

2015 VOLUNTEER TUTOR CONFERENCE

9:00-10:15 Workshop Session 1

A. Bridging the Skills Gap with Multi-level, Mixed-ability Groups:

Tutors are often faced with groups of individual learners whose language proficiency in one skill may be strikingly stronger or weaker than their other skills. To meet the needs of everyone in the group and utilize curricular materials appropriately, the instructor must be flexible enough to create a variety of opportunities for individualized learning while maintaining the whole-class dynamic that is the hallmark of classroom learning. This workshop will present several tips that address ways of overcoming the fundamental classroom management issues and lesson planning challenges that come up in mixed-level and mixed-ability groups. This workshop is for all ESOL levels. *Delpha Turley is an English language instructor, teacher trainer, and materials developer. She's been actively involved in ELT since 2005, and has taught in Istanbul, Turkey and in the U.S. Her interests include task-based learning, discourse analysis, and the process of professional development.*

B. Making Grammar Fun: This workshop will focus on integrating fun activities into your grammar instruction. Many of the ideas presented can be adapted for a variety of tenses and grammar points, from Beginning to Advanced ESOL levels. *Jill Kantor was a middle school teacher for Portland Public Schools, wrote theater reviews for the Oregonian, worked as a volunteer literacy tutor coordinator for ten years and has taught ESOL at PCC Cascade Campus for the last seven years.*

C. Health Literacy - Practicing Language While Improving Health: As tutors, we often think that if we can improve learners' English fast enough, they will be able to navigate complex systems like our health system. This approach takes too long for the urgency, complexity, and highly individualized health needs our learners and their families have. In response, some teachers have been integrating "health literacy" with language skills development. This workshop (for all ESOL levels) will explore several ways to approach language literacy and health literacy in very practical ways – from using real world health materials, to bringing providers into the classroom, to emphasizing nutrition and movement while learning – up to and including accompanying learners to a clinic or pharmacy and practicing language there. *Patrik McDade is the founder and program director for People-Places-Things, providing Intercultural Communication services for the emerging America that embraces and promotes its multi-ethnic identity. He received a Teaching English as a Second Language certificate from PSU in 1996 and has taught in several countries and estimates more than 1000 English classes in more than 300 locations, from public schools to universities to basements and living rooms. He has worked with immigrant and refugee communities since 1996 and is determined to build transformative community through language and culture sharing.*

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D. Creative Ways to Help Your Students Remember New Vocabulary Words:

Tutors and teachers can get very frustrated when their students fail to remember new vocabulary or are unable to use it in real life. This workshop (for all ESOL levels) will examine this phenomenon and explore ways to help students retain their new vocabulary so that it can be used outside of the classroom. *John Runcie began teaching ESOL in 2004 as a tutor at Concordia University, so he is very appreciative of the key role that tutors have in education. Since 2005, John has taught at Clark College, English Language Institute, Columbia School of English, PCC, and at Multnomah University. He is currently the director of the Community ESL program at Multnomah University and also is teaching two classes at PCC SE campus. His greatest passion in the field of ESL is helping students improve their pronunciation.*

E. From Paragraphs to Essays – Keep Your Students Writing: This workshop will explore resources for tutors to share and exercises to implement to help students transition from short answers to complete paragraphs and essays. For ABE and Advanced ESOL students. *Before she took the plunge into teaching six years ago, Jennifer Rudin worked as a journalist, an editor, and a language recruiter. She has worked for PCC off and on for five years as a VLT Coordinator, as a volunteer, and now as an ESOL instructor. She has also taught at PSU, IELP, and internationally in Indonesia.*

10:30-11:45 Workshop Session 2

F. Hands-on Writing: Writing is a difficult task even for native speakers. Come try out a variety of writing activities designed to help learners get creative and find their voice in English. These activities are geared for low- to mid-level ESOL learners and can be used for individual or group settings. *Sarah Bauer has been in the ELT field for 25 years, much of that time abroad in Germany and Ecuador. She is currently an ESOL instructor at PCC SE and adjunct faculty at Concordia University for the Masters in TESL program.*

G. Songs, Chants, and Internet Memes: Making Grammar Stick: Isn't it annoying when you can't get that catchy song out of your head? Don't you wish that your explanation of the simple present tense was that hard for your students to forget? Learn activities with songs, chants, and memes with grammar so catchy, your students will be singing it for days. For all ESOL levels. *Elizabeth Cole is an ESOL instructor at PCC, with a Master's in TESOL and more than eight years experience teaching ESOL nationally and abroad. Much of her experience is with low-level learners and learners with literacy needs. She is interested in understanding the constantly evolving literacy needs of English Language Learners in our high-tech and global society.*

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H. What's New at the Library for Tutors and Learners: This session will provide an overview of library print and electronic resources for Tutors and Learners at all levels of ESOL, ABE, and GED. It will also include information about programs at the library for learners at a variety of levels. *Lisa Regimbal is the Adult Literacy Coordinator for Multnomah County Library. For most of her career at the library, she was a reference librarian in East County. She has also taught GED, volunteered in ESOL classrooms, and worked as a jail librarian. Her interest in adult literacy began when she was a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Ecuador.*

I. Pronunciation Techniques and Tools from a Speech Therapist: Learn techniques and tools for targeting specific pronunciation issues. Topics will include identifying the sounds of a student's home language, and understanding how stress, rhythm and intonation affect speech intelligibility. *Cece Dispenza is a Speech-Language Pathologist at Providence ElderPlace in Portland, and also teaches an ESOL Pronunciation Class at St. Anthony's.*

J. Culture Exchange: Students from around the world share some of their cultural heritage and practices. Join them for a discussion of the wondrous variety of ways that people express themselves in culture and language. A workshop for students and tutors. *Facilitated by Kay Talbot, a retired Volunteer Literacy Tutor Program Coordinator. Kay has a B.A. in Management of Human Resources and an M.S. in Education.*

1:45-3:00 Workshop Session 3

K. 101 Ways of Teaching Grammar That Make Your Learners Smile: This workshop will present simple, practical and adaptable grammar activities for Beginning Level ESOL students. The presentation will include preparations of easy to adapt and learner-centered teaching activities which can facilitate students' participation in 101 fun ways, thus motivating them to smile and love to learn English more. Components of this workshop may include creative ways of leveling learners/teachers expectations, introducing classroom instructions (TPR), and preparing "learner-centered" grammar lessons (e.g., Parts of Speech - namely nouns, verbs, adjectives, prepositions, etc.). *Bernie Bernardo is a native of the Philippines and himself a learner/speaker of English as a second language. He earned his MA TESOL at Multnomah University and is currently an ESOL instructor at PCC.*

L. Unlocking the Door - Teaching Reading to Non-Readers: Through an experiential exercise and exploration of approaches in teaching basic literacy, participants will gain insight into the multiple strategies and skills needed by learners to decode and extract meaning from a simple text. A model lesson for ESOL Literacy Students and/or ABE Low Level readers will be presented. *Kathleen Holloway*

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coordinates the Volunteer Literacy Tutoring Program at PCC SE Campus. She has taught ESOL for more than 25 years and has worked as a trainer in Washington and Oregon. She holds an M.A. in Teaching ESL from The School for International Training, Brattleboro, VT.

M. Tutor Discussion: Join experienced tutors to talk about the joys and frustrations of tutoring. Bring your questions and ideas to share with others. *Moderated by Kay Talbot, a retired Volunteer Literacy Tutor Program Coordinator. She has a B.A. in Management of Human Resources and an M.S. in Education.*

N. Pronunciation Techniques and Tools from a Speech Therapist: Learn techniques and tools for targeting specific pronunciation issues. Topics will include identifying the sounds of a student's home language, and understanding how stress, rhythm and intonation affect speech intelligibility. *Cece Dispenza is a Speech-Language Pathologist at Providence ElderPlace in Portland, and also teaches an ESOL Pronunciation Class at St. Anthony's.*

O. They Want Their GED Now! Facilitating Reading and Thinking Skills in ABE and ESOL Students: Changes in the GED as well as workforce demands, challenge students to have more background knowledge and apply critical thinking skills. For the student and tutor, this can be a daunting endeavor. Where do I start? What do I do? How do I engage my students? How do I make reading transparent? In this workshop, tutors will create a framework lesson addressing pre-reading, reading and post-reading strategies. Tutors will walk away with ideas and a lesson they can adapt. For Intermediate to Advanced ESOL and ABE students. *Gale Czerski hails from Cleveland, Ohio, where she began teaching adult students in the mid 1980's. She currently teaches diverse adult students in the ABE program at Portland Community College's SE Campus. Her students are her best teachers.*