



# Tech Hub News

Helping Adults Thrive in a Changing World

## Tech Hub Approach for FY19

The Tech Hub is in its second year of operation as the professional development provider of technology integration for adult educators in Rhode Island. We are excited to build on last year's initiatives and explore new approaches to working with programs and teachers to provide high-quality learning opportunities that meet the needs of practitioners, organizations and ultimately, learners.

### We need your input!

Each year, we begin with a needs assessment by asking organizations to complete a Technology PD Program Survey. We use this information to plan learning opportunities for the current fiscal year. This survey also helps us identify needs that are unique to organizations and require individual support.

Last year, we offered PD opportunities to the field as well as small group and individual trainings on-site by request. We will continue this two-prong approach of working one-on-one with organizations and offering group trainings to the field. If you have not yet submitted your PD survey, please do so!

### Learning Pathways

This year, we are implementing learning pathways and micro-credentials. Micro learning is a strategy for delivering content in small, digestible chunks. These micro-learning options will be part of larger learning pathways that organize PD in a way that can lead to micro credentials and provide growth in a particular skill or deepen knowledge of a topic.

### *(Learning Pathways cont'd)*

All learning pathways will have check-ins with a technology coach who will offer support and give feedback on work submitted through formative assessments. We will post further information on [www.riadulted.org](http://www.riadulted.org) once the pathways have been fully developed.

### Benefits of Learning Pathways

Learning pathways are designed to organize professional development opportunities into journeys that allow adult educators to set goals and work from their starting point towards that goal while receiving support and feedback along the way. The learning options offer intensive training on a particular topic and give educators a road map for learning.

## Your Go-To Resource: [www.riadulted.org](http://www.riadulted.org)

The adult ed website, [www.riadulted.org](http://www.riadulted.org), is your go-to resource for the calendar of professional development events, teaching and learning resources, and information for technology integration and use. For technology related resources, click on the TECH HUB tab at the top of the page. A drop down menu appears with broad topics of resources available. This site is currently being revamped, but all PD information will be posted here. If you have something you'd like to contribute, please contact Cate Burlington at [cburlington@provlb.org](mailto:cburlington@provlb.org).

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## The Tech Hub Team

Providence Public Library/RIFLI directs the Tech Hub team under the leadership of Karisa Tashjian, Sherry Lehane and Cate Burlington. We are pleased to have the opportunity to continue working with the RISTE team of John Bilotta, Sue Grundy, and Kim Libby. In addition, a team of practitioner tech coaches will help us deliver PD throughout the state.

### Join the Team!

If you have expertise in technology integration practices such as using G-Suite tools, Google Classroom, tech-accessibility, or mobile learning and would like to learn more about working as a Tech Coach, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Sherry at slehane@provlb.org.

## Cate's Corner



Welcome to Cate's Corner! I'm Cate Burlington, the newest member of the Tech Hub team. I'm an educational technology professional and computer trainer; I'm excited to share this work with you. I'll be using this spot to share tips, tricks, and resources.

## Mobile Learning

Mobile learning will be a new area of focus this year. The Tech Hub team is committed to launching a state-wide effort to support teachers and learners in using their smartphones or other mobile devices for learning in and outside of the classroom.

One project that will greatly benefit this initiative is the X-Prize Community Competition. Through this project, we will have the opportunity to offer free mobile learning apps to all adults regardless of whether or not they are enrolled in an adult ed class. We will know by the end of January if the application submitted by World Ed, Boston as been accepted and if so, Rhode Island will be one of six states on the World Ed Team. The mobile apps will provide learning options in ESOL, reading and math and will be available from April 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020 for free! This is a unique opportunity. We'll keep you posted.

In addition to the X-Prize project, we will be offering PD on mobile learning this winter. Events will be posted on [www.riadulted.org](http://www.riadulted.org) site and sent to all Professional Learning Specialists.

## New! Three Ways to Access Tech PD Events and Resources and Stay Connected

1. Coming Soon! We are in the process of setting up group accounts that will facilitate communication among selected groups and ease the dissemination of information. Once the groups have been set up, you will receive notification.
2. You can subscribe to this newsletter by contacting Sherry at [slehane@provlb.org](mailto:slehane@provlb.org).
3. Don't forget to check [www.adultedri.org](http://www.adultedri.org) for PD events and resources.

## News from Northstar



On December 7, 2018 Cate Burlington and Sherry Lehane did a presentation on the updated Northstar V.2.0 and reviewed the changes for proctors and learners. Among the changes are new reporting features, updated assessments to reflect current technology practices, navigation features, and a streamlined method of proctoring tests. If you were not able to attend the presentation and need help signing up as a proctor, please contact Sherry Lehane at [slehane@provlib.org](mailto:slehane@provlib.org). Northstar has some great resources including FAQs and a Quick Start Guide.

### Update your Site Information

Each Northstar proctor site has one or more administrators associated with that site. Administrators can add and delete proctors and run reports. Please visit the administrative link:

[admin.digitalliteracyassessment.org](http://admin.digitalliteracyassessment.org) to update your site's information. This will ensure you can pull accurate reports for student achievements.

### RIDE Requirements

All teachers and administrators must pass six modules:

- Basic Computer
- Internet Basics
- Using Email
- MS Word

Information Literacy and one other module that is relevant to their work context.

Fifteen percent of enrolled students must pass Basic Computers, Internet Basics and Using Email. A passing score for all modules is 85%.

RIDE requirements for adult education providers is posted on [www.riadulted.org](http://www.riadulted.org).

## Learning Lounges Can Support Students in Earning Northstar Certificates

### What is a Learning Lounge?

A Learning Lounge is a place for adults to achieve their learning goals in a welcoming environment that is staffed by professionals and supported by technology. This means that adults can receive assistance with academic and English language skills, online job searches and applications, and basic computer skills. Learning Lounge staff will provide options for learning resources, help learners get started and offer support as needed. No appointments or registration are necessary – and it's free.

### An Invitation to Improve Digital Literacy Skills

Learning Lounges are an ideal place for adult learners to build their digital literacy skills. Each learning lounge is an official Northstar proctored testing site. By earning a Northstar certificate and digital badge, learners can provide evidence of competencies and have a credential for employment.

### Career Coaching Available

A career coach, Andjela Kaur, is the newest addition to Learning Lounge services. Andjela has extensive experience in employment coaching and rehabilitative counseling. She has some on-site hours in Providence and Pawtucket and is available by appointment to assist individuals with resumes, cover letters, preparation for job interviews and exploration of career paths.

There are 10 Learning Lounges across the state. [Click here](#) for a schedule of hours and locations.



## Digital Literacy vs Web Literacy

### Where is the Overlap?

We often hear the terms digital literacy and web literacy. Although there is some overlap, the two terms refer to different skills and knowledge, but both are equally important in today's digital world.

#### Digital Literacy Defined

Digital literacy is the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills (American Library Association, 2011). This includes the ability to use technological devices such as computers, smartphones, tablets and even technologies such as ATMs. Taking it one step further, adults need to know how to use these devices to effectively perform tasks such as retrieving information, completing an online application, texting and using email.

#### Web Literacy Defined

Web literacy is the skill set needed to effectively read, write, and participate in the digital world. Combined with 21st century leadership skills (i.e. critical thinking, collaboration, problem solving, creativity, communication), these digital-age skills help us produce, synthesize, evaluate, and communicate information (Mozilla Foundation).

Web literacy builds on digital literacy skills by becoming a creator of web content in addition to being a consumer of the web. This can include the evaluation of online resources and thinking critically about the bias in sources, how to use the web to create a blog or add to a web page, how to protect one's privacy and security on the web and how to navigate the web efficiently.

#### The Intersection

Both literacies involve communicating with others, create digital information, evaluating online resources, and synthesizing digital information. Adults need both web literacy and digital literacy skills. The Tech Hub will be offering PD on web literacy skills. The information will be posted on [www.riadulted.org](http://www.riadulted.org).

Click [here](#) to take a peek at Mozilla's Core Web Literacy Curriculum,

## Student-Led Learning Circles

Learning circles are study groups for people who want to take online classes together and in-person. In this peer-support educational model, founded in 2014 by Peer 2 Peer University, learners meet face-to-face at a regularly scheduled time and work on an online course or study program collaboratively and with light-touch facilitation by a group member, teacher or volunteer. This connected learning model is based on the belief that individuals learn better and persevere in attaining their learning goals when they have a support system, are able to learn with and from one another and have some control over the pace of their learning.

#### A Successful Learning Circle

In FY18, fourteen adult educators participated in a learning circle to complete the online Google Fundamentals Educator Training. They met weekly for 13 weeks, did the online course, shared ideas and taught one another new concepts. The learning circle model was successful in keeping teachers on track, engaged, and it extended their learning beyond the online course content. The reaction from participants was so positive that we decided to try it with students.

#### From Learner to Leader

We have typically engaged students in learning circles, as learners, for ESOL and citizenship. Why not let students choose a topic of interest and organize a learning circle to learn with and from one another? The Tech Hub is offering stipends to student-led learning circle facilitators to support their efforts in leading a learning circles.

#### Training for Learners and Practitioners

In February, the Tech Hub will sponsor a half-day workshop for teachers and students on how to start and run a learning circle. Stay tuned for more details.

## SAMR: A Model of Tech Integration

SAMR is a model of technology integration that gives practitioners a tool that guides them through the process of integrating technology in progressive stages. It allows learners to start at a very basic or more advanced level. This year, we will pilot an online, facilitated course that takes practitioners through the stages of using technology to enhance and transform learning. Recruitment will begin in late January.

### ISTE: A Tool for Educators

ISTE is the acronym for International Standards for Technology Educators. We will be using these standards throughout the year to guide our work in helping you empower your learners. Standards are not a mandate, they are a tool. Check them out! <https://www.iste.org/standards/for-educators>

## Call to Action!

**How do you use technology for teaching and learning?**

**What are your favorite online resources?**



We are certain that many of you are using technology creatively and effectively. Please share by sending a copy of a lesson plan, a link to a resource, a short blurb or even a video describing what you do. You can send the information directly to Sherry at [slehane@provlib.org](mailto:slehane@provlib.org). Soon you can share directly to the All Staff User Group mentioned on page 2 of this newsletter.



## Benefits of RISTE Membership

RISTE, the Rhode Island affiliate of the International Society of Technology Educators (ISTE), is a not-for-profit organization. Their mission is to provide technology leadership, support and training to the educational community as well as promote innovative practices.

John Bilotta, the Executive Director of RISTE, is part of the Tech Hub team. John has been instrumental in creating and maintaining the RIadulted domain. We are grateful for his expertise and guidance.

RISTE has a large menu of quality professional development opportunities for educators. Their diverse offerings range from half-day to multi-day trainings and are a great opportunity to learn from other educators. RISTE membership is open to all Rhode Island public, private-independent, religious schools, and all adult educators. Individuals can join for free or join with a premium membership of \$25.00/year.

For more information, visit their website at <http://www.ri-iste.org/>.

### Questions or Comments?

**Contact us:**

**Sherry Lehane at [slehane@provlib.org](mailto:slehane@provlib.org)**  
**Cate Burlington at [cburlington@provlib.org](mailto:cburlington@provlib.org)**