



May 20-22, 2024

CAREER PATHWAYS SYMPOSIUM

Omni Corpus Christi Hotel
Corpus Christi, Texas

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024

Check-in: 12:00pm in Corpus Ballroom pre-function area

Time	Session
1:00-4:30pm	Opening General Session Location: Corpus AB Ballroom Speakers: <i>Mahalia Baldini, State Director, Adult Education and Literacy, Texas Workforce Commission;</i> <i>Jessie Stadd, RTI International / Enhancing Access for Refugees and New Americans;</i> <i>Blaire Willson Toso, Ph.D., WestEd / Enhancing Access for Refugees and New Americans</i>

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

Time	Session		
	Recommended for Admin/Leadership Location: Corpus A Ballroom	Recommended for Instructors Location: Corpus B Ballroom	Recommended for Career Navigators Location: Corpus C Ballroom
8:30-10:00am	College and Community Integration Panel <i>MaryHelen Martinez Ed.D., Alamo College – Moderator; Patricia Hernandez, Alamo College; Christina Mason, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County; Carla Thompson, Turner Industries; Delia Watley, Irving ISD AEL</i>	No Adult Left Behind: Preparing Low Literacy ELLs (ITPs included) for Career Pathways, Part 1 <i>Claudette Session, Region 5 ESC</i>	Role of the Career Navigator, Part 1 <i>Aimee Finley, American Institutes for Research; Elizabeth Moya, American Institutes for Research</i>
10:00-10:15am	Break		
10:15-11:45am	College Integration: A College President's Perspective <i>Tiffany Johnson, Victoria College; Jennifer Kent, Ed.D., Victoria College</i>	No Adult Left Behind: Preparing Low Literacy ELLs (ITPs included) for Career Pathways, Part 2 <i>Claudette Session, Region 5 ESC</i>	Role of the Career Navigator, Part 2 <i>Aimee Finley, American Institutes for Research; Elizabeth Moya, American Institutes for Research</i>
11:45am-1:15pm	Lunch Break (on your own)		
1:15-2:45pm	Designing Bridge Programs for Career Pathways: Who, What and Where <i>Raymundo Bautista, Restore Education; Ilse Reyes, Restore Education</i>	Planning Pathways for ELLs <i>Cynthia Arocha, Community Action, Inc.; Angi Mudd, Community Action, Inc.; Glenda Rose, Ph.D., Community Action, Inc.</i>	Role of the Career Navigator, Part 3 <i>Aimee Finley, American Institutes for Research; Elizabeth Moya, American Institutes for Research</i>
2:45-3:00pm	Break		
3:00-4:30pm	Rising Together: A Unified Approach to Empower Texas Opportunity Youth <i>Jonathan Pride, Npower</i>	Implementing Pathways for ELLs <i>Cynthia Arocha, Community Action, Inc.; Angi Mudd, Community Action, Inc.; Glenda Rose, Ph.D., Community Action, Inc.</i>	Role of the Career Navigator, Part 4 <i>Aimee Finley, American Institutes for Research; Elizabeth Moya, American Institutes for Research</i>

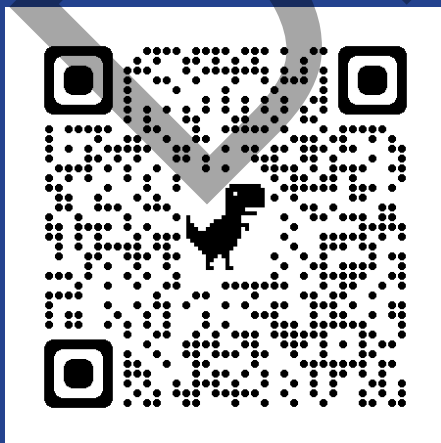
AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024

Time	Session		
	Recommended for Admin/Leadership Location: Corpus A Ballroom	Recommended for Instructors Location: Corpus B Ballroom	Recommended for Career Navigators Location: Corpus C Ballroom
8:30-10:00am	Integrating with Partners <i>Adrian Lopez, Workforce Solutions Alamo; Kelli Rhodes, Restore Education</i>	Career-Ready Communication: Empowering Adult English Language Learners for Success <i>Theresa Sands, Region 2 ESC</i>	Beyond Assessment: Cultivating Connections and Tailoring Programs for Diverse Learners <i>Julio Medina, CPPDC; Sebastian Ramos, CPPDC</i>
10:00-10:15am	Break		
10:15-11:45am	Building Success: Developing Middle Skilled Talent for the Texas Construction Industry <i>Julio Medina, CPPDC</i>	Conversations in the ELL Classroom and Beyond <i>Theresa Sands, Region 2 ESC</i>	Guiding Second Chance Individuals to Successful Reentry <i>Calvin Green, Lee College; Tracy Williams, Lee College</i>

SYMPOSIUM WEBSITE & APP:

SYMPOSIUM2024.
VFAIRS.COM



SESSION

EVALUATIONS:

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 (This link is case sensitive!)



SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024

1:00-4:30PM

Opening General Session

Location: Corpus AB Ballroom

Speaker: Mahalia Baldini, State Director, Adult Education and Literacy, Texas Workforce Commission

1:00pm-1:50pm

AEL State Director Mahalia Baldini will welcome participants to the conference and share goals for Career Pathways under AEL over the next several years. Learn more about building career pathways in Texas. This session will be live-streamed.

2:00pm- 4:30pm

IELCE: Furthering the linguistic, civic, and economic integration of Immigrants in Texas

Speakers: Jessie Stadd, RTI International / Enhancing Access for Refugees and New Americans

Blaire Willson Toso, Ph.D., WestEd / Enhancing Access for Refugees and New Americans

Spend the afternoon with lead facilitators for the Enhancing Access for Refugees and New Americans (EARN) Project which provides resources and technical assistance to state and local AEL programs across the country.

English Language Learners (ELLs) are a federal priority population, the majority of those served in AEL, and a focus for 243 funds under Title II of WIOA. How can programs further the linguistic, civic, and economic integration of immigrants across the state? How can collaboration support the community and economic integration of ELLs in Texas, including adults who are professionals with degrees and credentials in their native country. Invite your workforce partners, citizenship liaisons, training providers, refugee resettlement agencies and other stakeholders to join this opening session to learn about promising practices.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

8:30-10:00AM

College and Community Integration Panel

Location: Corpus A Ballroom

Speakers: MaryHelen Martinez, Ed.D., Alamo College – Moderator
Patricia Hernandez, Alamo College
Christina Mason, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County
Carla Thompson, Turner Industries
Delia Watley, Irving ISD AEL

Join experts as they share their personal and institutional journeys to successful cross agency collaborations in their communities. What are best practices for transitioning individuals from AEL programs to higher education, the workforce, or occupational training? Through the lens of a Workforce Board (AEL grantee), employer, community college, and Independent School District (ISD), learn what works as panelists share innovative practices, challenges, and lessons learned. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from frontline leaders driving impactful change in communities across the state.

No Adult Left Behind: Preparing Low Literacy ELLs (ITPs included) for Career Pathways, Part 1

Location: Corpus B Ballroom

Speaker: Claudette Session, Region 5 ESC

How do we prepare low literacy ELLs for future IET participation and success? One answer is task-based language teaching that subtly features English for Academic Purposes. Join this three-hour session (Part 1 & Part 2) to experience how a low literacy EAP lesson flows and leave with ideas and resources to put pre-IET students on a pathway to fluency, certification, workforce entry and/or postsecondary education.

Role of the Career Navigator, Part 1

Location: Corpus C Ballroom

Speakers: Aimee Finley, American Institutes for Research
Elizabeth Moya, American Institutes for Research

Explore strategies and practical tools for working with adults to support their educational persistence and career success. Participants will examine the impact of systemic factors, such as socio-economic conditions and institutional structures on adult learners and will gain insights and skills to empower and promote a positive educational experience.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

10:15-11:45AM

College Integration: A College President's Perspective

Location: Corpus A Ballroom

Speakers: Tiffany Johnson, Victoria College
Jennifer Kent, Ed.D., Victoria College

Join Victoria College's President and AEL Director Tiffany Johnson for a discussion on the role of adult education in an institution of higher education. Whether your AEL program is currently within a college setting or partnering with several different Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) knowing where an AEL program fits into the bigger picture is critical to having a productive collaboration. This session focuses on the value of adult education and the need for successful programs with demonstrated effectiveness to better serve adult learners in our communities.

No Adult Left Behind: Preparing Low Literacy ELLs (ITPs included) for Career Pathways, Part 2

Location: Corpus B Ballroom

Speaker: Claudette Session, Region 5 ESC

How do we prepare low literacy ELLs for future IET participation and success? One answer is task-based language teaching that subtly features English for Academic Purposes. Join this three-hour session (Part 1 & Part 2) to experience how a low literacy EAP lesson flows and leave with ideas and resources to put pre-IET students on a pathway to fluency, certification, workforce entry and/or postsecondary education.

Role of the Career Navigator, Part 2

Location: Corpus C Ballroom

Speakers: Aimee Finley, American Institutes for Research
Elizabeth Moya, American Institutes for Research

Develop the knowledge and skills to effectively guide adult learners in making informed career decisions and forging a clear path toward their desired careers. This includes exploring career pathway options and utilizing practical strategies to help students set realistic and achievable goals, align personal interests with career opportunities, and navigate the evolving job market.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

1:15-2:45PM

Designing Bridge Programs for Career Pathways: Who, What and Where

Location: Corpus A Ballroom

Speakers: Raymundo Bautista, Restore Education
Ilse Reyes, Restore Education

Join this session on designing bridge programs that empower adult learners with transferable skills for success in postsecondary education and employment. Participants will gain practical strategies to identify and teach critical skills to support student success. Learn to design curriculum to integrate essential skills and ensure maximum learner engagement and retention. Explore the importance of ongoing evaluation to refine and enhance designs and outcomes. Leave with valuable insights, tools, and resources to create impactful learning experiences for adults as they transition to postsecondary education, training, or the workforce.

Planning Pathways for ELLs

Location: Corpus B Ballroom

Speakers: Cynthia Arocha, Community Action, Inc.
Angi Mudd, Community Action, Inc.
Glenda Rose, Ph.D., Community Action, Inc.

This session presents a variety of program designs to serve English Language Learners (ELLs) in providing career advancement opportunities. Dr. Rose will lead the group in crowdsourcing the questions to ask learners and considerations for planning career pathway programs including types of pathways, student supports, and program management. Participants will leave with ideas and resources for helping adult ELLs build career ladders and pathways to meet job training needs and goals.

Role of the Career Navigator, Part 3

Location: Corpus C Ballroom

Speakers: Aimee Finley, American Institutes for Research
Elizabeth Moya, American Institutes for Research

Develop skills to improve learners' employability including critical thinking, problem-solving, and other essential workforce skills. Participants will explore innovative methodologies and resources that promote active engagement, foster well-rounded skill sets in students and yield actionable insights for navigators to implement in their daily practice.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

3:00-4:30PM

Rising Together: A Unified Approach to Empower Texas Opportunity Youth

Location: Corpus A Ballroom

Speaker: Jonathan Pride, Npower

Build your toolbox and resources for forging employer partnerships with impact. This session will equip participants with understanding the needs of both employers and workers, laying the groundwork for robust collaborations. Gain practical strategies for working with business and industry and understand the unique challenges faced by young adults from underserved communities as they seek meaningful work. Explore methods to align program offerings with current workforce demands and how to drive sustainable economic growth and social impact through understanding and collaboration to serve those most in need.

Implementing Pathways for ELLs

Location: Corpus B Ballroom

Speakers: Cynthia Arocha, Community Action, Inc.

Angi Mudd, Community Action, Inc.

Glenda Rose, Ph.D., Community Action, Inc.

Designing instruction to meet the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs) provides opportunities for critical language and linguistic development. Join this session to explore options for building fluency and readiness for postsecondary education and training. How can workforce preparation activities support ELLs in enhancing their soft skills in demand on the job, or address English for Specific Purposes, or support a bridge or "on-ramp" to an IET? Learn how to intentionally scaffold language support through appropriate rigor and practical applications to ensure ELLs successfully complete an IET and exit with enhanced fluency and confidence. Participants will leave with instructional strategies and resources to help their learners maximize their career pathway plans.

Role of the Career Navigator, Part 4

Location: Corpus C Ballroom

Speakers: Aimee Finley, American Institutes for Research

Elizabeth Moya, American Institutes for Research

Understand how to effectively use resources to create a comprehensive and supportive learning environment for adult learners. Participants will take a deep dive into strategies for leveraging existing resources, identifying gaps, and exploring new support mechanisms. The session will emphasize the importance of collaboration among educators, administrators, and community partners to maximize the impact of available resources.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024

8:30-10:00AM

Integrating with Partners

Location: Corpus A Ballroom

Speakers: Adrian Lopez, Workforce Solutions Alamo
Kelli Rhodes, Restore Education

The Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA) Board is revolutionizing the way underserved populations receive support to be successful in today's workforce. Adult education learners are no exception. Join Adrian Lopez, the CEO of WSA, as he highlights the importance of alignment among partners to optimize outcomes and opportunities. Emphasizing the critical role of communication in a successful referral process and the essential role of wrap-around services to participant success, attendees will gain insight into how comprehensive services enhance the effectiveness of educational programs. Whether you're seeking to establish new partnerships or expand existing ones, this session will provide practical strategies for fostering meaningful AEL collaborations across WIOA programs.

Career-Ready Communication: Empowering Adult English Language Learners for Success

Location: Corpus B Ballroom

Speaker: Theresa Sands, Region 2 ESC

Learn effective ELA classroom strategies to refine enunciation, including articulation, phoneme comprehension, through resources such as the use of a sound wall. This workshop goes beyond language improvement, providing adult learners with essential communication tools crucial for career success, empowering adult ELLs to thrive in professional settings.

Beyond Assessment: Cultivating Connections and Tailoring Programs for Diverse Learners

Location: Corpus C Ballroom

Speakers: Julio Medina, Career Pathways PDC
Sebastian Ramos, Career Pathways PDC

Comprehensive assessment goes beyond testing and completing the PIRL during intake. How do you build rapport and get to know the learner and make the right match of person to program to pathway? This session highlights several special populations and the unique circumstances that may impact their engagement with AEL Activities. Whether working with Internationally Trained Professionals, ELLs, justice-involved individuals, immigrants or refugees, learn how to conduct sensitive and supportive interviews when the program's priority is completing enrollment and testing paperwork.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024

10:15-11:45AM

Building Success: Developing Middle Skilled Talent for the Texas Construction Industry

Location: Corpus A Ballroom

Speaker: Julio Medina, Career Pathways PDC

The Texas construction industry is facing a shortage of middle-skilled workers, those with a high school diploma but less than a 4-year degree. The Career Pathways Professional Development Center (CPPDC) was awarded a grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to develop a curriculum that will prepare individuals lacking the skills required for advancement and growth in the industry. In this session, participants will leverage industry specific examples and examine how the curriculum integrates academic and interpersonal skills. We will discuss and determine how the curriculum can be modified to meet the demands and needs of your program and regional workforce.

Conversations in the ELL Classroom and Beyond

Location: Corpus B Ballroom

Speaker: Theresa Sands, Region 2 ESC

Gain insights into effective instruction for English Language Learners (ELLs) and takeaway strategies to enhance learner proficiency in oral communication, written literacy, and problem-solving. Learn to design instruction to foster career awareness and facilitate goal setting, access a variety of websites with complimentary resources, and find lesson plans that can be seamlessly integrated into your teaching. Learn more about teaching essential skills that contribute to empowering ELLs, build learner self-confidence, and prepare participants for continued education and training.

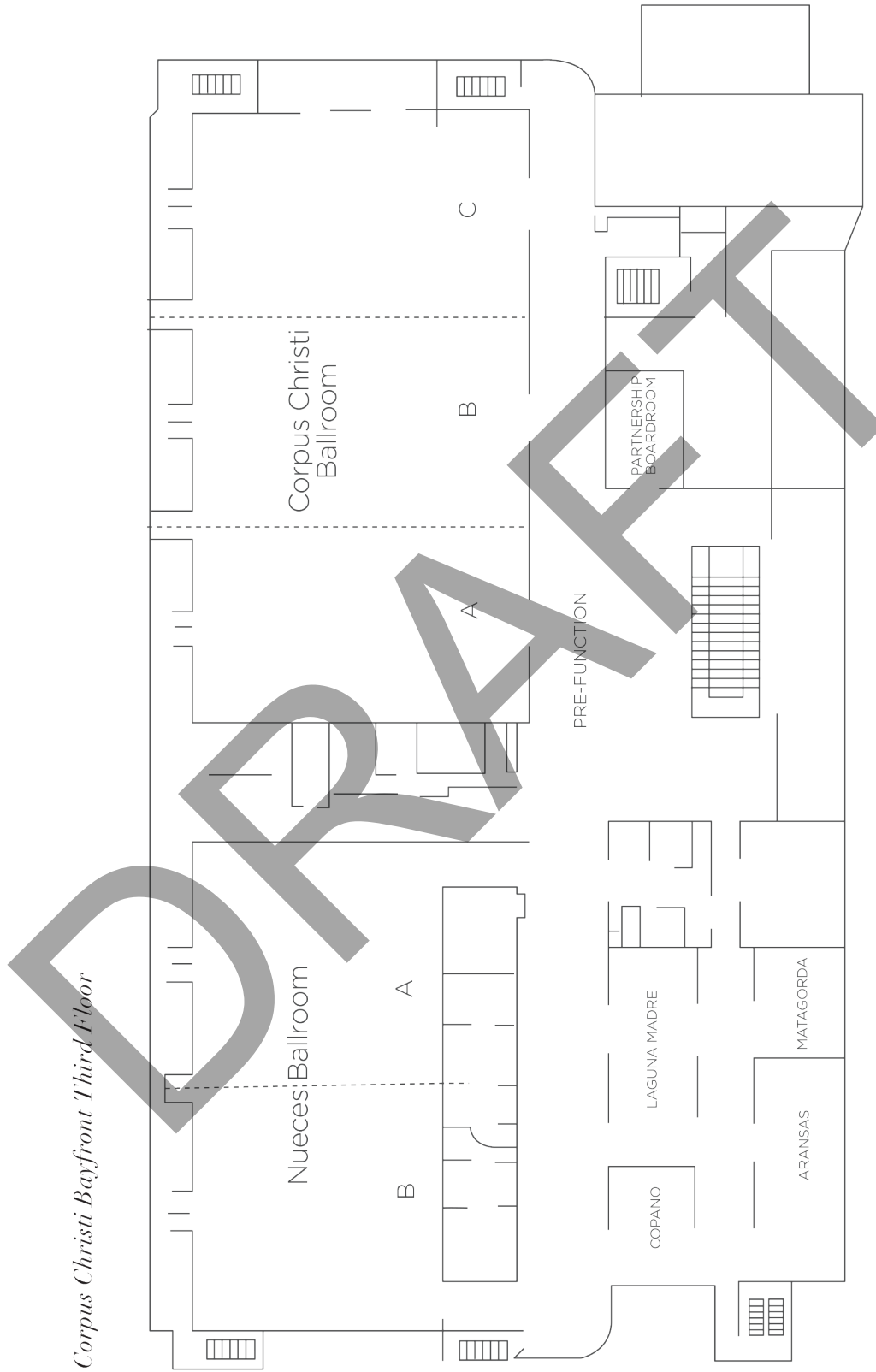
Guiding Second Chance Individuals to Successful Reentry

Location: Corpus C Ballroom

Speakers: Calvin Green, Lee College
Tracy Williams, Lee College

Discover the pivotal role career navigators play in guiding second chance individuals to successful reentry. Gain insights into tailored strategies for career counseling and resource navigation, addressing the unique challenges faced by those seeking a second chance. Join us for a concise exploration of how career navigators play a vital role in empowering individuals to build fulfilling lives post-incarceration.

MAP OF THE OMNI CORPUS CHRISTI HOTEL



WE APPRECIATE YOUR ATTENDANCE!

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