



Helping ELLs Engage with and Navigate their New Communities

Agenda

Introduction

Panel

- Civics Field Trips, Kenosha Literacy Council
- Enrichment Outings & Guest Speakers, International Institute of Wisconsin
- Adult Education Navigators, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
- Community Resources, SS Michael & Rose Literacy Program

Questions for the Panel

Next steps





Purpose

- ✓ Explore replicable practices in engaging ELL learners in their communities
- ✓ Create opportunities for mentorship and partnership to develop community engagement across the state





Panelists

Cassie Christianson, Program Coordinator, Kenosha Literacy Council

Alek Georgeson, ELL Program Coordinator, International Institute of Wisconsin

Shelley Karnz, Adult Education Navigator, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

Deborah Lindberg, ESL Program Coordinator, SS Michael and Rose Literacy Program





Civics Field Trips

Cassie Christianson, Program Coordinator Kenosha Literacy Council





Community Literacy

Ability to:

- engage in the community,
- access every day services, and
- participate in community activities.

More likely to:

- become leaders within their family and the community,
- acquire life skills that relate directly to their needs as community members, and
- help the community as a whole grow stronger.





Experiential Learning

Actively engages students

- ✓ learn by doing
- ✓ reflect on the experience

Experiential learning:

- makes learning relatable
- increases the effectiveness of learning
- links theory to practice
- assists in memory retention
- increases students' engagement.





KLC's ELL Civics Class

Experiential learning methods explore topics like:

- public schoolssafety
- health
- finance

- housing
- government

Students improve their English while also learning about the community

- hands-on activities
- field trips
- guest speakers





KLC's ELL Civics Class

Health Literacy:

- research to create a medical services guide
- learn about blood pressure and cholesterol from a registered nurse
- practice exercise led by fitness expert
- learn about healthy eating from a nutritionist
- tour a local pharmacy

They are learning much more than how to read; they are learning to become leaders in their families and in our community!





Planning

- 1. Choose location based on curriculum and student needs.
- 2. Contact location to schedule tour (if necessary)
- 3. Plan for transportation. (carpool or walk as a group?)
- 4. Prepare students ahead of time
 - a) introduce related vocabulary and concepts
 - b) brainstorm questions to ask on the tour
- 5. Create an activity for students to complete while on location or following the trip

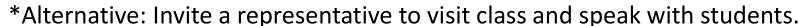




Common Council/County Board Meeting

Students learning about government/civics/citizenship

- see government in action at the local level.
- visit the city hall or municipal building where meetings are held.
- experience a meeting and learn the proper etiquette, procedures, etc.
- can speak during the public comments portion of the meeting.



















Police Station

Tour the police station

- meet police officers
- learn about police services
- practice communicating with police

*Alternative: Invite a police officer to visit class









Fire Station

Tour the fire station

- meet firefighters
- learn about firefighter & EMT services
- practice communicating emergencies
- learn about and get smoke detectors

*Alternative: Invite firefighters to visit class with a fire truck or ambulance.













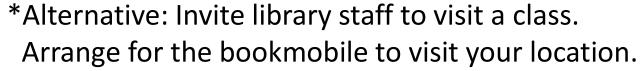




Public Library

Tour a local library

- learn about services & programs
- apply for library cards
- check out materials













Pharmacy

Tour a local pharmacy

- learn about over-the-counter drugs
- compare medicines
- practice communicating at the pharmacy

*Alternative: Invite a healthcare professional

to visit the class.











The Bank

Tour a local bank

- learn about bank services
- practice communicating with the bank staff
- *Alternative: Invite a banking professional to visit the class or explore an online banking site.















Other Ideas

- Gym
- Grocery Store
- Hardware Store
- University
- Public School

Hospital





Enrichment Outings

Alek Georgeson, ELL Program Coordinator International Institute of Wisconsin







Why undertake community outings?

Newcomes face many mental health issues

Social determinants include:

- Income
- Employment
- Housing
- Language barriers





Why undertake community outings?

Personal enrichment

"...intended to better individuals emotionally, physically, or culturally"

Moving the learning space out of the traditional classroom can change things up and provide a memorable learning experience for students.





Why undertake community outings?

Community/cultural orientation

 Uncover low-cost or free public spaces and resources available to community members

Community-building/camaraderie

- Women/children are often underrepresented in our literacy programs
- Language learning





What outings we've undertaken

Milwaukee Central Library

- ELL department, conversation hours, etc...
- Educational tour, help learners sign up for library cards, and connect them additional resources (laptops & hotspots for lease)

Milwaukee Public Museum

- Free days
- Fantastic outing for children
- Something for everybody, movies, rotating exhibits

Gardens

- Look for free days at a local botanical garden
- Excellent outing for women, children, and families
- Coordinated several Uber rides to deliver families





How to get started?

- ✓ Ask your colleagues!
- ✓ Reach out to any contacts your workplace may already have
- ✓ Find or create a list of free days in your community
- ✓ Arrange transportation
 - If your community has public transportation, use as a learning opportunity
 - Rideshare/sign-up sheet and coordination
 - Uber/Lyft for business





Guest speakers

Invite speakers from:

- Other departments in your organization
- Colleges and universities
- Health departments





Guest speakers

Planning considerations:

- How many attendees?
- What languages for interpretation?
 - Volunteer interpreters (gain experience)
 - Live translation
- Donations





Transitions to higher learning

What to know:

- ✓ English testing center contact
- ✓ Best campus (location, programs)
- ✓ Semester schedules (avoid learning disruptions)
- ✓ Fee waivers

What to do:

- ✓ Visit campus
- ✓ Contact advisor
 - multilingual/international specific
- ✓ Set up placement tests
- ✓ Research fee waivers
- ✓ Create account/apply for courses

*Only provide guidance as needed. Goal is for students to build skills to advocate for themselves.





Adult Education Navigators

Shelley Karnz, Adult Education Navigator Northeast Wisconsin Technical College





Adult Education Navigators

Responsibilities

- Recruit for ELL, GED®/HSED, and Career Pathways Bridge programs
- Case manage provide support and connect with resources
- Assist with transition to college/career





What Do We Do

Recruitment

- English Language Learner classes
- GED®/HSED program
- Career Pathways Bridge programs

How?

- Collaboration with CBO's
- Employer visits and open houses
- Classroom presentations



What Do We Do

Case Management

- Provide Support
- Connect with resources
- Student reach-outs

How?

- Collaboration with CBO's
- Collaboration with other departments on campus
- Call/Text/Email
 - When a student completes a class
 - When a student is referred by instructor
 - When a student stops attending class



What Do We Do

Transition Specialist

- Discuss student goals
- Make referrals
- Help with college application
- Assist with next steps
- Warm hand-off

How?

- Classroom presentations
- Collaboration with other departments on campus
- 1x1 coaching meetings with students



Successes!!!

In Academic Year 2023-2024, Adult Education Navigators

- Coached 114 English Language Learners and 134 GED®/HSED students in 1 on 1 meetings
- Held 15 classroom advising sessions
- Recruited 57 adult learners into Career Pathways Bridge programs
- Helped 76 English Language Learners and 94 GED®/HSED students transition to post-secondary programs



Community Resources

Deborah Lindberg, ESL Program Coordinator Saint Michael and Saint Rose Literacy Program





Community Resources

Research:

- What information do students need (picture ID, date of birth for each family member)?
- What is the process, guidelines, and limitations (how many items can they receive and how frequently)?
- What are their hours of operation? How can the students connect if they can't go during hours of operation?









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Community Resources

What we like about this partnership

They:

- Present information with interpreters
- Make medical appointments for the students
- Can accompany students to the appointments





Milwaukee Consortium for Hmong Health https://mkehmonghealth.org/





Community Resources

Encouraging participation in resource fairs

- Recommend the students attend in a group
- Attend with their teacher/tutor



5th Annual Refugee and Immigrant Family Resource Fair at Milwaukee H.S. of the Arts





Questions for the Panel





Next Steps

- Monday, September 161:00-2:00 pm
- Meet as small groups with the August 12 panelists
- Create action plans to implement community engagement activities
- Register: https://wisconsinliteracy-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlcOmgqjwoH9ll-0cklRX_GbGh50YHBit4Y







Sources

- 1. Hynie M. The Social Determinants of Refugee Mental Health in the Post-Migration Context: A Critical Review. The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry. 2018;63(5):297-303. doi:10.1177/0706743717746666 https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0706743717746666
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