

Washtenaw Literacy presents
Power Tutoring
Professional Development
for Adult Literacy Tutors

Please join us for a series of free literacy workshops. We'll present powerful strategies to help tutors and adult learners work together more effectively.

**Saturday, February 23,
2019**

8:30 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Washtenaw Community
College
Ann Arbor, Michigan

**Powerful strategies to help
tutors and learners work
together more effectively**

SCHEDULE

8:30-9 A.M.	Welcome & Registration
9:00-9:35	Connecting the Dots
9:45-11:00	Session One
11:00-11:15	Break
11:15-12:30	Session Two
12:30-1:00	Lunch*
1:00-2:15	Session Three

* For lunch, please bring your own or \$5.00 for pizza. There will **not** be refrigerator space available

Workshops will:

- Provide tutors more tools for their lessons
- Offer fun and creative ways to spice up tutoring sessions
- Give additional training and hands-on demonstration
- Demonstrate research-based approaches for working with adult learners
- Answer questions and solve problems
- Share ideas and best practices in adult education
- Allow tutors to come together and celebrate literacy!

**OPENING SESSION:
CONNECTING THE DOTS**

We'll share free online resources that will help you find the overlap between your learner's goals and the skills you work on in your sessions. Tutors will explore tips and tricks for turning a discussion about strengths and weaknesses into a system for tracking progress.

Interactive Sessions

Each workshop will contain both a demonstration of the material and time for hands-on training, so you'll leave with a collection of lesson plans, useful tools, resources, and practical strategies.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (9:45 A.M.–2:15 P.M.)

PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR TOP FOUR TOPICS

CREATING A POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

An element critical to the success of tutoring is the learning environment itself. In this session with mentors **Jim Manney** and **Jim Stillwell**, you will learn and practice two skills; making high-quality connections and empathetic listening, which are fundamental to developing and sustaining a positive learning environment. In this highly interactive workshop, you learn practical skills that you can apply immediately to the important work you are doing with your learner.

DEVELOPING YOUR LANGUAGE SELF- AWARENESS

Have you ever been met with blank stares or awkward silence when working with ESL learners? One of the hardest things to do as a native speaker is to calibrate your use of English so that it's truly comprehensible to learners. Join mentor **Grace Pang** to develop our awareness of English and our mindfulness in using it. We'll dig into English itself to defamiliarize the familiar, learn how to monitor our speech, and engage in practices that enhance communication and support language learning.

DISCOVER MEL E-RESOURCES FOR LITERACY

The Michigan eLibrary provides free, high-quality, online resources to all residents of Michigan. Learn how to use them in lessons on citizenship, math, reading strategies, test prep, for finding content at different reading levels, and more, in a hands-on workshop with mentor **Sara Memmott**.

DETERMINING BEST PRACTICES IN ESL OPEN TUTORING

This workshop will identify and compile best practices for leading an ESL Open Tutoring session. It's intended for tutors who have some experience already in leading ESL sessions. The price of admission is to bring one idea/prop/handout that you have tried and that worked really well. Program Coordinator **David Christensen** and mentor **Harry Marsden** share and identify some underlying principles for what works and why.

MAKING WORKFORCE & COMPUTER LITERACY EASY

Helping learners create their resumes and cover letters and explore appropriate job opportunities online can be daunting. This workshop is intended for tutors who desire more confidence in formatting documents and using internet accounts with learners. VISTAs **Jennifer Musser** and **Kurtis Edwards** offer simple templates and instructional guides to use with learners.

READING COMPREHENSION FOR MATH

Word Problems present a particular challenge for low-literate adults; even those with great math skills struggle to reach correct answers if they cannot understand the questions. This session will share strategies for comprehending problems commonly found in the GED and college admission tests. Mentor **Erin Howarth** will also discuss how to incorporate "real life math" into your lessons, building practical numeracy skills for all adults.

DEALING WITH THE UNEXPECTED

We all struggle at times to set and maintain good boundaries, balance lessons with learners' real-life needs, and avoid burnout. Led by Program Specialist **Karen Riggins**, tutors will share ideas for handling sensitive tutoring situations.

SO MUCH MORE THAN READING

It's easy to fall into the habit of "just reading" during lessons, which can slow learners' progress toward independence. In this session, mentor **Erin Howarth** will cover activities for vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency that can accompany any article, book, or story. We'll practice strategies to prepare beforehand as well as those easily done on-the-fly depending on your learners' needs.

STRATEGIES FOR MEANINGFUL FIELD TRIPS

Getting learners out of the tutoring environment and into the community can be invaluable if done right. VISTAs **Jennifer Musser** and **Kurtis Edwards** will provide strategies for making field trips practical learning experiences. Tutors will discuss actual case studies and walk away with specific ideas for their own learners.

TEACHING LEARNERS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Some learners do not respond to traditional methods of teaching reading. Join Program Coordinator **Shannon Koenen** to learn techniques and strategies specifically designed to support readers with significant reading disabilities.

To ensure you get your desired sessions, please register online by February 9 ([click here](#))