

COABE 2026 Presentations

CREATE Adult Skills Network Members

Sunday, April 12th

8:30am – 11:30am

Facilitating Purposeful and Productive Mathematics Discourse with Adult Learners

Room: White River Ballroom I

Presenter: Brent Jackson

Co-Presenter: Haley McNamara

Learn strategies to facilitate purposeful and productive mathematics discourse that leads to students' enhanced mathematical understanding. First, you will participate in an engaging mathematics lesson that illustrates key features of effective mathematics teaching practices, including mathematics discourse. Then you will analyze videos from actual adult basic education classrooms and plan strategies to transform your classroom. You will leave this workshop with curricular materials, tools, and resources that you can use to strengthen your mathematics teaching.

8:30am – 11:30am

Exploring GenAI in Adult Education: Building Instructor Capacity through Ethical and Experiential Design

Room: 101

Presenter: Lewis Hosie

Co-Presenter: Ann Edwards

This session invites educators to critically and creatively explore the role of generative AI (GenAI) in supporting instruction. Through hands-on engagement with Playlab, participants will explore and interact with AI-powered bots for learners and instructors, including a numeracy tutor bot. The session emphasizes responsible use, ethical design, and the importance of instructor agency. Attendees will leave with practical tools, design frameworks, and deeper insight into how GenAI can support, not replace, human-centered teaching.

Monday, April 13th

11:50am – 1:00pm

Improving the Relevance of Adult Education Research through Researcher-Practitioner Collaborations: Learnings from the CREATE Network

Room: 205

Presenter: Judith Alamprese

Co-Presenter: Lisa Soricone

The CREATE Adult Skills Network has examined collaborations between Adult Foundational Education (AFE) researchers and practitioners and how those collaborations can strengthen the planning, execution, and dissemination of research focused on interventions to improve the teaching and learning of AFE students. This session will discuss how AFE practitioners and policy staff can collaborate with researchers in developing high-quality studies to ensure the relevancy and utility of research that can facilitate AFE learners' success.

11:50am – 1:00pm

From Design to Impact: Exploring the Adult Numeracy in the Digital Era (ANDE) Learning Experience

Room: White River Ballroom B

Presenter: Ann Edwards

Co-Presenter: Hosie Lewis

This session invites participants to explore the Adult Numeracy in the Digital Era (ANDE) curriculum and instructor supports, now available as open educational resources. Through hands-on activities and learning about findings from pilot studies, attendees experience ANDE's in-class collaborative math tasks, student online learning resources, and a mindset-supportive design. Participants leave with full access to the curricular and instructional resources and insights about how to use ANDE tasks and approaches in their own classrooms.

2:00pm – 3:10pm

Infusing Digital Writing Skills into Writing Instruction

Room: JW Grand Ballroom 7

Presenter: Christine Miller

Co-Presenter: Daphne Greenberg

In the past, instructors did not have to teach digital writing skills. Teaching writing mechanics or genre elements was enough. Times have changed. To navigate daily life, our adult learners also need explicit instruction to improve their digital writing skills. Through strategies and resources, we will help you support your learners as they develop their digital writing skills while improving other writing-related skills.

3:50pm – 5:00pm

Practical Solutions from Research: Digital Tools to Support Teaching and Learning from the CREATE Network

Room: 205

Presenters: Amanda Ahlstrand, Stephanie Cronen, Aydin Durgunoglu, Ann Edwards, Daphne Greenberg, Chris Miller, John Sabatini, Stephen Sireci, Theresa Sladek, Elizabeth Tighe, Jen Vanek

The CREATE Adult Skills Network's six research projects have explored innovations that address the needs of adult learners through technology-enabled instruction and assessment. Session attendees will learn about and use the different edtech tools to understand how they support aspects such as personalized assessments, leverage AI, boost access to open/free digital content, promote digital learning, and creatively use technology to support math, writing, reading, and civics education.

Tuesday, April 14th

11:50am – 1:00pm

Free and Open Online Literacy Curriculum: Leveraging SkillBlox and ASAP for Adult Readers

Room: JW Grand Ballroom 7

Presenter: Jen Vanek

Co-Presenters: Jeff Goumas, Neha Nanda, Stephen Sireci

This session introduces a new CCRS-AE aligned SkillBlox literacy curriculum that integrates free resources like Reading Skills for Today's Adults and Adult Skills Assessment Program (ASAP) assessment items. Attendees will explore features tested in a recent study, learn how SkillBlox and ASAP work together to support instruction and assessment, and review research findings. Participants will have the chance to try out the curriculum and provide feedback to improve the integrated use of both digital tools.

2:00pm – 3:10pm

Practitioner-Friendly Findings: How to Leverage Free Research-based Resources to Teach In-Demand Skills

Room: 206

Presenter: Stephanie Cronen

Co-Presenters: Neha Nanda, Jen Vanek

This research-based session is for conference attendees interested in leveraging open and free digital activities to implement instruction aligned with adult learners' educational and employment goals. Hear about lessons learned from educators' experiences in implementing the Teaching Skills That Matter (TSTM) framework and using the SkillBlox instructional content management application for this purpose. Learn about use cases of quality instruction and get a glimpse of educator-curated content available through research-informed SkillBlox features.

3:50pm – 5:00pm

Building and Using Background Knowledge to Strengthen English Language Learners' Understanding of Complex Texts

Room: White River Ballroom G

Presenter: Christy Jarrard

Co-Presenters: Daphne Greenberg, Aydin Durgunoglu, Elizabeth Tighe

Do you want to learn more about why background knowledge is important and strategies to activate it with English Language Learners? This presentation showcases three different, yet equally effective, means of providing background information to students who are multilingual adult learners. The techniques shared are derived from a multiphase, federally funded project aimed at enhancing evidence-based English literacy instruction integrated with U.S. history, civics, and digital literacy content.

Wednesday, April 15th

8:00am – 9:10am

Don't Get Testy With Me! A Dialogue on Criticisms of Assessments for Adult Learners

Room: 204

Presenter: Stephen Sireci

Co-Presenters – Adrienne Fontenot, Anson Green, Daphne Greenberg, Maura Maxfield, Elizabeth Moya

Assessments are used throughout adult education, but we rarely take time to assess what is working and what needs improvement. In February 2026 an online webinar will be held to gather COABE members' and adult learners' criticisms and suggested improvements of math, reading, and ELP assessments. This symposium will summarize those results and feature an interactive panel discussion of them and what we can do to improve assessments to support adult learning and workforce development.

3:00pm – 4:10pm

Using Co-Design Principles to Elevate Assessment Development and Support

Virtual

Presenter: Maura Maxfield

Co-Presenter: Stephen Sireci

This presentation describes the use of co-design principles to transform assessment development by meaningfully involving stakeholders such as adult learners and educators throughout the process. Focusing on three approaches to implementing co-design in test development, the process and lessons learned will be detailed. By centering stakeholder voices, co-design fosters more relevant and supportive assessments, ultimately strengthening adult education outcomes and promoting a sustainable approach to test development and accountability.