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2023 GED CONFERENCE

July 18-20, 2023 • New York, NY





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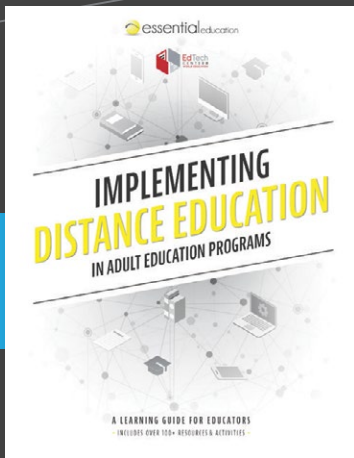
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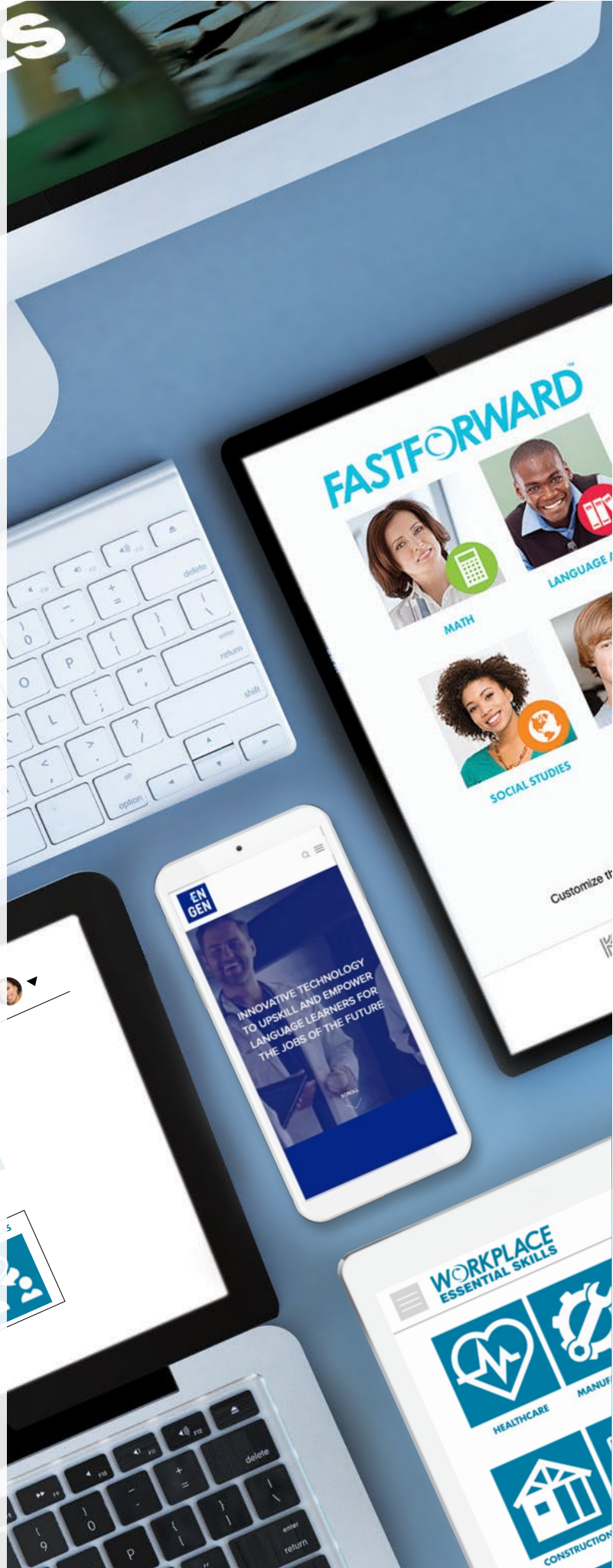
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2023 GED CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, JULY 18

Welcome Reception & Conference Day 1

▶ **11:00 a.m.**

REGISTRATION

— 2nd Floor

▶ **1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.**

BREAKOUTS

○ **Welcome to GED**

— Murray Hill West

This session will detail “the basics” of the GED program: key components and structure of the exam, research data and student outcomes, tools for the classroom, content overview and key strategies, and invaluable resources found on our website for both educators and students! Participants will leave with a fundamental knowledge of the GED Testing Program in order to support student success to earn their high school diploma/ equivalency credential.

Presenters: Jonna Forsyth, Liz Lanphear, Lisa Pool-Osorio

○ **Science-Essential Skills and Strategies**

— Murray Hill East

Last year, GED Content Specialists shared what they learned about the knowledge and skills gaps that students have demonstrated in different content areas. This year, the content specialists are back and ready to take a deeper dive into teaching strategies that can help you work with students to build their science skills and content knowledge. As part of this session, the content specialist will provide information about available resources and share real GED items.

Presenter: Ana Montemayor

○ **Higher Level Math Skills**

— Gramercy East

Higher level math skills causing problems for your students and even you? Join Ron Cruz as he provides a range of strategies and activities that you can use in the classroom to help your students move beyond the basics. This interactive session will help you master those higher-level math skills that are essential for students on the test and in real-life situations.

Presenter: Ronald Cruz

TUESDAY, JULY 18

Welcome Reception & Conference Day 1

► 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

BREAKOUTS (con't)

- **GED® Testing Centers: Demystifying the Approval Process**

— Morgan

Are you interested in establishing a GED testing center? Confused about the process? In this session, we will walk through the steps, the tools, and the common questions around setting up a Pearson Vue Certified Testing Center for the GED exam.

Presenters: Natalie Cummins, Laura Duffy, Pearson VUE

- **Committing to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belongingness in the Classroom and Beyond**

— Clinton

This session will help any professional working with learners assess how they can be better advocates for inclusive learning, implement changes at all levels of their organization, and commit to supporting diversity efforts.

Presenters: Adora Beard, AE panelist: Phyllis Kelley (AL), Hector Martinez (KS), Oogie Lamar (MI), Monica Gemperlein (NC)

- **Corrections: Shutdowns Don't Have to Result in Stopping Instruction**

— Gibson

Suppose that your correction's education program had to shutter its doors again. Across the country in 2021, corrections programs were closed. In many cases, there was no alternative for instruction. Students often had no options to continue learning and preparing for the GED test. This session will focus on alternative methods for instruction in correctional settings. You will explore a variety of options from high-tech to low-tech to keep students learning even when you cannot be present.

Presenter: Susan Pittman

TUESDAY, JULY 18 (con't)

Welcome Reception & Conference Day 1

► 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

BREAKOUTS (con't)

- **Solving the 3 of 4 Dilemma: Reengaging Students Who are One Test Away from Earning their GED® Diploma**

— Gramercy West

Does your state or adult education program have students that made it so close to earning their GED credential but never quite finished? There are thousands of students out there who have completed 3 of 4 GED tests but just never passed that last test. This session will address this problem and hear from 4 states that have launched campaigns to help these students finish. These state leaders will share best practice for outreach and engagement and leave plenty of time for questions. Learn how your state or program can do your own outreach to increase your GED graduate numbers.

Presenters: Brian Smith, Adrienne Ochs (OR), Sue Grosdidier (KS), Shawn Watts (GA), Dawn Hughes (IL)

► 2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

BREAKOUTS

- **GED® Products and Tools to Support Teacher and Learner Outcomes**

— Beekman

New GED prep tools help teachers address unique students' needs. Join us to hear more about the new GED mobile app in development, as well as how to use GED Direct to assign and track performance on practice tests and exams when your students are ready. Best practices will be shared and encouraged from participants.

Presenters: Jane Bledsoe, Sarah LaNeave

- **Reasoning Through Language Arts-Essential Skills and Strategies**

— Sutton Center

At the 2022 Annual Conference, GED Content Specialists shared the research results that identified knowledge and skills gaps across multiple areas of Reasoning through Language Arts. This year, they will narrow the focus to an area that impacts not only RLA, but other content areas as well – close reading. You will have an opportunity to work with real GED items and apply strategies that will help your students build their reading skills from basic comprehension to analysis to evaluation.

Presenters: Amy Hathorn, Brooke Palmer

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BREAKOUTS (con't)

- **Social Studies-Essential Skills and Strategies**

— Regent

Last year, participants learned about students' knowledge and skills gaps in Social Studies. This year, GED Content Specialists are back and will explore areas where teachers should focus to help students improve their social studies content knowledge and skills. The session will include tips on close reading and analyzing text in real GED items, including items with cartoons or photographs.

Presenter: Patrick Duran

- **The Value of Mobile Testing Centers**

— Murray Hill East

Often, the local programs with stationary PC testing centers remark that "If only I could get out to a specific distant or rural location to deliver a test in that area." The answer is that you can do as many other local programs do.

Presenters: Natalie Cummins (Pearson VUE), Dianne Doyle (AR)

- **GED Analytics**

— Murray Hill West

This session will empower participants to use GED Analytics (powered by Tableau) to meet the ever-growing appetite for data. Increase your confidence pulling specific testing data for reports. Learn how to slice and dice like a pro or identify positive or negative trends in your learner population. Come prepared with questions and learn new tips and tricks like 3 of 4 reporting. See you there!

Presenters: Brent Gerken, Scott Salesses

- **Innovative GED® Uses: An Option Program in North Dakota and Oregon**

— Gramercy East

Adult Education & GED Administrators and K-12 Leaders seek ways to respond to identified needs of the students they serve. North Dakota and Oregon created successful alternative pathways for students to exit high school with a credential. The outcomes were similar but the impetus to create the programs and resulting pathways varied to meet each state's needs. Join this interactive session to learn how an Option Program may fill a need in your state.

Presenters: Stanley Schauer (ND), Adrienne Ochs (OR), Ann Evers

TUESDAY, JULY 18 (con't)

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BREAKOUTS (con't)

- **All About Accommodations**

— Gramercy West

Often, adult education students became frustrated in school because they couldn't learn like other students, so they just gave up and quit school. Now they realize the value of a credential and are back in GED classes. Finding out that there might be a reason they couldn't keep up in school and that there is help for them is an important step toward their goal of achieving a credential. This session will discuss accommodations that are available on the GED test, but more importantly, it will give the participants tools to help their students receive the documentation they need to make accommodation requests. By sharing helpful tips, teachers and administrators will be better equipped to assist students. It will also empower teachers to have discussions with their students about disabling conditions and how to seek the help they need.

Presenter: Debbie Bergtholdt

▶ 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME RECEPTION

— Grand Ballroom

▶ 7:00 p.m.

ON YOUR OWN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

Conference Day 2

▶ 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST

— Grand Ballroom

▶ 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

BROADWAY OPENING

— Grand Ballroom

▶ 8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

PRESIDENT'S KEYNOTE

— Grand Ballroom

▶ 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

WORKFORCE PLENARY

— Grand Ballroom

▶ 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

BREAKOUTS

○ **Accelerated Pathways/Prior Learning Network**

— Beekman

Pearson Accelerated Pathways and Prior Learning Network:
Turning Earners to Learners

Learn more about Pearson's options for college success with low-cost options and prior learning credit that can give GED grads a head-start.

Join us to listen, learn, and most importantly, have a robust Q and A discussion about the connections you and your GED candidates can make to a low-cost college education. Pearson's Accelerated Pathways have helped more than 24,000 students access more than 2,000 colleges and universities. Part of their process includes comparing university options and helping students gain entrance from digital learning to matriculation to a college of their choice. A demo of an Options report will be provided, and a GED student story will be shared. Learn how your students can continue to excel, beyond the test, to new and productive futures!

Presenters: Liza Canchola, Jared Brandau

○ **Mathematical Reasoning- Targeting Instruction Using Assessment Principles**

— Sutton Center

This session will present information related to the GED Mathematical Reasoning test that can be used to target instruction to adult education students and GED test candidates. Topics include test and item format, skills assessed, teacher resources, the importance of 'mathematical language,' common gaps in students' skills and knowledge, test-taking tools, and a brief overview of how tests are developed.

Presenter: Michael Bell

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Presenter: Ana Montemayor

- **Corrections: Best Practices for Incorporating Alternative Sentencing in Adult Education**

— Murray Hill East

The Crawford County Adult Education Center Alternative Sentencing Program was recognized nationally for its innovative approach to adult education services. The Alternative Sentencing Program highlights effective integrated education and training programs, transitioning to post-secondary education, and training, and increasing access to adult education and community resource services. Join us as we discuss our holistic approach to justice involving individuals leading to reduced recidivism and successful reintegration into society.

Presenters: Debbie Faubus-Kendrick (AR), Theresa Baggett (AR)

- **Culturally Responsive Teaching for Adult Learners**

— Murray Hill West

In this session, we will share how educators can use their learners' customs, perspectives, and experiences to inform and enhance classroom instruction.

Presenters: Adora Beard, Kellie Blair Hardt

- **GED® Credentialing with Parchment**

— Gramercy East

This session will explore how GED Credentialing with Parchment harnesses the power of digital credentials in removing barriers to employment and education for students. Come learn about how the Parchment network supports test takers and how it can simplify the credentialing process for students and administrators alike! Bring your questions about how digital credentials can work for every student.

Presenters: Krystal Ferguson, Kevin Martin

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 (con't)

Conference Day 2

▶ 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

BREAKOUTS (con't)

- **Welcome to GED**

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Presenters: Jonna Forsyth, Liz Lanphear, Lisa Pool-Osorio

▶ 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

AWARDS LUNCHEON

— Grand Ballroom

▶ 2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

BREAKOUTS

- **Credly**

— Beekman

Join us to listen, learn, and discuss how you and your GED candidates can make connections with Credly badges to the world of work. All GED students who earn college-ready and college-ready plus credit on their tests, as well as all who credential get a free Credly badge, unlocking their potential to thousands of employers and post-secondary options. 150,000 GED badges have been issued to GED students during the past year, yet only 20% have accepted them to share with employers. Find out more about how your students can unlock their potential with a free Credly badge and start using this valuable tool to show up in employer and college searches today.

Presenter: Pat Leonard

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 (con't)

Conference Day 2

▶ 2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

BREAKOUTS (con't)

- **Reasoning Through Language Arts-Essential Skills and Strategies**

— Sutton Center

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Presenters: Amy Hathorn, Brooke Palmer

- **Greater Impact, Greater Success: How Aztec is Changing the Adult Education Space**

— Regent

Aztec strives to provide the best possible support for learners at every stage of their academic journey by offering a wide range of resources and tools, including ABE, GED, CTE, and workforce readiness courses. Aztec's platform also features the latest tools to deliver live and pre-recorded instruction. Aztec broad portfolio of resources includes exclusive products created in partnership with GED Testing Service, such as the Aztec Spanish GED Prep – GED Testing Service's only preferred online Preparation Software Partner for the Spanish GED® test.

This session will provide an overview of all the new Aztec resources and detail how Aztec's Learning System can help create an accessible, engaging, and high-performing experience for all stakeholders.

Presenter: Rafa Diaz, Vice-President Client Services, Aztec

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 (con't)

Conference Day 2

▶ 2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

BREAKOUTS (con't)

- **Corrections: Building Opportunities of Knowledge while Increasing Student Motivation and Gains**

— Murray Hill East

Setting prescribed daily routines inside an institutional setting is paramount to the essential duty of prisons, security. Thus, school enrolled inmates typically attend school Monday through Friday for at least 1.5 to 2 hours a day. It is time to think outside the box, disrupt the routine, and Build Opportunities of Knowledge through different scheduling options. Creating educational dorms, utilizing inmate tutors in the pods, and implementing block scheduling are effective ways in increasing student motivation and gains as well as enrollments.

Presenter: Shaketta Thomas (VA)

- **Establishing Community Partnerships and Connecting to Local Resources**

— Murray Hill West

This session will share best practices and examples of creating community partnerships to benefit your adult education program and learners. The session will highlight how GED preparation programs can work with local businesses, nonprofit organizations, workforce development boards, and community colleges to access funding, skills training, and other resources to provide holistic support for adult learners.

Presenters: Adora Beard, Helen Gay, The Mission of Yahweh, Gwen Ekundayo, Lawson State Community College, Phyllis Kelley, GED Board

- **Option Program: Where the Discussions Begin**

— Gramercy East

Are you looking for an alternative pathway for your students who are at risk of dropping out or are so far behind in credits that they are in jeopardy of graduating on time? Knowing how and where to begin the discussion is the key to success. Come and learn about GED Option and how to set the course to be a GED Option state.

Presenters: Beth Little (MS), Ann Evers, Debi Faucette

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 (con't)

Conference Day 2

▶ 2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

BREAKOUTS (con't)

- **Pearson VUE in the House**

— Gramercy West

The partnership with Pearson VUE is essential for the best student experience in the delivery of the GED Test by local programs. Our Pearson VUE partners will engage with session participants to answer any and all questions about the Pearson VUE rules and processes to ensure that the partnership for the delivery of the GED and other tests continues to meet their and their student's expectations.

Presenters: Corey Hoesly, Amber Thompson, Natalie Cummins, Adrian Evans

▶ 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

BREAKOUTS

- **Fireside Chat with Vicki Greene and Tom Moore: The Rise of the Tech Apprenticeship & the GED® Talent Pool**

— Beekman

Recently, GED Testing Service announced its partnership with With You With Me to get more GED credentialers on the path to gainful employment. Vicki Greene will host a fireside chat with Tom Moore, co-founder of With You With Me who will share his model for success and proven results with former military personnel in Canada and Australia who have made the transition to 6-figure salaries through Tech Apprenticeships. Vicki will share her vision for GED learners and their families who can now take advantage of free training for work opportunities. Join us to learn how to help your students who have completed their journey or stalled along the way to re-engage them with a promise of future employment. During the session we will share some free tools that can be used to assess a learner's potential, identify their learning style and aptitudes and get them on the best path to employability.

Presenters: Vicki Greene, Tom Moore, Co-founder WithYouWithMe

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 (con't)

Conference Day 2

► 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

BREAKOUTS (con't)

○ **Exploring Technology Enhanced Test Items**

— Sutton Center

We will examine the mechanics of technology enhanced (TE) items in all four subject areas. How do they function and how are they scored?

TE items include drag and drop (moving objects on the screen), dropdown (selecting options from a menu), and hot spot (selecting specific areas of the screen).

We will work with real GED items in this session!

Presenters: Michael Bell, Pat Duran, Ana Montemayor, Brooke Palmer, Amy Hathorn

○ **Have You Talked About “Zero” Lately?**

— Regent

We often “talk about nothing, or zero” in day-to-day conversations. A conversation about the “zero” in RLA is certainly “nothing” and has become a serious concern for many educators and their students. We hear the concerns and need to address “the elephant in the room”: the zero in the scoring rubric. In this session, we will answer your questions about “why a zero?” and provide a deeper understanding of the zero. Join us to help students improve their writing skills on the Extended Response and real-world writing.

Presenters: Debi Faucette, Susan Pittman

○ **Corrections: GED® Tools and Resources for Corrections Educators**

— Murray Hill East

Join us as we review what GED testing in Corrections has been like the last few years and showcase our “Educator Portal.” Let us look at how easy it is to locate valuable teaching resources, recordings of professional development sessions, classroom materials and print ready GED Manager guides (all of which are free!) for Corrections Educators. We will also highlight some of our prep products which can support Student success in earning their GED.

Presenter: Mellissa Hultstrand

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 (con't)

Conference Day 2

► 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

BREAKOUTS (con't)

- **Tutorial for the Online Proctored Test: If it can go wrong, it probably will, so let's talk solutions!**
— Murray Hill West
As an educator or test center administrator, many of you offer guidance to students who choose to take the GED test online. You can guide and prepare students for all the possibilities and differences they may encounter PRIOR to their test to ensure a positive testing experience.
Presenters: Scott Salesses, Amber Thompson (Pearson VUE)
- **GED® Testing Centers: Best Practices for Smooth Testing**
— Gramercy East
Do you already have one or more GED Testing Centers? Do you want some guidance on maintaining testing efficiency? Come to this session and we will review the tools, resources, and best practices available to support test administrators. This is also a great opportunity for test administrators to share their questions and experiences and to learn from each other.
Presenters: Natalie Cummins, Laura Duffy (Pearson VUE)
- **Solving the 3 of 4 Dilemma: Reengaging Students Who are One Test Away from Earning their GED® Diploma**
— Gramercy West
Does your state or adult education program have students that made it so close to earning their GED credential but never quite finished? There are thousands of students out there who have completed 3 of 4 GED tests but just never passed that last test. This session will address this problem and hear from 4 states that have launched campaigns to help these students finish. These state leaders will share best practice for outreach and engagement and leave plenty of time for questions. Learn how your state or program can do your own outreach to increase your GED graduate numbers.
Presenters: Brian Smith, Adrienne Ochs (OR), Sue Grosdidier (KS), Shawn Watts (GA), Dawn Hughes (IL)

► 5:15 p.m.

ON YOUR OWN

THURSDAY, JULY 20

Conference Day 3

▶ 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST

— Grand Ballroom

▶ 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

— Grand Ballroom

▶ 8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

BREAKOUTS

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Presenter: Ronald Cruz (FL)

THURSDAY, JULY 20 (con't)

Conference Day 3

▶ 8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

BREAKOUTS (con't)

- **Corrections: A CDCR Innovation and Success Story---From GED® Preparation to Higher Education**
— Murray Hill East
The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is expanding correctional education to include higher education. The successes of the robust adult education program confirmed that adult learners could meet the challenge of postsecondary education. The path from GED® preparation to introducing postsecondary options will be detailed from the timeline of the initial implementation with community colleges for certifications and associate degrees to the current opportunities to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree. It has been an incredible journey to date with greater opportunities for growth ahead. Participate in this interactive session to understand how the model may be replicated in your state.
Presenter: Shannon Swain (CA)
- **Interpreting GED® Test Scores for Placement**
— Murray Hill West
Entrance requirements at many postsecondary institutions have } undergone changes that stress the need to understand the GED transcript. The GED Test scores may be used for student placement into a postsecondary course of study just as a high school diploma is used. The GED test scores cannot be aligned to the grades in a high school transcript. However, understanding the range of skills a student has at each performance level can provide direction for placement in their courses. Join us to learn how to decode the information on the GED transcript.
Presenter: Debi Faucette
- **Have You Talked About “Zero” Lately?**
— Gramercy West
We often “talk about nothing, or zero” in day-to-day conversations. A conversation about the “zero” in RLA is certainly “nothing” and has become a serious concern for many educators and their students. We hear the concerns and need to address “the elephant in the room”: the zero in the scoring rubric. In this session, we will answer your questions about “why a zero?” and provide a deeper understanding of the zero. Join us to help students improve their writing skills on the Extended Response and real-world writing.
Presenters: Debi Faucette, Susan Pittman

THURSDAY, JULY 20 (con't)

Conference Day 3

► 10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

BREAKOUTS

- **Using Data to Better Understand Our Learner's GED® Journey**

— Beekman

This session will cover a data-driven analysis of GED student journeys that provides impactful insights to the diversity of the learners we serve. Understanding these trends, differences, and needs can help to better target where support is needed most.

Presenter: Peter Kataras

- **Mathematical Reasoning- Targeting Instruction Using Assessment Principles**

— Sutton Center

This session will present information related to the GED Mathematical Reasoning test that can be used to target instruction to adult education students and GED test candidates. Topics include test and item format, skills assessed, teacher resources, the importance of 'mathematical language,' common gaps in students' skills and knowledge, test-taking tools, and a brief overview of how tests are developed.

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Presenter: Debbie Bergtholdt

- **Navigating the ged.com Website as a Teacher and Student**

— Murray Hill West

Do you get questions from students about the GED.com website... and just do not have the answers at your fingertips? Do you keep planning to explore the student side of the website, but just seem to never find the time? This session will take you through both the teacher and student side of the GED.com website. We will explore the various parts of the website, explain how students can access information they need as they prepare for the test and answer your questions about how to use the site to best meet the needs of your students and you.

Presenter: Scott Salesses Ann Evers

- **Focusing Instruction through GED® Boot Camps**

— Gramercy West

GED Boot Camps come in many shapes and sizes. This session focuses on the benefits and challenges of implementing a GED Boot Camp to help students make that final push to GED success. In this session, we will discuss the different types of boot camps that can be provided, review the logistics for getting started, and discuss curriculum options. Resources are provided for participants to take back and use to set up a boot camp that suits their programs.

Presenter: Susan Pittman

THURSDAY, JULY 20 (con't)

Conference Day 3

▶ 11:30 a.m.

CONFERENCE END

