

American Institutes for Research Strand

COABE 2017 Conference

April 2–5, 2017 | Orlando, Florida

American Institutes for Research (AIR) is one of the world's largest behavioral and social science research and evaluation organizations. AIR **technical assistance sessions** include hands-on opportunities to explore professional development topics to enhance instruction and learning, including LINCS ESL Pro, OCTAE-approved teacher competencies, and preparing adult learners for career readiness and workforce success. AIR **research sessions** are related to the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) (see reverse page).

Tuesday, April 4

Blended Professional Development – Some Lessons Learned

In 2015-2016, the LINCS ESL Pro project provided training for teachers and programs serving English Language Learners in 10 states. Each state configured their professional learning a bit differently, but all used a blended model including one or more face-to-face sessions with online communities of practice, webinars, email and conference calls. These models allowed subject matter experts, who were mostly many states away, to provide a professional learning experience over an extended period of time. Attend this session to learn how an online community of practice can actually build community, how to deal with many levels of technology skills, and how to build deep foundational knowledge at the outset. Solutions can be applied to student learning.

Presenters: Marian Thacher (AIR), Susan Finn Miller (LINCS), Kathy Harris (Portland State University), and Heide Spruck Wrigley (Literacywork International)

April 4, 9:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m., Fiesta 5

LINCS ESL Pro Materials on Rigor, Digital Literacy and Career Pathways

LINCS now offers materials created by the ESL Pro project to improve adult ELL instruction in three areas: increasing the rigor of instruction, integrating digital literacy into English language instruction, and connecting adult ESL learners to career pathways. Materials include issue briefs, teacher-focused- instructional resources in a digital magazine format, and online learning modules on each of the topics. The roles of both teachers and administrators are addressed in each module. Preview the materials, hear how materials are being used, and consider how they might be used in your program or state.

Presenters: Marian Thacher (AIR), Jayme Adelson-Goldstein (Lighthearted Learning), Susan Finn Miller (LINCS), Kathy Harris (Portland State University), Heide Spruck Wrigley, (Literacywork International)

April 4, 11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Coronado E

Wednesday, April 5

Implementing Effective Teaching in Your Classroom Lead

A teacher's effectiveness plays a significant role in determining how successful students are. This interactive hands-on session will address the importance of teacher effectiveness by sharing the OCTAE-approved teacher competencies as one way of helping teachers better meet the needs of their adult students. Participants will use tools to learn how to apply the competencies in their instruction.

Presenter: Marcela Movit, AIR

April 5, 9:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m., Coronado S

The Employability Framework: Research to Practice

With a heightened emphasis in WIOA on preparing students to succeed in their academic and employment endeavors, the employability framework provides guidance to programs on how to ensure their students are career ready. This session will provide an overview of the research behind the employability framework and present tips on how to implement it in your classroom to better meet your students' needs.

Presenters: Marcela Movit (AIR) and Blaire Toso (Penn State University)

April 5, 11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Coronado C

AIR PIAAC Team Presents...



What do you know about PIAAC results and what they mean for policy and practice in adult education? The PIAAC research strand includes several sessions on the **Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)**, the groundbreaking international assessment of adult competencies.

Monday, April 3

Results of the Study on the Literacy and Numeracy Skills of U.S. Incarcerated Adults: A PIAAC Study

This session will provide an overview of the PIAAC Prison Study conducted in 2013-14. The Prison Study was an administration of PIAAC on a nationally representative sample of 1,300 U.S. incarcerated adults ages 16-74 in federal and state prisons.

Presenters: Katie Landeros, Derek Holliday AIR
(April 3, 9:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m., Fiesta 3)

Tuesday, April 4

Adults with Low Skills and Learning Disabilities Facing Tomorrow's Dreams: Findings from PIAAC 2012/2014 and PowerPath

This session looks at the characteristics, backgrounds, and experiences of working-age adults with learning disabilities (LD). This information will be useful to adult educators and others working with adults with LD. Findings also include their PIAAC assessed skill levels, PowerPath screened attention challenges, and VSS screening results. The session focuses on insights from the data and solutions to challenges adults with LD face.

Presenter: Margaret Patterson, Research Allies for Lifelong Learning (April 4, 9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Coronado T)

Adult Learners on the Job: What a New Analysis of PIAAC Data Tells Us about Service-Sector Workers with Limited Basic Skills

Presenters will share a fresh analysis of PIAAC data on the characteristics of adults in service-sector jobs who have limited reading, math, or digital problem solving skills. You'll get detailed information about how many of these workers are pursuing adult education, and what kind of literacy- and numeracy-related tasks they are called upon to do at work. Finally, you'll be able to participate in a group discussion about how these research findings can inform your own work in adult education.

Presenters: Amanda Bergson-Shilcock, (National Skills Coalition), Bitnara Jasmine Park, Katie Landeros, and Emily Pawlowski, AIR (9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Coronado S)

Tuesday, April 4 (cont.)

Who is not Digitally Literate in the United States?

Data from PIAAC is used to examine the socio-demographic profile of U.S. adults who are not digitally literate. These adults are on average less educated, older, slightly more male than female, non-White, foreign-born, and work in lower-skilled jobs compared to the digitally literate. These results may be useful in policies targeting adults with low levels of digital literacy skills.

Presenters: Emily Pawlowski, Derek Holliday AIR (April 4, 11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Coronado T)

Missing out on Tomorrow's Dreams: Findings from PIAAC 2012/2014 on Adult Non-Participation

This session will share characteristics, assessed skill levels, and other findings on adult non-participants in education. Session participants will have the opportunity to discuss important implications for recruiting and serving non-participants.

Presenter: Margaret Patterson, Research Allies for Lifelong Learning (April 4, 2:00 p.m.–3:15 p.m., Coronado S)

Examining Gender Differences in the Mathematical Literacy of 15-Year-Olds and the Numeracy Skills of the Age Cohort as Adults

This presentation examines and compares the mathematics performance of fifteen-year-olds in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) and the numeracy performance of the relevant age cohort of adults in PIAAC. Factors that may contribute to changes in gender differences over time, such as field of study and skill use at work, will be examined.

Presenter: Emily Pawlowski, AIR (April 4, 2:00 p.m.–3:15 p.m., Coronado T)

To learn more about PIAAC, download infographics, or access the datasets and analysis tools visit:

www.piaacgateway.com

