



Wisconsin Literacy's Fall Conference



Agenda

9:00-9:50 | The Fastest Path to Results

Presenter: Jake Gorges, Wisconsin Literacy

Use data in your adult education programs to make smarter instructional decisions and create stronger learner gains. Using NRS Levels 2 and 3 as a practical example, this session will show how accurate placement, gap analysis, targeted instruction, and reassessment can help instructors focus on the skills that matter most. Participants will leave with a simple framework for turning assessment results into clear next steps and moving learners forward with greater purpose and impact.

10:00-10:50 | Community Health Workers: A Vital Link in Health Literacy-Connecting Adult Learners to Health Information, Resources, and Community Support

Presenter: Shannon Mason Young, Wisconsin Literacy

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are trusted partners who help individuals and families understand health information, navigate healthcare systems, and access essential services. This presentation explores how CHWs improve health literacy by addressing language, literacy, cultural, and digital barriers that affect health outcomes. Participants will learn how CHWs support English language learners, adults with limited literacy skills, and individuals with limited digital skills through clear communication, culturally responsive education, and personalized guidance.

The session will highlight practical strategies for improving health communication, increasing patient engagement, and building confidence in using digital health tools such as patient portals and telehealth. Attendees will also explore opportunities for collaboration between healthcare providers, adult education programs, literacy organizations, and community agencies to strengthen health literacy efforts and promote equitable access to care.

11:00-11:50 | Can't Find It? Build It!

Presenters: Anna Bierer and Robyn Hallet, Wisconsin Literacy

Ask AI to create lessons learners need. Instead of spending 30 minutes searching online for the perfect dialog or worksheet, build your own activity around the exact situation the learner needs. Create reusable prompts and templates that can be quickly adapted for different scenarios, skill levels, and learning goals. Then take it one step further by giving learners tools they can personalize themselves—using AI to practice the conversations, situations, and skills that matter most in their lives.



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1:00-1:50 | Practicing Language with Poetry

Presenter: Rob Podlasek, Literacy Minnesota

Do you have a student who's a poet but doesn't really know it? Come explore the pros and cons (mostly pros!) of using poetry in your tutoring/teaching. We will look at (and try) a variety of poetry structures including acrostic poems, sentence stems, list poems, cinquains, diamond poems and free poetry. Examples of real student poetry will also be shared!

2:00-2:50 | Know Your Why

Presenter: Mercedes Butts, Joyce's Legacy Learning Center

Why are we doing what we do?

Most of us didn't choose adult education because it was easy. We chose it because we believe in people. We believe in second chances. We believe education can change the direction of someone's life.

When learners first walk through our doors, they're usually motivated. They're excited. They're ready for a fresh start. But then life happens. Work happens. Children happen. Bills happen. Setbacks happen. That's why I believe motivation isn't enough.

My passion is for me, but my purpose is for others. The same is true for our learners. If we only help them stay motivated, they'll struggle when motivation fades. But if we help them discover their why, they'll have something deeper to return to when the journey gets difficult.

In this interactive session, I'll share how Joyce's Legacy Learning Center helps adult learners identify, revisit, and stay connected to their "why" throughout their educational journey. Participants will leave with practical coaching conversations, reflection activities, and simple tools they can immediately use to help learners build resilience, strengthen persistence, and remember that earning a GED isn't just about a diploma. It's about finishing the story they started and creating a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

3:00-3:50 | TBD



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Register Today!

Wisconsin Literacy's
Fall Conference

Thursday, November 12th

9:00am - 4:00pm

Online via Zoom