

North ABE Fall 2025 Regional

Thursday, October 9 and
Friday, October 10, 2025

SouthShore Hotel on Lake Bemidji
1025 Paul Bunyan Drive S
Bemidji, MN 56601
www.southshore-hotel.com



ABE Teaching & Learning Advancement System



Participant Materials - presentation slides, handouts, etc.
[PARTICIPANT MATERIALS](#) (or scan QR code on the right)

Thursday, October 9

2:00-4:30 pm

Afternoon Session

Same Topic, Different Doors: Unlocking Learning with Text Sets

Presented by Kristine Kelly, ATLAS and Elizabeth Bennett, Literacy MN

In this interactive workshop, you'll learn how to create and use differentiated text sets to engage learners at multiple levels. We'll explore what text sets are, their classroom benefits, practical ways to use them, and their connection to the CCRS. We'll also review the steps for measuring text to ensure appropriate levels and complexity, and gain hands-on experience using generative AI to adapt and create texts, as well as generate questions. By the end, you'll leave with ready-to-use texts and ideas you can apply immediately in your multilevel classroom.

Special instructions: Please come prepared with a charged laptop computer or a tablet with a keyboard (a smartphone will be insufficient). You will also need an account on at least one generative AI platform, such as MagicSchool, Brisk Teaching (browser extension for Chrome or Edge), Khanmigo for Teachers (included with a Khan Academy teaching account), ChatGPT, Gemini, or Copilot. Free accounts are fine.

Location: *Mississippi*

5:00 - 5:45 pm

Light Dinner

Location: *Please enjoy your dinner in the room of the session you will be attending for Concurrent Session 1 (Mississippi, Sunken Island, or Diamond Point).*

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Concurrent Session 1 (Choose one)

(a) Administrator Networking Session

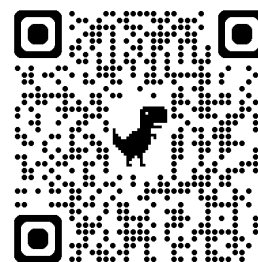
Presented by Angie Frank, Duluth ABE and Tracy Chase, AEOA

Location: *Sunken Island*

(b) I Think My Student has a Learning Disability

Presented by Erin Parker, PANDA

This is one of the most commonly heard statements PANDA staff receive from ABE teachers. Sometimes the answer is "yes," but identifying the disability can be challenging. Come to this session to learn facts and misconceptions about the term "learning disabilities" and gain knowledge about the differences between a learning disability and



other learning challenges. Find out about the complexity of diagnosing students from other cultures. Learn specific UDL/multisensory strategies to help all students. **Intended to address the relicensure area of Accommodation.**

Location: Mississippi

Friday, October 10

NOTE: Breakfast is included for hotel guests. Those travelling locally should eat prior to arrival.

8:15 - 8:45 am

Welcome, Announcements & General Session

Patsy Egan, ATLAS and the MDE Staff; Cara Berger, LAN

Location: Conference Center Ballroom

8:45 - 9:00 am

Break

9:00 - 10:30 am

Concurrent Session 2 (Choose one)

(a) Teaching with Compassion: Understanding Addiction and Supporting Adult Learners

Presenter: Amanda Longie, Bemidji State University

Adult education classrooms often include learners who are directly or indirectly affected by substance use. Addiction can shape how students think, feel, and learn, which sometimes shows up in the classroom as fatigue, mood changes, or inconsistent attendance. This interactive workshop will explore how addiction impacts the brain and learning, what substance use may look like in daily life, and how teachers and administrators can respond with compassion while maintaining clear boundaries. Participants will learn strategies to handle behaviors related to substance use, review organizational policies that support safety, and explore resources available in Northern Minnesota. Practical tools, classroom suggestions, and real-world examples will be shared to help educators recognize potential signs of addiction and respond in ways that balance student support with staff well-being.

Location: Sunken Island Room

(b) Connecting the Dots: Building Career Pathways Together

Presenters: Carly Voshell and Patsy Egan, ATLAS

Career Pathways connect education, training, and career opportunities to open doors for adult learners. What's already working in northern MN—and where can we grow stronger? This interactive session invites educators, administrators, and partners of all experience levels to dig into this essential part of adult education: supporting learners on the path to family-sustaining careers. Together, we'll connect the dots between instruction, workforce needs, and student goals to strengthen Career Pathways. Join state leaders to explore strategies for contextualized instruction (a cornerstone of effective Career Pathways!), clarify roles and partnerships in Minnesota's ACP work, share key resources and build networks that support Career Pathways programs. Stronger connections mean stronger outcomes for the students we serve.

Location: Mississippi

(c) Instructional Routines for Teaching Math

Presenter: Mark Trushkowsky, CUNY Adult Literacy Program

Instructional routines are predictable, repeatable structures that help teachers focus on student thinking while reducing planning time. They make math accessible yet challenging, center student voices, and create space for multiple approaches and discussion. In this workshop, we'll look at some routines and resources to bring fresh energy and deeper learning into your classroom.

Location: Diamond Point

10:30 - 10:45 am

Break

10:45 am - 12:15 pm

Concurrent Session 3 (Choose one)

(a) Working With Adult Students Who Have Had a Stroke or Brain Injury

Presenter: Sheila Brandes, PANDA

What is a brain injury and how can you help individuals with stroke or brain injury succeed in the ABE classroom? This presentation will discuss causes and common challenges associated with brain injury, as well as the ABE intake process and instructional strategies. **Intended to address the relicensure area of Accommodation.**

Location: Mississippi

(b) Registered Apprenticeship 101

Presenters: Naomi Cowan, MN Department of Labor and Industry & Panel

During this workshop, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry will explain what registered apprenticeship is, and how to refer students to these training opportunities. This presentation will give adult basic educators an idea of what apprenticeship is, how it works, and how to talk about them with students. In addition to a speaker from Apprenticeship Minnesota, program sponsors located in northern MN will explain how their programs operate and what they look for in applicants. By the end of this workshop, educators will know what a registered apprenticeship program is, what students they should recommend them to, and how to give students the information they need to search for a program in their area.

Location: Diamond Point

(c) Digital Literacy in the ESL Classroom

Presenter: Cara Berger, LAN

How can adult English learners build digital skills while also learning English? In this session, Cara Berger, a teacher and supervisor at Neighborhood House, will share their experience participating in Literacy Minnesota's Best Practices in Digital Education Cohort, and the ways in which they've incorporated digital literacy in both online and in-person classrooms. Cara will share resources and routines that can be used with beginning, intermediate and advanced ESL learners, talk about troubleshooting challenges, and explore how digital platforms can support multilevel classrooms and create continuity between in-person and online classrooms. Teachers will leave with practical strategies and tools for weaving digital literacy into their own instruction. **Bring a laptop or smartphone.**

Consider bringing a digital literacy resource or routine that you currently use with your ESL learners that you would like to share with the group. Intended to address the relicensure area of English Learners.

Location: Sunken Island

12:15 - 1:00 pm

Lunch Buffet

Room: Diamond Point, Sunken Island, or Mississippi

1:15 - 2:45 pm

Concurrent Session 4 (Choose one)

(a) ABE/JAIL PROGRAMMING - WE ARE UP TO THE CHALLENGE!

Presenter: Tammy Schatz & Panel (Melinda Doll, Moorhead Adult Education and Angie Frank, Duluth Adult Education)

Panelists will share some of the challenges, creative solutions, and celebrations of working in a jail or juvenile detention setting. Join us to share your creative ideas.

Location: Sunken Island

(b) Unlocking Skilled Reading: Teaching Metacognitive Strategies to Adult Learners

Presenter: Kristine Kelly, ATLAS

Help your adult learners become more skilled and confident readers by incorporating metacognitive strategies into your instruction. This interactive workshop will provide a deep dive into the concept of metacognition—thinking about one's own thinking—and how it fits into skilled reading. Participants will explore practical techniques to help students identify and fix comprehension challenges, ensuring they understand not only what they read but also when their understanding breaks down. **Intended to address the relicensure area of Reading.**

Location: Mississippi

(c) Teaching with Ellii

Presenters: Elizabeth Bennett and Katey Miller, Literacy MN

Ellii is a state-supported (i.e., FREE for you to use this year) curriculum resource and distance learning platform for all levels of English learners. This interactive session will allow you to experience Ellii materials as a learner. The presenters will model some of Ellii's in-class activities and guide you through an Ellii Solo scavenger hunt. You'll also have time to explore Ellii content as a teacher and save materials to use in your own class.

Important prerequisites: To fully participate in this session, you will need to have your own Ellii teacher account.

Please complete the training here (literacymn.org/distancelearning/dl-platforms/ellii) and practice signing in to your account prior to the session. **Please bring a charged laptop. (Tablets and phones are acceptable, but not ideal.)**

Intended to address the relicensure area of English Learners.

Location: Diamond Point

QUESTIONS

- **EVENT QUESTIONS:** Gail Rutan, ATLAS Senior Events Manager – grutan01@hamline.edu
- **PAYMENT/BILLING & REIMBURSEMENT QUESTIONS:** Eva Kovacs Zewdie, ATLAS Grant & Budget Coordinator ezewdie01@hamline.edu

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

ATLAS will reimburse North ABE programs or individuals for **mileage over 50 miles one-way** to and from the venue. Simply go to atlasabe.org/submit-invoice/ and submit an ATLAS invoice (and Form W-9 if applicable) after the event.

EVALUATION & CEUs

CEUs indicating attendance will be distributed upon submission of the event evaluation, which will be **emailed to all participants following the conference.**

Hamline University Land Acknowledgement

Provided by the Hamline Vice President for Inclusive Excellence, Dr. David Everett

Hamline acknowledges that the land on which we gather and refer to as Minnesota is the traditional and unceded territory of the Dakota and Ojibwe. Minnesota comes from the Dakota name for this region, Mni Sota Makoce, "the land where the waters reflect the skies." We pay respect to the members of not only those tribes, but others as well, both past and present, and their continuing relationship to their ancestral lands. Making this recognition expresses gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory we reside on and honors the Indigenous people who have been existing with, and on, the land from time immemorial. This long-standing history is significant as land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense or historical context—colonialism, appropriation, and genocide have relevant, real-time realities. We need to build mindfulness regarding the source of our present land privilege, understand the long-standing history from which it comes, and seek to reconcile our place within both.

Hamline, as an institution and community, will hold itself accountable as an Indigenous partner by working stridently to amplify, address, and counter the historical and contemporary injustices that continue to impact Indigenous people—individually, systemically, and structurally.