three grown children—two married and one finishing college at Ball State. They're embracing empty nesting and enjoying being first-time grandparents. Their journey has taken them to adult ed programs in over 20 states, where they've shared their passion and platform with educators coast to coast.

Are you getting the most out of your ConnectAble platform? Chances are that there are still tools in your system that you may not realize! Join us to uncover powerful tools hiding in plain sight—tools that simplify tracking, boost learner progress, and grow your program. We'll show you what's already at your fingertips and how to make it work harder for you. Stick around for Q&A to ask anything!

TECHNOLOGY/DIGITAL LITERACY/OUTREACH

Thursday 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Session 5

Freemont 4

What Ideas Do You Have??

Dr. Karen Bevis

Completing bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education, a master's in administration and supervision and a doctorate in Educational Leadership-Curriculum and Instruction over a 43-year career in education, after 12 years of elementary and middle school teaching, Karen became a K-8 administrator then chose to teach and lead at the collegiate level. Teacher licensing and Workplace Specialist licensing are her current areas of expertise. Karen has become a leader in education with a knack for visualizing creative solutions. Dr. Bevis is the co-author of "Compass to the Future"

Teachers, bring your best ideas and you dilemmas to brain-storm with colleagues and to hear what things have worked and what more you could try in your classroom. During this session you will engage your real classroom situations and discuss with others how they may have similar situations and how they are solving these dilemmas or how they are finding solutions.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Thursday 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Session 5

Freemont 5

Keep Your Eye on the (Money)Ball!

Donna Lovelady

The presentation will include an overview of all things budget: reimbursements, modifications, revisions, and funding streams and sources. Attendees will learn how to create their own tracking system for their allocation spending. We will discuss how to prepare for closeouts and year-end reimbursing. There will be time for questions from the attendees.
DWD

Thursday 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Session 5

Freemont 6

Batter up for Vocational Soft Skills

Mike Thombleson

Mike Thombleson has worked for 20 years in adult education in Indiana Department of Correction facilities. He currently works as the Northern Regional Coordinator for Ivy Tech who hold the correction education program contract. In addition Mike's employment experience also includes six years of public school teaching and twenty years of management of group homes for adults with disabilities. Mike holds a M.S. degree from Indiana State University in mathematics. In addition Mike is active in IAACE by serving on the conference planning committee for seven years and served on the board of directors for 5 years. In addition to his work life which he enjoys very much, he is actively involved in with his family and grandchildren.

Paula Clark

The presentation will incorporate discussion on soft skills in vocations and what is needed for an incarcerated individual to be successful in the work environment. The session will have PowerPoint slides for guidance and handouts of suggested classroom activities. Mike Thombleson and Paula Clark will be co- presenters.

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

Thursday 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Session 5

SamsTown A

Certiport Certification Exams

 [Certification Exams](#)

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Thursday 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Session 5

SamsTown B

Let AI be Your New Pinch Hitter!

JuliAnn Nisevich

JuliAnn has been a teacher for over a dozen years, primarily in the field of English Literature. She switched to adult education a few years ago when she started as an ELL teacher at Neighbors' Educational Opportunities (NEO). JuliAnn has worked to successfully establish a thriving, permanent hub in East Chicago, Indiana, for English Language Learners. She also works with NEO as the professional development facilitator and helps with their marketing and events. JuliAnn presented at the 2024 IAACE conference, where was also nominated for new educator of the year.

Just like in baseball, playing all the positions of an educator can often cause you to strike out where it matters most! Gather in the dugout and learn how AI might just be your new favorite teammate. We'll look at how AI can be used to create new lessons, supplement existing plans with new vocab and activities, and most importantly - how to differentiate between all ELL levels within seconds!

ELL/CIVICS

Thursday 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Session 5

SamsTown C

My First Year in Corrections Education

Jason Sipe

I am a 54-year-old Indiana Native, who currently resides on the west side of Indy with my wife Cathy and a menagerie of pets. I lived outside of Indiana for several years, and my professional pursuits have varied from broadcasting and theatrical production to education and entrepreneurship. I currently enjoy teaching the CORE curriculum at Heritage Trails Correctional Facility in Plainfield

What happens when a fifty something jack of all trades ends up in prison? as a teacher? Join me for this reflective narrative of my first year in correctional teaching. This promises to be an amusing but meaningful retrospection as I share my experiences in the rarefied atmosphere of correctional education. I work with the most interesting people in the world. Find out why.

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Thursday 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Session 5

Orleans Ballroom (2nd floor)

Managing the Multi-Level Classroom

Steven Schmidt

Every classroom that has more than one student is really a multi-level classroom! How can we meet the needs of our students working at different grade level equivalents without going crazy? Find out in this workshop where we will discuss effective ways to manage multi-level instruction in reading, writing, and math.

ABE, ELL, ADMINISTRATION

Thursday 2:00 pm-2:15 pm

Break

Exhibit Hall

Exhibitor Game

Step up to the plate and join the **Exhibitor Game!**

Pick up your game card at check-in, follow the instructions as you visit exhibitors, and don't forget to write your name on your card. Turn it back in at check-in to score a prize.

Complete the entire card, and you'll hit a home run with an entry to win a **FREE registration to the 2026 IAACE Conference!**

Thursday 2:15 pm-3:15 pm Session 6

Suncoast	Career Advancement: Step up, Swing, Homerun!
Freemont 1	Modeling and Teaching Ethics and Empathy to Incarcerated Individuals
Freemont 2	Making Your PLC an All-Star Team
Freemont 3	Pause, Refresh, Boost: The 7th Inning Stretch with IAACE-
Freemont 4	Time Management is a Fallacy: Using an AI powered Eisenhower Principle to Increase Efficiency and Expand Horizons
Freemont 5	Inside Baseball: Indiana's Place in the National Adult Education Landscape
Freemont 6	Best Practices Roundtable: Teaching CTE in Corrections
Sams Town A (2nd Floor)	Certiport Certification Exams
Sams Town B (2nd Floor)	Data Analysis, What's all this mean?
Sams Town C (2nd Floor)	Covering the Bases: Essential Math Moves for GED Success

Session 6

Suncoast

Career Advancement: Step up, Swing, Homerun!

Sheila Jones (*Virtual Presenter*)

Sheila Jones of Whicked Results knocks it out of the park as a motivational speaker, certified national educational trainer, revered personal growth coach, and international best-selling author. With decades of experience in the professional world as an acclaimed chef, an innovation specialist, and a billion-dollar brand developer, Sheila fires up people of all ages to achieve their dreams. After 30+ years of executive experience in Fortune 500 companies (Nestle, Campbell Soup, Walmart), her current goal as the CEO of Whicked Results is to help one million people change their lives, live smarter, and follow their dreams. A Certified John Maxwell Coach, Speaker & Trainer, as well as a Certified Trainer with the Center for Teacher Effectiveness, Sheila specializes in leadership and educational training. Focused on personal and professional development for administrators, educators, students, and nonprofit organizations, her stimulating programs involve engagement, brilliant use of props, storytelling, and superior motivation. She understands that students come into our classrooms and schools with different backgrounds and cultures—and their cognitive abilities, assets and experiences are just as wide-ranging. A “one size fits all” approach does not work. Sheila encourages educators through motivation, inspiration, and humor, leaving them with proven, practical strategies they can implement immediately to produce Whicked Results! Sheila is ready to re-energize educators.

When was your last promotion, raise, or move up? Sheila Jones, The Job Lady, will give you a new appreciation of what you have to offer and help

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you grow in personal confidence. Learn to magnify your skills, experience, and accomplishments as assets to your organization. Practice favorable personal presentation.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Thursday 2:15 pm-3:15 pm

Session 6

Freemont 1

Modeling and Teaching Ethics and Empathy to Incarcerated Individuals

Nora Sallows

Nora Sallows has taught Business Technologies at the Correctional Industrial Facility for four years. She is interested in investigating models and approaches that incorporate restorative justice and accountability into the pedagogy of instructing incarcerated individuals. She believes more research needs to be done on using education as a tool for rehabilitation and controlling recidivism.

Teaching ethics and empathy as part of a rehabilitation strategy in prison education can help incarcerated individuals make better decisions, foster personal growth and development while reducing recidivism. Research shows ethics education can improve behavior and conflict resolution.

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

Thursday 2:15 pm-3:15 pm

Session 6

Freemont 2

Making Your PLC an All-Star Team

Robert Moore

Robert Moore is an accomplished educator with more than 30 years of experience across high schools, community colleges, and adult education programs. He led adult education initiatives in two Indiana districts and served twice as president of the Indiana Association for Adult & Continuing Education. Rob has delivered statewide and national trainings on student outcomes and program improvement, earning numerous accolades, including the Meritorious Service Award (2014) and the Craddock Award for Lifetime Service (2024). His Bloomington program was nationally recognized in 2022 for its employer-engagement.

After a year of implementation of Professional Learning Communities in IDOC adult education sites, let's take a moment to share successes and challenges and brainstorm ideas to strengthen our PLC teams so they are as effective as they can be.

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

Thursday 2:15 pm-3:15 pm

Session 6

Freemont 3

Pause, Refresh, Boost: The 7th Inning Stretch with IAACE-

Katie Walton

Jenn Wigginton

Step into the 7th Inning Stretch of the conference and give yourself the boost you need! This session is designed to help you pause from the busy pace, refresh with new energy, and boost your knowledge of all the winning benefits IAACE offers. From networking opportunities to professional development, certifications, discounts, and advocacy, IAACE membership covers all the bases. Whether you're a rookie or a seasoned pro, you'll walk away ready to hit a home run with the resources and perks available to you. Don't miss this chance to recharge and discover how IAACE helps you keep swinging for success!

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Thursday 2:15 pm-3:15 pm

Session 6

Freemont 4

Time Management is a Fallacy: Using an AI powered Eisenhower Principle to Increase Efficiency and Expand Horizons

Treg Hopkins

Dr. Treg Hopkins is a lifelong educator and leader with a deep background in adult education, workforce development, and higher ed. He's served in key roles such as Dean of Workforce and Director of Adult Education at the community college level, known for his calm, steady leadership and his talent for connecting people and systems. Treg's path to co-founding ConnectAble began through long-standing relationships. He met Amy through adult ed work and Neil through shared circles in business, ministry, and tech—well before Amy and Neil connected. Since the three came together to form ConnectAble, they have been together supporting schools across the US! As a proud Quaker, Treg lives out values of service, equity, and empowerment. His deep understanding of the challenges faced by adult learners and educators—especially in underserved communities—inspires his commitment to human-centered solutions. At ConnectAble, Treg works alongside Amy and Neil to offer adult educators tools that truly support their mission. Their shared goal: make

educators' lives easier and improve outcomes for students, always with heart and clarity.

Discover how AI and the Eisenhower Principle can revolutionize your time management and free you of overwhelm. Learn to prioritize tasks efficiently and save time so that you can expand your horizons. Explore AI-powered strategies and tools that can boost productivity and transform your workflow.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY

Thursday 2:15 pm-3:15 pm

Session 6

Freemont 5

Inside Baseball: Indiana's Place in the National Adult Education Landscape

Lara Pastore

As Indiana continues to lead the country in several aspects of adult education performance, it is important to understand how adult education is delivered in other states throughout the country. As Indiana prepares to host COABE in April of 2026, it is helpful to recognize in what ways Indiana is similar and different compared to states in the midwest and throughout the country.

DWD

Thursday 2:15 pm-3:15 pm

Session 6

Freemont 6

Best Practices Roundtable: Teaching CTE in Corrections

Dr. John Rajanayakam

Dr. John Rajanayakam is the Regional Correctional Education Coordinator for Southern Indiana with Ivy Tech Community College, overseeing academic and CTE programs in eight Department of Correction facilities. A certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt and PMP, he brings 25+ years of leadership experience in education, corporate strategy, and workforce development. He has led significant initiatives in instructional quality, project-based learning, and technology integration, raising educational standards and student outcomes systemwide. A published author and sought-after presenter, Dr. Rajanayakam shares actionable strategies to embed project management, Six Sigma tools, and real-world workforce skills into correctional education to support student success and desistance.

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Mrs Paula Clark

Paula Clark serves as the Career and Technical Education Coordinator for Ivy Tech's Madison campus, supporting CTE programming across all IDOC facilities statewide. With over 11 years at Ivy Tech and 8 years focused on training programs for incarcerated individuals, she was appointed CTE Coordinator in 2022. Paula also oversees Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs and represents Indiana in RTI's national IET Design Camp. A graduate of the IACTE Fellows Program and a seasoned career development leader, she previously launched Ivy Tech's Career Coaching and Employer Connections department. Paula holds an MBA and is passionate about aligning education with workforce needs and empowering diverse learn

Join this interactive roundtable as CTE instructors share best practices in correctional education. Explore case studies, hands-on learning, workforce relevance, classroom professionalism, and strategies for teaching students facing trauma or barriers. Brainstorm new ways to better prepare students for real-world success.

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

Thursday 2:15 pm-3:15 pm

Session 6

SamsTown A

Certiport Certification Exams

 [Certification Exams](#)

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Thursday 2:15 pm-3:15 pm

Session 6

SamsTown B

Data Analysis, What's all this mean?

Matt Crites

I will cover portions of the NRS technical assistance guide and well as how this information is coded into Inters to calculate all of the federal outcomes.

DWD

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Thursday 2:15 pm-3:15 pm

Session 6

SamsTown C

Covering the Bases: Essential Math Moves for GED Success

Sheila Butler

Sheila Butler is a veteran adult education teacher from Indiana with over 37 years teaching experience. She has presented at conferences statewide for 22 years and nationally for the past 6. Sheila specializes in Math and getting students to their goal quickly. She is excited to come out of retirement this fall to teach 4 Fast Track Classes for Cook Medical. A long-time leader in IAACE, she brings energy, humor, and practical strategies to every session.

Step up to the plate with practical math strategies to help students knock the GED out of the park! This fast-paced session focuses on graphing, equations, and classifying question types. Walk away with classroom-ready games, visuals, and a Google Classroom toolkit to build confidence—for both you and your students.

ABE CURRICULUM

Thursday 3:15 pm-3:45 pm

Break

Exhibit Hall

Thursday 3:45 pm-4:45 pm Session 7

Suncoast	Whicked Interview Strategies that Result in “You’re Hired!”
Freemont 1	Covering All the Bases: Supporting Students with Disabilities
Freemont 2	5 Best Practices to Increase Student Usage
Freemont 3	Captive Audience?
Freemont 4	Covering All the Bases for GED Success
Freemont 5	Pre-Apprenticeships: Providing Career Pathways into Registered Apprenticeship
Freemont 6	Coach's Corner: ABE Materials for Student Success
Sams Town A (2nd Floor)	Certiport Certification Exams
Sams Town B (2nd Floor)	Let's Talk: Using New York Times Picture Prompts
Sams Town C (2nd Floor)	Reading to Learn - Strategies for the Struggling Learner

Session 7

Suncoast

Whicked Interview Strategies that Result in “You’re Hired!”

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Sheila Jones (*Virtual Presenter*)

Sheila Jones of Whicked Results knocks it out of the park as a motivational speaker, certified national educational trainer, revered personal growth coach, and international best-selling author. With decades of experience in the professional world as an acclaimed chef, an innovation specialist, and a billion-dollar brand developer, Sheila fires up people of all ages to achieve their dreams. After 30+ years of executive experience in Fortune 500 companies (Nestle, Campbell Soup, Walmart), her current goal as the CEO of Whicked Results is to help one million people change their lives, live smarter, and follow their dreams.

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Simply put, jobs change lives! Jobs provide self-esteem and create economic development. Jobs pay the bills! Let's dive into interviewing tips as we work through the phases of preparation, interviewing, and offer/acceptance. Known as The Job Lady, Sheila will share proven steps to success and essential trade secrets from decades of experience. Free eBook with session.

WORKFORCE/ WEI/IET

Thursday 3:45 pm-4:45 pm

Session 7

Freemont 1

Covering All the Bases: Supporting Students with Disabilities

Connie Lucas

Hi everyone! I'm Connie Lucas, the State Special Education Coordinator for Ivy Tech's Correctional Education program. I have worked in correctional education for 17 years, with the past four years serving on Ivy Tech's State Team. In my role, I oversee the special education programs across all 15 Indiana Department of Correction facilities, ensuring compliance with both state and federal regulations. I am dedicated to making sure that students with qualifying special needs receive the services and accommodations they need to succeed in reaching their educational goals.

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To build a winning team, educators must be equipped to support all learners—including those with disabilities. This session will provide educators with a clear, practical, and engaging overview of how to recognize and meet the needs of students with disabilities through inclusive practices, collaborative support, and a deeper understanding of relevant laws and instructional strategies.

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

Thursday 3:45 pm-4:45 pm

Session 7

Freemont 2

5 Best Practices to Increase Student Usage

Mara Stibitz

Mara Stibitz is the Customer Representative and Teacher Trainer for Indiana and Illinois at BurlingtonEnglish. Originally from Brazil, where she began teaching ELL at just 17, Mara brings over 22 years of experience to the field—11 of those in Adult Education in Indiana. She has served as a dedicated ELL instructor, professional development facilitator, and presenter at regional and state conferences. Known for her strong communication skills, creativity, and team spirit, Mara delivers engaging training sessions that support and inspire educators.

Explore 5 practical strategies to boost student usage and engagement while discovering the core components of BurlingtonEnglis. Learn how blended learning, clear expectations, and smart tools can support student success and measurable skill gains.

ELL/CIVICS

Thursday 3:45 pm-4:45 pm

Session 7

Freemont 3

Captive Audience?

John Heppner

John Heppner has an MBA and an educational doctorate (EdD). He worked ten years in a college setting and has been working in corrections for the past 5 years. Mr. Heppner brings his educational and work experience into his workshops and encourages interaction. He has facilitated workshops at IAACE before and in other venues as well for many years.

This workshop will survey theories and methods used for classroom student engagement. Special emphasis will be give to examine how this concept relates to a correctional environment. Participants should bring along best practices to share. A goal of this activity to to provide lots of new ideas for participants to return to work with.

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Thursday 3:45 pm-4:45 pm

Session 7

Freemont 4

Covering All the Bases for GED Success

Orville House

With over a decade of experience in the Adult Education classroom, I have supported learners through multiple high school equivalency (HSE) transitions—from the 2002 GED to TASC, then HiSET, and now the current GED. During my seven years of TASC instruction, I developed practical classroom tools to help students estimate their scores and better understand the test expectations. These tools empowered learners to track their progress and build confidence in reaching their goals. As testing requirements evolved, I worked to ensure that students stayed focused, informed, and equipped for success. After leaving the classroom, I continued supporting adult education as Ivy Tech's Data Analyst and Professional Development Coordinator. In this role, I focus on helping educators across the state use data to drive instruction and build tools that improve classroom alignment and student outcomes. My passion remains helping both educators and students stay on target—no matter which test is at the plate.

Step up to the plate with a winning HSE strategy! This session features a project analyzing official GED study topics assigned to students. Like the size of home plate, GED standards don't change—but our support must. Explore how this project, Study Buddies, and the new GED series from New Reader's Press can guide instruction based on GED scores. Walk away with a sample tool and a game plan!

ABE CURRICULUM

Thursday 3:45 pm-4:45 pm

Session 7

Freemont 5

Pre-Apprenticeships: Providing Career Pathways into Registered Apprenticeship

Shannon Ollis

Employers continue to search for strong pipelines and pathways to skilled talent. How do community training partners help address the lack of skilled candidates? Through comprehensive training programs that directly address the missing skills needed for a successful employee. Explore how IET/WEI programs can be a foundational solution through the creation of pre-apprenticeship, enhancing employer engagement and partnerships.

DWD

Thursday 3:45 pm-4:45 pm

Session 7

Freemont 6

Coach's Corner: ABE Materials for Student Success

Samuel Grant

Samuel Grant is an ABE teacher at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility who is in his third year there. He enjoys sharing his passion for learning with students and motivating them to strive towards their educational goals. Previously, he taught in the Department of English at Indiana State and taught writing courses in the Danville Correctional Facility for the Danville Area Community College. In his spare time he enjoys table-top gaming, board games, and spending time with his wife and their dogs. Although he's fairly new to correctional education, he's excited to continue to grow.

Do your students ever strike out on a particular subject? Does the GED Readiness test seem to throw a curveball their way? If you're an educator/coach in a similar position, then you should have a Mound Meeting with me and other coaches as we collaborate on some helpful ABE materials. Join me as we train our students to prepare for the World Series/GED!

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

Thursday 3:45 pm-4:45 pm

Session 7

SamsTown A

Certiport Certification Exams

 [Certification Exams](#)

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Thursday 3:45 pm-4:45 pm

Session 7

SamsTown B

Let's Talk: Using New York Times Picture Prompts

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Dinorah Sapp

Dinorah Sapp is an Adult Education ELL teacher and Professional Development Facilitator at Broadview Learning Center in Bloomington, Indiana. She was recognized as the 2023 IAACE Outstanding New Adult Educator. Dinorah holds a master's degree in Language Education from Indiana University. Her classroom experience has been at the elementary, high school, and university levels, as well as a teacher trainer. Dinorah has presented at regional, national, and international conferences. She has also taught English abroad (Germany, Austria), and has provided online support to teachers in Chile.

Students at the intermediate level of English are developing their speaking skills to share their feelings and opinions. By using the New York Times Picture Prompts, participants will learn how to structure a lesson or activity that lets students have confidence in their speaking abilities. The presenter will guide participants in a picture prompt activity

ELL/CIVICS

STRAND SPONSOR



Thursday 3:45 pm-4:45 pm

Session 7

SamsTown C

Reading to Learn - Strategies for the Struggling Learner

Chris Miller

Ms. Miller worked for over 30 years in adult education and managed a comprehensive adult education program serving over 2,000 students annually and served on the state level for a time developing and implementing state-wide professional development programs. Currently, she works as a national consultant for Aztec providing training workshops, conducting national webinars, and presenting at state and national conferences.

Many adult educators lack formal training in reading instruction. This session offers key strategies to help struggling readers improve comprehension and academic success. Participants will explore methods to teach academic reading, boost content understanding, and support the shift from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.”

ABE CURRICULUM

Thursday 4:45 pm-5:45 pm

Certification Exams

SamsTown A

Certiport Certification Exams

 [Certification Exams](#)

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Thursday 6:00 PM

On Your Own for Dinner

Try Lakeside or Infusion within the Resort or venture out to a local restaurant.

GREAT TIME FOR A TEAM BUILDING EVENT

Thursday 8:00 pm- 10:00 pm

DJ @ The Rocks

The Rocks Bar at the Casino

AFTER PARTY AT THE ROCKS BAR

Friday, September 26

**schedule subject to change Changes will be posted at <https://virtual.iaace.com/>*

7:00 am – 8:45 am Breakfast – Stardust Ballroom

Express Continental- Fruit, assorted muffins, bagels, with cream cheese, jellies and jams, butter

7:00 am – 12:00 pm Fun Friday Vendors (maybe, this might be a rainout)

Friday 7:45 am -8:45 am

Certification Exams

SamsTown A

Certiport Certification Exams

Certification Exams

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Friday 9:00 am -10:00 am Session 8

Suncoast	"Decoding Taxes: Your Key to Financial and Civic Empowerment"
Freemont 1	Mindfulness in Motion: Embedding Mindful Wellness into Everyday
Freemont 2	Make a Game Plan for the Career You Want
Freemont 3	Leading with Unshakeable Values
Freemont 4	Real-World Wins: ESL for Work and Beyond
Freemont 5	Q&A with the InTERS Team
Freemont 6	Apprenticeship: The Next Chapter
Sams Town A (2nd Floor)^	Certiport Certification Exams
Sams Town B (2nd Floor)^	From Learner to Educator: An Immigrant's Journey
Sams Town C (2nd Floor)^	From Plans to Purpose: Teaching for Deeper Meaning

Session 8
Suncoast

"Decoding Taxes: Your Key to Financial and Civic Empowerment"

Zoe Callaway (*Virtual Presenter*)

Zoe is the Vice President of Education at the Tax Foundation, where she oversees the TaxEDU program. She was previously executive director of an issue advocacy organization that advocated for lower taxes, mindful state spending, and better accountability and transparency in government in her home state of Delaware. Prior to that she worked in the Delaware State Legislature as a Communications Specialist while completing an MA in Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Delaware, where she also earned a BA in American History with a minor in Political Science.

Virtual Presenter

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

A recent national survey found that most Americans do not understand the tax code. We can all stand to learn more about the taxes that impact our daily lives and personal finances, and education is the first step to be an informed taxpayer, business owner, and even a lawmaker. Learn more about common taxes and resources available to you to make taxes less daunting.

ABE CURRICULUM

Friday 9:00 am -10:00 am

Session 8

Freemont 1

Mindfulness in Motion: Embedding Mindful Wellness into Everyday

Tara Lisciandro

Tara Lisciandro is a 25+year educator from New Jersey. Tara has served as a consultant instructor for SEL programming for the National Education Association and instituted similar programs in numerous schools. Trained via CASEL and MBSR certified, Tara has incorporated wellness and mindfulness activities into many classrooms, offices and organizations, for well over a decade. Tara's educational career began teaching for NATO in Italy and acted as a translator for Italian Holocaust victim families in Italy. She returned home to work as an educator of history, Italian and education for 20+ years. After obtaining her Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction and certification, Tara build small, custom programs for classrooms, focusing on problematic student behavior and stressed educators. Observing the success of these programs, workshops grew and were hosted at other schools, jails and non for profit groups, spanning more than 10 states. Tara moved to Indiana in 2021 with her family and continues to bring mindful wellness into communities. Her work has been published in local and national journals (including COAB & NEA) and she continues to explore the ways in which mindful wellness aides in communities such as the ones she works in now including a juvenile detention center and adult education. She uses her small farm to educate about wellness via nature and breath work sessions, as well as therapy animals, continuing to integrate mindful wellness into her work.

Through a series of hands-on activities, guided reflections, and engaging discussions, participants will explore practical strategies for fostering emotional resilience, reducing stress, and creating supportive learning and work environments. Expect movement, creativity, and collaborative experiences that go beyond theory—because mindfulness is something you do, not just something you learn about.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Friday 9:00 am -10:00 am

Session 8

Freemont 2

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Make a Game Plan for the Career You Want

Carol Bible

Carol Bible, M.Ed., is a career educator with 11 years in adult education. She has taught everything from level 1 ELL through Transitions and eventually found a home in HSE classes. Carol taught “face-to-face online” from 2020 to 2025, developing and sharing highly effective systems of engagement and strategies that yield high retention and performance. In July 2024, she joined the Essential Education team as a Customer Success Manager, continuing to teach part-time and serving on the IAACE board.

Where would you like to go with your career in education or anywhere else? Most adult educators begin part-time. Full-time career positions in AE are not abundant, but they do exist, and some have yet to be created. If you grow more passionate by the day about what you do, you may wonder how to prepare for your next role. This session will explore general professional development strategies to build the career you want.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Friday 9:00 am -10:00 am

Session 8

Freemont 3

Leading with Unshakeable Values

Aimee Gibson

With over 20 years of experience including over 10 years of coaching, Aimee, a Professional Certified Coach (PCC) and former management consulting executive is working toward a new global standard for bravery and integrity in leadership. She helps leaders find clarity, joy, and courage on their professional journey to meet the complexities they face in the larger world. She specializes in preparing leaders for greater leadership responsibility and drives results by skillfully creating brave spaces for self-awareness and capacity building across industries and company size.

Unshakable leaders understand the power of their values. With clearly identified, well-defined, ranked, and effectively communicated values we lead ourselves more effectively, thus others more effectively. Such leaders are more consistent and able to build resilient, adaptive, and focused teams with much needed empathic and trusting cultures. Come gauge how unshakeable you are and actions to take.

ADMINISTRATIVE/LEADERSHIP SKILLS/PROGRAM MGT

Friday 9:00 am -10:00 am

Session 8

Freemont 4

Real-World Wins: ESL for Work and Beyond

Anne Damiecka

Anne Damiecka has over 20 years of experience teaching and leading programs for adult English language learners in community colleges, adult education, corporate training, and virtual instruction for the U.S. Department of State. She began her career in Poland and has served as Lead Faculty of ESOL at Lone Star College. Anne holds a Master's in TESOL and a Graduate Certificate in Instructional Design. She is currently an Educational Specialist with Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

Help your adult ESL students hit it out of the park—at work, in career preparation, and in everyday life. This session highlights how Ventures supports workforce readiness through research-based instruction in all four skills, while also building essential soft skills such as collaboration and critical thinking, along with foundational digital literacy. Leave with ideas you can use immediately.

ELL/CIVICS

Friday 9:00 am -10:00 am

Session 8

Freemont 5

Q&A with the InTERS Team

Matt Crites

Brin Sisco, George Jurado

Bring your data questions to this session which will feature an open Q&A format with the InTERS team. Over the last several months, new features, functionality, and processes have been added to the state data system. This is your chance to review any aspect of InTERS and learn from the experts.

DWD

Friday 9:00 am -10:00 am

Session 8

Freemont 6

Apprenticeship: The Next Chapter

Hope Harp

Hope Harp is an Outreach Specialist for the Central Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters (CMRCC, formerly IKORCC). She is a journey level millwright with over 33 years of experience in her field. She's served as a subject matter expert and instructor for 26 years. Now, Hope promotes and raises awareness for registered apprenticeships and training programs for the CMRCC and helps develop programs across Indiana for High School Students and Adult Learners.

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

Explore how CMRCC's partnerships with state agencies, re-entry, and adult education enable individuals to access apprenticeships, free training, and degrees. Benefits include a living wage, employer-paid benefits, and career advancement. Articulation with our program makes the adult education provider's program eligible for a Certified Pre-Apprenticeship, expanding program funding opportunities.

CORRECTIONS/VOCATIONAL

Friday 9:00 am -10:00 am

Session 8

SamsTown A

Certiport Certification Exams

 [Certification Exams](#)

Ready to level up your skills? Take advantage of the opportunity to sit for a **Certiport Certification Exam** during the conference! Exams will be offered in **Sam's Town A (2nd floor)** at scheduled times throughout the event.

Spots are limited (5 per session), so be sure to sign up in advance. Complete details and scheduling instructions were shared by email—check your inbox to reserve your spot. Confirmation of your exam time will be provided at conference check-in. 🚫

Friday 9:00 am -10:00 am

Session 8

SamsTown B

From Learner to Educator: An Immigrant's Journey

Roberta Alves

Experienced professional with a background in the commercial sector, specializing in account management and representation for both national and international operations. Skilled in planning and coordinating events, including large-scale fairs, exhibitions, and workshops. Notable projects include São Paulo Photo Fest, Paraty em Foco, and the Alumni Image Festival. Strong leadership skills, with proven ability in team coordination, negotiation, and customer relationship management. Results-oriented, detail-focused, quick to learn, and highly effective under pressure. Currently working at McDowell Education Center, where I determine eligibility for programs, conduct intake meetings, make referrals, and enroll students and families while ensuring compliance with established policies and procedures. I also contribute to community outreach and marketing strategies.

Debbie Pogue and Kimberly Stiles

All Times are in Central Standard Time.

A Brazilian immigrant shares her journey from ESL learner to educator in just three years. This session highlights emotional and practical challenges adult learners face and offers real-life classroom strategies rooted in empathy, cultural understanding, and student empowerment.
ELL/CIVICS

Friday 9:00 am -10:00 am

Session 8

SamsTown C

From Plans to Purpose: Teaching for Deeper Meaning

Chris Miller

Ms. Miller worked for over 30 years in adult education and managed a comprehensive adult education program serving over 2,000 students annually and served on the state level for a time developing and implementing state-wide professional development programs. Currently, she works as a national consultant for Aztec providing training workshops, conducting national webinars, and presenting at state and national conferences.

Turn your lessons into engaging, learner-centered classrooms using active learning strategies. Discover how adapting inquiry-based, student-centered approaches will lead to deeper learning and increased scores for HiSET® or GED®. This session focuses on connecting lessons to real-world goals and adapting to varied learning levels —boosting confidence, retention, and testing outcomes.

ABE CURRICULUM

Friday 10:15 am-11:00 am

Showcase Session Burning Questions at Home Plate

Stardust Ballroom

Denise Esslinger, Katie Walton, Marilyn Pitzulo, Lara Pastore

Step up to the plate for our closing showcase session! IAACE President-Elect **Denise Esslinger** and **Past President Katie Walton** will be in the batter's box with our MVP partners from the Department of Workforce Development, **Lara Pastore** and **Marilyn Pitzulo**. Together, they'll field the *burning questions* that have been flying all conference long.

From curveballs about challenges to fastballs about opportunities, this conversation is your chance to see how our team is working together to keep adult education moving around the bases. Expect straight answers, big-picture insights, and maybe even a few surprise plays that set the stage for the year ahead.

Don't head for the dugout early—you won't want to miss this grand finale. It's the perfect way to round out the conference and head home ready to swing for the fences.

GENERAL



SHOWCASE SESSION BURNING QUESTIONS AT HOME PLATE



DENISE ESSLINGER,
IAACE PRESIDENT-ELECT



KATIE WALTON,
IAACE PAST PRESIDENT



MARILYN PITZULO,
DWD COACH



LARA PASTORE,
DWD DIVISION DIRECTOR

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BADGES ARE REQUIRED IN CONFERENCE SPACE

**Thanks for Donating Door Prizes
And / Or Success to the Conference:**

Jenn Wigginton, IAACE Executive Director	Caroline Foster, IAACE President
Everwise Credit Union	Wagler Education and Training Center
ConnectAble	Indiana Literacy Association
Special Education Department Ivy Tech Community College	Roxy & Lola
Coach for Better Learning	River Valley Resources
Department of Workforce Development	Impact Institute
Jennings County Education Center	Indiana Women's Prison
Wine Country Gift Basket from Cambridge University Press & Assessment	Burlington English/ Laura Smart
Holiday World Splashing Safari	Evansville Otters
Fort Wayne Tincaps	Chipotle
Raising Cane	Elli (formerly ESL Library)
Indianapolis Motor Speedway	Frankentastic Chances by Miami Correctional Education

And all those who missed the deadline to get published..

**DOOR
PRIZES**



- 1 Location**
Stardust Ballroom in the back
- 2 Earn Tickets**
Earn by going to sessions, facilitator provides at the end of the session, write your name on the ticket.
- 3 Choose Prizes you'd like to Win**
Place ticket with your name in the bucket that corresponds to the prize you hope to win!

ALL Drawings are Friday 11:15 am

Must be present to Win!

Door Prizes and Buckets are located in the Stardust Ballroom. You earn tickets by attending sessions until the end. Don't forget to write your name on the ticket and place in the corresponding bucket. You must be present to win. The Bat Award will go to the prize with the most tickets in the bucket.

🏈 Conference Disclaimer – Play Ball Safely!

Just like any big league game, the IAACE Conference lineup is subject to change—schedules, sessions, and speakers may shift without notice. The views and opinions shared by presenters and exhibitors are their own and don't necessarily reflect IAACE.

By stepping up to the plate, you agree that photos, video, or audio taken during the event may be used for future promotional plays. IAACE and the venue aren't responsible for personal injury, lost gear, or other "foul balls."

While we do our best to accommodate dietary needs, we can't guarantee that meals are free from allergens or cross-contamination—so keep your game face ready!

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Conference Survey

<https://iaace.com/conference-survey/>

Conference Survey will not open until Friday of conference.



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Thank you from the bottom of the program for reading it all.