Dear MCAEL Network:

Thank you for choosing to be with us today for the MCAEL Professional Development Conference, “Connecting the Community Through English Language Instruction.” MCAEL is dedicated to providing ongoing professional development that is accessible and of high quality to the over 750 adult ESOL instructors in Montgomery County.

To provide quality classes for the tens of thousands of our neighbors who want to learn English requires a coordinated effort. MCAEL strengthens the community by advancing a coalition of organizations -and their talented instructors – dedicated to enabling all Montgomery County residents to achieve their full potential by improving their English language skills.

Events like today’s conference help strengthen and expand our network of instructors, too. While we hope you reap the benefits of some top-notch professional development sessions offered today, it is also important for the coalition to build connections among instructors. I hope you connect with at least three new colleagues today to build our coordinated effort.

Lastly, we know that this is hard work – preparing for classes, teaching, collecting data on progress of your students – all of this is challenging. We've incorporated some time today to help you be the best teacher you can be. There is a great wellness session and we have arranged for a photographer to take head shots so that you can use them for things like LinkedIn.

As always, I appreciate your commitment to this work and I look forward to our continued work together. We know there is still much to be done. So, to borrow a phrase from our Dr. DeRionne Pollard, Montgomery College President – here's to you Literacy Warriors!!

Best regards,

Kathy Stevens
Executive Director, MCAEL

P.S. - Stay connected with MCAEL through our website, e-newsletters, Facebook and Twitter!

Share your photos and insights of the conference using these hashtags:
#MCAELConnects #MCAEL2020
KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Crystal Townsend, President and CEO of Healthcare Initiative Foundation

Townsend is the President & CEO of the Healthcare Initiative Foundation which supports organizations that offer solutions to improve the capacity, availability and the delivery of quality health and wellness services for Montgomery County residents. The Foundation has distributed over $84 million since inception particularly focused on the most vulnerable in our community. Townsend currently serves on the Leadership Montgomery Board, Montgomery Women, Montgomery Moving Forward Leadership Team, Children’s Opportunity Fund Leadership Team, Regional Primary Coalition Management Team, Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers Board, and the BlackRock Center for the Arts. Prior board service includes, Nonprofit Montgomery FIRM Advisory Committee, United Way of NCA, Suburban Hospital Community Benefit Advisory Board, County Executive Marc Elrich Transition Team, Committee for Montgomery Board, Friends of Wells Robertson House, Inc., BlackRock Center for the Arts Gala Committee, and Montgomery County Social Services Board.

Preceding her work with the Foundation, Townsend was the City of Gaithersburg’s Community Services Director overseeing and coordinating health and human services for City residents. Prior to her service with the city, she served as the Family Support Services Administrator for Family Services, Inc. managing early intervention and home visiting programs. Earlier in her career, she was the Healthy Families Frederick Program Manager, Legislative Director for the U.S. Overseas Cooperative Development Council, a Peace Corps Volunteer in Romania, and the Domestic Violence Shelter Manager for Heartly House. Townsend attained her Bachelor of Arts from Hood College in Law and Society and holds a Master of Public Administration from Rutgers University from the International Public Service and Development Program.
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>11:30 - 12:45</td>
<td>Check-In/Headshots &amp; Story Sharing</td>
<td>BE Lobby</td>
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<td>12:00 - 1:00</td>
<td>Lunch/Exhibitors/Networking</td>
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<td>Welcome/Opening Remarks</td>
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<td>Keynote Address – Crystal Townsend</td>
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<td>1:45 - 2:00</td>
<td>Transition to sessions</td>
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<td>2:00 – 2:45</td>
<td>Concurrent Session 1</td>
<td>BE 158, 160, 162, 163</td>
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<td>2:50 – 3:25</td>
<td>Wellness Break/Coffee &amp; Snacks</td>
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<td>Concurrent Session 2</td>
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<td>4:15 - 4:30</td>
<td>*Drawings/Closing Remarks</td>
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*Please Note*: Must be present onsite when name is called to win drawings

*Free/Open Wi-Fi Access*: Please use MCPA; no password required
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<td>4:15 – 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>DRAWINGS / CLOSING REMARKS</td>
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Student-talk: The Value for Your Students and Their Learning

Dr. Lauren M. Shea, American University

Room BE 158

Teachers typically dominate classroom discussions and talk the majority of instructional time. Research demonstrates giving students ample time to produce language through discussion affords learners deeper processing of content and literacy. Providing students frequent opportunities to speak and listen to each other allows them to negotiate meaning, become aware of multiple perspectives, and frame ideas before writing. We will review the research on the importance of student-talk and the impact of certain strategies. Participants will practice research-based strategies to improve productive student-talk and meaningful discussion.

Dr. Shea is an education professor at American University. Her research and practice centers on integrating literacy in content. Prior, she was an educator in a Dual Immersion school.

Immigration, Loss, and Trauma

Jose Delgado, EveryMind

Room BE 160

This presentation focuses on the impact that home and cultural loss have on the immigrant community and how these impacts affect the overall well-being of this population. Professionals will learn to recognize the unique cultural stressors and obstacles that create limitations to vulnerable immigrants. Additionally, professionals will learn how to better interact with these individuals in a more culturally sensitive way.

Jose Delgado emigrated from Nicaragua to the United States 11 years ago. Jose earned a Masters in Social Work degree from Florida State University and is a licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW). He has 5 years of professional experience working with immigrant and non-immigrant adults who have lived through loss and trauma. Jose is currently working as a bilingual therapist for youth and families (immigrant and non-immigrant).
Standards-Based Activities in Meaningful Contexts for Adult Literacy Learners

*Betsy Lindeman Wong, Northern Virginia Community College*

**Room BE 162**

In many adult education programs, students with limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFE) make up a significant part of beginner ESL classes. How can instructors address their needs in meaningful ways? See four integrated-skill activities that develop basic literacy, provide content knowledge, and align with the English Language Proficiency Standards.

*Betsy Lindeman Wong is a Program Coordinator at Northern Virginia Community College’s American Culture and Language Institute (ACLI). She has co-authored textbooks in the Future and Project Success series for Pearson Longman and has published digital curricular materials for Burlington English. She is the author of “Getting Started with Writing from the Beginning” in Preparing Adult English Learners to Write for College and the Workplace (University of Michigan Press, 2019).*

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Digital Literacy for Adult Learners

*Jamie Harris, MD Department of Labor*

**Room BE 163**

Digital literacy is essential for the 21st century adult learner. Historically, literacy has focused on print literacy. However, new technologies have required an additional set of literacy skills, digital literacy. Participants will define digital literacy and explore current practices, analyze The Digital Literacy Framework for Adult Learners, and apply the Framework in their professional context.

*Jamie Harris is an adult education professional for over 12 years, has worked in English for Speakers of Other Languages, English as a Foreign Language, Adult Basic Education and teacher trainer programs nationally and internationally. Jamie currently serves as the Second Vice President of Maryland TESOL and works as an Education Program Specialist at the Maryland Department of Labor with a specialty in technology integration. Mrs. Harris has a B.S. in Communication Studies and a M.Ed. in Adult Education, TESOL.*
CONCURRENT SESSION 2  
(3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.)

Addressing Fears, Debunking Myths and Teaching Resources for Completing the 2020 Census Count

Ana Dudamel, Identity & Anna DeNicolo, Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center

Room BE 158

The presentation will include results from an Identity, Inc. needs assessment conducted on 470 people from the Down-county and Up-county area that uncovers barriers people have to completing the Census. We will share Identity's outreach presentation that can be modified to individual or group level outreach, covering purpose, impact, myths about the Census and how to complete the Census. The Gilchrist Immigrant resource center will present and share instructional resources to educate adult learners about the Census.

Ana Dudamel is the Advocacy Program Manager at Identity Inc. She is a Venezuelan native who graduated from University of Maryland with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. She has been working at Identity for the past 10 years playing various roles, including managing the two Youth Opportunity Centers and academic/social emotional programs for middle school students.

Anna M. DeNicolo manages the Gilchrist Center’s English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program, which offers ESOL classes across the county. In addition, she manages the Center’s Wheaton location which offers several services for immigrants. Anna has more than twenty-five years in program management, adult learning and outreach, including curriculum design and delivery, facilitation and training.

From Deficit-Based to Assets-Based: The Multilingual Turn and Implications for Teaching Adult Emergent Bilinguals

Xavier Muñoz, Literacy Council of Northern Virginia

Room BE 160

The use of students’ own languages (L1s) in the classroom can be a useful scaffold, but is that all? By presenting key concepts of plurilingual pedagogy and of translanguaging, the presenter will invite practitioners to question how they view language and language learning for adults in the context of multilingualism. The presenter will also share everyday strategies that practitioners can apply to their own classrooms to encourage and build upon students' own languages to learn content and build their English language skills for college and career readiness.

Xavier has worked at the crossroads of adult education and TESOL since 2012 and is passionate about taking a critical stance towards language and power. He leads professional development efforts at the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia and holds a SIT TESOL Certificate and a MA in TESOL from SIT Graduate Institute.
English for Better Communication - Increasing Student Engagement in the Community or Professional Workplace.

*Jennifer Kagan & Frances Williams, English Now!*

**Room BE 162**

The goal of improving English language skills is to improve communication so that students can engage more fully in their communities or workplaces. Good communication requires students to both speak clearly and listen well. This workshop will provide specific examples of activities and assignments to help intermediate level students have more fulfilling interactions outside of class.

Jennifer Kagan is an English instructor at English Now! in Bethesda and FAES at National Institutes of Health. Since 2013, Jennifer has enjoyed working with adult students of all levels at English Now! where she is also Director of Program Development.

Frances Williams is an English instructor and Community Relations Manager at English Now! in Bethesda. She grew up in Scotland and then spent the next 35 years living and teaching in many countries around the world, as well in in Montgomery County schools.

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Time Management and the Adult Learner: Making Time to Learn

*Laura Irwin, Catholic Charities*

**Room BE 163**

Imagine this: it has been a full day of work, traffic in the area was very heavy, you arrive at home tired and hungry and, after a moment, you leave again to attend your ESOL Class. ESOL adult learners choose to balance their daily responsibilities and incorporate time to learn. Through this interactive presentation we will explore the characteristics of ESOL adult learners, their time management challenges and present strategies to encourage students and instructors to balance class requirements, personal commitments, and ways to achieve learning goals.

Laura Irwin is the ESOL Program Supervisor for Catholic Charities in Gaithersburg. She has over 25 years of experience as an educator, bilingual administrator and team leader. Laura holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master of Education from Frostburg State University.
A THANK YOU TO OUR EXHIBITORS & SPONSORS
A WORD from the MCAEL Conference Chairs:
Christine Neil & Halima Ahmed

Our deepest gratitude to everyone who has been part of making this conference possible. This day would have not been conceivable without their assistance, planning, and dedication. On behalf of the chairs and MCAEL staff, we wish to express our gratitude to:

Conference Planning Committee (MCAEL Advisory Group)
- Shannon Wilk (CASA de Maryland)
- Shari Waddy (Family Services Inc., Family Discovery Center, Part of the Sheppard Pratt Health System)
- Baneza Rivera (Family Services Inc., Thriving Germantown, Part of the Sheppard Pratt Health System)

Montgomery College
- Margaret Latimer, Vice President and Provost – Germantown Campus
- David Ma, Community Use Scheduler – Germantown Campus
- Emmett Cochetti, Catering Supervisor (Chartwells)
- Lorrie Lawrence, Public Safety Officer – Germantown Campus
- IT Support Services Staff – Germantown Campus
- Office of Facilities – Germantown Campus

Presenters
For sharing your wealth of knowledge and considerable expertise.

Exhibitors
Thank you for sharing your resources. You play an important role in the coalition!

Volunteers
We are grateful for your time and efforts. You were an important part of the day!

Photography
- David Asche Photography, LLC
- Stephanie Williams Images
- Nico Ortega Ward Film Production

Montgomery County Government
For being our primary funder for professional development and making it possible to offer the MCAEL Conference to so many instructors in the County.