



5th Annual Gulf Coast Literacy Symposium

Schedule | July 24, 2020

MORNING

9:00 –9:15 AM	Welcome – Literacy Texas Leadership
9:15 – 10:00 AM	<p>Roundtable Discussion “Responding to COVID-19: State of Adult Education Organizations”</p> <p>Panelists: Jackie Aguilera, Melanie Fisk, and Alba Austin Moderator: Ernest Lewis III</p> <p><u>About Jackie Aguilera</u> Jackie Aguilera's passion for education comes from her family. Growing up with the value of learning gave her an advantage that she soon realized was not equitably accessible for all. Her first step to help others access the power of learning was becoming an English tutor for "at-risk" students. Her career in adult education and literacy now spans more than two decades. From tutor to teacher, university instructor, program coordinator, trainer, nonprofit CEO, and now Project Manager at MOAL, Jackie believes in using the power of literacy as the means to educational justice and equitable access to pathways of prosperity for all people from all walks of life.</p> <p><u>About Melanie Fisk</u> Melanie Fisk currently leads a stellar Adult Education team as the Senior Director of Adult Education at BakerRipley. Prior to her current tenure, Melanie served as the CEO of Literacy Advance of Houston and as the Vice President of Client Services at SEARCH Homeless Services. Melanie is an American Leadership Forum Senior Fellow and is a proud member of the University of Houston’s Graduate College of Social Work Dean’s Advisory Council. Anyone who knows Melanie, knows that she is a builder. A builder of people, teams, organizations, and communities. Melanie passionately believes that education is the foundation to a more equitable society, and she does everything possible to integrate this into her daily work.</p> <p><u>About Alba Austin</u> Alba is the Executive Director of the Permian Basin Adult Literacy Center and previously worked several positions at various nonprofits throughout the years. At a young age Alba's mother always said - Education, Knowledge, and Learning are things no one can take away from you. That really stuck with the young Alba and she has always been passionate about learning and continued education whatever form it takes - whether it is learning a new skill, new language, new leadership, or business skills. Alba believes If you continue to learn you continue to grow. An educated community is an informed community. She is passionate about the work and the difference nonprofit organizations make across the world.</p>

	<p>Description: This session is for individuals interested in learning how community-based, adult education organizations are surviving COVID-19. The panelists will share lessons learned and how to power through these challenging times.</p>
10:15 – 11:00 AM	<p>Multi-Level Instruction for Learner Success Part I</p> <p>Facilitator: Martin Loa</p> <p><u>About Martin Loa</u> Martin Loa is a trainer for Train PD (TCALL). He was Vice President of Program Services for Houston Center for Literacy, and the Mayor’s Commission on Adult Education in Houston where he supported the literacy organizations, engaged the community to join efforts in solving Houston’s low literacy problem, and connected adult learners to literacy providers. Martin was program manager for Harris County Department of Education Adult Education Division.</p> <p>Description: Using an innovative four-step method, this interactive training focuses on appropriate multi-sensory lesson planning strategies, group strategies, differentiated instruction, and integration of transitional career awareness. Classroom management techniques include brief interviews, goal setting, multi-sensory lesson planning and appropriate theory and strategies to use in teaching listening, speaking, reading, writing and math to a multi-level ESOL, ABE or ASE class.</p>
11:00 – 11:15 AM	Break
11:15 – 12:00 PM	<p>Multi-Level Instruction for Learner Success Part II</p> <p>Facilitator: Martin Loa</p> <p><u>About Martin Loa</u> Martin Loa is a trainer for Train PD (TCALL). He was Vice President of Program Services for Houston Center for Literacy, and the Mayor’s Commission on Adult Education in Houston where he supported the literacy organizations, engaged the community to join efforts in solving Houston’s low literacy problem, and connected adult learners to literacy providers. Martin was program manager for Harris County Department of Education Adult Education Division.</p> <p>Description: This is a continuation of Part I.</p>

AFTERNOON

12 – 1 pm	Lunch Break
1 – 1:45 pm	<p>Creating Culture of Respect in Diverse AEL Classrooms Part I</p> <p>Facilitator: Federico Salas-Isnardi</p> <p><u>About Federico Salas-Isnardi</u> Federico Salas-Isnardi is a linguist, adult educator, diversity trainer, writer, and storyteller who has worked in adult education for over 30 years. Federico has presented or facilitated hundreds of professional development workshops and seminars and is a regular speaker at professional conferences on topics such as cultural understanding, diversity and inclusion, equity and social justice, and culturally responsive teaching.</p>

	<p>In September 2019, he was appointed Director of the Mayor's Office for Adult Literacy (MOAL) in Houston. He works with all literacy providers in the city. He serves on the advisory board of TexShare for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.</p> <p>Description: One of the cornerstones of a successful community is respect for the diversity of members. Diversity is not just about race and ethnicity nor gender or gender expression, religion, sexual orientation, or national origin. Thus, we need to build a community that also respects varied opinions, values, behaviors, and world views.</p> <p>We need to challenge ourselves to question and deconstruct the concepts of diversity and respect. In our reality, diversity is a given, but equity and inclusion are ignored and too often systemically attacked. We cannot hope to address issues of systemic racism, discrimination, inequity, and injustice until we understand three things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What the concepts mean and how they become reality 2. Our role in them and how our identity, values, and biases influence our position 3. How we can be effective in creating contexts that are safe[r] for People of Color and other minorities <p>Participants will start working in small groups to define culture and the concepts of intrinsic and extrinsic culture. Participants will identify aspects of their identity and how they relate to positional privilege. Finally, participants will define the building blocks of a culture of respect. During this activity, participants will unpack the concepts of equity and inclusion.</p>
1:45 – 2:00 pm	Break
2:00 – 2:45 pm	<p>Creating Culture of Respect in Diverse AEL Classrooms Part II</p> <p>Facilitator: Federico Salas-Isnardi</p> <p><u>About Federico Salas-Isnardi</u> Federico Salas-Isnardi is a linguist, adult educator, diversity trainer, writer, and storyteller who has worked in adult education for over 30 years. Federico has presented or facilitated hundreds of professional development workshops and seminars and is a regular speaker at professional conferences on topics such as cultural understanding, diversity and inclusion, equity and social justice, and culturally responsive teaching.</p> <p>In September 2019, he was appointed Director of the Mayor's Office for Adult Literacy (MOAL) in Houston. He works with all literacy providers in the city. He serves on the advisory board of TexShare for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.</p> <p>Description: This is a continuation of Part I.</p>
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Break

3:00 – 3:45 pm	<p>Burlington English CORE (Digital Literacy)</p> <p>Facilitator: Ana Aparicio Jovel</p> <p><u>About Ana Aparicio Jovel</u></p> <p>Ana Maria started as a part-time ESL coordinator with Memorial Assistance Ministries eight years ago. Her passion for serving others and her understanding as an immigrant of what it is like to be an ESL student <i>and</i> teacher, gave her the drive necessary to establish herself as a full time ESL educator and Citizenship Class Coordinator. She managed volunteer teachers and several satellite locations for three years before obtaining a different position at another not for profit organization. While working as an Information and Referral Specialist, with The Lighthouse of Houston for The Blind, she had the opportunity of improving her ability to serve others by collaborating with individual and social advocacy for the blind and visually impaired in her community. Not being able to stay away from her original calling for too long, she is currently part of The Burlington English team where she feels right at home providing customer support to ESL teachers and students. Ana holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish and a Minor in Communications from the University of Houston- Downtown and obtained her TESOL/ESL certification in 2014 from Oxford Seminars.</p> <p>Description: Burlington English is excited to introduce Burlington Core - a comprehensive, standards-based, blended-learning curriculum. Discover how Burlington Core enables teachers to seamlessly integrate technology into the classroom with robust web-based lessons, detailed lesson plans, and extensive instructional resources. Burlington Core will help transform your traditional classroom into an interactive, technology-rich learning community where teachers focus on teaching, and students are motivated to develop language proficiency, master digital literacy skills, and achieve academic and career success.</p>
3:45 pm	Wrap-up and Acknowledgements

SYMPOSIUM CONCLUDES