

Equity, Culture and Teaching Workshops

September - December 2019

Thursday

September 19

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Teaching Multi-Level Adult ESL Classes

Multi-level groups in the ESL classroom offer their own rewards and challenges! In this workshop we will look at low prep differentiated instructional strategies that support the whole class, ones for students who are struggling, and ways to challenge higher level students. Then we will problem solve together to apply these strategies to specific scenarios. The skills learned in this workshop will increase engagement and accessibility for ESL learners at all levels.

Tuesday

September 24

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Tell Me about It: Conversation Circles and Partners

Ask many ESL learners what they'd like to work on and the majority of them will say, "conversation". To respond to this need, more and more programs are offering opportunities such as conversation circles or partners to help learners develop their skills. But there is more to teaching conversation than just speaking English. During this workshop you'll learn strategies, best practices, and fun and interactive activities and games to help ESL learners build fluency in English conversation. The strategies and activities learned in this workshop will prepare you to help learners become more active members in their communities. Participants who complete this workshop will receive a 3-hour certificate of completion from the Minnesota Literacy Council.

Thursday

September 26

9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Volunteering in the Adult ESL Classroom

All classroom assistants want to be as effective as possible. Whether you are a new or experienced classroom assistant, this workshop will help you develop your teaching skills so that you can better support the classroom teacher and learners. Gain practice leading common ESL classroom activities and understanding best practices, explaining vocabulary, leading a reading group, error correction, encouraging students to think and problem-solve, and working with ESL teachers. Participants who complete this workshop will receive a 3-hour certificate of completion from the Minnesota Literacy Council. If you have attended the 12-hour ESL Pre-Service Training, you do not need to attend this in-service.

Thursday

October 3

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Racial Equity 101

Join us for a presentation and conversation on racial equity. During this session, we'll discuss important terms, including racism, white supremacy, white privilege and white fragility. We'll also practice responding to instances of racism in various scenarios. You'll leave with resources to address and dismantle racism. This is a great session for those who are newer to conversations on race or those who would like to share their knowledge and experiences with others. All are welcome!

Tuesday

October 8

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Volunteering in the Adult ESL Classroom

All classroom assistants want to be as effective as possible. Whether you are a new or experienced classroom assistant, this workshop will help you develop your teaching skills so that you can better support the classroom teacher and learners. Gain practice leading common ESL classroom activities and understanding best practices, explaining vocabulary, leading a reading group, error correction, encouraging students to think and problem-solve, and working with ESL teachers. Participants who complete this workshop will receive a 3-hour certificate of completion from the Minnesota Literacy Council. If you have attended the 12-hour ESL Pre-Service Training, you do not need to attend this in-service.

Wednesday

October 16

9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Just the Two of Us: One on One Tutoring with Adult ESL Learners

One on one tutoring is fun and rewarding, but volunteer tutors can also face a lot of challenging questions, such as "Where do I begin?" "How do I incorporate speaking and listening?" "What errors should I correct?" and most importantly, "How do I keep both of us engaged?" During this workshop, you'll learn best practices for one on one tutoring, guidelines for lesson planning, and suggestions for interactive activities and games. You'll leave feeling better prepared to help ESL learners at any level improve their English skills through effective planning and preparation. Be prepared to engage in hands-on learning! Participants who complete this workshop will receive a 3-hour certificate of completion from the Minnesota Literacy Council.

Saturday October 26 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon	Fall Tutoring Kickoff 2019 Join over 100 other tutors and teachers to share experiences and pick up new ideas for tutoring. This free mini-conference will feature a variety of 50-minute sessions designed to give you practical ideas and activities. The sessions are appropriate for 1-1 tutors, classroom assistants and small group leaders. <i>**Held at Open Door Learning Center – Lake Street**</i>
Tuesday November 5 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	Racial Equity 101 Join us for a presentation and conversation on racial equity. During this session, we'll discuss important terms, including racism, white supremacy, white privilege and white fragility. We'll also practice responding to instances of racism in various scenarios. You'll leave with resources to address and dismantle racism. This is a great session for those who are newer to conversations on race or those who would like to share their knowledge and experiences with others. All are welcome!
Thursday November 14 6:00-8:00 p.m.	An Overview of Somali History, Culture and Language The Somali Museum of Minnesota will bring their expert knowledge of Somali history, culture and language to you at an upcoming event at the Minnesota Literacy Council. Please join us for a presentation and discussion with Adan Dirie, Director of Public Programs at The Somali Museum of Minnesota, to learn about the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial Somali history that has forced thousands of Somalis to seek refuge and resettlement in the United States and other parts of the world. Guests will get a chance to view artifacts from the museum showcasing Somali nomadic life, traditional homemaking, fashion and more. Attendees will also receive a basic Somali language lesson, leave with several useful phrases to use with neighbors, and learn why Somalia is known as "the land of the bards." The presentation will be followed by time for Q&A.
Wednesday November 20 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Why Don't They Try to Understand My English? Teachers of adult ESL learners often hear stories of learners trying out their new English skills in the community, and being ignored or rebuffed because of their accent. In this workshop, learn about the politics of accent in the United States. Participants will leave with ideas for how to help learners build their communication skills and confidence, as well as recommendations for how to interrupt accent bias and advocate for English language learners in their communities.
Thursday December 12 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	Integrating Pronunciation into Adult ESL Lessons English language learners are hungry for pronunciation instruction, but it is challenging for ESL teachers to find a teaching method that is effective without being too technical and confusing. As a result, teachers often leave it out altogether. During this workshop we will look at areas of pronunciation that will have the greatest impact on ESL learners' intelligibility. We will explore how to tackle pronunciation at any instructional level and how to integrate pronunciation instruction into existing content-based curriculum and lesson plans to increase communication effectiveness and help learners share their stories and communicate with new friends.

Workshop Locations:

All **two-hour workshops** will be held at the Minnesota Literacy Council main office:
 700 Raymond Avenue, Suite 180
 St. Paul, MN 55114

CEUs are available.

To Register:

Visit mnliteracy.org/training, or contact Kelly Rynda at krynda@mnliteracy.org or 651-251-9074.

This calendar is subject to change.