MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I will be stepping down as AALL’s President shortly. I have so enjoyed working with a fantastic board of directors and membership!

I do have a kind of wish list for AALL I’d like to share.

1. I’m hoping that AALL can develop new ways to respond to membership needs and wants. We have a dynamic membership in a dynamic field. AALL has been looking for ways to better serve its members. Help us to help you.

2. Here’s hoping AALL continues to lead the way in student engagement. I believe we had more students at COABE this year than any other state! Way to go! Let us continue to lead by example by having students with us every step of the way, including on our very own Board of Directors!

3. I would love to see an expanded Board of Directors. I am hoping some of you will decide to run for office this time. You won’t regret serving.

Thank you all for a great year!

Diane Jackson
AALL President
25th Annual National Adult Education Honor Society Induction by Philip Suriano

Rio Salado’s College Bridge Pathways, Community Development, held its 25th National Adult Education Honor Society (NAEHS) induction at the Rio Salado Conference Center on February 21. The NAEHS is a recognition of students who have shown exceptional commitment to their educational goals, persistence in class, strong work ethic and a willingness to help their fellow students. Students recognized for this honor are both High School Equivalency students and students learning English as a second language. Each year the NAEHS Induction recognizes outstanding students who may come from many diverse backgrounds but all share one thing in common: a desire to continue their education and reach for their dream! For more information on starting Honor Society at your program for your own students, visit the National Adult Education Honor Society website at http://naehs.org/. I will also be happy to share information about our own program’s success with NEAHS if you have questions. Just email me at philip.suriano@riosalado.edu.

FRIENDLY HOUSE ELAA STUDENT PROJECT

Friendly House students participated in a project where they created a video about themselves during Arizona Adult Literacy Week. Students created a photo story with a recording speaking about their families. Each student found 3-4 pictures of their family and wrote a short description. We then recorded their stories and they put together a video. You can view their video project here: https://youtu.be/fv1eTk_135U.
“Relevant, realistic, meaningful content that makes sense to students.” These are the words that Jennifer Shaffer, Instructional Services Supervisor from Rio Salado College (RSC) in Surprise, Arizona, uses to describe BurlingtonEnglish.

From January to May of 2018, Ms. Shaffer embarked on an ambitious journey with her teachers and students. Ms. Shaffer was provided with the BurlingtonEnglish (BE) program as part of the Arizona statewide purchase. Once she took a closer look at BE, she realized that it was a full ESL curriculum designed for a blended learning classroom. As an innovative instructional leader, Ms. Shaffer recognized the value of a fully blended curriculum and knew she needed to try something unique with her staff. A meeting with the RSC College Bridge Pathways leadership team and Sylvia Gomez, BurlingtonEnglish Customer Manager, led to the approval of a pilot program in which BurlingtonEnglish would be used as the sole curriculum at RSC Surprise. The goal was to see if students would make significant learning gains in a technology-rich classroom without traditional textbooks. In the pilot, instructors were directed to only use BE content, without any supplemental materials. Sylvia Gomez provided training and professional development to help create the instructional framework needed to initiate this unique blended learning experience.

Implementation of the BE curriculum was deliberate and carefully designed for teachers and students to seamlessly transition to the new learning system. For this blended model, four different veteran instructors led six leveled classrooms, consisting of pre-literacy, intermediate, and advanced ELAA students. The RSC Surprise instructional team selected several specific content modules, and with help from Sylvia Gomez, designed pacing guides, lesson plans, and a reflective feedback platform for the teachers. During twice-weekly face-to-face instruction, teachers taught BE content using the In-Class Lessons, alternating with independent student practice to reinforce classroom instruction. Additionally, students were able to work on student lessons, explore career specific courses, and practice vocabulary on their own devices, including tablets, laptops, and mobile phones while away from school.

So, you may ask, what was the outcome of this unique blended learning experience? Ms. Shaffer couldn’t say enough about the positive effect this pilot had on everyone involved. With regard to her teachers, Ms. Shaffer observed that “Burlington helped instructors become confident in implementing a new curriculum, and building upon it so that students can actually obtain mastery at their level.” As the year progressed, it was evident that the new model was working for students, as well. “Student usage and learning gains increased dramatically, across the board,” she reported. In her observation “students have learned that independent work on the computer and classroom instruction is one. They have been able to really mesh the two together. Their hours increased because they felt successful ... It all made sense.”

The RSC Surprise instructional team looks forward to continuing success with the BurlingtonEnglish blended curriculum. The RSC College Bridge Pathways leadership team will meet to decide the next steps with regard to a wider implementation of the Burlington curriculum at other locations. The RSC Surprise team will serve as a model to other instructors and will share their knowledge, processes, and expertise in the implementation of the Burlington curriculum.
INSPIRATION, ACCOMPLISHMENT, SUCCESS
BY CHRISTINE CRUSE, FRIENDLY HOUSE INSTRUCTOR

Veronica was the student that exemplifies these three words for me. Her story as a child, teen and young adult was filled with challenges, but Veronica is a fighter. She was able to overcome all obstacles to reach her destination. She was a young mother, working part-time at her daughter’s school and regularly attending GED classes at Friendly House-Aeroterra branch.

Veronica quickly passed the 4 areas of: Civics, ELA, Science and Social Studies. She has always had a love for reading and was primarily self-taught. Her deterrent was mathematics. I was so happy to have her as a student, not only because of her vibrant, compassionate and kind personality, but also because I love mathematics. I knew this intelligent young lady could accomplish anything she desired. She was motivated and eager to learn.

We took it day by day, but she worked independently as well. She would text me pictures of her math problems on the weekend, and I would text her the steps back. She was truly determined, and she kept me enthused and driven to aid in her success. After 5 months of A LOT of mathematics, she was able to pass the Math test of the GED which completed her full GED. She called me immediately after receiving her scores, and I still get chills to this day when I think about it. We cried and laughed together for an hour. Veronica has since gone on to work as a member advocate for Aetna.

Veronica and her story will hold a special place in my heart forever. Her story is also part of my annual first day of school introduction. Our students are the reason we teach, and they touch our lives as much as we impact theirs.

“A teacher affects eternity. He can never tell where his influence stops.” - Henry Adams

AALL BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

If you are interested in serving Arizona’s adult education field, please consider becoming an Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning board member!

For more information, please email current AALL President Diane Jackson (djackson@qcusd.org) or incoming AALL President Laura Porfirio (lporfirio@pima.edu).
Over 130 adult educators and administrators participated in the Adult Education Teaching and Learning Regionals that were recently held in Phoenix and Tucson. The two-day training was comprised of two strands. The Adult Basic Education Strand (ABE) focused on unpacking the revised Adult Education Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics, and how to use the standards to guide instructional planning.

The adult education teachers in the English Language Acquisition Strand practiced applying evidence-based strategies to differentiate instruction for English Language Learners and explored career pathway resources available in Burlington English.

The teaching and learning regionals were planned and facilitated by ADE-AES staff: Beverly Wilson, Nicole Kelsheimer, Staci Snow, and Corina Avila; and state adult education trainers, Stephanie Reese (Rio Salado College), Mary Jo Chmielewski (Pima Adult Basic Education College and Career), Elizabeth Martin (Rio Salado College), Norma Sandoval-Shinn (Pima Adult Basic Education College and Career), Simin Broumand-Kia (Rio Salado College), and Jana Harper-Makaafi (Central AZ College).

Adult Educators at the 2019 Teaching and Learning Regionals on March 7-8 at Pima College – 29th Street Coalition Center in Tucson.
Rio Salado College partnered with the Maricopa County Public Library to celebrate Arizona’s Adult Literacy Week March 4th-March 9th, 2019. The county library sent representatives to all of Rio Salado’s six locations to share information about the library’s Winter Reading Program and other resources offered. During the visits, students were able to obtain library cards so they could immediately start enjoying library privileges which include extensive online resources.

Students at Rio Surprise, Rio Downtown, Rio Northern, Rio Southern, Rio Thomas, and Rio Avondale enjoyed the library visits. Aliza Dodell, Instructional Services Supervisor at Rio Southern, indicated that the event was a success. At RSC Southern alone, 63 ESL and GED students attended. The students loved the presentation and were fully engaged as shown by the numerous questions they presented to Andrea Castaneda, Manager of the Maricopa County Library District. The students have requested a follow up visit.

The library visits were very much appreciated. The information provided students with valuable access to resources free of charge and supported students’ efforts at increasing literacy. These pictures from one of the location visits were shared by RSC Downtown.