Together We Make Magic Happen

iaace

Conference 2026

September 30 - October 2nd

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

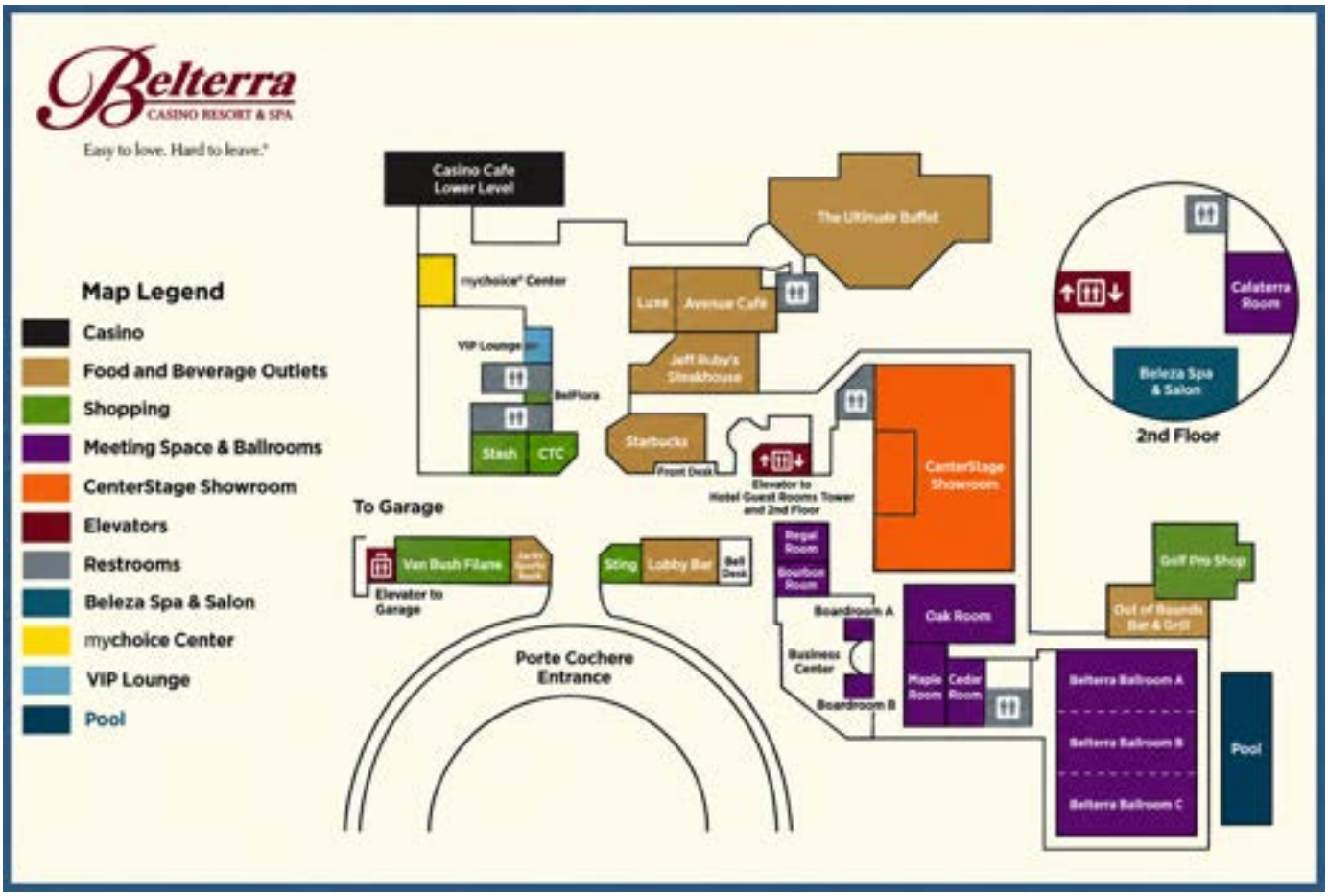
September 30 – October 2, 2026

Belterra® CASINO RESORT

Florence, IN

Belterra Resort Property Map

Florence is on Eastern Time





Get IAACE Texts/SMS/MMS

1. Open Messages
2. Type **IAACE** and send to 844-469-0133
3. Receive Confirmation

President's Message

Welcome to the 2026 IAACE Conference!

It is truly an honor to welcome you to this year's IAACE Conference, and it is a privilege to serve as your IAACE President. I am grateful to represent such an incredible group of adult education professionals who make magic happen every day.

Our theme, "Together We Make Magic Happen," is more than just a theme. It is who we are. The magic happens in our classrooms and programs every day. It happens when a student passes an HSE subtest, earns a credential, improves their English, gains new employment, or finally reaches a goal they once thought was impossible. Sometimes, the magic is simply watching a student gain the confidence to believe in themselves and take that next step. Behind every one of these magical moments is someone like you, encouraging, teaching, supporting, and believing.

Over the next few days, I hope you experience a little conference magic of your own. Learn something new, share ideas, reconnect with friends, make new connections, laugh, and celebrate the amazing work happening across Indiana.

Thank you for bringing your passion, energy, and commitment to IAACE. The real magic of this conference is all of you. Together, We Make Magic Happen!

Denise

Denise Esslinger

IAACE Board of Directors President



OPENING KEYNOTE

LEWIS CHANEY

POSITIVE MISDIRECTION:
FOCUS ON SOMETHING GOOD EVERY DAY

What if the difference between burnout and renewed energy wasn't working harder—but learning to focus differently?

Discover how the principles of magic, storytelling, and human connection can help reduce burnout, restore perspective, and create more positivity in work and life.

MEET LEWIS CHANEY

Lewis Chaney has spent decades telling stories, uncovering human potential, and helping audiences see the world from a new perspective. From television journalism and TEDx stages to interactive magic experiences, his work demonstrates how what we focus on shapes the way we experience both life and work.

- TEDx Speaker
- National Speakers Association Member
- International Brotherhood of Magicians
- Professional Storyteller
- Burnout Prevention Speaker
- Creator of Live Transformative Experiences – Reconnecting Humans

IT'S ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE NOT SEEING

"Sometimes we miss the good moments, the wins, and the little things that actually matter."

Magicians use misdirection to influence what you notice—and, more importantly, what you don't. In everyday life, we can negatively misdirect ourselves by focusing on stress, bad news, and the constant noise around us. Along the way, we may miss the good moments, the wins, and the little things that truly matter.

Shifting this isn't a trick—it's a choice. Lewis challenges audiences to intentionally notice the good, reconnect with what matters, and experience how a simple shift in perspective can elevate the energy of an entire room.

WAGLER
COMPETITION PRODUCTS



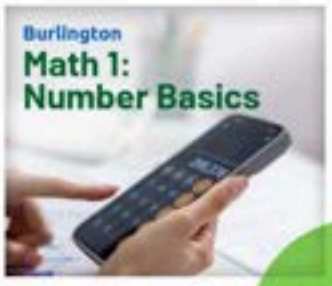


Burlington Workforce™

Bridge the Skills Gap with our NEW Burlington Foundational Skills Courses







We're excited to introduce our new foundational skills courses, designed specifically to close that gap.

New!



These courses build essential skills in:

- **Digital Literacy**
  Everyday technology skills for learning, work, and life
- **Financial Literacy**
  Money management, budgeting, and financial decision-making
- **Math**
  Practical, real-world numeracy aligned to workforce and academic pathways

Whether your program is preparing learners to transition to high school equivalency, integrated education and training, or other career pathways, these courses provide the foundation they need to succeed.

Provide your learners with the skills they need to move ahead.



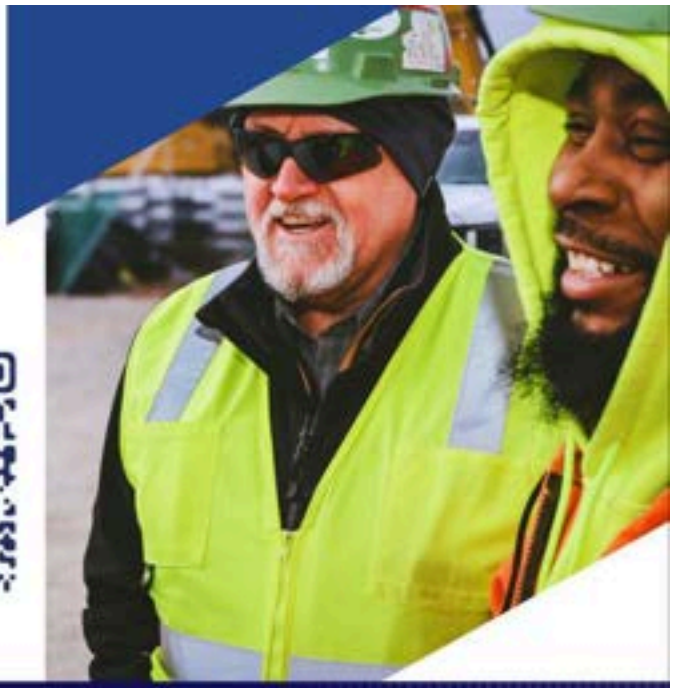
Financial Literacy

Math 1: Number Basics

www.BurlingtonWorkforce.com

(561) 672-7826

CHANGING LIVES
ONE CAREER AT A TIME



BY Training is a 9-week, 18-session program – offered mornings and afternoons, across multiple locations. Hands-on training in safety, tools, math, drawings, and communication, led by an instructor and BY Navigator. Graduates earn NCCER & OSHA 30 certifications and meet hiring employers at a provdided job fair.

BY CONSTRUCTION TRAINING

Skill Development
Learn construction skills like safety, math, tool usage, and communication for a solid career foundation.

Individualized Support
Small classes with instructors and navigators ensure personalized guidance.

Job Connections
End the program with a job fair connecting you to employers offering good jobs.

Earn Certifications
Graduates receive NCCER Core and OSHA 30 certifications, boosting job prospects.



WHO'S ELIGIBLE

Students must:

- Be age 18 or older
- Be eligible to work in the US
- Be able to lift 50 lbs
- Have reliable transportation
- Have a valid driver's license or be working towards one
- Commit to consistent attendance and participation
- Consent to a criminal background check

EMPLOYER ENVOLVEMENT

Employer Visits:

- 30-minutes to connect with eligible employees & pitch your company

Hiring Fairs:

- 2-3 hours fto have 1-on-1 time with several candidates to interview, ask questions, and determine eligibility.

TUITION COVERED
For accepted applicants

indianaconstructionfoundation.com

Conference-at-a-Glance

Schedule subject to change.

Tuesday, September 29

4:00 pm	Hotel Check-In
8:00 pm- 10:00 pm	President's Patio Party @ Lobby Bar (Sponsored by Barnes & Thornburg)

Wednesday, September 30

9:30 am	Conference Check-In Soft Opening of Exhibits Silent Auction Begins 50/50 Split the Pot Ticket Sales Begin
10:00 am - 10:55 am	First-Timer Session (Poplar Room) Certiport Certification Exams - Boardroom B
11:00 am	Grand Opening - Centerstage Ballroom Deli Lunch (Sponsored by GED)
11:45 am - 12:45 pm	Keynote - Lewis Chaney (Sponsored by Wagler)
1:00 pm - 2:15 pm	Breakout Session 1 / Certification Exams (Boardroom B)
2:15 pm - 2:45 pm	Break with Vendors
2:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Breakout Session 2
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Break with Vendors / Hotel Check-In
5:00 pm	Exhibitors / Vendors Close
5:30 pm	Doors Open for Awards Night (Wear Your Bracelet)
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Awards Dinner and Cash Bar Centerstage Showroom (Wear Your Bracelet)
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	IAACE Awards Program (Sponsored by Burlington English)
8:30 pm	After Party Dessert Bar

Thursday, October 1

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Morning Fitness in Aspen Room, 15th Floor
7:30 am - 8:30 am	Certiport Certification Exams - Boardroom B **BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN**
7:00 am - 6:00 pm	Exhibitors Open
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Breakout Session 3 / Certification Exams (Boardroom B)
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Break with Vendors
10:15 am - 11:15 am	Breakout Session 4 / Certification Exams (Boardroom B)
11:30 am - 12:45 pm	Appetizer Lunch with Vendors (Sponsored by HiSET)
11:30 am - 12:45 pm	ILA Lunch and Learn (Ticketed Event) Ballroom B (Sponsored by Citizens)
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Breakout Session 5 / Certification Exams (Boardroom B)
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Break with Vendors
2:30 pm –3:30 pm	Breakout Session 6 / Certification Exams (Boardroom B)
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Break with Vendors
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Breakout Session 7 / Certification Exams (Boardroom B)
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Break with Vendors (Last Chance)
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	**DINNER ON YOUR OWN**
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Poolside Party Featuring Monster BeatZ DJ & Snacks Sponsored by CMRCC (weather permitting) 50/50 Split-the-Pot Drawing 1 - **Must Be Present to Win**

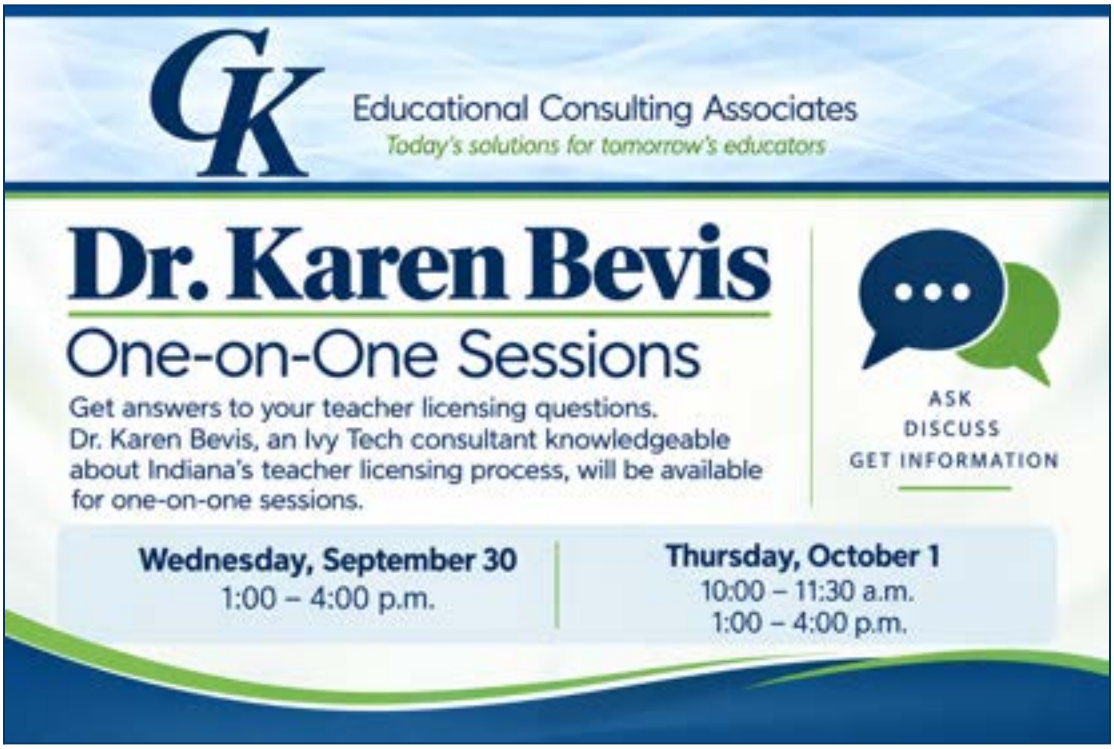


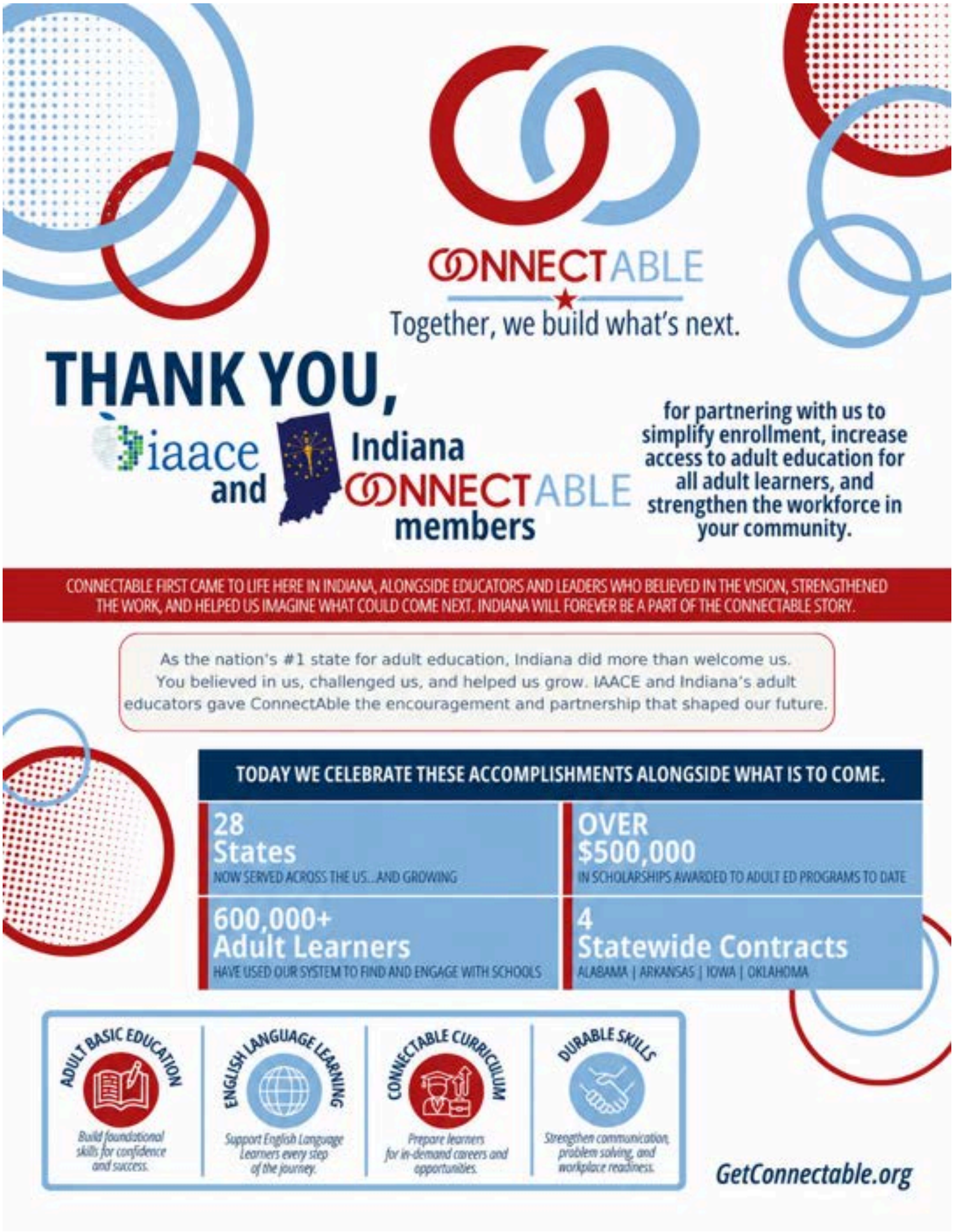
Monster BeatZ DJ's

Friday, October 2

7:30 am- 8:30 am	Certiport Certification Exams - Boardroom B
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Breakout Session 8
10:15 am - 11:15 am	HSE Panel Discussion with Brunch (Sponsored by ICRF)
11:15 am	Door Prizes - **Must be Present to Win** 50/50 Split-the-Pot Drawing 2 - **Must Be Present to Win**
12:00 pm	Conference Closing - Safe Travels






CONNECTABLE
Together, we build what's next.
THANK YOU,
iaace and Indiana CONNECTABLE members
for partnering with us to simplify enrollment, increase access to adult education for all adult learners, and strengthen the workforce in your community.
CONNECTABLE FIRST CAME TO LIFE HERE IN INDIANA, ALONGSIDE EDUCATORS AND LEADERS WHO BELIEVED IN THE VISION, STRENGTHENED THE WORK, AND HELPED US IMAGINE WHAT COULD COME NEXT. INDIANA WILL FOREVER BE A PART OF THE CONNECTABLE STORY.
As the nation's #1 state for adult education, Indiana did more than welcome us. You believed in us, challenged us, and helped us grow. IAACE and Indiana's adult educators gave ConnectAble the encouragement and partnership that shaped our future.
TODAY WE CELEBRATE THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ALONGSIDE WHAT IS TO COME.
28 States
NOW SERVED ACROSS THE US...AND GROWING
OVER $500,000
IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO ADULT ED PROGRAMS TO DATE
600,000+ Adult Learners
HAVE USED OUR SYSTEM TO FIND AND ENGAGE WITH SCHOOLS
4 Statewide Contracts
ALABAMA | ARKANSAS | IOWA | OKLAHOMA
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION
Build foundational skills for confidence and success.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING
Support English Language Learners every step of the journey.
CONNECTABLE CURRICULUM
Prepare learners for in-demand careers and opportunities.
DURABLE SKILLS
Strengthen communication, problem solving, and workplace readiness.
GetConnectable.org

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INDIANA DWD

INDIANA ADULT EDUCATION

Indiana Department of Workforce Development Welcomes You to the 2026 IAACE Conference	
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Donna Lovelady dlovelady@dwd.in.gov *Policy & Grants Manager*	Joetta Mayfield jmayfield@dwd.in.gov *Program Operations Manager*
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Paul Patterson ppatterson@dwd.in.gov *Associate Director of Career Training*	



The GED & me™ Mobile App

RESULTS THAT MATTER



What is the GED & Me™ app?

Created by the makers of the GED® test, the GED & Me app helps learners build skills, stay motivated, and prepare with confidence. It brings together personalized practice, progress tracking, reminders, videos, and AI support in one place.

Results that stand out

- **+7 points overall** for first-time test takers using the app
- **Up to +10 points in RLA** for first-time app users
- **86% credential rate** for app users who take all four tests, vs. 77% for non-users
- **2x+ Math pass rate on retake** for learners who use app tools like practice questions, videos, and AI tutoring

How educators can use it

→ Support daily instruction

Align app practice to classroom lessons so learners focus on the right skills at the right time.

→ Use for warm-ups

Start class with quick, engaging practice that sparks discussion and reinforces key concepts.

→ Give learners trusted resources

The app connects them directly to practice content vetted by GED Testing Service and curated video content.

→ Build digital literacy

The app helps learners strengthen essential technology skills while they prepare for the test.

→ Encourage learning on the go

Learners can make real progress in just a few minutes—on the bus, during breaks, or between classes.

→ Track engagement

Use GED Manager™ to see time spent in the app and how learners are using questions, videos, and Syd, the AI tutor.

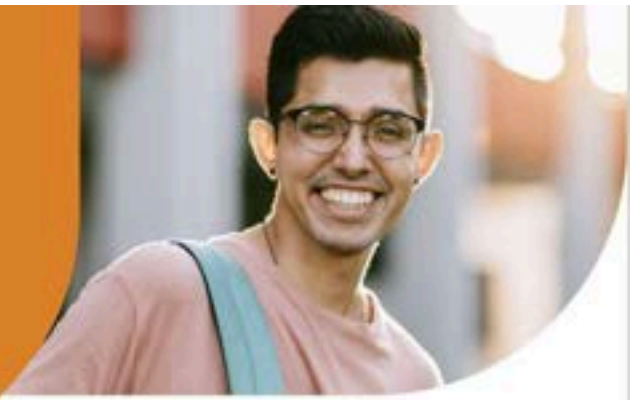
The GED & Me mobile app is Free on the App Store and Google Play.
Advanced video content and hundreds more practice questions in every subject are available for subscription purchase.

Download today. Learn more at www.GED.com/app for more info.

Questions? Reach out to mobileapp@ged.com.

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Take Charge of Your Future with *hiset.



The HiSET® test provides a more affordable, achievable and accessible test option for those seeking their high school equivalence credential

More and more states accept the HiSET test for students working to achieve their high school equivalency credential. In the past five years, there has been a 38% increase of students choosing to take the HiSET test.

Benefits to taking HiSET include:

Test-Taker Flexibility: In most states, HiSET is offered in English and Spanish, and offered in both paper-and-pencil and computer formats, so you can take the test whichever way works best for you. Some states also offer the remote proctoring option providing the most flexibility without leaving your home.

Familiar Question Types: HiSET offers multiplechoice questions, plus a written essay for Language Arts Writing.

High pass rate: There was a 79.4% passing rate of all subtests (batteries) completed and passed in 2019.*

Affordable: HiSET offers a low-priced test with two re-takes.

Free Test Prep: The HiSET program offers free and low-cost resources to help you prepare including test overview information, sample test questions, interactive practice tests and more.

Network of Adult Educators: The HiSET program offers a searchable network of Adult Education Centers to provide you with additional preparation support.

Accessible: HiSET is offered at thousands of test centers, so you can choose the one that's convenient for you. Or, you can opt to take HiSET at home.

Alternate Formats: Various formats of the HiSET test are available for test takers with physical, learning or psychological disabilities. These formats include large print, audio cassette and Braille editions.

* Source: 2019 Annual Statistical Report on the HiSET® test.

Put yourself on the **path to success.**

HISET.ORG

*hiset.

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TABE
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TABE CLAS-E
DRC IS PROUD TO SPONSOR THE IAACE 2026 CONFERENCE
Explore what's new with TABE and TABE CLAS-E. See how better assessment data can help your program identify learner needs, target instruction, measure progress, and support stronger outcomes.
Contact us for More Information
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National Adult Education Director - TABE
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IAACE CONFERENCE 2026

Session	Name	Date	Hours	PGP	X if attended
Keynote	**Lewis Chaney**	**9/30**	**1**	**1**	
Session 1:		**9/30**	**1**	**1**	
Session 2:		**9/30**	**1**	**1**	
Session 3:		**10/1**	**1**	**1**	
Session 4:		**10/1**	**1**	**1**	
Lunch & Learn	**Felipe Rodriguez**	**10/1**	**1**	**1**	
Session 5:		**10/1**	**1**	**1**	
Session 6:		**10/1**	**1**	**1**	
Session 7:		**10/1**	**1**	**1**	
Session 8:		**10/2**	**1**	**1**	
Panel Discussion	**HSE Panel Discussion**	**10/2**	**1**	**1**	

Signature Verification	*Lara Pastore, Indiana Adult Education Director*

Download this sheet at https://iaace.com/**pdpoints-2026/**

CBL

A Leader in Adult Learning



Worried

About Your Adult Students' Progress & Readiness for Test Day?

Increase Your Students' Confidence & Readiness for Test Day— with Textbooks Built on **Evidence-Based Frameworks** & Experience.



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UPS will Deliver your Books Within 10 Days.

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E-mail: teamcbl@cbledu.com now.

~Wednesday, September 30~

10:00 am-10:45 am — First-Timers Session

POPLAR

Your First Step into Magic

Rob Moore, Denise Esslinger, Caroline Foster

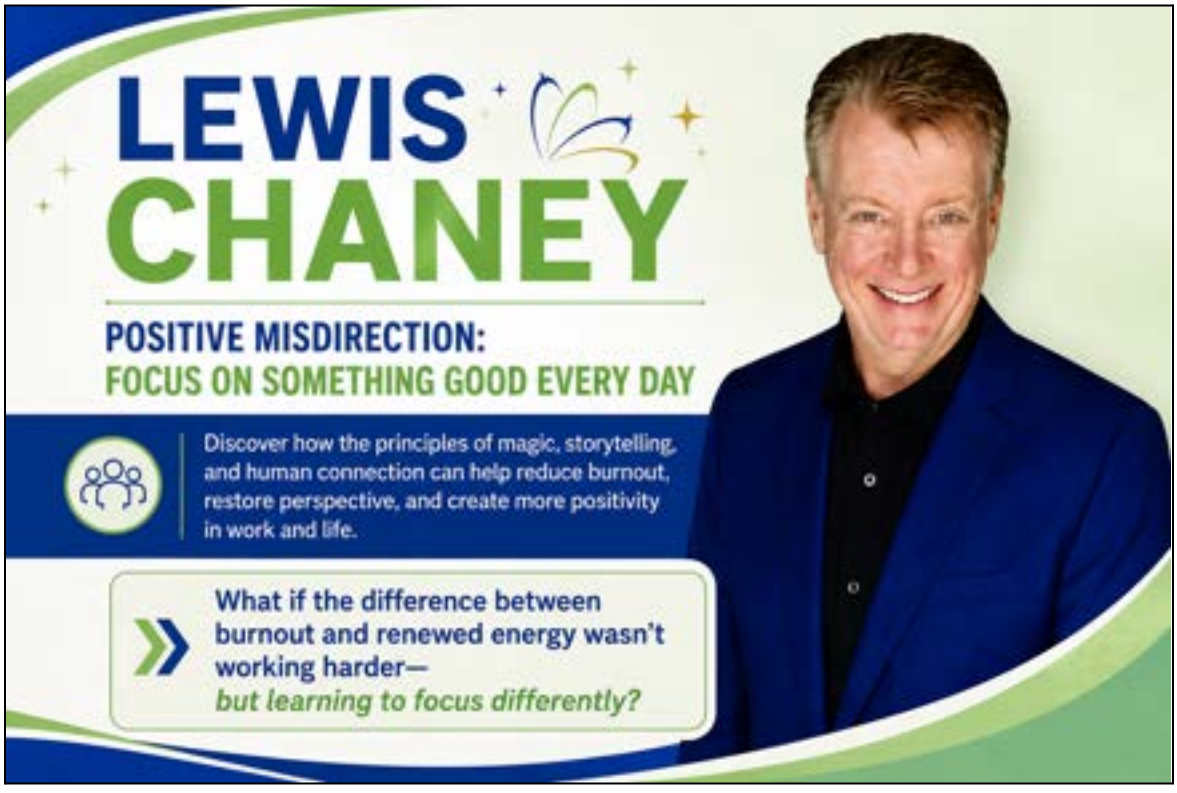
Join us for a special session designed to welcome and guide first-time attendees. This event provides a relaxed and friendly atmosphere where you can connect with other newcomers, meet experienced attendees, and learn how to make the most of your conference experience. Through engaging activities and open conversations, you'll gain valuable tips, insider knowledge, and new friendships. Whether you're looking to navigate the event or just want to meet new people, this session is the perfect starting point. Come on in and get ready to make your magic!

11:00 am — Grand Opening

11:15 am — Lunch - Centerstage Showroom

Belterra Deli

11:45 am — Keynote - Lewis Chaney



1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Session One

POPLAR

Skilled Trades Apprenticeship - Dirty Hands, Clean Money

Hope Harp - Central Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters

Skilled Trades Apprenticeship - Dirty Hands, Clean Money will explore Registered Apprenticeships and why Registered Apprenticeships stand out. The specifics will focus on the Central Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters Apprenticeship programs, but generalizations for all apprenticeships will be covered. Topics will include articulations, entry requirements, and how we can help.

Corrections/Vocational

BUCKEYE

AI Readiness: The Adaptive Professional

David Gatchell - AI Author

Most adult educators know AI is changing their field. Far fewer feel confident using it. This interactive session is designed to close that gap, moving participants from awareness to empowerment through live demonstration, real tools, and guided engagement. No prior experience required. Participants leave with greater confidence, reduced anxiety, and a clear personal path forward with AI.

Technology/Digital Literacy/Workforce

OAK

GED Testing Centers: Demystifying the Onboarding Process

Liz Lanphear & Brian Smith - GED

Creating and implementing a GED Testing Center can be a valuable addition to your community or to your adult education program. Come to this session to learn the full picture of the application and onboarding process. Bring your questions and learn the best testing center fit for you!

Data Management/Testing Center Administration

MAPLE

Communication: The Foundation of Success

Nicole Kelso - Skilled US

Poor communication costs programs, staff, and learners — and it's fixable. This session explores why communication breaks down, then builds practical skills in active listening, clear messaging, difficult conversations, and digital communication — all tailored for adult education practitioners ready to make magic happen.

Personal Development

CEDAR

Inside the Classroom: Teacher Perspectives on Adult Education

Orville House - Ivy Tech

Join a panel of adult educators for an interactive discussion on issues shaping today's classrooms. Topics will include student engagement, persistence, technology, assessment, correctional education, and emerging challenges across adult education. Participants are encouraged to share experiences, ask questions, and leave with practical ideas from peers across the field.

ABE Curriculum

BALLROOM A

Create Magic in CTE by Integrating Soft Skills

Paula Clark & Mike Thombleson - Ivy Tech

Correctional education includes numerous CTE programs such as Building Trades, Welding, Culinary Arts, Logistics, Business Tech, The Last Mile coding, Auto Tech, Horticulture, Barber, Cosmetology, RVTI, CORE, and CPT. Each program combines subject-specific instruction with skill development to support students' overall growth. However, this course is designed to put the magic of soft skills into the programs.

Corrections/Vocational/IET Programs

BALLROOM B

Unlocking Success for Students with Disabilities in Corrections

Connie Lucas - Ivy Tech

Through real-world examples and practical applications, attendees will learn how to "make the magic happen" by removing barriers to learning, increasing student engagement, and helping incarcerated learners achieve educational success. Whether new to correctional education or an experienced practitioner, participants will leave with tools and strategies to better meet the needs of struggling students.

ABE Curriculum

BALLROOM C

IETs: The Magic Formula for Workforce Success

Lara Pastore - DWD

Indiana Adult Education has transformed the role of short-term career certification through intentional and targeted Integrated Education and Trainings. The recent introduction of Workforce Pell has ignited a national conversation around short-term certifications with the goal of immediate transition to the workforce. Using IETs as a foundation for this discussion, the presentation will cover how Indiana Adult Education is at the forefront of this work.

DWD

2:15 pm - 2:45 pm Exhibitor Break

2:45 pm - 4:00 pm Session Two

POPLAR

The Magic of Why: Teaching Critical Thinking in an AI World

Sheila Butler - Retired from Broadview Learning Center

In a world where answers are available with a click, critical thinking matters more than ever. This session explores practical strategies for helping students ask better questions, evaluate information, solve problems, and become independent learners. Participants will experience engaging critical-thinking activities and learn how to incorporate AI and online resources as tools for inquiry.

Technology/Digital Literacy

BUCKEYE

The Magic Mirror: Recognize Potential by Coaching and Mentoring

Amber Finnegan - Ivy Tech

The most effective leaders do more than manage performance—they develop people. This interactive session explores practical coaching and mentoring strategies that build confidence, improve performance, and support professional growth. Learn how intentional conversations can help others recognize their strengths, overcome barriers, and achieve their potential.

Administrative/Leadership Skills/Program Mgt

OAK

Teachers' Experiences of Adult Reading Instruction Fundamentals

Dr. Amy Pickard & Lara Pastore - Indiana University & DWD

This presentation will share Indiana ABE and EL teachers' experiences piloting a free professional development focused on adult reading instruction fundamentals for adult learners. The session will share information about the availability of the PD and offer space for practitioners to discuss concerns about reading instruction in their own contexts.

ABE Curriculum/ELL/Civics

MAPLE

Ivy Tech Corrections Administrative Assistant Round Table

Lora Zoll - Ivy Tech

Join us for the IDOC Ivy Tech Administrative Assistant Round Table, an interactive session designed to support collaboration, professional development, and the sharing of best practices among Administrative Assistants. Participants will engage in structured walkthroughs of key systems and processes, including InTERS, Delta, Workday, and other essential administrative tools.

Corrections/Vocational

CEDAR

Becoming the Leader Who Makes Magic Happen

Ani'a Walker - Skilled US

This interactive session explores self-leadership as the foundation of professional growth. Participants will reflect on their leadership identity, complete a brief self-assessment, and identify habits that align with the leader they are becoming. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to build discipline, consistency, and intentional daily actions that create lasting leadership impact.

Administrative/Leadership Skills/Program Mgt

BALLROOM A

Teaching Comprehension: The How Behind Reading Success

Sara Gutting - IAACE/Sara Gutting, LLC

This workshop focuses on the "how" of teaching reading through practical, research-based strategies educators can use immediately. Participants will explore effective ways to teach concepts such as main idea, inference, and conclusion. Through hands-on activities, educators will gain engaging techniques to help adult learners build stronger reading skills for HSE, workplace, and everyday life.

ABE Curriculum/Workforce/WEI/IET

BALLROOM B

Strategic Partnerships for Adult Ed and Pre-Apprenticeship Growth

Shannon Ollis - DWD

Strong community partnerships are the backbone of impactful adult education and pre-apprenticeship programs. This presentation explores practical strategies to identify, engage, and maintain high-value relationships with local employers, workforce boards, and community organizations. Attendees will learn how to align program goals with regional labor market demands to create seamless pathways for pre-apprenticeship participants.

DWD

BALLROOM C

Reading Subskills for HSE Success

George Jurado - DWD

This workshop explores the key reading subskills most connected to GED and HiSET exams. It covers: main idea, inference, evidence-based reading, vocabulary in context, and informational texts. Participants will learn practical classroom strategies, review modeled examples, and receive AI-ready prompts and tips to generate additional reading practice.

DWD

~Thursday, October 1~

9:00 am - 10:00 am Session Three

POPLAR

Making Calculator Magic Happen: Mastering the TI-30XS MultiView

Sheila Butler - Retired from Broadview Learning Center

The TI-30XS MultiView is the approved calculator for both the GED and HiSET, yet many teachers and students use only a fraction of its capabilities. In this hands-on session, participants will learn practical calculator skills, shortcuts, and problem-solving strategies while working through GED- and HiSET-style problems. Free resources, worksheets, and online calculator tools will be provided.

Technical/Digital Literacy/ABE Curriculum

BUCKEYE

Leading from Behind the Curtain: The Power of Servant Leadership

Amber Finnegan - Ivy Tech

What if the real magic of leadership isn't authority, but service? In this interactive session, participants will explore how servant leadership builds trust, strengthens teams, increases accountability, and creates lasting impact. Learn practical strategies for leading others through influence, support, and intentional relationship-building in educational settings.

Administrative/Leadership Skills/Program Mgt

OAK

Manufacturing Opportunities: Standards-Based Workforce Strategies

Tyler Kennedy - Manufacturing Skill Standards Council

With more than half a million manufacturing jobs unfilled nationwide, correctional education offers a powerful workforce solution. Learn how MSSC and training partners equip incarcerated individuals with industry-recognized certifications that lead to employment, support successful reentry, and reduce recidivism. The session covers program design, implementation models, and instructor preparation.

Corrections/Vocational

MAPLE

Bridging the Gap: TABE CLAS-E - Strategies for Supporting Student Success

Mike Johnson - DRC

Join us for a deep dive into TABE CLAS- E (C/D), where you'll gain a clearer understanding of key language domains, levels, and learn specific instructional strategies that work. This workshop will deepen educator understanding of the TABE CLAS-E assessment framework while providing practical, evidence-based instructional strategies to accelerate student achievement. Whether you're new to TABE CLAS- E or looking to refine your approach, you'll leave with actionable strategies you can implement immediately.

Data Management/Testing Center Administration

CEDAR

The Magic Connection – Above and Beyond

Polly Marquette - WIN

No Hocus Pocus here. With a simple username and password, any Indiana adult can have free access to pathways that will help amplify skills, enhance applications, and broaden resumes. WIN's flexible, stackable, reliable certificates and credentials demonstrate readiness across skills requested by today's employers and can be a boost to students on the IET, HISET, TABE, or career planning pathways.

ABE Curriculum

BALLROOM A

The Magic Behind Student Success: From First Step to Finish Line

Veronica Monge-Perez & Maria Lopez - MSD Warren Township

Participants will explore strategies for building a seamless student experience that promotes persistence, achievement, and transition to postsecondary education or career training. Topics will include effective intake and orientation practices, goal setting, attendance and retention strategies, student support services, data-informed decision-making, team collaboration, and celebrating milestones.

Data Management/Testing Center Administration

BALLROOM B

The Magic of Workforce Readiness: Conjuring Career Success

Laura Smart - Burlington English

Strong community partnerships are the backbone of impactful adult education and pre-apprenticeship programs. This presentation explores practical strategies to identify, engage, and maintain high-value relationships with local employers, workforce boards, and community organizations. Attendees will learn how to align program goals with regional labor market demands to create seamless pathways for pre-apprenticeship participants.

Workforce/WEI/IET

BALLROOM C

The Magic of Managing Money

Donna Lovelady & Joetta Mayfield - DWD

Joetta and Donna will discuss fiscal best practices, new reimbursement requirements, and answer your budget questions.

DWD

10:00 am - 10:15 am Exhibitor Break

10:15 am - 11:15 am Session Four

POPLAR

Tools of the Trade: Building Trade Readiness Before Training Begins

Sarah Chappelow & Cori Lupton - Burlington English & Cuyahoga CC

Adult education programs play a vital role in preparing learners for careers in the skilled trades, but success often depends on more than technical instruction. This interactive session explores practical strategies for building the communication skills, professional habits, workplace awareness, and confidence learners need before entering training or apprenticeships. Featuring insights from former electrician and Program Director Cori Lupton, participants will gain a firsthand perspective on employer expectations and the "hidden curriculum" of workplace success. Attendees will also explore classroom-ready activities that support trade readiness and learn how Burlington Workforce can reinforce language development, digital literacy, and workforce communication. Participants will leave with actionable ideas to help learners transition successfully into high-demand careers.

Workforce/WEI/IET

BUCKEYE

Marketing Magic Tricks: Inventive Ways to Promote Programs

Dinorah Sapp - Broadview Learning Center

No marketing team? Tight budgets? Programs have lots of challenges when it comes to promoting their classes. This presentation will show how an administrator and an ELL teacher teamed up to promote their English language classes in their town. From radio shows to festivals, presenters will give an overview of their strategy and useful ways to advertise their classes with minimum resources.

Administrative/Leadership Skills/Program Mgt

OAK

Together - Transitioning Students from IDOC to Ivy Tech

David Pinkham - Westville Correctional Center

As some incarcerated students earn their GED, they have a desire to continue their education, but the road to becoming a college student can be confusing and difficult to navigate. This father-daughter team has created individualized pathways to help prospective students start their journeys at local Ivy Tech campuses.

Corrections/Vocational

MAPLE

Making Workforce Pathways Magical

Amy Richmund - ConnectAble

Adult learners need more than credentials. They need career momentum. This session explores how adult education programs can make workforce pathways "magical" by blending instruction, digital literacy, employability skills, certifications, civics skills, and partnerships to help learners move confidently from learning to earning.

Administrative/Leadership Skills/Program Mgt

CEDAR

From Planning Alone to Planning Together: Building an Instructional Framework That Supports Teachers and Students

Natalie Reuter - MSD Warren Township

Discover how high-quality instructional materials, PLC collaboration, and a clear scope and sequence can transform adult education classrooms. Learn practical strategies to create consistency, strengthen instruction, support teachers, and improve student outcomes while still allowing flexibility and creativity in the classroom.

Administrative/Leadership Skills/Program Mgt

BALLROOM A

Designing IET Programs That Work in the Real World

Christina Miller - National Consultant

This interactive session equips educators with practical tools to design workforce-aligned, WIOA-compliant IET programs. Participants will learn to integrate academics with industry training, develop Single Sets of Learning Objectives, and strengthen employer alignment. Attendees leave with ready-to-use templates, planning frameworks, and actionable strategies to improve career outcomes.

Workforce/WEI/IET

BALLROOM B

The Magic of Free Resources for HSE Success

Liz Lanphear - GED

Ever wish you could pull a rabbit out of your hat? You can! Join me to learn the "tricks" of the trade for creating HSE magic for your learners. Explore free resources to support recruitment, retention, and results, plus discover the free learner app and ways to use it in your classroom.

ABE Curriculum

BALLROOM C

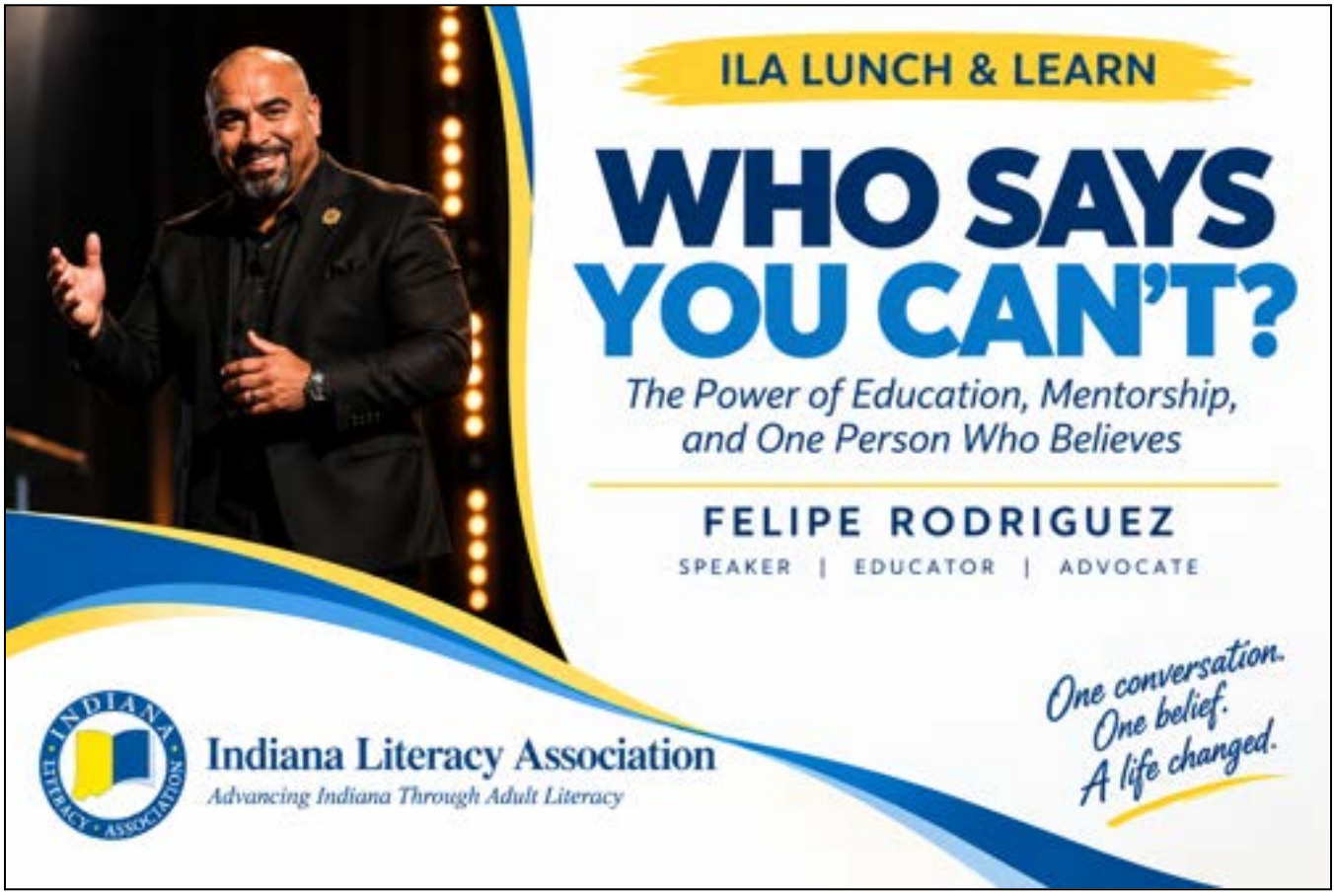
The Magic of Retention: Turning Potential into Persistence

Nickie Nolting - DWD

This presentation will cover best practices around student retention from orientation to completion. We will look at retention rate trends for the state as well as local program retention rates.

DWD

11:30 am Lunch & Learn



1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Session Five

POPLAR

From Assessment to Action: Using TABE Results to Drive Targeted Instruction with TABE Edge

Mike Johnson - DRC

The TABE assessment itself is only the beginning. The real opportunity lies in what happens after the test: translating scores into targeted instruction that accelerates learner progress and supports MSGs. This session introduces TABE EDGE, a practice solution developed in partnership with Aztec Software. TABE EDGE enables instructors to close skill gaps using practice items across Reading, Math, and Language. Participants will learn how to interpret the TABE Individual Profile Report and apply findings by assigning skill-level practice. The session will walk through the workflow from test to practice to progress, demonstrating how programs can use TABE Edge to keep learners engaged, build confidence, and document skill gains required for federal reporting.

Data Management/Test Center Administration

BUCKEYE

Jumpstart Your Day: Games to Activate Your Class

Dinorah Sapp - Broadview Learning Center

As students arrive in our classrooms, we know that it is important to engage their learning as soon as they sit down or log in online. However, some students might not be on time or may be distracted from starting class. What to do? Start class with a conversation game! This presentation will show easy-to-prepare and engaging games to allow students to focus and activate their English skills.

ELL/Civics

OAK

No Magic Wand: Six Steps That Help Students Earn Their HSE Faster

Sheila Butler - Retired from Broadview Learning Center

After more than 24 years in adult education, Sheila Butler shares the six-step sessions that consistently help students move more quickly and successfully toward earning their High School Equivalency credential. These practical strategies focus on student ownership, teacher guidance, effective use of resources, and building momentum toward success.

Technology/Digital Literacy/ABE Curriculum

MAPLE

Unlocking HiSET Success: Using Data & Collaboration to Strengthen Outcomes

Stephanie Bauer - HiSET

A strong HiSET program starts with understanding what learner data reveals about access, performance, and outcomes. This session reviews the HiSET Statistical Report to identify participation trends, pass rates, subject strengths and weaknesses, and retesting patterns, while introducing the HiSET Workforce Hub and its career pathway connections.

Administrative/Leadership Skills/Program Mgt

CEDAR

Pulling Magic Out of the Hat: Building Employment Partnerships

Michelle Ellis - Wagler

Building strong workforce partnerships is essential to connecting individuals with meaningful training and employment opportunities. This interactive question-and-answer session will provide an overview of the training programs offered through Wagler Education and Training Center and where to look for opportunities to build connections.

Workforce/WEI/IET

BALLROOM A

Think it Through: Build Problem-Solving That Sticks

Carol Bible - Essential Education

Problem-solving is a life skill, a workplace necessity, and a powerful academic tool. Yet many adult learners have never been taught how to approach problems with strategy or confidence. This session explores how problem-solving skills are developed and how to teach them in practical, engaging, and lasting ways.

ABE Curriculum

BALLROOM B

Making Students Appear: How the HSE Survey Can Help with Recruitment

Paul Patterson & Brandy Gonzalez - DWD

The HSE student survey provides insight into why students are attending class and how they are finding out about our programs. This session will provide additional insight and data from the survey on how to increase outreach efforts specific to HSE students. Attendees will leave with specific strategies aligned to information provided by over 1,000 survey respondents currently in our classrooms.

DWD

BALLROOM C

The Magic Behind Mathematics

Amy Ramer & Megan Hibbard - DWD

Best practices for passing the HSE Math Test that focus on differences between GED and HiSET and understanding vocabulary, formulas, and calculator use.

DWD

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm Exhibitor Break

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Session Six

POPLAR

Program Durability Model™: Designing Programs That Last

Stacy Fitzsimmons - SNF Writing Solutions

Strong partnerships don't create sustainable programs—design does. Adult education programs often have strong partnerships but still struggle to sustain results. This session introduces the Program Durability Model™, a practical framework to assess collaboration and program design, diagnose vulnerability, and identify one focused 30-day action to strengthen what makes programs sustainable.

Administrative/Leadership Skills/Program Mgt

BUCKEYE

Making AI Magic: Paper Worksheets to Google Forms

Jordan Gusich - Skilled US

Still relying on paper worksheets? Let's change that! Discover how to use Gemini AI and Google Apps Script to instantly transform traditional paper-and-pencil worksheets into fully digital, mobile-friendly Google Forms. Learn a repeatable, step-by-step workflow to modernize your classroom materials, save hours of manual typing, and better engage adult learners on their devices.

Technology/Digital Literacy

OAK

Break the ELL Spell: Achieve Confidence and Success in Listening

Chrissy Matthews - MSD Washington Township

Improving listening gains on the CLAS-E can be challenging for ELL teachers. This session will explore common obstacles and provide practical, engaging strategies to build student listening skills and confidence at all ELL levels. Participants will leave with classroom-ready activities and techniques they can immediately apply.

ELL/Civics

MAPLE

Now You See Them, Now You Don't!

Stephanie Graves-Williams - Ivy Tech

In correctional education settings, attendance, engagement, and persistence are influenced by a unique set of institutional, personal, and environmental factors that are often hidden from educators. This presentation explores the underlying reasons students disengage, the warning signs that may precede withdrawal, and strategies educators can use to increase connection, motivation, and retention.

Corrections/Vocational

CEDAR

Cracking the Lockdown: Keeping the Education Program Going

Joseph Wenig - Ivy Tech

This presentation details strategies used at Miami Correctional Facility to ensure instructional continuity during frequent and persistent lockdowns. Our goal is to share peer-to-peer insights on maintaining student engagement when the physical classroom is inaccessible.

Corrections/Vocational

BALLROOM A

Helping Struggling Readers Read for Work

Christina Miller - National Consultant

Help struggling readers succeed through interactive, classroom-ready strategies that build comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, and workplace reading skills. Discover practical ways to embed reading into workforce preparation and help learners move beyond simply “getting through the passage” toward confidently reading to solve problems, make decisions, and perform successfully on the job.

ABE Curriculum/Workforce/WEI/IET

BALLROOM B

Amplifying Community Impact Through AI, Design, and Newsletters

Gregory Stover - Elkhart Adult & Community Education

This session explores how AI, visual design tools, and digital newsletters can transform community outreach, student recruitment, and program marketing. Participants will learn practical strategies for creating engaging content, strengthening branding, and expanding audience reach through innovative communication methods that connect education, workforce development, and community engagement.

Outreach/Marketing/Social Media

BALLROOM C

Data Entry for Adult Education Success

Matt Crites - DWD

Matt will cover the order of operations and timelines for InTERS Data Entry. This session will also cover the NRS reports and how to utilize them at your program for success.

DWD

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm Exhibitor Break

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Session Seven

POPLAR

No Magic Wand Included: Newish Administrators' Roundtable Q & A

Meredith Boaz & Rob Moore - CARA & IAACE Mentor

Are you a director, assistant director, program manager, or aspiring administrator? Bring your questions AND your answers, and let's share! Meredith will facilitate a Q & A session, and Rob Moore (Indiana Adult Education Mentoring Project) will offer his wealth of experience! We will start with YOUR questions first and then go through a list of common experiences and how to navigate them.

Administrative/Leadership Skills/Program Mgt

BUCKEYE

Understanding the Impoverished Adult Learner in Correctional Ed

Mark Fridenmaker - Westville Correctional Center

Learn about the mindset of correctional students from an impoverished background and how this influences what should be taught in the classroom. Discussion will be held on what an impoverished student looks like before and while incarcerated and what these students need for educational growth.

Corrections/Vocational

OAK

The Magical World of Teaching Math

Mike Thombleson - Ivy Tech

We will look at math concepts and problems that have been identified by instructors working with students in TABE and GED math as difficult to teach or for students to understand. Explanations, teaching methods, and discussions will be at the core of the presentation.

ABE Curriculum/Corrections/Vocational

MAPLE

Student Engagement—Keeping the Students Interested and Engaged

Shawn Klotz - Putnamville DOC

In correctional education settings, attendance, engagement, and persistence are influenced by a unique set of institutional, personal, and environmental factors that are often hidden from educators. This presentation explores the underlying reasons students disengage, the warning signs that may precede withdrawal, and strategies educators can use to increase connection, motivation, and retention.

Corrections/Vocational

CEDAR

Shared Students, Shared Success - IOO ELL Panel Discussion

Chris Harmon - Monroe County Adult Education

Learn how Indiana's Online Only ELL program can help your agency expand services to English language learners while sharing enrollment and performance outcomes. Hear from program leadership and instructors about referral processes, student support, and how partnerships can increase access and success for learners across the state. Our panel will address common misconceptions and answer questions.

Administrative/Leadership Skills/Program Mgt/ELL Instruction/Online Instruction

BALLROOM A

The Magic of Many Hands

Katie Sattler - MSD Washington Township

Volunteers can transform adult education programs, but building an effective volunteer program takes planning and support. Learn how we recruited, trained, and retained volunteers while helping teachers confidently integrate them into the classroom. Participants will receive practical tools, including volunteer guidance materials, a handbook, and strategies they can implement immediately.

Administrative/Leadership Skills/Program Mgt

BALLROOM B

Conflict Resolution

Matt Schlimgen - Ivy Tech

Using personality color-based training as a foundation, this presentation explores different approaches to conflict resolution, including why some people naturally avoid conflict. As someone who identifies strongly with the “blue” style, I’ll discuss personal discomfort with conflict while challenging the idea that conflict is always negative.

Administrative/Leadership Skills/Program Mgt

BALLROOM C

Deep Dive into High-Performing IETs

Roy Melton - DWD

We will be doing a deep dive into Indiana's high-performing IETs. We will discuss characteristics such as starting EFL, how to recruit, class structure, curriculum, and certification rates. Additionally, using certification rates, we will investigate IET's that are more difficult to complete.

DWD

~Friday, October 2~

9:00 am - 10:00 am Session Eight

MAPLE

Moodle Migration from Canvas Free-for-Teachers

Ed Krakowiak - The Learning Network

This summer, the Learning Network of Clinton County found it necessary to migrate our Driver's Education course off Canvas Free-for-Teachers. We were able to migrate the entire course (informational texts, diagrams, images, quizzes, and tests) into Moodle at zero additional cost. Join us for a walkthrough of what it looks like to migrate to Moodle.

Digital Literacy/Technology

CEDAR

Building Futures Through Vocational Education

Paula Clark - Ivy Tech

This interactive roundtable explores best practices in vocational education within correctional settings, including industry alignment, credentialing, hands-on instruction, equity, reentry support, and program innovation. Participants will share strategies, challenges, and collaborative solutions to improve workforce readiness and post-release outcomes for incarcerated learners.

Corrections/Vocational

BALLROOM A

Planning Your Future: Ten Years of "All About Me"

Brenda Gaston - MSD Warren Township

Participants will discover how designing a project-based learning experience can transform ELL classrooms and prepare students for IETs or develop their plans to transition to postsecondary education. The presenter will explain the career planning mindset: "career support coach," share the "All About Me" project-based learning steps, and share information about an ELL student who persisted.

Workforce/WEI/IET/ELL

BALLROOM B

Plan Student Advancement with NRP Study Guides

Mike Thombleson - Ivy Tech

With instructors working with the students after TABE testing, this presentation will allow them to plan and guide students with New Readers Press resources. We will look at the blueprints of the TABE subjects and the study guide from New Readers Press. These resources will allow instructors and students to make a study plan for NRP books to advance their skills.

ABE Curriculum

BALLROOM C

Final Day General Q&A with InTERS

Matt Crites - DWD

Bring all of your questions and suggestions to this session so we can try to make the system better for everyone.

DWD

10:15 am — **Brunch**

10:30 am — **HSE Panel Discussion**



11:15 am — **Silent Auction Winners**

11:30 am — **Door Prizes & 50/50 Split-the-Pot**
Must Be Present to Win

12:00 pm — **Closing**


Help Us
Make Magic
Next Year!
COMPLETE THE CONFERENCE SURVEY
What did you love?
What can we improve?
Share your ideas!
SURVEY OPENS
October 2
SURVEY CLOSES
November 1