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July 25 – 27, 2018
GED Testing Service Annual Conference
San Diego, CA
#GEDTS18

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Steck-Vaughn Fundamental Skills offers skills development targeted to the Beginning Literacy, Beginning Basic, and Intermediate Basic levels – while also being age-appropriate for adult learners. It's available in both English and Spanish.

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TUESDAY JULY 24

Pre-Conference Day 1

- **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** **TRAIN THE TRAINER COHORT 3 - By Invitation Only**
— Harbor A/B
Introduction – PLDs, HII, and Relationships
Participants will meet with PD team members and fellow participants to review the purpose and intended outcomes of the GED® Train the Trainer program. Participants will also explore the assessment targets, Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) and High Impact Indicators (HIIs) to better understand how to use the information and materials to enhance student outcomes and success on the GED® test.
Presenters: Debi Faucette, Daphne Atkinson, Bonnie Goonen, Susan Pittman
- **11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**
- **1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** **TRAIN THE TRAINER COHORT 3 - By Invitation Only**
— Harbor A/B
Reasoning Through Language Arts
Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA) is composed of multiple item types and the extended response. This session will focus on how the integration of reading and writing skills are critical to successful student performance. This session will provide strategies for teaching students to analyze/evaluate text and use evidence in writing, as well as scoring insights.
Presenters: Debi Faucette, Daphne Atkinson, Bonnie Goonen, Susan Pittman



GED® graduates



WEDNESDAY JULY 25

Pre-Conference Day 2 & Welcome Reception

- **8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** **TRAIN THE TRAINER COHORT 3 - By Invitation Only**
— Harbor A/B
Mathematical Reasoning
This session will focus on the skills students need and strategies that teachers can use in order to improve student performance. Cohort members will practice strategies and activities that they will use in their respective training sessions.
Presenters: Debi Faucette, Daphne Atkinson, Bonnie Goonen, Susan Pittman
- **11:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.** **GED ADMINISTRATOR EVENT - By Invitation Only**
— Offsite
Presenters: Vicki Greene, CTTurner
- **11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**
- **1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** **TRAIN THE TRAINER COHORT 3 & VETERAN TRAINERS (COHORTS 1 & 2) - By Invitation Only**
— Harbor A/B
Meet and Greet; GED Program Information, Outcomes and Updates
Cohort 3 will join with members from Cohorts 1 and 2 to meet and network. In addition, this time will be used to provide opportunities for participants to receive a data update on test participation and achievement, current research being conducted, as well as updates to GED.com. Trainers will also receive information on GEDPrep Connect, GEDWorks, and other new programs available to support student outcomes.
Presenters: Debi Faucette, Daphne Atkinson, Bonnie Goonen, Susan Pittman
- **5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** **WELCOME RECEPTION**
— Garden Terrace

THURSDAY JULY 26

Conference Day 1

► **7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

BREAKFAST

— California Ballroom

► **8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**

OPENING SESSION PLENARY

— California Ballroom

GED Testing Service President and CEO, Randy Trask welcomes all attendees and kicks off this year's conference with highlights from the GED® program in 2018. You'll also hear from keynote speaker, Erin Gruwell. Erin Gruwell has earned an award-winning reputation for her steadfast commitment to the future of education. Her impact as a change agent attracted Hollywood's attention, and in 2007, Paramount Pictures released Freedom Writers, starring two-time Oscar winner Hilary Swank as Erin. The film is based on The Freedom Writers Diary, the New York Times bestseller that chronicled Erin's extraordinary journey with her 150 high school students who dubbed themselves the "Freedom Writers" in homage to Civil Rights activists the Freedom Riders.

Presenters: Randy Trask, Erin Gruwell

► **9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

BREAK

— Foyer

► **10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

BREAKOUTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRACK

GED 101: An Introduction to the GED Program and the GED Test

— Santa Fe

If you have worked in adult education less than 18 months, this workshop will boost your understanding of the components of the GED Program and provide the inside scoop on the content area tests. This session will also highlight key instructional areas that are challenging for students and how teachers can focus instruction.

Presenters: Thomas Ross, Scott Salesses

THURSDAY , JULY 26 (con't)

Conference Day 1

► 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

BREAKOUTS (con't)

- **TRAIN THE TRAINER COHORTS 1 & 2 - By Invitation Only**
Functions & Inequalities
— Harbor A/B
This session will focus on two new workshops for veteran trainers – functions and inequalities. Both represent core concepts in mathematics. This session will take a deeper dive into two problematic area for students in math. Trainers will explore the High Impact Indicator of functions in real-world situations and learn how to make activities real and accessible to students at different points in their mathematical development.
Presenters: Susan Pittman, Bonnie Goonan
- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRACK**
Writing — Basics
— Del Mar
This session will focus on providing strategies to help their students move from summarization to analysis and evaluation. Many students come back to their teachers after taking the GED RLA test and bemoan the fact they didn't earn any points on the extended response – even though they "know" they wrote an excellent response. However, what in effect they have often done is to summarize the source text. Participants will receive resources and activities for their classrooms.
Presenter: Anthanesia Jackson
- **CORRECTIONS TRACK**
Addressing the Unique Needs of Instruction in Corrections
— La Jolla
Working in corrections can be challenging. Between the needs of learners and the varying requirements of different facilities, educators face real challenges in providing instruction. This presentation will provide educators with tips on modifying instruction while still addressing learners' content needs.
Presenter: Jean Perrini

THURSDAY , JULY 26 (con't)

Conference Day 1

► 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. **BREAKOUTS (con't)**

○ **ALL AUDIENCES**

Practice Makes Passers!

— Coronado

This session offers an overview of new tools that can impact test-taker outcomes and enhance GED preparation. We'll explore a few tools like GED Flash and GED Live and discuss how and where they can be used most effectively to enable more students to pass the test.

Presenter: CTurner

○ **ALL AUDIENCES**

Accommodations Update

— Plaza ABC

The accommodations landscape continues to change. In this session, participants will be empowered to help their students and programs with the accommodations process. We will discuss why some requests are not approved because of test security issues and alternatives that are available to test takers. We will cover lower cost testing clinics and agencies that can assist with funding to secure the necessary documentation for an accommodations request. We will review the RARS system, the new web scheduling for some accommodations types and look at accommodations approval rates for 2017 and 2018.

Presenter: Debbie Bergtholdt

○ **ALL AUDIENCES**

Administering the GED Program - Learn from the Experts (You!)

— Sierra AB

This session will begin with a short presentation on “what’s new” in GED program administration from the GED Operations team. The bulk of the time will be spent on short discussions from a rotating panel of GED State Administrators. The topics will be proposed by the group of Administrators present. Learn about the best practices others have put in place, hear about the challenges different states face and share your own hard-won wisdom.

Presenter: Ann Kernan-Roll

► 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **GED® AWARDS LUNCHEON**

— California Ballroom



Luiz,
GED® graduate

THURSDAY , JULY 26 (con't)

Conference Day 1

► 1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

BREAKOUTS (con't)

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRACK**

Score Report Insights to Drive Instruction, Part 1: Focus on RLA and Social Studies

— Santa Fe

This workshop will change your way of looking at and using score reports. They can offer much more than provide students with their test scores. Get “behind” the information on the score reports in order to better provide support to your students in RLA and Social Studies.

Presenter: Daphne Atkinson

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRACK**

From the Headlines - Science – 5Es, Part 1

— La Jolla

The world of science informs our lives each day – just read the latest headlines. In this session, participants will look at recent headlines and learn how they can build lessons for the GED® classroom. This session will enable teachers to engage with students and develop their scientific inquiry skills. Helping students become scientifically literate adults is important – both for real-world experiences and for mastering the skills necessary for the GED® Science test.

Presenter: Andrew Strehlow

- **TRAIN THE TRAINER COHORTS 1 & 2 - By Invitation Only**

Writing – What We Know

— Harbor A/B

Participants will dig deeper into the skills teachers need to emphasize when helping their students write effective constructive responses. Trainers will learn the results of recent research that provides a greater level of visibility into what the performance issues are and what teachers can do to build student confidence in writing.

Presenters: Bonnie Goonen, Susan Pittman

THURSDAY, JULY 26 (con't)

Conference Day 1

► 1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

BREAKOUTS (con't)

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRACK**

Introduction to Higher-Order Algebra for Level 1 and Level 2 Students
— Del Mar

Higher-order algebra skills are not just for your students who are already at the College Ready level. Find out how to make these skills accessible to your aspiring HSE students. This course will focus on strategies and activities designed to actively engage students in understanding the main ideas of algebra with a special focus on those areas in which students have the greatest difficulty. This course will include numerous hands-on learning activities and provide resources in areas of specific concerns: functions and inequalities.

Presenter: Ron Cruz

- **CORRECTIONS TRACK**

Leveraging Technology to Improve Outcomes in Corrections
— Plaza ABC

Corrections institutions from California to Washington DC are leveraging online resources and other technologies to prepare learners for the GED test. Learn more about the challenges and successes with new technologies.

Presenters: Mellissa Hultstrand, Heath Stevenson

- **ALL AUDIENCES**

Behind the Badge: How Digital Credentials Unlock Career Opportunities
— Coronado

GED Testing Service has issued millions of digital credentials to students over the past several years, but badging technology is still a new concept to many of us. In this session, go behind the badge to learn what it is, why it's important and how GED® digital credentials unlock career opportunities for our students.

Presenter: Clarke Porter

- **ALL AUDIENCES**

Marketing Strategies to Grow Student Enrollment
— Sierra A/B

Learn how you can drive successful student campaigns using content, email, social media, website, paid advertising channels and more. Start by understanding your target audience and honing in on the key objectives of your marketing campaign.

Presenter: Eliza Wong

THURSDAY, JULY 26 (con't)

Conference Day 1

► 2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

BREAK

— Foyer

► 2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

BREAKOUTS

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRACK**

Score Report Insights to Drive Instruction, Part 2: Focus on Mathematical Reasoning and Science

— Santa Fe

This workshop will change your way of looking at and using score reports. They can offer much more than provide students with their test scores. Get “behind” the information on the score reports in order to better support your students in Mathematical Reasoning and Science.

Presenter: Daphne Atkinson

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRACK**

Social Studies – Enduring Issues

— La Jolla

Many students lack a basic understanding of the enduring issues of U.S. history and government; thus, they struggle with social studies content. This session will focus on how teachers can help students build their content knowledge through key historic documents and increase students' scores on the social studies test.

Presenter: Debi Faucette

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRACK**

Inquiring Minds Want to Know: Go Behind the GED Test

— Del Mar

Learn about student performance on the GED Test and how it can impact your instructional practices. There is more to the test than meets the eye and more that you can do to help your students.

Presenters: Adora Beard, Scott Salesses

- **TRAIN THE TRAINER COHORT 3 - By Invitation Only**

— Harbor A/B

Putting ELA Skills to Work in Science and Social Studies

This session will focus on how to use reading and critical thinking skills on the science and social studies tests. The session will provide an overview of basic strategies that teachers can use to help students build content knowledge as well as reading skills.

Presenters: Bonnie Goonen, Susan Pittman

THURSDAY, JULY 26 (con't)

Conference Day 1

► 2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

BREAKOUTS (con't)

- **CORRECTIONS TRACK**

How to Handle the Special Circumstances That Test Administrators in Corrections Face

— Plaza ABC

Testing in corrections can present unique challenges. In this session, we will walk through the testing process and review best practices and different approaches. At each step in the process, we'll encourage the audience to share and compare their own approaches. We'll cover testing surveillance, test check-ins, lock-down, releasing inmates from GED Manager, when to test inmates, and more.

Presenters: Mellissa Hultstrand, Heath Stevenson

- **ALL AUDIENCES**

Ask GED: Tackling Your Top Test Administration Questions

— Coronado

Have a specific question? This is an open forum for asking any questions you might have about the GED Program. We have experts from Pearson VUE Testing, GED Operations, Adult Education programming and the state relationship team. We have a list of "Ask me about" topics to get started and then we'll turn it over to you. You can move from table to table and ask questions of our experts.

Presenters: Pete Sprengeler, Ann Kernan-Roll, Thomas Ross, Brian Smith

- **ALL AUDIENCES**

The Power of User Experience and Behavioral Science in Moving More Students to Graduates

— Sierra A/B

GED Testing Service is moving toward a more student-centered approach, focusing on the distinct expectations, needs, beliefs, and aspirations of GED students. Learn more about how GED Testing Service is enhancing usability and incorporating nudges to help more people achieve their GED goals.

Presenter: Sarita Parikh

► 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

CALIFORNIA EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS MEET & GREET

— California Ballroom

Calling all educators and test administrators from the state of California. This is a chance to hear from your representatives from the California Department of Education and meet and network with other educators from your state.



Eduardo,
GED® graduate

FRIDAY JULY 27

Conference Day 2

- **7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.** **BREAKFAST**
— California Ballroom
- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** **PLENARY**
— California Ballroom
Success Beyond the GED: Connecting Students to Post-Secondary Education and Jobs
With a greater focus on outcomes, programs are enhancing their efforts to successfully transition students from passing the GED to college and careers. Gain insights and best practices from programs that have built strong connections with community colleges and employers, have developed innovative transition programs beyond the GED, and are helping students find post-secondary and workforce success.
Presenter: CT Turner
- **9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.** **TRANSITION TO BREAKOUTS**
- **9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** **BREAKOUTS**
- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRACK**
Writing – What We Know: Using Extended Response Scoring to Improve Student Performance
— Santa Fe
At GED Testing Service, we believe that practice makes perfect. The more teachers understand about scoring – e.g. what is being assessed – the better equipped instructors are to improve student performance. Get ready to take what we've learned from research, your scoring expertise, and your students' performance to the next level.
Presenters: Susan Pittman, Bonnie Goonen
 - **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRACK**
Introduction to Higher-Order Algebra for Level 1 and Level 2 Students
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Presenter: Ron Cruz

FRIDAY JULY 27 (con't)

Conference Day 2

► 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

BREAKOUTS (con't)

- **CORRECTIONS TRACK**

Addressing the Unique Needs of Instruction in Corrections

— La Jolla

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Presenter: Jean Perrini

- **ALL AUDIENCES**

Finding Program Insights Through GED Analytics and Improving Program Outcomes Using Data

— Plaza ABC

Learn how to use data from GED Analytics to identify trends and pinpoint challenges, all with the goal of improving program outcomes. This session is for anyone who has access to GED Analytics.

Presenters: Sarita Parikh, Scott Salesses

- **ALL AUDIENCES**

The GED Test After 5 Years: What's on the Horizon?

— Sierra A/B

This session will take stock of the GED test edition that has now been in operation for almost 5 years. Although the test itself isn't changing, there will be some format modifications and improvements on the horizon for 2019. In addition, the score report is poised for enhancements to improve usability for students and teachers. Finally, the session will review updated research results.

Presenters: Ann Evers

- **ALL AUDIENCES**

Mastering GEDPrep Connect™ and Other Educator Resources

— Coronado

Find out how programs are managing their 'interested students' from GEDPrep Connect and using new tools, including free Study Guides, to get and keep students engaged.

Presenters: Brian Smith

FRIDAY JULY 27 (con't)

Conference Day 2

► **10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

BREAK

— Foyer

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

BREAKOUTS

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Presenter: Andrew Strehlow

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRACK**

Math Grab Bag

— Santa Fe

No matter how hard teachers work to help their students, many still struggle with key concepts in math. From number lines to multiple formats for displaying data, from the myths and realities of the order of operations to the problem with zero, this session will focus on tips and resources designed to help students conquer these math challenges.

Presenter: Debi Faucette

- **TRAIN THE TRAINER COHORTS 1, 2 & 3 - By Invitation Only**

Joint Session

— Harbor A/B

The final session in Train the Trainer will focus on training logistics, available support from GED Testing Service and PD team members, as well as the use of communication tool Edmodo. In addition, participants will receive a brief overview of the accommodations process which they can disseminate in their workshops.

Presenters: Bonnie Goonen, Susan Pittman, Daphne Atkinson

FRIDAY JULY 27 (con't)

Conference Day 2

► 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **BREAKOUTS (con't)**

○ **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRACK**

Writing – Basics

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○ **ALL AUDIENCES**

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2018 GED® Testing Service Annual Conference CONFERENCE HOTEL MAPS

